

Sou' Wester

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midwinter regatta 2007

Rich Roberts photos

Sneaky winds bring brisk battles to Midwinters at ABYC

The most versatile competitors came to the top when 96 boats in nine classes sailed through a triathlon of conditions in Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's slice of the 78th Southern California Yachting Association's Midwinter Regatta Feb. 17-18.

At first on Saturday there was flat water and a warm, 15-knot offshore Santa Ana desert breeze, then that switched 180 degrees to a lighter, cooler sea breeze. Sunday it was all 15-20 knots of southeast bluster as four boats were delighted to emerge with one-point victories: ABYC's Paul Galvez and British crew Archie Massey in the International 14s, Charlie Heatherly of Westlake YC in Lasers, Forrest Gay of



Cal YC in Finns and John Papadopoulos, a former class national champion from Balboa YC with Bob Sherwood as crew.

A-Cat world champion Pete Melvin dropped by just in time to win the last of six races, but the top two spots already belonged to fellow ABYC members Pease (1) and Jay Glaser (2), both Olympic silver medalists, although 16 years apart. It was a week-end when the A-Cats had no trouble flying their hulls.

The outside course was inside the breakwater, but momma nature slipped a chilly sou'easter in the side door between the east end of the wall and the beach, roiling the normally flat waters into tightly stacked six-foot swells that made everyone glad they were wearing drysuits.



For the I-14s it was a throwback to their lively world championship hosted by ABYC last September when ABYC's Howard Hamlin won the title with Euan McNicol as crew. Galvez, 34th among 71 boats then, was first among 14 this time sailing Hamlin's championship boat. Massey was sixth in September sailing his boat.

They nipped Cal YC's Kris Bundy, who was fourth in the Worlds. Neither had a finish worse than third.

Inside on the bay it was more manageable for the Lidos as Papadopoulos, who had never sailed with Sherwood, won the last two of six races to edge Bob and wife Lisa Little of California YC, who had two wins and no finish worse than third, by a single digit. Little usually sails with his 4-year-old son as crew but thought the breeze was a bit too brisk this time.

"We had aggressive starts, always at one end or the other," Little said, "and with every start we were in the top few boats. We made it easy on ourselves."

ABYC's Keith Ives and crew Chuck Stevens sailed their Cal 20 to the strongest victory—seven points over dad Barney and son Steve Flam—by winning the last three of five races, apparently loving the rough stuff inside the breakwater.

Rich Roberts



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save the date

Manning Regatta	March 3 - 4
Membership Meeting	March 16
Chapped Cheek/St. Pat's Dinner	March 17
Women's Group - Flower Arranging	March 25
OCR	March 31- April 1
Easter Brunch	April 8
CISA Clinic	April 12-15
Membership Meeting	April 20

commodore's comments



I'm packing this afternoon for a business trip back to Cleveland and Chicago. I checked the weather report and it was 2 degrees in Chicago. Yesterday, we had breakfast in Avalon and it was nearly 80 degrees. So, as they shovel the snow off their driveways in Chicago, it's time for us to start shoveling the ice into our coolers for another busy Spring sailing and social schedule at ABYC. All things considered, I'd rather be in Long Beach.

I hope everyone had a chance to see Rich Robert's article on Howard Hamlin in the Jan/Feb Sailing World. Well deserved press and praise for one of our great sailors by our great sailing journalist. It was also nice to see quotes from our members Jay Glaser and Mike Martin, read about the importance of the Tuesday 505 practice sessions at ABYC and see our former junior sailor Jon Bell sailing at the top of the sport.

Supporting excellence in sailing is a great tradition at ABYC. Next month the California International Sailing Association (CISA) will present ABYC with a plaque thanking the club for its many years as host for their outstanding racing clinic for young sailors held here each Spring. The plaque reads "Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Home of the CISA Advanced Racing Clinic since 1987. CISA would like to give tribute to the ABYC members and staff for their continued dedication and support to the development of elite youth racing sailors of the United States. From this site, many of the United States best youth sailors have perfected their skills and represented the USA around the world." Nice words and a nice gesture that we appreciate.

At our February general membership meeting, the tradition continued as we were treated to an informative presentation by two of our very active junior sailors, Alex Vaught and Cameron Summers. What I found particularly satisfying was the camaraderie and support between the junior sailors and the many Laser Master sailors that attended the meeting.

Check our events calendar, there's plenty going on at ABYC and it will be more fun if you're there.

