



BIRMINGHAM
SAILING CLUB

February 2007

The Hornblower

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

By Commodore Jim Sisson

Greetings Fellow Sailors.

It's that time of year again. If you're like me, you start watching the weather report around Wednesday looking for the Sunday forecast. After 6 weeks on dry land, I am ready to get out to the lake and go sailing.



Your BOG has already been hard at work getting the club ready for another year of great sailing. When you come out to the lake you will notice a number of changes. This year we are replacing the decking on the launch dock. This should eliminate the splinters and loose cleats that have developed over the last few years. The Jr. Dock is also getting a major overhaul. The sloping ramps have been rebuilt and reconfigured. We want our future club champions to have a great place to learn and practice. Thanks to Nelson for getting these projects underway in time for the racing season to begin. David Coshatt is teaming up with Terry Waldron to make some much needed repairs in the committee boats. That should happen later in the year. With the paving complete, the grounds

and house are in good shape and we will work to keep them that way.

Commodore's Comments Continued:

I believe our programs are stronger than ever. Loy has put together a great racing program. There are even more opportunities than last year to come out and race. Kent continues to drive the GYA program and the club is steadily climbing up the rankings - just ask him. Kathaleen, Jack, and others are planning another great year for the club's Jr. Sailors. Michael Papp, when he isn't revamping the website, is working with Jack to continue the Learn-to-Sail class that has been such an important source of new members. Also look for some changes to the Hornblower. Amy Sides has taken on that challenge. And I am sure our new Entertainment Chair has something up his sleeve. (For those who know Trent, you are not allowed to skip the race and just show up for the party afterwards.)

We also have four new Fleet Captains this year. The Thistles, the J22s, the Scots, and the Lasers are now being headed by David Reich, Fred Smith, Sid Browning, and David Hardwick. Most are long-time veterans of the club but all will do a great job of bringing fun and excitement to the racing program. There is nothing like new blood to generate some fresh ideas.

As you can see, it takes a lot of time and effort from many people to make the club work. These are just some of the members who work behind the scenes to make sure the facilities and the programs are there for us. If you haven't been out to the club in a while, I hope you will consider a belated new year's resolution - "this is the year I will get out to the lake and enjoy the fun and fellowship of the Birmingham Sailing Club".

Happy Sailing!

RACING REPORT

By Loy Vaughan

The new racing season got kicked off on February 4th with 4 Thistles and 12 hardy sailors on the line for four great races. There is more to come with Snipe/Flying Scot Fleet races scheduled for next weekend.

The rest of the 2007 Racing Schedule is now posted on the BSC web site <http://www.birminghamsailingclub.org/schedule.asp>. Please refer to it and determine your race committee duties. We want everyone who participates to feel that the race committee is there to support the races and to ensure the safety of all members. Please follow the club procedures for meeting these very important club duties. <http://www.birminghamsailingclub.org/pdf/racingprogram.pdf>

We have added another BSC One Day Regatta on February 24th. It is the tradition at BSC to call this one The Frozen Derriere Regatta. However, that is just a name since we expect temperatures of 65-70 with winds out of the south at 10 mph...a "perfect spring day".

See you on the water.

THISTLE REPORT

By David Reich

Thistle Fleet 110 News

Thistle Fever has already begun and its as contagious as ever! The first racing of the 2007 sailing season was dominated by Thistle Fleet 110. On Sunday 4 Feb, we were treated to 4 great races in a very puffy 5-15 mph NW breeze, sunny skies, and 55°F. And not a mosquito in sight. The Race Committee did a great job of popping off 4 races with windward leeward courses for the 4 Thistles on the water. These 4 Thistles brought a total of 12 sailors to the course with several boat owners crewing as well as some crew from other classes as well. Following the racing, the fleet gathered at the club for some fireside chili provided by the gracious Marilyn Reich. Everyone got a taste of some great One-Design sailing on the season opener - a sign of even better things to come in the Thistle Fleet for 2007.

We welcome our newest Thistler, Edwin Marty, to our fleet. Edwin is a fine sailor having been raised sailing on Mobile Bay, and more recently crewing for our own Loy Vaughan. Edwin will be a regular Thistler at BSC and he comes with his "game face" on so be looking for Edwin on the starting line.

If you have not sent your class/fleet membership and dues in yet, please do so. Please sent it to Diane or Jerry Hart.

Please refer to the BSC website for available crews. The list is long. Give one of these folks a call. Most if not all are listed because they went through our own Learn to Sail courses. So they are more than qualified and are eager to sail.

The Thistle Southeastern Spring Series (SESS) will get underway on March 17-18 with the Orange Peel Regatta at the beautiful Florida Yacht Club in Jacksonville. A Coach TCA program will be combined with the regatta lead by class experts. This program is can provide you with a wealth of knowledge about sailing and racing Thistles in one weekend that you could only get in a full season or two of sailing. Please visit the regatta link: <http://www.thistlefleet133.com/orangepeel/>

Thistle Fleet 110 will soon host a social and fleet meeting. You will be notified soon by email. Please attend and bring your crew.

