



BIRMINGHAM
SAILING CLUB

Fall 2005

The Hornblower

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

By Commodore Richard May

Burning and pillaging isn't a phrase usually associated with BSC, unfortunately that's what's been happening at the club. The fire on the north side of the club and the recent thefts has occupied your board's thoughts and email space.

Actually, since the clubhouse didn't burn down, the fire was probably beneficial to the trees in the wooded area. Thanks to Ray and Judy, the parents of new member Monica Suggs, for spotting the fire and keeping an eye on it and to Bo Smith for spending a couple of nights at his house and doing some fire watching. Also seen fire fighting, Shannon Suggs, Bill Berry, David Reich and Bob Blythe.

The theft problem is not so easy to solve. Additional lights, motion lighting and surveillance cameras have all been considered. The thought of having the club lit up like a new car lot with camera's following your every move is not very appealing. Harry Reich and Richard Condrey repaired the light down by the docks, which should help. Thanks to them for getting it done. The Marine Police and Sheriff's Department have been notified and have promise additional patrols. This is still an open issue and if thefts continue we may have to lose some of the ambiance of the club.

On a more positive note, the Leukemia Cup was a huge success with 25 boats participating. So far we have raised over 9200.00 - twice what we raise last year. With a hundred T-shirts to sell, we may get to our goal of 10000.00 yet. Thanks to Jerry and Diane Hart, Susan and Morris Phillips, Charlotte Priola, Bill Berry, Lisa Reich and team, and Mike and Jeanette Schuster. Also congratulations to Harry Reich as the top fund raiser and Fred smith as runner up.

Hey, the temperature is dropping and wind is starting to blow – let's go sailing!



*What shall we do with the drunken sailor, Early in the morning?
- Anonymous shantey*



RACING REPORT

By Bob Blythe

We've had a great fall sailing season at BSC, with major events almost every weekend. The Leukemia Cup, the clubs major fall regatta, was a huge success. Almost \$10,000 was raised for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. On the water, we had a great turnout as well, and the race committees did an excellent job.

The Great Scot, Great Pumpkin, and Cat Caper regattas all drew large numbers of out of town boats. The fall Laser Challenge lived up to its name, as the competitors battled the gusty and shifty winds. The J/22 fleet tuned up for the Leukemia Cup at the J/22 Fall One-Day regatta. Throw in the Oktoberfest club one-day, Distance race number three, and the usual Sunday racing and, as you can see, it's been a busy fall. But the sailing season in Birmingham is not over yet. Check the schedule on the website and take advantage of our long sailing season.

JUNIOR SAILING

New Boats for the Youth Sailing Program

By Kathaleen Rogers

Thanks to Harry Reich's endless search and travels, the Junior Sailing Program has purchased two 420's. After a little TLC, the boats will be ready to sail by the end of this fall. 420's are approximately 14 feet in length and are crewed by two sailors, one of whom gets to hang out from a trapeze!! Many Optimist sailors graduate to 420's when they age out or grow out of the smaller boats. With the new 420's, the Junior Sailing Program will be able to provide sailing instruction to all interested youth. We plan to incorporate the 420's into the 2006 Summer Sailing Camp. Any juniors interested in learning to sail 420's should contact Dianne Hart or Kathaleen Rogers. Thanks again to Harry Reich for finding and delivering these great boats.

Junior Sailors Participate in Out of Town Events

Birmingham Sailing Club was represented at three out of town junior events during the months of September and October.

On September 9th and 10th, Jarmon Browning and Van Rogers traveled to Lake Lanier Sailing Club to participate in an Optimist clinic. Five coaches instructed 30 Opti sailors on racing tactics and boat handling skills. Seven races were completed over the weekend. All of the Optis sailed against each other. Van finished 15th in the Gold group and Jarmon finished 4th in the Silver group. All of the sailors had a great time and improved their skills throughout the weekend.

On October 1st and 2nd, Joe Hart sailed in a junior regatta at the Clearwater Yacht Club. The participants included 80+ Optis, 45 Lasers (various rigs), and 6 420's teams. Joe finished 4th with pick-up crew Nicole Pole from Davis Island Yacht Club.



Van Rogers participated in the Southeast Championship at Lake Lanier on October 8th and 9th. See Van's article in this issue of the *Hornblower* and the picture at left.

It's great to see the junior sailors traveling to other venues. The out of town events are fun and a great way to meet other youth sailors from around the country.

