



FEATURE: AYC HARBOR COMMITTEE

SAILING INTO SPRING!



Corsair Nationals – March 7, 2021, Mike Beuerlein raising spinnaker at Windward Mark rounding – Lucy Gene – Aaron McCulley skipper Photo by Billy Black

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SAVE THE DATE (subject to change)

3/26-28 J24 Texas State Championship
 04/02-04 Easter Laser Regatta

04/03 Discover Sailing Workshop
 04/16 Beer Can Opener
 04/18 Spring Series Opener
 05/01 DF95 Texas Traveler Circuit Stop
 05/12 Wed Night Sunfish/Laser Races Opener
 05/15 Turnback Canyon Regatta/Cajun Party
 05/21 MoonBurn Opener
 05/22 Celebration of Life, Bob Goldsmith
 06/05 Roadrunner Regatta
 09/05 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge Fundraiser
 09/18 Centerboard Regatta/Caribbean Party
 10/01 Multihull Regatta
 10/23 Governor's Cup Regatta/Octoberfest
 11/20 Wild Turkey Regatta
 11/18 Annual Meeting
 12/04 Annual Banquet

Message from the Commodore by Diane Covert



In March, we officially kicked off another sailing season at AYC with our Opening Day festivities. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Austin Yacht Club, which was founded as the "Austin Sailing Club" in the 1950s.

I hope you all were able to go online and watch the virtual opening day ceremony on Saturday, March 6th. It was a one-of-a-kind COVID-friendly video that was produced by new members and Pearson 26 owners, **Mike Bayer and Gina Grande**.



New members and Pearson 26 owners, Mike Bayer and Gina Grande, produced the Opening Day video.

Huge thanks go to **Mike and Gina**, who donated their time and talents to this effort. Big thanks also go to **Megan Yancy** who ran the Opening Day ceremony on Zoom, and to everyone who generously volunteered to be filmed for this event. Many Club members have said that the video was an awesome showcase for AYC. And since the video shows so many aspects of AYC, we will be placing it on the website to use for outreach to potential new members or for those who just want to see what we are all about. I think it was a great way to jump start our season and think positively about what is to come this year.

The "Opening Series" races kicked off the next day, Sunday, March 7th. The delicious grab-and-go boxed brunch was a big success thanks to the efforts of the social committee. The first race of the series had 57 boats entered on a perfect sunny day. I know you will join me in thanking those who served on the race committee. (I'll bet they would have rather been out there competing!)

The rest of March and April will see the continuation of the "Opening Series" races. Please check the AYC calendar on the website for other activities. Let's make 2021 a great year! (And let's all get our vaccines as fast as we can so we can open up the Club for even more fun!)

Vice Commodore Report by Anne Morley



Thank you to **Diane Covert** and everyone else involved in creating the amazing AYC Opening Day Virtual Ceremony. It was spectacular!

We have been working on getting notifications out to members in multiple formats. Notices are sent via email and posted on the website and on the official AYC Facebook page. Be sure to "Like" our official AYC Facebook page so you will have yet another way to stay informed.

Thank you to everyone who has offered to chair the 2021 Regattas. **Louise Miller** is chairing the Centerboard Regatta on September 18-19. **Jeff Sabuda and Dee Chow** are chairing the Turnback Regatta on May 15-16. We do not have a definite commitment from anyone for the Governor's Cup (October 23-24). If you are interested in volunteering to chair the Governor's Cup or intern with someone who has done it previously, please reach out to me.

Stay healthy and sail safe!

Harbor Report by Russ Shermer



The weather in February was not conducive to getting a lot of project work done. However, we were able to start some tree trimming projects around the dry storage area. We have begun to assess the wet slip trailer storage area (aka Boneyard or "Back Forty")

and will be identifying trailers for removal. If you are currently leasing a wet slip, you are entitled to store the trailer associated with that boat in this area. However, all trailers on AYC grounds are required to be properly labeled with "AYC" and your last name on both sides of the tongue.

If you have a wet slip that needs repairs, please contact the Harbor Commander or someone on the Harbor Committee to get on the repair list. If you have issues with your Dry Storage Area slip, please contact us so that we can address this as well.

Look for announcements for work parties relating to harbor in the coming months.

