



BIRMINGHAM
SAILING CLUB

June/July 2005

The Hornblower

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

By Commodore Richard May

We've had a busy past couple of months at the club, from the Spring Fling One Day to the Homecoming One Day, which was well attended by both old members and potential new members. In between these two events we've had the Smith Berry Distance Race, a J22 One-Day, and the usual Sunday races. I hope all found something in which to participate.

The Junior program was also busy, hosting the DYRA Junior Quarter Finals, an Opti Clinic and a Junior Learn to Sail Camp. Rave reviews of these events have come from club members and out-of-state sailing moms.

Thanks to Dianne and Jerry Hart and Jack and Kathaleen Rogers for doing such a great job.

You would think that would be enough for a couple of months but we've also sent teams to the Mallory Cup in Sarasota and the GYA Summer Regatta in Mobile. Wow!

On another subject, some of you may know that Ernie McConnell has recently sold his cabin at the lake. Ernie has been the unofficial care take of the club for many years. He's worked with the cleaning crew, the lawn crew, plumbers, painters and any other maintenance people that have needed to come to the club. He's run squirrels out of the attic and lent tools to those in need. Thanks Ernie for all your help over the years.

One more thing, the Leukemia Cup is September 17th and 18th. Our goal is \$10,000 – twice as much as last year. Start collecting. More info to come.

See you at the lake.



A wet sheet and a flowing sea, A wind that follows fast, And fills the white and rustling sail, And bends the gallant mast.

Allan Cunningham, The Songs of Scotland [1825], A Wet Sheet and a Flowing Sea, st. 1

RACING REPORT

By Bob Blythe

It's been a busy spring and summer at BSC. In addition to the normal complement of Sunday races and Saturday one-day regattas, the Thistle South Atlantic Districts and DIYRA Junior Quarter Finals were hosted by BSC. Both events were great successes. It's always great to hear visitors complement the club's facilities and race management.

BSC's successful racing program depends upon many people—all who are volunteers. The PROs, race committee members, and event coordinators are the most visible. There are others whose efforts are not so visible. For example, Terry Waldron does an excellent job of keeping the power boats running and the equipment sheds organized. On a recent Friday afternoon I found Terry power washing the Boston Whaler. Thank Terry when you get a chance, and do your part to keep the boats clean and organized when you are on race committee.

The Smith-always one of the highlights. This year were great, allowing for and back. After racing selection of fine wines The event is sponsored and Bo Smith, who refreshments and several years the their name engraved on was then donated to the chance, say thanks to and Laura.



Berry Distance race is racing season's the sailing conditions a long course up river everyone enjoyed a and hors d'oeuvres. each year by Bill Berry provide the trophies. The past overall winner has had a rocking chair, which club. When you get a Bo, Mary Carol, Bill

Over 20 boats sailed in the Homecoming Regatta. Event Chair Pauline Neilson did a great job organizing the event. It was good to see a number of former members enjoying the racing and festivities afterwards. We also had many prospective members on hand, and membership chairman Porter Fell made sure everyone who wanted to crew got on a boat. The hot dogs and hamburgers were a big hit as usual, thanks to Michael Papp. It was great to see so many people enjoying the club on a fine summer's day.

See you on the water.

JUNIOR SAILING

Why I'm Lucky to be a BSC Junior Sailor

By Van Rogers



I'm lucky to be a BSC Junior Sailor because of Sailing Camp. Sailing Camp was June 24-26, 2005. There were 8 participants: Veteran Campers Van Rogers (age 9) and Liz Blair (age 13), Return 2004 Campers James Pewitt (age 9) and Jarmon Browning (age 9), and New Campers PJ Callahan (age 7), Andrew Prudhomme (age 11), Joseph Pewitt (age 7) and Nate Rogers (age 6).

We started the camp with capsizing drills and swim tests. The better sailors went sailing, while the new sailors talked with Mrs. Hart about boat handling. By the end of the first day, all of the campers were sailing. On Saturday and Sunday, we practiced boat handling and racing skills. During breaks we swam and went on a lake cruise. By the end of camp, our boat handling skills were so good that we all sailed to school bus

island.

I like Sailing Camp because it is fun and you get to meet a lot of new friends. I'm lucky to be a BSC Junior Sailor because not all sailing clubs have such a great sailing camp. I hope all my new sailing friends will come to the lake often to sail Optis with me.

Special thanks to...

Mrs. Susan Phillips for making all of the yummy food. Mr. and Mrs. Hart for providing great coaching and a place to sleep. Dr. Jack Rogers for fixing the Optis and providing coaching. All of the parent volunteers for helping the junior sailors in and out of the docks.