Good sailing,

Jim

rear commodore's notes



March is a great month and it is starting to get warmer. I love it. Spring is here March 20! Summer is on the way. Everything gets better; the beach, the sailing on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the fishing, Catalina, and life in general. We made it! Winter is ending! Get down to ABYC and start celebrating early.

Social:

We have some great things coming up in the near future. Fridays are always great, but keep tuned because there are some new and exciting things in the works.

Happy "kicked up another notch" Happy Hour with BONEDADDY a special rock band with a horn section (more info to follow via email) Friday March 23, 2007.

St. Pats as part of the Chapped Cheeks regatta March 17, 2007 with the out of control Conn family making lively Irish mischief, see the information posted in this newsletter! Please let the office know if you would like to attend (now!).

Easter Sunday April 8, 2007 at the Club. This is my favorite social event of the year. Stacy Conn will be the grand madam. Please sign up early (now!).

If you have not been receiving my weekly reminders via email, please send me your email address and I will be sure to put you on the list.

Membership:

Don't forget about our promotion! This is for Regular New Members only and their sponsors. The #1 sponsor and new member each get 250 ABYC dollars. 50 of which is to be used only for Club merchandise. The remaining 200 can be used for food, beverage, or Club merchandise. The ABYC dollars need to be used within 6 months and they can't be applied towards dues or mooring. Just mark you bill when you are paying it how you want your dollars applied. Email me if you have any questions.

Contact Mike Baumann (michael_baumann@mac.com), your hard working Membership Chairman, or me with prospects.

See you around the Club! Go ABYC!

Merle Asper, merleasper@verizon.net

manager's corner



I have a confession.

Stealing a line from Apocalypse Now and Robert Duval...."Charlie don't surf" Well...Kelly don't sail. That's right folks, never been on a sailboat. I don't know a freeboard from a skateboard, a bow line from a chorus line, a main sail from Macy's President's Day Sale, I thought tack and jibe was a comedy team in Vegas. Well you get the point.

I'm baring my soul to avoid other embarrassing situations like today when I asked Merle Asper how they determine good sailing conditions. Merle gazed out into the bay...glanced up to the flags waving in the breeze and began speaking in tongues. What I thought was a simple question turned out to be a series of hand gestures, mention of something called wind shear, tacking and nautical terminology normally found only at the Naval Academy. I of course, assumed my "I'm soaking all of this in" pose, and nodded in total agreement to Mr. Asper's dogged determination to educate me to the nuances of sailing.

Finally Merle suggested we jump into a whaler and head out to actually watch a race and further my understanding of this passion you people call sailing. I quickly changed into my sailing gear (which looks surprisingly similar to my club manager gear) and out to sea we go.

I've actually been on several boats in my life, and was even in the Navy for a "cup of coffee" and I don't remember the ride of those boats being quite as *unforgiving* as this 17ft whaler. I'm sure it wasn't the skill of the skipper, as Merle is know in boating circles as "El Rico Suave" None the less, we made it out to the Regatta course and began observing the various races. It was interesting to watch the concentration of the sailors jockeying for position, and observing the race committee staff aboard Patience doing the incredible job they do. It wasn't long before we were called by the crew of Patience to help an I-14 that had equipment failure, and needed a tow back to the club.

So, thanks to Merle for the brief yet informative Regatta lesson, I look forward to another chapter on a warmer...calmer day.

I think sailing is like surfing. It's more of a religion than a sport. You either get it...or you don't. Even on days when the surf is small, it's ok...as my surfing neighbor says, "I got wet, and that's all that matters"

I see the passion in the sailor's eyes, and I hear it in your voices. Of course you want to win these Regatta's, but the bigger picture seems to be the experience and the fact that you got off the sofa, rigged your boat and had the wind fill your sails, you tasted the saltwater and probably got a little wet, and maybe, just maybe, that's all that matters.

I'm really looking forward to the next couple of weeks. We are going to be developing new foods for the Galley, and have some exciting new products to share with the members.

I have located a local Butcher who has agreed to provide me with fresh ground beef every week, so goodbye frozen hamburger patties. I'll purchase fresh buns (hamburger and hotdog) and eliminate the need to buy in such quantities, it's impossible to keep fresh. We'll be introducing several new sandwiches and salads as well as homemade soups.

My commitment to the members this year is to provide better, fresher and more varied food in our Galley and kitchen. Once again, your suggestions and comments are always welcome.

Kelly Whitlow

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fleet captain's report



Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs activity: Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club is accepting challenges for the "Walt Elliot Challenge Race" to be held May 12, 2007. Those interested please make yourself known. Sailed in mono hull. Entry fee is \$50. Entry to be no later than 1 April.