MESSAGE FROM THE HARBOR COMMANDER

We were finally able to get into the Boneyard (aka Back 40) and rearrange trailers to make more space. We pulled trailers out of that area whose ownership we could not ascertain or which displayed names of former members. For your convenience, we have taken photographs of these trailers and posted them here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PA8bQ3958YexacZf6>

If you own one of these trailers, contact the Harbor Commander (harbor_commander@austinyachtclub.net) and indicate which trailer is yours.

The Sea Scouts are happy to properly mark your trailer for a nominal fee.

Thank you!

Secretary Report by Cheryl Pervier



Ahoy AYC members!

There is now an updated printable version of the AYC Member Directory on the web site at <https://www.austinyachtclub.net/printable-member-directory>. You'll have to log in to see it under "Members / Directories" in the top blue menu bar. It's called "Printable

Member Directory" and is a downloadable PDF file. It contains the member name, adult family names, main phone number, alternate phone number, primary email, and mailing address. Junior members are listed at the bottom of the file. It was created from the QuickBooks records in the AYC office database.

Please help us keep this Printable Member Directory up to date. We want to make sure the information is accurate before we publish a new printed directory. If your information needs to be changed, go to the "Member Information Change Form" (<https://www.austinyachtclub.net/contact-change-form>). If you just want to add a family member (including an additional email address for another person in your household who wants to get the AYC emails), go to the "Add a Family Member Form" (<https://www.austinyachtclub.net/add-a-family-member>).

You might notice that there's another type of directory called the "Online Member Directory" (<https://www.austinyachtclub.net/member-directory>). It's a separate website database that you can edit directly.

Your profile contains your name, email address, phone number, and more if you wish. Search for your name to find your profile and click on the button on the right to edit your profile.

We would like to update the Printable Member Directory on a regular basis, especially before we publish a paper version. Please submit your changes (as described above) by March 28.

Thank you for your help!

Race Commander Report

by André de la Reza, Acting Race Commander



Hello AYC!

As we started the year I shared that my goal as Race Commander was to "Get AYC Safely Racing Again!" I am happy to report due to the incredible work of PRC and all the volunteers from the fleet we are well on our way! While we aren't through the troubled waters of the COVID storm

yet, there is light. In an effort to safely move back to the normal racing patterns we are used to at AYC, we are following a Crawl-Walk-Run model.

We have successfully *crawled* through the so aptly named Frostbite Series with structure for minimum RC while dedicated to safety needs. Huge thanks to **Jim Casto** and **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** for being the PRC Reps for the series. We had four successful race days hosted by the J80, J24, J22, and Multihull Fleets. They managed low winds to huge blustery days. The last two races were iced out while everyone hunkered at home dreaming of distant shores that hand endless breeze, plenty of sunlight, and boundless electricity and water!

Now we are in the Opening Series, where we start *walking* – more robust RC with the return of option to run flags. The NOR/SIs were crafted by the Series PRC Reps – **Ed Pierce** and **Claude Welles** – using the newly unveiled 2021 AYC Course Card! This creation is the brain child of **Jim Casto** with tons of added work from PRC to refine it to resolve some issues that had been raised over the years. The host Fleets for this four-race series started with PRF-B setting a challenging course that proved quite fun, even if you weren't sharp eyed enough to connect all the dots of wind. The rest of the series will be rounded out by Ensign, J80 and J24.

If all continues on track we will see how close we can get to *running* in the Spring Series!

Hope to see y'all on the water, Stay Safe and Sail Fast!

Building & Grounds Report

by John Maddalozzo



The pool fence painting has been completed, thanks to the MANY people who helped in two shifts. The Deck replacement has been pushed back twice due to vendor scheduling issues tied to the weather. Currently it is scheduled for the week of the 21st of March. We'll see.

With the help of **Bill Coon** and **Joel**

Rosinbum from the Harbor Committee who coordinated with a team of volunteers, we were able to perform selected tree trimming in the dry sail area. This will enable the Harbor Committee more flexibility in assigning Dry Sail Slips.

Earlier in March, **Chris Schuttger** led a team of Scouts who, along with **Tobin Beal**, did another morning of brush clearing in the Trailer Storage areas.

Thanks to everyone who helped with these projects.

The big freeze required all water to be shut off at the Club. As of the writing of this report, early in the week of 2/21 water has been restored to the clubhouse area, bathhouse and cabins. Water service to the Maintenance Area, Dry Out Parking, barn

and **Tom's** house is still shut down. A faulty cut off valve is the suspected problem and replacement is being planned.