Finally, I am your new fleet captain and I want to help you get your boat on the water. You don't have to race. But please come sail and join in the fun of owning and sailing one of the most popular and successful one-design yachting classes ever - right here at BSC. If you are already sailing but want to discuss Thistle tuning or rigging - please contact me. Let me know how I can help you: david@reichcompanies.com or 205.612.8907. Visit the Birmingham Sailing Club website for all the latest regatta results, pictures, and news. You can also access your account information, learn about sailing classes, check the racing calendar, read about the duties of the race committee, find info about the junior sailing program, sign up to crew for a race, sell your extra set of sails, and more, all on the BSC website.

CLUB NOTES

GYA Events

We are making plans for another exciting season of Capdevielle racing. We have had a measurable increase in boat speed after rig tuning, bottom sanding (David Reich) and Donnie Brennon centerboard magic. We are sailing with the “front” pack and we still have more speed ideas in the works! Here is a listing of 2007 Capdevielle regattas. If you are interested in participating in any of these events contact Kent Irwin at gya@birminghamsailingclub.org.

Date	Name	Location	Comment
Mar 10-11	Mardi Gras	NOYC	Good time to begin your sailing season
Apr 14-15	Pat Gilliland	JYC	Jackson, MS, pond sailing is like BSC
May 5-6	Opening Reg.	Mobile YC	Big opening ceremony and good party
May 19-20	Spring Reg.	Buc YC	Great sailing and party with our good friends at Buc. YC
Jun 2-3	Candler	St ABYC	Great sea breeze and fun party last year
Jul 7-8	Meigs	FWYC	Take the family to Fort Walton for the weekend
Jul 14-15	Summer	MYC	Enjoy the sea breeze out of Mobile
Jul 21-22	Jr.Lipton	Pont.YC	
Jul 28-29	Weatherly	GYC	
Aug 11-12	Knost	PCYC	Come support our women's team, fun weekend
Sep 1-3	Lipton	Buc YC	This is the big, FUN, one –get on this team early
Sep 8-9	Bk to Schl	Pont.YC	
Sep 15-16	Race Week	LBYC	
Sep 20-30	Wadewitz	FYC	Big multi fleet regatta, great breeze when we have nothing at BSC
Oct 20	Schreck	PYC	Best place to sail in the fall on earth!

BSC Website

Visit the Birmingham Sailing Club website for all the latest regatta results, pictures, and news. You can also access your account information (the password is BSC), learn about sailing classes, check the racing calendar, read about the duties of the race committee, find info about the junior sailing program, sign up to crew for a race, sell your extra set of sails, and more, all on the BSC website. <http://www.birminghamsailingclub.org>

Dues Reminder

The amount of your Birmingham Sailing Club dues and fees for calendar year 2007 is accessible through the members pages at the club web site. You will not receive a paper invoice or statement in the mail. It is incumbent on each member to use the web site to check his or her account and to send the amount due to the club post office box (P.O. Box 660331, Birmingham, AL 35266). Thanks and happy sailing!

Hornblower

If you have a newsletter article or pictures that you would like to share in the *Hornblower*, please e-mail it to Amy Sides at hornblower@birminghamsailingclub.org.

RACING SCHEDULE / COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

				Fleet	PRO	RC1	RC2	RC3
FEB	4	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m.	J22/Thistles	John Acton	John Livingston	John Wood	Gerald Woodruff
	11	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m.	FS/Snipes	David Torbert	Porter Fell	Jim Schornak	Sid Browning/B. Millwee
	18	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m.	Lasers/Cats	Bo Smith	Darrell Bilbrey	Chris Bright	Mike Sparks/Jim Deuel
	24	Sat	CLUB ONE DAY REGATTA 11:00 AM		Peter Reich	Barry Hartley	Al Chiesa	D. Henderson/G. Mestler
	25	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m.		Kent Irwin	Edwin Marty	Grayson Rodgers	George Marozsan
MAR	3	Sat	DISTANCE RACE #1		David Whikehart	Sally Morriss	Margaret Pittenger	David Coshatt
	4	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m.	J22/Thistles	Tom Shannon	Jim Pewitt	Birch Bowdre	Charlie Binion
	11	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m.	FS/Snipes	Jerry Hart	Diane Hart	James Dudley	Ed Baker
	17	Sat	CLUB ONE DAY REGATTA 11:00 AM		Michael Papp	T. Ellis/ T. Pack	John Lonsdale Eccles	Robert Walsh
	18	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m.	Lasers/Cats	Mike Graham	Trent Richardson	Kerri Richardson	Tom Brown
	25	Sun	Sunday Races 2:00 p.m. / New Member Day		Vincent Priola	Hank Cason	Richard Durham	Marion Gilmore