



Compass Points

The Journal of the Arizona Yacht Club

AYC Sailors Place 3rd at Thistle Nationals

September 5, 2012 3:54 am



By: Ben Doane
Photos: Tina Deptula

The 2012 Thistle Nationals were held in San Diego at Mission Bay Yacht Club July 30 thru August 3. Two teams from Arizona Yacht Club made the trip to San Diego, Jason Rziha, Dan Perrine, and Antonia Johnson(3521) and Ben Doane, Trey Harlow, and Dennis Martinelli (3994).

Both teams were at MBYC the weekend of July 21 and 22 to compete in the Pacific Coast Championships. There were 21 boats registered and the wind was 6-12 kts. both days. We had 3 races each day for a total of 6. 3994 finished in 12th (Results). Our team had never raced together and it was a good way to practice. We were happy to get the cobwebs and major mistakes out of the way before Nationals. The boats stayed in San Diego while most of the sailors went home. My family and I stayed in San Diego and had fun visiting the city for the week. All week long the wind was 10-15 kts. and I was hopeful that it would stick around for the next week but, it didn't.



The Thistle Class has very specific bylaws that direct the Nationals regatta (Bordes System). There were 60 boats registered that were split into 4 groups. There are two starts each race with 2 groups racing each other. Each group races the others thru 3 initial races before the fleet is split in half into Championship and President's Divisions. The courses are also tightly controlled, they have to be a triangle, windward, leeward, finish (AYC's Olympic) 5.6 to 7.3 nm in length.

Team 3994 was excited to get the racing underway. We felt we could do better than the last weekend. We wanted to focus on starts, strategy, and not making big mistakes. We wanted to have 1st row starts, play the middle of the course, and be consistent.



Monday was 2 races in 6-12 kts. We had decent starts, 1 OCS that we had to go back and exonerate ourselves. We tried to play the middle of the course but, it was hard to find lanes to tack and found ourselves farther on the corner than we wanted to be. We stayed in the middle of the pack with a 17 and 15. We were just outside the cut and if we had a good race the next day we could make it.

Tuesday we went out for one race in about 8-12kts. We had another OK start and felt like the boat was moving ok but, ended with a 19. This was the last race before the cut and with that finish we would be in the President's Division. 3994 had 51 points and the cut was made at 47. We were disappointed that we did not do better and make the cut but, tomorrow was another day and we start with zero points.

Wednesday, there were 2 races in 5-10 kts. We had MUCH better starts in the middle of the line for both races and came off the line in great position. We had pretty clear air and could work our strategy. We were pretty conservative and played the middle. We gave up a few boats that made out on the corners but, we had good boat speed and finished the day with a 4th and a 2nd. The wind was light and the boat felt bad but everyone else had to deal with the same conditions. Even though we had a heavy crew we found we did better in light wind (thanks Lake Pleasant).

Thursday was a little lighter than Wednesday, closer to 5-8 kts. We had a good start in the middle of the line with clear air and we were off. We led at every mark by several boat-lengths. The last downwind we started losing ground to one of the boats and rounded 2 boat-lengths ahead. After a tacking duel we ended up in 2nd at the finish by a boat-length. We were pretty disappointed we lost the lead but, realized we finished the best race we had all

week. We were in 2nd place overall with 8 pts. 1st place had 5 pts and 3rd place had 10 pts.

Friday was 5-10 kts. with one race to go. The start was very crowded with several general recalls and a black flag eventually to get us going. This was one of the worst starts we had all week. We were buried in the middle of the line, no clear lanes to tack. The one thing we knew was that the race was long enough we could make it back. At the windward mark we were 20 something, passed a few on the reaches and headed back upwind. We clawed our way back to the top half of the fleet upwind and finished with a 9th place.



After a great week sailing in the Nationals 3994 finished the regatta in 3rd place in the President's Division (Results). Every day, after the split, we climbed in the standings except the last day when we went down one place. When we could, we used our strategy, overall we had good starts, and we were pretty consistent. I was very happy with our regatta. MBYC hosted a great event and we had a great time racing.

Thank you Trey Harlow and Dennis Martinelli for a great week sailing and Stephanie Doane and Nina Harlow for watching the kids all week.



Register for Fall Series — Or Just Get the Shirt!

August 31, 2012 3:41 am



Order an Opening Day Technical Shirt by Pirate's Lair.