2005 USA Junior Olympic Sailing Festival

By Liz Blair

On the first weekend of July a regatta was held at the Pensacola Yacht Club in Pensacola Florida. From July 1 to 3, many sailors raced out on Pensacola Bay in Optimists, 420's, Lasers, and Flying Scots. This was both the Junior Olympic Sailing Festival and the Independence Day Regatta in one.

Three members of the Birmingham Sailing Club went to the regatta; Joe Hart in a 420, and Van Rogers and Liz Blair in Optimists. Both Van and Liz sailed in the Green Fleet, and attended a clinic given by Tom Coleman.

The weather in was hot and humid in the day and rainy at night. It was fun but the waves were pretty big and the wind was strong. The food was very good, but there wasn't as much of it as last year. The yacht club was a little ripped up by hurricane Ivan, but they did a good repair job. It was a very good regatta and a good

learning experience for bay sailing.



Unexpected Byproduct

Reprinted with Permission from Scuttlebutt 1648, August 17, 2004

Young competitive sailors, who are forced to make quick decisions regarding lay lines, wind shifts, bearings, currents and other boats' paths, are likely to have a step up on their landlubber peers when it comes to handling parallel lines, dimensions, altitudes, angles, arcs and curves that are ubiquitous in scientific fields such as mathematics and engineering.

A new study at Connecticut College has shown that young adults, both male and female, who are active in sail racing have greater proficiency at spatial tasks and understanding spatial relationships than students who are not sailing team members. Using the sailing team at Connecticut College and another nationally ranked university sailing team as primary subjects, Ann S. Devlin, May Buckley Sadowski '19, Professor of Psychology, found that sailing team members reported less spatial anxiety and were more likely to adopt an orientation strategy in navigation and problem solving than were members of the general student body. In essence, they may be at ease with such tasks as designing a skyscraper, navigating the streets of Manhattan, creating three-dimensional animation or even fitting luggage into a car trunk.

Devlin also found that the sailors showed higher levels of spatial ability than members of the crew team,

thus ruling out time on the water and general athleticism as a factor in spatial proficiency. "Sailboat racing is an activity wherein being able to respond to rapidly changing conditions, such as wind shifts, gives a competitor distinct advantage," Devlin said. "The same could be said for information-processing and analytical skill." - Eric Cardenas, Connecticut College website, full story: <http://tinyurl.com/4oyrg>

Upcoming Junior Events

By Kathaleen Rogers

Hi All. The Lake Lanier Sailing Club (LLSC) is hosting two Opti events in the coming months. The LLSC Optimist Clinic is being held September 10-11. This clinic is good for beginning, intermediate and advanced sailors. (It is held on the same weekend as LLSC's Old Goat Thistle Regatta). You must register online before September 2 to participate. If you are planning to attend this event, please contact Kathaleen or Jack Rogers by September 2 to arrange to take one of the BSC's Opti's.

On October 8-9, LLSC is hosting the USODA Southeast Optimist Championship. This is a big regatta and would be good for our intermediate and advanced sailors (sailors who have completed at least two sailing camps). LLSC is anticipating over 100 Opti's to attend this regatta.

Information for both events is posted on www.llsc.com. If you have any questions or want to reserve a BSC Opti for either or both events, please contact Kathaleen or Jack Rogers 979-1831.

These events are great opportunities to sail with other Opti sailors from the southeast, receive additional coaching, and travel to new lakes. Plus they are lots of fun!!! (Just ask Van and Liz.)

Hope to see you there.

THE NEW RACING RULES - 2

By Mike Neilson

Some more changes in the 2005-2008 rules. (The complete rule book is available at <http://www.birminghamsailingclub.org/Racing/RRS2005-2008.pdf>.)

Hitting a Mark or Fouling

Under the old rules the penalty for hitting a mark was one 360° turn and for most fouls was two 360° turns or a "720."

The new rules change these penalties slightly, but in a way that reflects reality. Here they are:

31.2 A boat that has broken rule 31.1 may, after getting well clear of other boats as soon as possible, take a penalty by promptly making one turn including one tack and one gybe. When a boat takes the penalty after touching a finishing *mark*, she shall sail completely to the course side of the line before *finishing*. However, if a boat has gained a significant advantage in the race or series by touching the *mark* her penalty shall be to retire.

44.2 Two-Turns Penalty

After getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible, a boat takes a Two-Turns Penalty by promptly making two turns in the same direction, including two tacks and two gybes. When a boat takes the penalty at or near the finishing line, she shall sail completely to the course side of the line before *finishing*.

You don't have to complete one or two circles now, just a tack and a gybe or two tacks and two gybes.