As a note, The Etchells Class will be in championship and Worlds qualification racing that same date.

At ABYC, Chopped Cheek will take place March 17 including the St. Patrick's Day Party. Olympic Classes Regatta is the weekend of March 31/April 1. It will also include the Junior Multihull Championship.

CISA will be conducted, the week after Easter. Volunteers to control the parking lot and the ramp are needed to make for a smooth running event. Please contact me if you are available. At CISA, it is amazing the pearls of sailing wisdom that drop on the floor, as you work around that gang.

On that same subject, our juniors are improving at a marvelous rate. Yet, I see that donations to the Junior Sailing Program have fallen off. These kids are campaigning under our ABYC Burgee and I urge us all to rededicate money and resources to their success. Keep checking your club calendar for events on the web site www.abyc.org.

John Massey

from the pages of history

Midwinters, social events and new members jumped of the pages of history this month—and, as always, familiar names...

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

There were a staggering 275 boats racing at ABYC for the 48th SCYA Midwinter Regatta, according to the March, 1977, *SOU'WESTER*. I actually have a trophy from that regatta, and it is—no kidding—a cheese plate. Event chairman Mel Hebert reported that letters had been received thanking ABYC for "not only a well run regatta but also for the smiles and spirit of friendship our members displayed."

One of the classes at Midwinters was the I-14 class. There were two dozen of them, including the brand-new "Opus" owned by Jack Wills Senior and Junior; while the just-out-of-the-box boat won the first race, they had to settle for second place in the regatta behind Alan Laflin of St. Francis YC.

An ad touted the "social event of the year," the St. Patrick's Day Party, on "March 17th, of course!" A feature of those parties in those days was "Earl's Famous Irish Stew," prepared by then ABYC Port Steward Earl Bowman. It's flavor is legendary, and many now not-so-young ABYC members remember working in the kitchen on the preparation of the event. Oh, and the fee was pretty easy, too: three bucks for stew, salad and bread.

A whole slew of familiar names became ABYC members in the late winter of 1977. They included George and Bea Hart, former members who were returning; Bruce Roy Conn, a former family junior who joined as an interim member (now a Yachting Member); and Charlie Cummings, another former family junior who became an interim member on his own right.

Commodore Tick Weber reported winning the Los Angeles Yacht Club Commodore's Race, held in conjunction with LAYC's Opening Day, the first time an ABYC Commodore had won the event; he did it in Langdon Parrill's Morgan One-Ton IOR boat with a crew that included Langdon, Hank Schofield and Steve Moffett...ABYC juniors winning trophies in the ABYC Honest Abe Regatta included Willem Emmer and Jennifer Ellis—and another went to a kid sailing out of Leeway Sailing Club named Jay Golison...a note from ABYC Treasurer Mike McDade reported that the phone company was now charging a fee for every call made from ABYC and asked that the members to "not embarrass Helen and Eleanor in the office by asking them to make calls".

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

Another big Midwinters, the 58th, was held in 1987, and the numbers here are pretty remarkable: over 150 boats, including 41 Snipes, 37 J/24's, 26 I-14's and 18 Coronado 15's. The winners' names are recognizable after all this time: Keith Dodson won the Snipe class ahead of second-place Mike Segerblom; John Kostecki was tops in the J/24 fleet that included Bruce and Jay Golison in separate boats but both in the top five; Steve Toschi, Eric Arens and Alan Laflin, all from the Bay Area, were one-two-three in the I-14's; and young Greg Sorenson of ABYC won the C-15 class.

The SCYA Manning Regatta had been held the last weekend in January, and ABYC skippers did well. Naples Sabots turned out 35 boats and the winner of the class, ABYC's Kevin Dumain, won the Manning Trophy. The Skimmer Trophy went to the winner of the second-largest class—Snipes, with 31 boats—and it was ABYC's Jim Grubbs. And the top two places in the I-14 class went to ABYC members Steve Flam and Tim Carter, in that order.

history (cont)

Memberships were moving fast in the winter of 1987, especially Yachting memberships. Then, as now, a Yachting membership was available to a young adult at a reduced cost and lower dues; many joined ABYC as Yachting Members and later became full-fledged Regular Members. Among new Yachting Members was Latham Bell, a former family junior; another former family junior posted for Yachting membership was Lynda Fox. And two young people who had moved to Southern California from out east were applying for Yachting memberships; they were 470 sailor Sarah Herndon, called "Pease," and Pete Melvin, a Floridian and former 470 sailor who had moved into catamarans.

