

The Writing Line

Monthly Newsletter of the Spacecats Hobie Fleet 45

Brevard County, Florida

February 2001

Officers and Contacts

Frank Rodrick, Commodore 433-2677
Don Eldridge, Vice Commodore 242-8524
Dave Foy, Treasurer 254-1868
Roy Laughlin, Secretary 690-0137

Fleet Meeting 1st Wednesday of Each Month, Cocoa Beach Yacht Club Feb 7 2001.

Some Old News

IRCA had a December Sail with two Supercat 21s sailing at Sebastian Inlet. Danny Sassman had his new cat out. Bill Roberts came up with the second Supercat 21 in existence. It was a beautiful sight.

The January sail had only 3 or 4 catamarans. Kent was there. The good news was that the day warmed up as much as any during the month. The thermometer must have topped 70 for several hours during the afternoon. The bad news was that the wind died by about 3. There was a spell of protracted drifting. But the air was fresh and comradie welcome after the days of dark cold weather over the Christmas holidays.

Steeplechase

Kent Cooper and Chris Runge, and Brian and Tammy raced the Steeple Chase. The weather was OK a little cloudy. But winds were moderate and favorable. Kent set a new standard for racing style. He took a fishing rod and trolled through Florida Bay. No reliable news that he caught anything. But for trying . . .

Tradewinds

We haven't had the most memorable sailing weather these past 2 months. Luckily, bad weather took a short break for the Tradewinds. Foggy windy mornings gave way to clear, warm, days, with a few hours of calm during around noon each day. Brian and Tammy raced the Tradewinds on their 5.5. Lisa crewed with Russ weaver on his 16. Chris Runge single handed with his Inter 17. Roy went to document the event. (And that was successful. See www.1design.net and follow links the Florida Multihull Sailor.)

It was a really great weekend. Lots of good company and beautiful sights. Maybe we should plan a contingent of Fleet 45 sailors for next year.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Foy reported that as of the first week of January, we have 1224.36. Nearly everyone who committed to join the fleet has paid dues. We're in fairly good financial shape.

JPOR

Planning for both our big events in the first half of the year begin about the same time. Hagar is well in hand. We discussed JPOR plans as well. Roy will again be the JPOR organizer this year. During the past 2 years, we have spent more than we've taken in for the event. Roy recommended

1. That we place no paid advertisements this year and rely on other methods of contact to get participation. This was approved by the membership.
2. That we have a party in Frankie's both nights and forgo the Yacht Club. Dave Andrews noted that Frankie's has converted the back space we've used for our group parties during past regattas into a game room. Dave will ask Frankie's if they can accommodate us this year.
3. Some sponsorship will change this year. For example, Indian River Brewing Company may not be around to sponsor us this year. Other arrangements will have to be made.

Otherwise, things promise to be as good as they have been during the past few years.

Florida Multihull Sailor

Brian and Roy have been building a web site for the general sailing public. The address is www.1design.net. When you open that page, you will see two buttons. One is for Multihulls Sailor. This site carries stories about multihulls in general. The second, Florida Multihull Sailor, will feature a graphic intensive focus on regattas in Florida and the southeast US. In February, Hagar the Horrible will be on Florida Multihull Sailor and Fleet 45's site.

Instruction Available

On Thursday, Feb 8, the Melbourne Yacht Club will offer a 2 hour course on how to work on the race committee boat during a race. This offer comes with the implicit expectation that those in the course will help MYC and other race organizers in the area conduct regattas. Race rules are under constant revision. Not only will this course help you run a race, it may help you win one as well. If you're interested in racing, please sign up. The information follows see the most recent contact information at the end of the list:

UPCOMING RACE COMMITTEE CLASS

Who: Anyone interested in helping with area racing activities

(no prior experience necessary)

When: Tues, Feb 8 7:30-9:30 pm

Tues, Feb 15 7:30-9:30 pm

Where: Melbourne Yacht Club

Cost: ABSOLUTELY FREE

Bring: Your own copy of The Racing Rules of Sailing (available at West Marine & US Sailing)

A typical Race Committee consists of 3-4 people, a Race Committee boat, and sometimes a 'chase boat'. Only one person needs prior experience at race committee duties. The rest of the Race Committee fill an important, but supporting, role. The RC boat gives you a ring-side seat watching some of the best sailors on the river do their thing. Sunshine...boats...beer, what more can you ask for? Come find out what it's all about!

How to register for the class

Reply to this email, or call Sherry Beckett at 779-3024. Please provide name, phone number, email address, and club affiliation (if any).

Space is limited, so please make sure you pre-register so we have enough seats & materials for all attendees.

The first ECSA River Series races are Feb 10th, 17th, and 24th. If you might be able to help out on one of these dates, please let me know.

If you're interested, but can't make this class, let me know, and if there's enough interest, we'll try to run another class later in the year.

Roy says: Please note this request from class organizers

On Monday 2/6, I received a request from ITBecketts@aol.com asking for those who intend to participate to email him to let him know you intend to participate. They want to be sure to have enough space.

DS

Nominations for the DS have, in this editor's opinion, been fairly desperate these past few months of dreary cold weather. Lisa Dutcher was the object of attention again this month. She was nominated initially for dropping a bag of bottled wine during preparations for the Christmas party.

Frank Rodrick received a nomination as well, for falling asleep before the Christmas Party and nearly missing the whole event. At least he made it there for a about an hour. That was good. But suddenly Lisa got elected DS for January 2001. Congratulations, Lisa!

You don't deserve this. That's a whole lot different from saying you are not worthy! When Frank was giving directions to his house for his playoff party, he said that his Prindle 19 was set up in his front yard with Christmas lights in the rigging. Lisa commented, His catamaran has been set up longer in his yard than it has ever been set up at the beach . . . Someone, but it's not immediately clear who, should get a DS as a result of that remark. Maybe Hagar will give us some good material. [The phantom editor repeats his mantra daily: Center Span! Center Span!]

The Plain Vanilla Edition

Sorry folks, for the lateness and simplicity of this email. I've had problems translating the full version into the Acrobat file to post on the web site. Photos will be put on the web site separately. Look shortly for photos of Hagar the Horrible regatta on 1design.net and on Fleet 45's site.