Fall series registration is **now open**.

Click here to go to the racing page with the registration links and race documents for Lake Pleasant or Tempe Town Lake or both.

And if you just want the *awesome* shirt, you can do that too, but you *must* order by Wednesday, September 19th (International Talk Like A Pirate Day).

Not sure which fleet to participate in? Click to See Who's Registered



Racers and Crew Party Friday, September 7 from 5-7 pm

August 29, 2012 9:48 pm



Racing season is nearly here!

Ready for some sailboat racing?

The Arizona season is coming fast and to help get you ready to race, we're planning a party—a chance to get together with other racers, drink some beer or wine, and look for some crew-boat hookups for fall.

The party will be Friday, September 7, from 5-7 pm at AZ Wine & Beer at 2515 N. Scottsdale Road, just south of Thomas Road. Look for it in the center of the strip mall. And there's lots of free parking.

They'll offer some red and white wine options for \$5 per glass and four different craft beers at a \$2 or \$3 discount. We'll arrange for some munchies, too.

Who should come: Anybody interested in racing and would like to hang out with other racers. If you're looking for crew or would like to crew, this is a great opportunity to match up people with the right resumes and personalities. You do not need to be a member of AYC to attend. Casual dress, of course.

Like to learn to race? Check out the Introduction to Sailboat Racing class, offered once a year in the fall.

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September: The Secrets of My Best Boat Buy

August 29, 2012 9:26 pm

At our next monthly meeting three of AYC's most notorious boat shoppers will tip you on the secrets of their success.

It's the Tuesday, September 11 Monthly Meeting, beginning at 7pm at the Caddy Shack @ Rolling Hills Golf Course, 1415 North Mill Avenue, Tempe. (map) Dinner at 6.



Boat buying whiz Bill Hutchinson

Mike "I'll Drive Anywhere to Buy a Boat" Parker, Bill "I'll Even Buy It Twice" Hutchinson, and Tom "I'll Keep Buying and Selling It" Errickson will take turns tipping the crowd to their secret strategies for successful boat buying.

Their instructions: Offer the audience some tangible tips for buying a sailboat by dissecting one of your boat buys (or in Tom's case, perhaps the boat buy of someone he knows). We're looking for how to get the best price on the best boat.

Also, check out the "Pre-Meeting Meeting" on "How to Select the Right Boat."



Mike Parker has towed boats home from all over the U.S.

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September Pre-Meeting: Selecting the Right Boat

August 29, 2012 8:40 pm

Wondering what boat's right for you? Sort through the options: Length, build, performance, equipment, and on and on.

In September, we'll hold a "Pre-Meeting Meeting" on "How to Select the Right Boat."



How about a Hobie 33? We now have two club members who chose Hobie 33s.

What's a pre-meeting? Before the regular monthly AYC meeting, we gather a dozen or so people around a table and simply talk about something they all care about. Such as how to select the right boat. We've asked three people to lead an informal Q&A: Mike Parker, Bill Hutchinson, and Tom Errickson, each an experienced boat buyer and seller.

The pre-meeting will start at 6 pm and will last 30 minutes. It will happen at the Caddy Shack @ Rolling Hills Golf Course, 1415 North Mill Avenue, Tempe. (map)

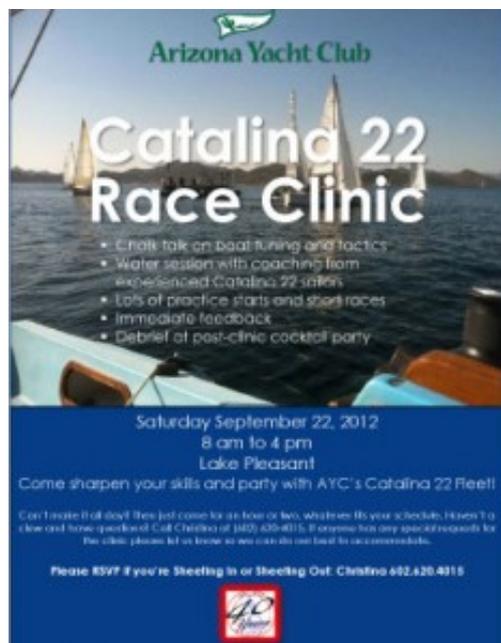
We'll limit the audience to 10 or 12 so it can be a comfortable chat in the corner of the restaurant. Reserve your spot by emailing Mike Ferring.