Chuck Queen, ABYC Laser Fleet captain, bemoaned the fact that the ABYC roster showed 52 Lasers but the turnout of the boats was very small and that "the boats in the ABYC racks" were representative of the fact that Laser racing was down all over Southern California...apparently not all Lasers at ABYC were in the racks: some were laying on the ground in the boatyard and some were even in the Sabot racks, and these would all be impounded by order of Steve Moffett, Grounds & Mooring Chairman, on March 1, 1987...the annual ABYC Fashion Show, left orphaned by the collapse of ABYC's women's group, found a chairman, according to Commodore Tom Ramsey: Vicki Ericksen, then also the SOU'WESTER editor...

TEN YEARS AGO:

SOU'WESTER's in the mid Nineties, edited by Allison Jolly, often had whimsical cover art. The March, 1997, edition, was no different: it showed the start of a race of 49ers at the 68th SCYA Midwinter Regatta. Then the newest "skiff" around, and a new Olympic class, it's general look and behavior led the editor to quote Woody, hero of "Toy Story II," when he said to Buzz Lightyear, "Now, Buzz—what can Andy (the boy who owned Woody and Buzz) possibly get that is worse than you?"

There were 127 boats at Midwinters, which was beset by "fluky winds." As an aside, the numbers of racers at Midwinters is more a reflection of the growth of clubs hosting portions of Midwinters than a decline of overall participation. In 1977, probably fewer than ten clubs hosted Midwinters fleets; in 1987, fewer than 20. By 2007—the 78th regatta—there were 32 host clubs.

The ABYC Board of Directors and the ABYC chapter of the International Order of the Blue Gavel—the latter an association for past Commodores—would be hosting a new-member dinner in early March. This event would give new members a chance to meet old members—and vice versa. Two pages of photographs showed many of the members eligible for attendance; among them was a mustachioed Jim Bateman and his son, pictured standing with then ABYC Commodore Pat Bixby.

The United States Sailing Center in Long Beach announced an "exclusive evening lecture" at ABYC on the new Racing Rules of Sailing for 1997-2000, touted as "the most major overhaul of the rules since 1961" by the lecturer, Dave Perry...ABYC members Howard Hamlin and Mike Martin reported having sailed the 1997 J.J. Giltinan World 18-footer Championship in Sydney Harbor, where they finished a respectable sixth place, the best performance by a non-Australian team; the pair also teamed up to win the 5-0-5 class in the Midwinter Regatta...Commodore Bixby commented that the "Grunion Gazette," a local weekly newspaper for Belmont Shore, Naples and surrounding areas, had taken on an ABYC Staff Commodore to write the weekly "On the Water" column; wonder how that turned out...

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

Spring & the Annual ABYC Spruce Up
are just around the corner!

Save the date to help clean up our
club and make it ready for the

upcoming season.

APRIL 28, 2007

More info to come!



¡ShamROCK! Swig'n, Jig'n, Rock'n 'n' Roll'n

Be you Irish or *Iwish* – for St. Patrick's Day you'll be deputized as an Irishman (and conducting yourself with whatever dignity may befitting such an honor). Eric, Tracy, and Bruce Conn (with help from other LepreConns) are planning the "Partiers' Party".

From Las Vegas, rock 'n' roll master Phil Shane will be performing.

Irish cooking learned in the kitchen of (Great) Grandmother Conn.

Irish spirits.

Prizes for the Best Original Limerick.

Prizes for the Greenest Guest.

Plus other unexpected but not unthreatening highlights.

Get your "Livin' Large" ticket punched Saturday, March 17th at 6 PM

Not just boats ROCK – you're gonna ShamROCK

the bay clogger (junior sailing)

Brad Schaeuption photos

This past weekend our junior sailing team competed in the Midwinter's Regatta down at Newport Harbor Yacht Club where our sailors did extremely well and had lots of fun!

The wind was somewhat unusual starting with a strong land breeze on Saturday that eventually died out and was replaced by a mild breeze from the South that turned into a decent Westerly early in the afternoon. Our sailors were thankful for that as they often times struggle in the lighter breeze that prevails in Newport. Unfortunately, the lighter breeze did eventually come in later in the afternoon which led to a drifter of a last race. The students seemed a bit discouraged at the end of the day, but were happy to find that five of them were actually in the top 10 (Jack Jorgensen, Samantha Gebb, Ian Fournier, Haley Kirk and Corbin Kirk) in the A fleet.