The B&G Committee will be meeting soon to plan other improvements and maintenance for the coming months.

POOL FENCE PAINTING VOLUNTEERS

Coordinator: **Jorge Martín-de-Nicholás**

Jeffry and Colt Lane

Jeff Avant

Linda McDavitt

Janet Hendricks

Andy Linseisen

Nate Leake

Cody Hix

John Lanagan

Mike Cummins

Chris Covington

Can and Emel Kalyoncuoglu

Megan Yancy

Karen Lewis

Rem Copeland

David and Shrih Benker

Jon Wolf

Mike Cummins

Michael Moran

Don Morrison

Marie Snidow

Thank you, Volunteers!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Ron Clarkson

Senior Probationary

Ron has been sailing with John Thurston since taking ASA 101 from John, and has been actively sailing on Lake Travis for 20 years. He has a Catalina 22 that he has sailed on the lake 3-4 times a week and is looking forward to skippering his Catalina in races when he gets a little more racing experience. Ron's children have attended AYC sailing programs. He has just bought a home in Hudson Bend and wants to become more active at the Club. Ron is sponsored by John Thurston.



Sontian Morrell-Stinson

Associate Probationary

Sontian has been sailing and racing at AYC for the last 5 years on various boats, including Lasers, Trimarans and is currently crewing on a J-22. He hopes to find a ride on a J-80 in the future. He developed a love for the sea growing up in South Africa, and learned to sail when he came to the US for college. Sontian has his Level 1 certification and wants to become an ASA instructor at AYC. Sontian is sponsored by Harry Polly, Rhonda Moore, Jorge Martín-de-Nicholás, John Parker and James Parsons.

Spring Starting Line by Cathie Martin



Opening Day Grab & Go Gourmet Lunches




Covid threw out AYC's celebrated Annual Brunch and Sailing Season Opener for an interesting change – a grab & go box lunch. Racers and celebrants munched their lunches on their boats or picnicked on the grounds under beautiful skies. A virtual Opening Day

Ceremony was celebrated online on Saturday, March 6th with an encore the following Sunday. Next year, let's go back to our spectacular brunch and traditional ceremony.

Special thanks to volunteers **Dee Chow, Janis Livingston, Johanna Brown, Sontian Morrell-Stindon, Anne Morley** and for assisting in distributing lunches. Also, check out **Marilyn Jackson's** photos later in this issue.

Need probationary points? Enjoy cooking and entertaining? Love meeting new people and exploring food and beverages? Join the Social Committee by sending an email to **Dee Chow** at socialcommittee@austinyachtclub.net.

FUTURE SOCIAL AND REGATTA EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

	Event	Description
	End of Opening Series Dinner <i>Sunday, April 11</i>	End of Series Dinner (covid tentative)
	Turnback Regatta Dinner <i>Saturday, May 15</i>	Holly Polly, Guest Chef Gumbo and Zydeco band
	End of Spring Series Dinner <i>Sunday, May 23</i>	End of Series Dinner
	End of Summer Evening Series Dinner <i>Saturday, July 31</i>	End of Series Dinner
	Centerboard Regatta Dinner <i>Saturday, September 18</i>	Bill Benker, Guest Chef Caribbean Party with Calypso band
	Governor's Cup Regatta Dinner <i>Saturday, October 23</i>	Road Runner Fundraiser - Octoberfest-style party with Oom-pah band
	Wild Turkey Regatta Dinner <i>Saturday, November 20</i>	Regatta Dinner (TBD)
	End of Fall Series Dinner <i>Sunday, November 21</i>	End of Series Dinner
	AYC Annual Meeting <i>Thursday, November 18</i>	AYC Business Meeting
	AYC Annual Banquet <i>Saturday, December 4</i>	Member Social
	New Year's Eve Party <i>Friday, December 31, 2021</i>	Member Social

Discover Sailing Workshop and More
by Bobby Brooks, Sailing Program Director



DISCOVER SAILING WORKSHOP

April 03, 2021 1:00-5:00pm

Discover Sailing Workshop is perfect for a first time sailing experience as well as a seasonal refresher.

This is a four-hour experience that will start off with a chalk talk led by **Linda McDavitt** and **Bill Records**. You then will head down to the boats for a dockside "show and tell" followed by on-the-water instruction. We will close the workshop with refreshments and a debrief of your day. Covid-19 safety protocols, including social distancing, will be followed. Workshop will be held at the Austin Yacht Club.