We did one of these in August on the subject of Bareboat Chartering and had a great discussion, with lots of good questions. And we'll do more. What subject would you like to talk about? Email Mike.

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Catalina 22 Clinic Day at Lake Pleasant—And You're Invited

August 27, 2012 8:00 pm



Saturday, September 22, the Catalina 22s will have a clinic at Lake Pleasant and Fleet Captain Steve Campo says other fleets and boats may come and sail with them. They'll be launching the race committee boat and setting a few marks.

As you may know, the Catalina 22 fleet was easily our biggest fleet just two or three years ago, but the numbers have been sharply reduced by the loss of entries from older members who aren't able to race. Now Steve and Christina Campo are working to renew the fleet by drawing in new people.

Click here to see the full-size Catalina 22 Race Clinic Flyer



Tempe Town Lake Heat Stroke Final Results

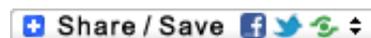
August 23, 2012 6:47 pm

What is it about triple-digit temperatures that keeps sailors off Tempe Town Lake?

The aptly-named Heat Stroke Series gathered 15 entrants this summer, but we never saw all those people at the lake. Schedule conflicts? Survival instinct?

The winners are often the people who are willing to brave more heat than competitors. And here they are: Cindy Pillote, Buccaneer; Mike Ferring by a tie-breaker over George Tingom in C14; George Sheller over new member (but experienced racer) Scott Sharples in Laser; and Clay Poulson in Portsmouth.

You can see all of the scores for the final week by clicking here.



Storm Approaches

August 23, 2012 2:09 am



Approaching storm after sailing 8–18–12

Photo By: Charles Landis



US Sailing Level 1 Instructor Course Here in January

August 22, 2012 6:01 pm



Registration is now open for the US Sailing Level 1 Instructor course, to be taught here on two intensive weekends in January—the weekends of January 5&6 and 12&13.

US Sailing requires a minimum of 8 students in the course, a number we've failed to meet the last two times this course has been offered in Phoenix. So we really need your support this time.

Here's the sales pitch: Not only does the course prepare you to teach sailing, but it also makes you a better sailor. Course instructor Ray Deppa has taught all of the US Sailing Instructor courses in Phoenix, and he's a real pro, someone who will leave you knowing more about this game we play. But teaching sailing is actually the best part. Introducing new people to the sport is a lot of fun—seeing them begin to understand how a boat moves through the water by wind alone and seeing the joy they get from figuring it out.

Sign up four weeks or more before the class and it's \$325. If you pass the course and teach for the Arizona Sailing Foundation,

ASF will reimburse half your tuition. (If you're a high school or college student, check with George Tingom for possible higher reimbursement rate.)

I just paged through some of the US Sailing material on the course. You'll find some information here. And the registration begins here. There's quite a bit of paperwork involved and you'll need to be a member of US Sailing (a good thing anyway) and you'll need to pass a first aid and CPR course (definitely a good thing anyway). The prerequisites are extensive. My advice: don't let any of that discourage you. The other students and Instructor Ray Deppa will help you through it. If you want to pass, you'll pass.

For questions on the course, check with George Tingom, who's organizing the course and has been involved in every one we've held since 2003 (when I took it).

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Catalina Escorts

August 21, 2012 11:01 pm



Sailing Companions.

Tony Chapman and Kelly Beaver sailed on the latest *Pipe Dream* with the owners John and Nancy Davis from Long Beach to Two Harbors on Catalina Island for the weekend and found these sailing companions.

The boat is a Davidson 50, formerly known as *Jumpin' Jack Flash*.

Tony says the picture was taken at around 2pm, about 10 miles out of LA Gate on the outward trip. He says, "The pod of porpoises followed us for at least 10 minutes, playing in the bow wave most of the time."

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Watch for the Sign of AYC

August 17, 2012 11:47 pm



Watch for the AYC sign on Carefree Highway. Photo: Peter Lehrach

Next time you drive Carefree Highway to Lake Pleasant, watch for the Arizona Yacht Club signs. This one is at mile marker 25. You'll see another when you're headed the other way.