Jack Jorgensen finished 4th in Midwinters

The next day brought extremely strange breeze that was blowing out of the Southeast with puffs in the 13's. It was a breath of fresh air yet again for our guys as they sailed like it was back home. The highlight of the event for our A fleeters came in the last race of the regatta when nearly all of them rounded in the top 10 at the windward mark. At the end of the day, Ian Fournier placed 3^d, Jack Jorgensen placed 7th, Haley Kirk placed 8th, Samantha Gebb placed 9th and Lauren Bussey grabbed 11th. We also saw huge break throughs for Steven Hopkins in his second C1 regatta placing 2nd place overall for the event!

The best part of the whole regatta was 8 year old Sawyer Gibbs' comment after grabbing all bullets and winning the C3 division. Upon being congratulated for his performance, Sawyer nodded and exclaimed, "And I made five new friends!" It doesn't get any better than that right there! Congratulations to all of them!

As we are forging our way through the spring, we have already begun focus on the summer at ABYC which we anticipate to be a truly awesome program. We hope to have the summer sign up forms online at www.fleetracing.net in just a few weeks and in the mail with the next Sou'wester. It should be available March 1st, so please keep your eyes peeled and sign up fast to assure your child space in the program!

If you are looking for a good way to help out the junior program, we are in need of some sabot sails for our charter program. They do not need to be anything special, just old practice sails that a beginner could learn to sail with. If you have any that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the junior office. Thank you so much and we'll see you at the Manning Series!

Brad Schaeuption, ABYC Jr. Sailing Director



Sawyer Gibbs with himself 5 years in the future... Ian Paice on left

major accomplishments

This year Eric Conn from the Alamos Bay Yacht Club competed in his 50th consecutive Mid-Winter Regatta. Over the years he has competed in the Sabot, Lehman 10, Snipe, Cal 20 and Mercury Classes.

Another ABYC multi class veteran Barney Flam competed in his 52nd Mid-Winters and trophied in the Cal 20 Class with his son Steve as crew.



Eric Conn at his 50th Midwinter Regatta.

membership report

Merle Asper photo

This month we welcomed **Nicholas Maxwell** as a Yachting member. **Dave Rustigan** sails with, and has sponsored Nick.

We currently have 5 applicants posted for regular membership:

Marilyn and Winston Bishop, sponsored by **Pat McCormick**.

Jim and Anita Cole, sponsored by **Merle Asper**

Andrew Bishop, sponsored by **Lisa Lebold**

Alan Vaught, sponsored by **Merle Asper**

Tim Kernan, sponsored by **Jim Bateman**



Nicholas Maxwell receiving his club burgee from Dave Rustigan...Commodore Jim Bateman in background

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

Friday, March 16, 2007 is the deadline for the April Sou'Wester.

In honor of the late Marty Bowman (aka the Lido Lady), please join us to celebrate her life. Marty enjoyed parties and loved to talk "racing", so please share memories of Marty and chat about past Sabot & Lido regattas, parties, ABYC Christmas floats, and so on. Date: Saturday, March 24, 2007, at 3:30 p.m. (to 7 pm), on the Upper Deck. For more information, contact Mindy Bell-Gucwa 714/914-7713 mindybg@earthlink.net

belissima bernice

Sabotiers were very saddened when the skipper of "le Bateau" finally gave in to her long battle with cancer. Although she had been ill for so long, Bernice Weiss was able to rally and enjoy the theatre, ABYC gatherings, and other diversions almost to the last week.

Anyone who saw her sail, capsize, and recover would not be amazed at her fortitude. She had a "joie de vivre" that you're not likely to see replicated.

She began sailing when her boys, Ken and John, were given Sabots. She had to try them out, and found she had a natural flair for racing. She won many trophies.

She taught Italian at the City College and lucky indeed were the people that got to travel with her to Italy.

She and Henry were beloved patrons of the Long Beach Symphony, receiving many hugs from JoAnn Falletta when she was conductor.

She was a docent at the Long Beach Museum and was welcomed back with affection on a recent tour.

She was a world traveler. Always ready to take off on a new venture - to swim with the dolphins in New Zealand, view the art works of Majorca, and even once, when she was younger see Mussolini in Roma.

In the film, Captain Corelli's Mandolin, there is a sequence where the Italian soldiers do a special salute to a pretty woman. The Captain would give the order "guardi a sinistra" (eyes left) or guardi a destra (eyes right) and all the soldiers would turn to salute the pretty woman. Bernice told me this had happened to her when in Italy at that time. And why not? What a woman! What a life!

"Bellissima".



Editor's note: Traditionally, the name of the writer of an obituary is not included with the article. In this case, the essence of Bernice was captured so beautifully, I would like to thank Barbara Gabriel for sharing her thoughts and her photo with us.