Sailing the Course

The new rules allow you to undo any errors in sailing the course, even after "finishing." If you miss a mark, cross through a closed gate, or miss the finish line you can sail back and correct your mistakes and then finish. The new rule reads:

28 SAILING THE COURSE

28.1 A boat shall *start*, leave each *mark* on the required side in the correct order, and *finish*, so that a string representing her wake after *starting* and until *finishing* would when drawn taut pass each *mark* on the required side and touch each rounding *mark*. She may correct any errors to comply with this rule. After *finishing* she need not cross the finishing line completely.

J/22 REPORT

By Bob Blythe

We had a good turnout for the J/22 Spring One-Day in June, with five J/22s racing. The wind filled in just as the racing got underway and the committee got off four good races. The racing was close all day and it showed in the results. Fred Smith won the tie breaker for first over Bob and Rebecca Blythe. Third place was also decided by a tie breaker, with Bo Smith edging out team ShaZam.

The J/22 Southeast Circuit is half over, and the BSC J/22 fleet has been represented at both out of town events. I took our boat up to Nashville for the GOOD Regatta with Trent and Keri Richardson as crew. Bill Berry and Team ShaZam made the trip to Atlanta for the Reggae Regatta, with Jim Sisson at the helm, and Trent and Keri as crew. The next Circuit event is the Leukemia Cup at BSC.

The BSC J/22 Series is also well underway. Here are the current standings (high point scoring):

Rank	Sail No.	Skipper	Total Points
1	467	Blythel	65
2	926	Berry/Richardson	46
3	664	Smith, Fred	45
4	104	Smith, Bo	24
5	102	Proctor	18
6	416	Killion	4

GREAT PR FROM SAILING CLASS

This year's most recent learn-to-sail class created great word of mouth for BSC thanks to reporter Robin Oliver and photographer Jan-Michael Stump of the *Birmingham Post-Herald*. Robin and Jan-Michael spent a day at BSC talking to class participants, taking pictures, and soaking up the atmosphere. They chronicled their experience in an article, "Bitten by the Sailing 'bug' - Club teaches the joy of sailing," which was published in the *Post-Herald* on May 30, 2005. The article covered a full page in the paper's Focus section. Way to go BSC!



CLUB NOTES

GYA Events

Upcoming GYA events include the Knost (PCYC) on August 13-14, the Lipton (BWYC) on September 3-5, the Back to School (PontYC), on September 10-11, and Race Week (PCYC) on September 17-18. If you are interested in participating in any of these events contact Kent Irwin.

Club Security

From time to time our Club, like any other lake property, suffers from random acts of senseless (and usually petty) theft. The perps could be anyone, from teenagers out for kicks to adults who ought to be kicked. Although it is impossible to prevent entirely such aggravating occurrences, rest assured that your Board has been exploring ways to make our Club more secure. In the meanwhile, all club members who keep boats on the grounds and in the wet slips are reminded to take the time to secure items that are small enough to be easily carried away. "Tempt not a desperate man."

Billing Stuff

Wonder why you haven't received an invoice in the mail in awhile? It's because all BSC billing is now done online. Check the status of your account by visiting the club website.

Pic(s) Of The Month

The excellent pictures featured in this issue of the *Hornblower* are courtesy of David Reich, Kathaleen Rogers, and Dianne Hart. If you have a picture that you would like to share with the *Hornblower*, please e-mail it to Jim Pewitt, jpewitt@jbpp.com.

RACING SCHEDULE / COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Event	Fleet Day	Event Chair	PRO	Race Committee
Aug. 14	Sunday Races	Scots/Snipes		Stan Muse	Donald Brown, Mike Sparks, Jim Leonard
Aug. 21	Sunday Races	Lasers/Cats		Vincent Priola	Andy Widener, Barry Hartley, Rory Hartley
Aug. 28	Sunday Races	Aux.		Wilbur Berry	Marian Phillips, John Grainger, Butch Goldblatt
Sept. 4	Sunday Races	Thistles/J/22's		H. Mike Graham	Susan Phillips, Morris Phillips, Ted Strong
Sept. 10	J/22 FALL ONE-DAY	J/22's		John Acton	Samuel Prudhomme, Donna Prudhomme, James Delk
Sept. 11	Sunday Races	Scots/Snipes		Terry Waldron	Carl Stringfellow, Dianne Davis, Sterling Edwards
Sept. 17-18	LEUKEMIA CUP (2 DAY)	All	Richard May	Peter Reich/Michael Papp	Mike Anderson, Peter Hopkins, Jr., Amy Sides, Stan Muse, David Drosdick, Truitt Ellis
Sept. 24	LASER FALL ONE-DAY	Lasers	Peter Hopkins, Jr.	Robert Blythe	Rebecca Blythe, Larry Van Horn, David Glasgow
Sept. 25	Sunday Races	All		Don Strickland	Liz Strickland, Robert Hernandez, Joy Hernandez