The USODA Southeast Championship

By Van Rogers

On October 7, 2005, I arrived at the Southeast Championship in Georgia at the Lake Lanier Sailing Club. When I arrived it was raining. The next morning it was breezy and sunny. I rigged my boat and hustled over to a skipper's meeting, then launched my boat and sped to the race course. I sailed with 20 other Optimists in the Green Fleet. There were 79 Optimists in the regatta. Some kids traveled from as far away as Nevada. On the first day I sailed six races. I finished in third place twice, fourth place, fifth place, sixth place, and seventh place. After racing, we sailed in, de-rigged our boats, and had a meeting in the Junior Pavilion to discuss sail trimming with Coach Tommy Coleman. On Saturday night, we ate barbeque and were entertained by a magician.

As I launched my boat on Sunday morning, the wind was calm. Once I sailed to the race course, my boat was flying over the water. After sailing four races, we headed in, de-rigged and had lunch. After all the races were scored for Saturday and Sunday, I finished in fifth place in the Green Fleet.

I liked the Southeast Championship because there was good wind and it was bigger than any other regatta my parents have sailed in. I also liked it because I made all sorts of great new friends.



Start of Green Fleet race at USODA Southeast Championship

(Van is sailing the handcrafted, wooden Opti. - Ed.)

J/22 REPORT

By Bob Blythe

We had 6 boats sailing in the J/22 Fall One-Day. The goal was to get in as many races as possible, and the RC obliged with 7 races utilizing downwind finishes. The relatively short courses left little room for mistakes and kept the races tight and tactical. It was a perfect warm-up for the Leukemia Cup. Bob and Rebecca Blythe, edged out Fred Smith for first place and Team Shazam (otherwise known as the Berry/Richardson/Sisson syndicate) finished in third.

The fourth stop on the J/22 Southeast Circuit was the Leukemia Cup at BSC. We had twelve J/22s on the starting line, including 7 from out of town. The shifty breeze made for interesting racing all weekend. Sean Clare was the most consistent and won the J/22 class. Doug Meyerhoffer finished second, followed by Andy Carson.

BSC J/22s also traveled to the last two Southeast Circuit events, the Equalizer in Nashville, and the Miss Piggy in Atlanta. This marks the first time our fleet has been represented at all Circuit events. In addition to being a great opportunity to learn skills from other top notch J/22 sailors, these out of town regattas are great fun.

We had four J/22s sailing on October 2, a J/22 fleet day. It turned out to be a great day of sailing, with 5 races being completed, including a couple of photo finishes between J/22s. Competition in the J/22 fleet has gotten closer over the last few years and it makes for some great racing.

--See you on the starting line.

SAILING CLASS REPRISED

(Giddy from the publicity generated by the Spring Learn-to-Sail Class, your Editor neglected to publish this excellent report by Pauline Neilson in the last Hornblower. Cheers Pauline. May the fall winds blow your students safely home. - Ed.)

Spring Learn to Sail Class

By Pauline Neilson

Instructor Mike Neilson welcomed 14 adults to the Spring Learn to Sail Class (Class V). Two of them were members or wives of members. They were an enthusiastic group who attended the four Wednesday night classes and asked questions. Their first day at BSC saw 7 club members and Flying Scots taking the students out for on-the-water drills and tiller time. The most fun for me is watching them climb the hill for lunch after their first morning on the water and seeing the big smiles on their faces. After lunch they switched instructors and had several more hours on the water. Their second day on the water was a BSC One Day Regatta and all chose to race. Their instructors handled the starts but quickly handed the tillers over to students. At the social following the racing all were awarded trophies.

Thanks to the 16 BSC members who participated as instructors on the two Saturdays for their time and effort and patience with the novice sailors. The most important thing they do, and they do this very well, is make the students feel safe and comfortable in the boats. And, thanks to Kent Irwin who organized the instructors and boats and to those members who loaned their Flying Scots. One member of this class has already applied for BSC membership.

The dates for the **Fall Learn to Sail Class** have been set and are published in this *Hornblower** and are on the website. I have had so many inquiries as a result of the article in the *Birmingham Post Herald* that I expect this class to fill up quickly. The class size is limited so if you or someone you know wants to take the Fall class I encourage you to get your registration and medical information forms with a check to me soon.