505 world championships

ABYC had a great showing at the 2007 World Championship held at Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club in the Gulf St. Vincent near the city of Adelaide in South Australia. Making the long trip were ABYCers Rob and Maggie Waterman, Kevin Taugher sailing with Jon Bell, Mike and Stephanie Martin, Howard and Julie Hamlin. Rob sailed with Aaron Ross of Santa Cruz. Mike sailed with long time teammate Jeff Nelson and Howard picked up Seattle veteran 505er Fritz Lanzinger.



The B&SYC is a casual dinghy club (much like ABYC). The club is situated on the beach fronting the Gulf St. Vincent (race course) and there are no docks or deep water access or even moorings. All the boats are launched from the beach and with a shallow reef just off the club, we were required to sail rudderless for about 100 yards (and installing a rudder in 20 knots ain't easy). YC committee boats are pulled out each day across the sand with the club's tractors.

The sailing conditions were varied and challenging with days with 20+ knot winds and 5' seas to light and shifty on shores. The first two days saw the windiest conditions between 18 to 20+ knots as a front moved through and the weather cooled to about 65 degrees while the water stayed a comfortable 75 degrees. The third through sixth days saw steadily warming weather with much lighter conditions where the wind ranged from 5 to

12 knots.

I was fortunate to team-up with Jon Bell last year. Jon is a rare talent who already at the young age of 22 has 10 years of wire experience (more than most crews) and has the size, strength, quickness, intellect and calmness needed for a top crew in the 505 class.

Jon and I and were expecting windier conditions but fortunately our light air speed and tactics were good enough to help us move up through the fleet and finish 6th place overall, accomplishing our goal of a top 10 finish.



Mike/Jeff were the favorites going into the event as easy winners of the pre-worlds however a couple of bad early races and trouble in the light air held Mike and Jeff to 5th place. Howard and Fritz sailed very consistently and really excelled in the lighter conditions. It was amazing to see Howard sail through the fleet making it look easy. Howard and Fritz finished 2nd place overall and were unable to catch the veteran Danish team of Jan Saugman and Morten Ramsbeck aka the "Super Danes" who just couldn't go wrong in the lighter conditions. Rob and Aaron finished mid-fleet and I think they easily accomplished their goal of having the most fun. Maggie Waterman had a great time while we were sailing, touring the local sites including



wineries, museums, Adelaide city and walking amongst kangaroos and other well known Australian animals at the ecological reserve. She has some great stories.

It was a great trip all around and not just because of the sailing. The local Australians were wonderful hosts and ran a very top notch event on and off the water. The Team Tuesday program, with it's top-level competition, an environment of sharing, and coaching from Jay Glaser each week, is obviously a formula for success. Jon and I were also fortunate to have the additional assistance from Bill Mais from NHYC who crewed for me on Tuesdays while Jon remained at UCSB and from former partner Chuck Tripp who served in a team support role advising us on a number of technical areas.

Additional info and photos are available at: www.505worlds2007.com and www.bsyc.asn.au/

Kevin Taugher





hails from the fleets



Attention, all ABYC Etchells sailors: there's a new gun in town. Ken and Jean Frost are not really new: they've been members of ABYC for years and years. And they are surely not new to the Etchells Fleet: Ken was the guy who got three boats sold to ABYC members after the 1985 Etchells Worlds in Newport Beach that was the kernel of Alamos Bay Etchells Fleet 18. He was a charter member of the fleet but for 20 years sailed the boat out of Newport Harbor Yacht Club. He even talked about selling the boat a few years ago.

But Ken and Jean brought USA669 up from Newport last fall. They went ahead and won Turkey Day. And then they won the Super Bowl Regatta. And now they added the SCYA Midwinter Regatta to their tally. Three regattas, three wins.

The Super Bowl Regatta, sailed in extraordinarily light airs on Sunday, February 4, saw eight boats on Alamos Bay. Jorge Suarez, the event chairman for ABYC's Super Bowl party later in the day, organized a race committee of Laser sailors who ran several races in the Bay adjacent to ABYC and one that ran to the west end of the Bay near Bayshore Drive and Second Street, then around past Long Beach Yacht Club to the Davies Bridge near the shipyard, then back.

I guess the cat is out of the bag: the Frost's won. They did it the hard way, taking the lead from Rich Vaught, sailing with brother Alan and son Cameron, in the last leg. Gordon Dudley and Jeff Powell were third on the strength of a first-race, runaway win. The fourth place boat was also a family affair: Pat and Jane Kelly with some grown-up kids aboard finished behind Dudley/Powell.