A bunch of us earned that sign one warm June morning by filling lots of purple bags with nasty roadside trash. Credit Peter Lehrach for pushing the "adopt a highway" idea, gathering the clean-up crew, collecting the vests, gloves, pokers, and bags, sitting through the required training exercise, filing the paperwork, following up (through a change of DOT offices), and celebrating the arrival of the sign this week.

Better still, help Peter when he looks for volunteers to repeat the clean-up in October! Cool October. We'll continue these clean-ups three times each year.

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Kool Kinnickinick Kampout

August 15, 2012 7:47 pm



One of the clusters of campers around the Kinnickinick campground. Photos: Mike Ferring

The Kinnickinick Campout in the cool of the pines near Mormon Lake is a long-time AYC tradition, but last year it barely had a heartbeat. Steve Nahkala was the only AYCer to show. This year, Steve decided he'd step up and give the tradition a pop of CPR. It worked.

With people scattered over the campsite, I could never get a clear count, but this time the even drew about three dozen people, most recruited or cajoled into making the trip by Steve and Dennis Lynde. Dennis knew that Maryellen and I aren't campers, so he offered to bring a tent for us if we came. We did. We're glad we did.

It didn't hurt that Phoenix was being clobbered by temperatures over 110 all week (116 the previous Wednesday) and that when we drove into the campground the thermometer in the car read 77°. We sat through a brief rain shower (the only one of the trip), popped a beer and started dropping in on fellow campers.

Steve had organized the traditional Kinnickinick sports: pasture golf and horse shoes. We gathered for a pot luck dinner as the sun began to set. And we gathered around a roaring bonfire as it turned dark. Steve made sure each of the kids walked away with a certificate for something. Some adults were awarded big bottles of wine. And the good feelings spread into the nighttime. There was a meteor shower for entertainment. Cool for comfort.

Next year you should try it.



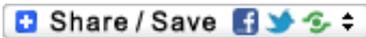
Organizer Steve Nahkala stirs up a tidy pile of sausages.



Swingin'



One of the certificates of achievement awarded by the bonfire.



US Olympic Team Defeated

August 9, 2012 4:21 pm



Anna Tunnicliffe in defeat. Picture copyright Carlo Borlenghi/FIV

The picture says it all. Anna Tunnicliffe and her team went into the Olympics with every hope of scoring a gold medal. Instead they were defeated by their training friends from Finland in the quarter finals.

But Anna's loss reflected the failure of the entire U.S. Olympic sailing effort, which had geared up to produce better results this year after recently struggling. Instead, they set a record for frustration. Here's the account from Sailing-World.com:

The United States has finished its quest for sailing medals in the 2012 London Olympics without success, for the first time since 1936.

The last of the US sailors to still be in the medal chase, Women's

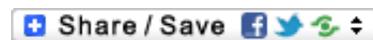
Match Racing skipper Anna Tunnicliffe, was beaten in the quarter finals by Finland on Wednesday.

A clearly upset Dean Brenner, the outgoing chairman of the U.S. Olympic Sailing Program, said 'this is not the distinction this team was going for.

'There is no hiding the results. There is no way to spin it. There is no way to suggest anything other than we didn't perform. There is going to be an enormous amount of discussion.

'A lot of it is going to be productive and some of it probably won't be. Discussion on what we did wrong and what we could do better and I am going to leave that with my successor Josh Adams and we are going to look very closely at our program.

'Make no mistake about it - we are not proud of these results at all. We came here thinking we could compete for three or four medals and we thought the track record suggested that was legit but it didn't happen.'



Want Ads

July 11, 2012 4:11 am

To place an ad, contact Webmaster



Merit 25 For Sale by C. Landis

FOR SALE: Merit 25 - 1984 Merit 25 sailboat with tandem axle trailer. Large cockpit. Excellent hull design is great for casual sailing and racing in PHRF, PHRF Spin or Merit 25 fleet. Fin keel, with PHRF rating of 168. Very stable and easy to sail. Includes jib, genoa and mainsail. Asking \$4,800.00. Charles Landis 602-418-0689 (Post to 11 ÷ 30 ÷ 12)

1974 Catalina 22- Good condition with trailer for sale \$2100
OBO. Contact Robert Hodson at 623-696-6945. (Post to
9÷30÷12)

ASF Boats for Sail. Check for boats donated to ASF. Contact
George Tingom, John Mayall or Emory Heisler for more
information.



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