AYC Members: \$49.00

Non-Members: \$79.00

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

OPENING SERIES 01 DEBRIEF RECORDING

If you missed the first day of the AYC Opening Series race debrief, it's not too late! It's free to watch and enjoy.

[WATCH IT NOW!](#)



FREE SAIL SATURDAYS ARE BACK!

No need to register, just come on down to the Pavilion Dock! We have Picos, Optis, Lasers, Sunfish and FJs ready to hit the water.

Please bring your own life jacket, water bottle, mask/gator and some sunscreen. Check in with me, **Bobby Brooks** – I will be wearing a grey AYC coaching shirt. After you sign a waiver, I will assign a boat and assist you with rigging.

This is a first come, first serve basis as well as based on *boat availability*. Cut-off time to rig will be at 4:00pm.

If you have any questions, please email [Bobby@
austinyachtclub.net](mailto:Bobby@austinyachtclub.net).



SCENES FROM OPENING DAY

(above) First day of Opti 1 class, March 6, 2021

(left) James Everett Faust gets a lesson on steering the Ensign from Eric Faust.

Photos by Sarah Faust

Youth Sailing Director Report by Spencer LeGrande



AYC JUNIOR PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS ON THE WEBSITE!



ADVANCED LASER

This is a laser specific class that focuses on high-level racing and boat handling skills. Participants should be interested in traveling to regattas throughout the season. Sailing experience is required to take this class, and you must be at least 14 years old. It will be one practice per week for five hours on Saturday mornings. Spots are limited to boat availability unless you bring your own boat.

****All registrants for Advanced Laser Class must have approval from the AYC Coaching Staff.****

[REGISTER NOW FOR ADVANCED LASER](#)



HIGH SCHOOL SAILING

AYC has a robust and energetic High School Program that is growing rapidly! This High School Program is open to everyone in 8th-12th grades.

The focus of this High School Program is twofold. Most importantly the sailors will learn the basics of sailing, rigging, and introductory racing. Once the sailors have mastered these skills, the curriculum will switch to advanced racing tactics, boat handling, and an intense knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing. There is no sailing experience required to join this program!

The following high schools have sailing teams and students may also receive PE Credit. Contact your school counselor for info.

Lake Travis High School
Westlake High School
Sterling Classical School

[REGISTER NOW FOR HIGH SCHOOL SAILING](#)

OPTI PROGRAMS



OPTI I: BEGINNER

No sailing experience necessary! This introductory program is designed to teach sailors ages 8-12 the basics aboard our fleet of Optimists and Picos. Curriculum emphasizes the basics of sailing terminology, seamanship skills like knot tying and rigging, and boat handling. Sailors will be considered ready for Opti II when they are comfortable sailing independently upwind in 13-15 knots.

[REGISTER NOW FOR OPTI PROGRAMS](#)



OPTI II: INTERMEDIATE

The course curriculum focuses on refining boat handling skills and introductory racing skills and concepts through advanced racing tactics and strategy. Opti II has ranging skill levels from recent Opti I graduate to experienced sailors.

****All registrants for Opti II must have approval from the AYC Coaching Staff.****



OPTI III: ADVANCED

Opti III practice is for those sailors who are interested in the highest level of competition. This class is

geared towards the sailors that travel to regattas on weekends, so the practice schedule is structured around the TSA regatta schedule. For seasons with two practices per week, sailors will have the option to attend one or both practices.

****All registrants for Opti III must have approval from the AYC Coaching Staff.****

Featuring: AYC Harbor Committee

The AYC Harbor Committee

Article by Elizabeth Quintanilla



Committee Chair
Russ Shermer

Committee Members

Jeff Avant
John Bartlett
Jeff Brock
Bill Coon
Bill Hawk
Mark Kamen
Bob Leonard
Cass Meyer
Harry Polly
John Powell
Elizabeth Quintanilla
Joel Rosenbum
Ravi Subramanian



The Harbor Commander and Committee are responsible for all of the Docks, Dry Storage Area, Wet Slip Trailer Area, the Work Area and the Dry Out Area. Basically "All Things Boats."