A pleasant surprise sailor in the fifth-place boat was Kevin Ellis, home for the weekend from his 'round-the-world cruise. They are wintering in Honolulu, and Kevin flew home just for the regatta; sailing his own boat with partner (and Commodore) Jim Bateman and crew Dan DeLave, they topped out the family team in the Jorgensen boat: Doug and son Jack with Derek and Kyle Smith.

Also sailing were Staff Commodores Steve Moffett and Nicole Peoples-Moffett, and Staff Commodore Chris Ericksen with a mixed crew including (not all at the same time) Chris Wells, Merle Asper and Dave Myers.

Two weeks later the local Etchells fleet launched at ABYC but raced at LBYC for the SCYA Midwinter Regatta. Again, the Frost team was tops, beating out Tom Corkett Senior and Junior with Wayne Rodgers as crew by only one point in the five-race series sailed on Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18. Defending Fleet Champions Jim Barber, Doug Jorgensen and Bob Newsome were third with the Vaught team in fourth. The Dudley/Powell team entered but did not race.

The immediate future brings service: the Etchells Fleet will be running the SCYA Manning Regatta March 3 and 4. ABYC's Chapped Cheek Regatta will be March 18, the next day of racing. It'll be April before our Fleet Championship and World's Qualifier Series begin—plenty of time to get tuned up.

Chris Ericksen

hails from the fleets



KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

The play was great, the hors d'oeuvres the Children's Benefit League members brought were super and best of all the wine was very reasonably priced. That's the makings of a great evening at the theater for the Armchair Cruise hosted by Judy Mathias and Carol Reynolds. The fact that all the money for the tickets went to the League to assist them in their great work was icing on the cake.

Our next meeting is Friday, March 9. We will have our normal pot luck dinner. As we did not have the January meeting due to a schedule mix up this will be the first time to see everyone for quite awhile. Vern Peterson will have more information on the up coming Cruise to Shoreline Yacht Club.

On a very sad note to end this Fleet report Bernice Weiss, long time friend of everyone, passed away Tuesday afternoon, February 13. Long time members will remember Bernice and Henry in their Cal 28.

Hope to see you at the next meeting,
George C.



Barbara Gabriel photos

All Sabotiers present at the February Meeting sent their recovery wishes to Bernice Weiss. She smiled when she heard their comments. Shortly after, she passed away. She was an integral part of the fleet to the end. We will all miss her. Read more in another section of the Sou'Wester.

Isabelle Lounsberry, our Fleet Captain, turned the major part of our meeting over to George Caddle who introduced George Kornhoff who brought us a report of the new Sabot Racks.

As treasurer of the Club, he was particularly interested in the financial benefits or rearranging the boat yard to accommodate more boats. A revenue increase of \$25,000 would be the result.

Discussion of the design took more time. Dale Berkhiser mentioned that the teflon material in the slides at BYC worked very well on all three levels of the racks. The bottom racks are still being considered as dolly and boat ports. This special design is being worked on by Bob Chubb. To be continued.

It was good to have our ex-Fleet Captain, Adra Kober with us for the meeting. We're sorry she had to tackle the stairs while recovering from her broken hip. If no elevator, a dumb waiter might be nice so that food could easily be transported to the Quarterdeck for our physically challenged members.

Pinky Greene of BYC and ABYC was in attendance to preside over the official presentation of the "Grand Masters' Division of Senior Nationals" Perpetual Trophy to Mary Riddick.



Bay Race Committee work. A tough job but someone has to do it. Anyone interested in volunteering?

Mary also received the first place trophy for Sunday's Races, just beating out Bob Ware (8) to her (6). Bob had two firsts, but also some bad luck in the third race.

Everyone enjoyed the great racing in the high winds. Sometimes the speed of the boats got so high, it seemed they were powered by outboards. Al Nelson, Jinx Ellis and Joe Riddick selected and presided over the exciting competitions.

The outcome of the discussion on life jackets was held over to the next meeting. Sabots sail the MidWinters at Balboa so we will have to wait until March for the results.

The Manning Series will see Senior sailing with the Juniors. This is always a challenging race. It would be nice of parents if the Juniors would join us with the family boat on our racing Sundays or Twilights.

If you have questions, please call Isabelle.

Barbara Gabriel



Mary Riddick receiving trophy from Pinkie Greene

hails from the fleets



Laser Fleet Hosts February Membership Meeting

The assembled members of ABYC enjoyed a light-hearted and often humorous slide show presented by **Alex Vaught** and **Cameron Summers** at the February membership meeting. Alex and Cameron participated in a marathon like summer of Laser regattas last year with their slide show highlighting the Laser Radial Worlds and Laser Radial Youth Worlds, contested in Santa Monica Bay and hosted by California YC.