Pauline Neilson, Education Chair



www.birminghamsailingclub.org/learntosail.htm

**(From all accounts, the fall Learn to Sail Class was a smashing success, as well. -Ed.)*

CLUB NOTES



standing committees will report on the year's activities.

GYA Events

Upcoming GYA events include the Individual Flying Scot at PYC on November 12-13 and the 2006 Race of Champions at NOYC on December 17-18. If you are interested in participating in any of these events contact Kent Irwin. *(And don't pay any attention to those ugly rumors about older Scots being faster than our new one. -Ed. (2921))*

Annual Business Meeting

The BSC Annual Business Meeting will be held on **November 14, 2005**. If you are not planning to attend, please return your proxy. All

Work Day on December 10

The last Club work day of the year is scheduled for Saturday, December 10. Come out and help keep our Club ship shape. Contact grounds guru Bo Smith for further details.

Dock Repair

Ever worry about tying to that loose cleat? Good news! Your Board has approved a project to make a number of much needed repairs to our docks. Work should commence shortly.

Laser Results

Point totals from the Fall Laser Challenge are as follows: David Reich - 7, Peter Hopkins - 8, Vince Priola - 22, and Jess Milby - 22 (lost tie breaker).

Mystery Crew

The mystery crew pictured on page 1 of the last *Hornblower* was Cindy Kay (Houston and Bay St. Louis) and Sarah Hall (Mobile), both of whom have won the National US Sailing Adams Cup Competition in years past. They were at BSC as David Reich's guests to practice in preparation for the 2005 Adams Cup semifinals at Atlanta Yacht Club.

KATRINA BLUES

Gulf Yachting Update

Reprinted from www.sailingscuttlebutt.com

(What follows are excerpts from a letter written by Ron Richards, President, Gulf Yachting Association Foundation, Inc., to Peter Commette, commenting on recent posts to the Scuttlebutt website.)

An astounding 15 Gulf Coast Yacht Clubs have either been totally destroyed or received substantial damage to their clubs, fleet and marinas as a result of Katrina. Other storms in recent months have affected other area clubs and their members. The members of our yachting community are naturally in shock and certainly pre-occupied with their personal disasters at this time.

Concerning the presently non-existent funds that we were to receive at some future date, we believe that the best use in keeping with the purpose of the GYA Foundation of supporting the sport of sailing in our area, would be to direct these funds to the rebuilding of junior sailing programs in the affected clubs. In the coming months, and years, when we can determine the magnitude of the donations, we can solicit appeals from the affected clubs for funding their program rebuilding requirements and then begin distribution in a fair and equitable manner. We will of course establish an account to receive such donations that is separate and apart from our endowment fund and our cash account. No administration charges will be levied against these funds and every dollar will be distributed to the aforementioned yacht clubs.

Thank you and all of our other brethren in the yachting community for your concern. We only pray that you and others will never have to experience the trauma that we have incurred during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane season. We will be years in our rebuilding efforts but we will be stronger.

***When our perils are past,
shall our gratitude sleep?
No —here's to the pilot that weathered the storm.***

***George Canning, Song for the Inauguration of the Pitt Club
[May 25, 1802]***

RACING SCHEDULE / COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Event	Fleet Day	Event Chair	PRO	Race Committee
Nov. 12	TURKEY TUNE- UP ONE DAY	All		Richard Condrey	Christopher Bright, Clay McClung, Bob Bamberg
Nov. 13	No Sunday Races				
Nov. 20	Sunday Races	Lasers/Cats Dinghies		Joe Spransy	Michael Blair, Steven Gautney, Richard Durham
Nov. 27	No Sunday Races				
Dec. 4	Sunday Races	Thistles/J22s		Michael Papp	Dan Henderson, Jim Schornak, Marion Gilmore
Dec. 11	Sunday Races	Scots/Snipes GYA Practice		Harry Reich	Greg Mestler, David Torbert, Robert Sprain
Feb. 5	Sunday Races	Thistles/J22s		Richard Scarborough	Peter Luke, Robert Hernandez, Joy Hernandez
Feb. 12	Sunday Races	Scots/Snipes		Peter Hopkins, Jr.	James Proctor, Ed Cassady, Martin Clem
Feb. 19	Sunday Races	Lasers/Cats Dinghies		Terry Waldron	Robert Hernandez, Joy Hernandez, Brian Davies
Feb. 26	Sunday Races	Aux.		Porter Fell	Fred Smith, Chris Habig, Birch Bowdre