Harbor Committee Roles

Dock Captains

1-2 per Docks One through Six as well as North and South Rigging Docks, RC Dock and Jr/Pavilion Dock. Report sinking or listing boats or hoists and any dock damage. Participate in the discussion and recommendation of any repairs and improvements. Have an understanding of the dock usage including which boats are active racers, weekday cruisers or just contributing to the lake's underwater ecosystem.

Work Area and Dry Out Area Captains

Ensure that boats using the area have reserved the space online and haven't overstayed their schedule. Verify that work done in the Dry Out Area doesn't violate the Clean Marina restrictions. Look for ways to make the Work Area more efficient and effective.

Dry Sail Area Captains

Ensure boats are properly stored and trailers properly labeled. Any work done in this location should also adhere to the Clean Marina guidelines.

Boneyard Captains

Figure out which trailers are not associated with current members. Determine if any trailers are not associated to boats in wet slips. Work with Building and Grounds Committee to figure out how to clean up and organize that area.

Entire Committee

Help drive budgeted Harbor projects. Report any issues that need to be addressed by this committee. Provide guidance to improve the usability, longevity, safety and enjoyment of all Harbor assets. Look for ways to improve the dock moves and dock layouts as the water levels change. Participate in evaluating and possibly revising the membership handbook verbiage relating to Harbor operations and maintenance.

Why did you join the Harbor Committee?

Bob Leonard: I am pretty good at screwing things up and thought I would share that expertise with the Harbor Committee. My greatest accomplishment to date was teaching Elizabeth how to use an impact driver to attach signs to metal posts.

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Don't screw up the measurements



Dropping into place

John Bartlett: I joined to know how many boats are really cruisers. The value of the slip should be for racers that enjoy racing v. cruisers that provide social/entertainment activity as a weekend home. A Pearson 26 can be closer to shore with the South Coast boats. Hydro hoists need an 11 ft. clearance. So, I wanted to be part of taking care of fleets and racers and improving the Club. There needs to be a plan to move shallow water boats closer to shore and **Bill Coon** is working on it. Slips are not a member's property, they are AYC property. We are in the process of organizing this to improve the Club experience.

Elizabeth: Russ is an easy-going guy who is very passionate about giving back to the Club. I joined because I wanted to learn more about docks and I also wanted to get more probationary points.

What was the unexpected thing you learned in Harbor Committee?

Bob Leonard: We don't charge the PRC Committee to dock their boats on our RC Dock! **Russ** is a multihull sailor and only uses the South Rigging Dock when launching his trimaran. I have been very impressed with Russ's interest and work to maintain and improve all of the docks.

John Bartlett: 35-40% of Wet Slip boat owners haven't gone out in a year for reasons other than Covid. I've been walking the docks and calling the members whose boats have too much mildew on them.

Elizabeth: I was surprised by the breadth of scope that the Harbor Committee works on, and how it interacts with the Building and Grounds as well as Membership Committee.

How do we work with the other committees?

Bill Hawk: I have worked with staff to try to determine whose trailers are in the Storage Area and match them up to the boats and Docks, also with the Sea Scouts to plan brush clearing.

John Bartlett: I'm also considering joining the Membership Committee to ensure that racers get priority for slips and those who enjoy cruising understand the difference between a marina and the racing experience available at the Austin Yacht Club.

Elizabeth: We interact with Building and Grounds all the time. It is a joint effort in cleaning up the Club after large storms as well as working to improve the various parts around the Club including the Work Area, Dry Slips, and the Bone Yard.

How does Harbor Committee add value to the Club?



Mooring poles on head, North Cove Rigging Dock

John Bartlett: I mostly call people and see what they want out of AYC membership, especially if they do not take care of their boats. Moved boats that haven't been active need to make room for hydro hoists. The inactive boats (various reasons as to why) should move to an inside slip that has enough room for the draft so members who pay their slip fees can still access their boat and sail. The trailers may not have been maintained as well in the past. If you have a tire that blows out, that could result in an accident on the ramp such as the boat falling off the trailer. So, we do have to work with members to clean up the Harbor and Storage Area.

Bill Hawk: We monitor the condition of the docks and boats at the docks, maintain the Work Areas, Dry Sail Area, and Trailer Storage Area.

Elizabeth: The Harbor is an essential part of the AYC membership experience and needs to be regularly maintained.

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Would you encourage members to join the Harbor Committee? Why?

Bob Leonard: Joining any committee is a good way to meet and interact with other members who are not in your fleet.