Alex and Cameron were well received by the audience who were given the chance to see and hear two worthy young ambassadors of our club and learn how successful the ABYC Junior program has become.

ABYC Hosts First SCYA Midwinter Laser Masters Regatta

The long 76 year history of the SCYA Midwinter Regatta began a new tradition when ABYC hosted Laser Masters at the 2007 Midwinter Regatta. This event was the result of ABYC Laser racers wishing to participate in the SCYA Midwinter Regatta hosted from ABYC. When your author contacted **Chris Ericksen** to ask if Lasers could race in the Portsmouth Fleet, Chris suggested we have a Laser Masters Fleet instead. We both thought this a wonderful idea, and through Chris' efforts, a Laser Masters Fleet was added for the ABYC Midwinters venue.

Warm Santa Ana winds brought temperatures in the 80's early Saturday morning as racers arrived for the regatta. The gusty, erratic winds, promised an exciting day of racing under sunny skies with warm temperatures. Our sail to the regular ABYC race course was swift, but with the windward mark at the beach, we all had to readjust our race strategies. Race one got off on time, but as many predicted our strong Santa Ana's calmed, giving us marginal hiking conditions. Westlake YC representative Charlie Heatherly proved master of the conditions scoring a bullet, followed by **Chuck Tripp** from ABYC, Peter Drasnin, also representing Westlake YC, **Vann Wilson** from ABYC and Charlie Buckingham from NHYC.

The RC started their sequence for race two, but before the first fleet, I-14's, reached the weather mark, we had a near 180 degree wind shift. The RC reset their course; however, the delay meant we only had one more race before calling it a day. Charlie Heatherly was unbeatable once again, with Charlie Buckingham, ABYC's **Jay Golison**, Peter Drasnin, and your author following in order.

Winter, Southern California style, arrived Sunday morning with a cool breeze for the racers, albeit from a new direction. By the time we needed to leave the dock, a nice wind-driven chop made for some nice surfing out to the race course. With these conditions, it looked like we'd be testing our hiking muscles, but it was not to be as the wind for the first race did not match the sea conditions. Making the standings interesting, Peter Drasnin won this race followed by **Jay Golison**, Charlie Heatherly, Charlie Buckingham and **Chuck Tripp**. A General Recall of the I-14's and adjusting the marks caused a delay before race four and by now the breeze was building and we were getting cold.

Vann Wilson won races four and five earning him third place overall in the regatta. Building on his day one results and nothing lower than a fourth, Charlie Heatherly won the regatta with Peter Drasnin in second.

Scoring our Masters; Charlie Heatherly was the first Master, Charlie Buckingham was first Apprentice Master, while your author was the first and only Grand Master. Each of us received a framed rendering of a Laser launching off a wave rounding a mark. These nice awards were produced by ABYC's **Ellen Kirk**.

Other ABYC Masters participating were **Jorge Suarez**, and **John Bergan** and all were enthusiastic about making the SCYA Midwinters a regular event on the Southern California Laser Masters race schedule.

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Captain

Do you want to sail on a tallship?

Come and volunteer aboard the American Pride!!

We need volunteers to help us maintain and sail the 65 year old, three masted schooner!!

We currently meet on the first Sunday of the month for maintenance. Our sailing schedule varies, but we are always looking for volunteers to join us out on the water!!

If you are interested in volunteering please visit our website at www.americanpride.org or call our office at (714) 970-8801.

You may also contact our Volunteer Coordinator directly at ann_wasser@yahoo.com

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membership meeting photos



*Steve Moffett, Kelly Asper, Eileen Haubl,
Dave Meyer and Norma Clapp*



Merle Asper photos

Dan DeLave, Nicole Peoples-Moffett and Terry Bishop



hot off the press

In case you haven't heard.

Laser fleet members Kevin Taugher and Jon Bell just finished up the 2007 505 World Championships in Adelaide Australia in 6th place !!!

Howard Hamlin and Mike Martin both of ABYC were 2nd and 5th . That makes it three[3] of the top six[6] places in the 92 boat regatta were from ABYC . That is a pretty good practice group they have. They head for home today, so if you see them around the club, big thumbs up and well done.

General Membership Meeting - March 16th
Duty Fleets: Multihull & 505s
Program: TBD
Dinner: Irish Stew...6:00...Meeting: 7:00 (\$8.00)