John Bartlett: Great place to help as a new member is Building and Grounds. Prospective committee members need a passion for docks to join the Harbor Committee. There is no pressure in Harbor Committee and **Russ** does an excellent job. Everyone does their part.

Bill Hawk: For a member with spare time who wants to give back to the Club, the Harbor Committee is easy and fun to participate in.

Elizabeth: Yes, it is an easy-going committee and a great place for new members to learn from experienced members, and they will find ways to get probationary points.

Anything else?

Bill Hawk: This spring we are going to clean out the Trailer Storage Area. The membership needs to be ready to match their trailers to their boats at the docks or to haul their trailers off and put them elsewhere.

Elizabeth: Look for upcoming improvements and phone calls from the committee to help make AYC the best it can be.

John Bartlett:

- There is a difference between racing and cruising. Racers socialize after the race. The Club was built and designed for racing. Cruisers want power, water and entertainment on the boat. Marinas work better for cruisers and can be a really fun experience.
- Want membership to take care of their boats ... members who pay dues for years without visiting their boats is a challenge ... so prioritize members who race and use their boats.
- The Club needs to adjust to member needs. For example, the multihull fleet is growing and needs more room in the Dry Slip Area. Also, the Club now supports hydro hoists and members desire them especially due to the zebra mussels.
- Just remember that the slip is actually AYC property and does not belong to the individual member ... we are all part of the Club.



John Bartlett removes a rotted wood triangle from Dock 1.



A probationary member prepares the dock frame to install a cement triangle.

Virtual Opening Day Ceremony

AYC Opening Day Ceremony

Welcome.....Diane Covert, AYC Commodore
 InvocationJohn Burke, Member and Senior
 Pastor, Gateway Church
 Music.....Andre de la Reza, Race
 Commander, Bag Pipe Video
 Flag Raising.....Sea Scouts, Video
 National AnthemKate Hennig, Youth Sailor
 Remarks.....Diane Covert, AYC Commodore
 History.....Lewis Price, Video
 Remembrance.....Honoring AYC members who
 passed away last year
 "What AYC Means to Me"Past Commodores Annie Lancaster,
 Bill Records, Ray Shull, Johannes
 Brinkmann, Video Interviews
 Board and Staff.....2021 AYC Board of Directors and
 Staff Introductions, Video
 Music.....Roadrunners Sing a Sea Shanty
 Closing.....Diane Covert, AYC Commodore



Commodore Diane Covert



J80 Sailor John Burke



Race Commander André de la Reza Screen grabs by Cheryl Pervier



Sea Scouts



Youth Sailor Kate Hennig



Ensign Sailor Lewis Price



Past Commodore Annie Lancaster



Past Commodore Johannes Brinkmann



Roadrunners

Opening Day Brunch



Constanze and Julius Heitkoetter, selling new 2021 laminated course cards to benefit junior sailors



John Maddalozzo (Building & Grounds Chair), Diane Covert (Commodore) and Dane Ohe (2019 Commodore) Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Jackie Wheelless, General Manager



Janis Livingston, Dee Chow, Johanna Brown & Sontian Morrell-Stinson - Servers



Mack Warner and Bill Records (2018 Commodore)

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Opening Day Brunch



Anne Morley (Vice Commodore) and Kristin Morley Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Keith and Bonnie Lackey



Bo Kersey and Jim Casto



Christy Vickrey and Victor Gotay



Ed Pierce and Dave Weeks

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Opening Series Race 1



Spinnakers Photos by Marilyn Jackson



David Morley on Abaco



The J.A.C.K. Crew



Jonathan Baker and crew on Too Much J



Wade Bingaman (2017 AYC Commodore)
& Meryl Stoller (Catalina 69 Fleet Commodore)



A & B fleet boats before their start

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Opening Series Race 1



Bo Kersey and crew on Abandoned Assets
Photos by Marilyn Jackson



J80s rounding Mark 4



Ensigns - Lewis Price & crew on Dos Locos, Fran & George Dahmen on Styf Kop



Ed Pierce and crew on Lickety Split



J80 Spinnakers

Heaving a Line – A Lost Sailing Skill

by ASA Instructor Harry Polly



What's one of the most forgotten sailing seamanship skills to get a line to another vessel in distress or a person in the water? Gain "the edge" in sailing safety with this technique you can practice on the dock, or in your backyard ...

The heaving line often takes a back seat in today's world of "light off the engine and go" sailing. But in my mind, it needs to come to the forefront. Use a heaving line to:

- Toss a line to a person in the water.
- Send over a docking line to a person on the pier.
- Assist another boat in docking maneuvers.
- Pass a line to a boat to take them in tow.
- Train your crew for MOB recovery emergencies.

Practice throwing a heaving line with your crew or partner. Remember this, it's all about technique. You want to achieve two objectives: accuracy and distance. At the Chapman School of Seamanship, we spent a solid hour with students to get their technique down. Repetition is your friend (as in most seamanship and navigation skills).

Concentrate on accuracy first, then go for distance (this is NOT about speed). Follow the five easy steps below:

1. Make the Coil

Use small diameter nylon or Dacron line. If you are going to pass a heavy dock line, attach the smaller line to the eye of the dock line. Coil 100 feet of small line clockwise. Make sure it's free of knots so that it goes out in a smooth, easy motion. Belay (tie off) one end of the line.

2. Break the Coil

Hold the coil in your non-dominant hand. Pick up one third to one half of the coil with your dominant hand. Keep the bitter end of the dominant-hand coil on the outside of the coil to ensure that it pays out without knots.

3. Turn and Sight

Turn so that your non-dominant shoulder faces the objective. Sight over your shoulder. Focus your concentration on a point just above and upwind of the dock or person.

4. Swing the Line

Hold your non-dominant hand with the palm up and open. This will allow the heaving line to feed out of that hand. Swing the coil in the dominant hand down by your side in a forward-aft motion.

5. Heave the Line

Throw the line underhand to a close target where you need pin-point accuracy. When heaving to a boat, use a side arm or overhead throw to gain height and increase the distance of the toss.

Fun Friday Fun

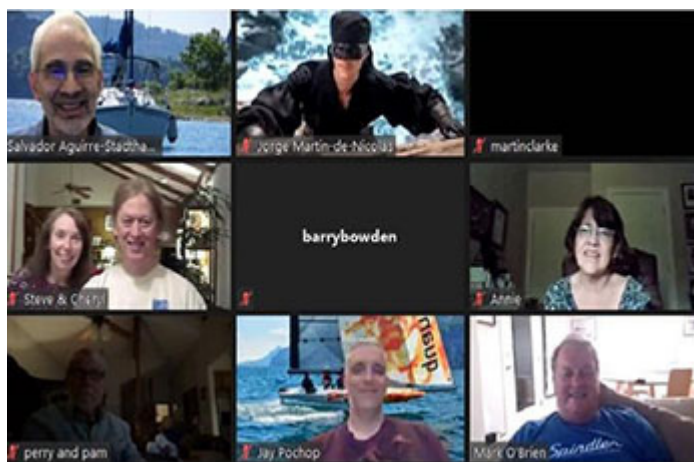
by Marilyn Jackson



Jeff and Marilyn hosted a Fun Friday Scavenger Hunt (via Zoom) on March 5th. Russ & Jill Shermer, Renee Ruais, Jeff & Marilyn Jackson and James Parsons were in attendance. It was super cool to see so many interesting items and hear the stories behind our finds. Jeff was judge and score keeper.

James won the first game, Russ won the second and Jill won the third. Renee came in second twice. Marilyn came in fifth three times, oh well, lots of awesome fun.

Russ & Jill Shermer hosted an America's Cup watch party for a special AYC Fun Friday (via Zoom) on March 12th. James Parsons, who is currently in New Zealand, assisted as well. Race 5 started at 9:15 pm central time. At one point, nearly 30 PCs/laptops/phones were on the Zoom party. Race 5 was won by Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli Team, with Emirates Team New Zealand easily claiming race 6. We certainly had an exciting watch party.



Scenes from Fun Friday America's Cup watch party.



We will have one more Fun Friday virtual event (4/2) using Zoom this season, then Beer Can Races start. New members, please join in on the fun and introduce yourself so we can get to know you and you can get to know your AYC family.

36th America's Cup by James Parsons



Across the world, in another world free of COVID-19, a unicorn roamed the America's Cup Village with an AYC burgee on March 15, 2021.

Shoot, the unicorn even looked so familiar he got text messages asking if it could indeed be he, the former skipper of the Pirate Unicorn (Pearson 26, '15-'17). Aye, it was indeed.

I knew many of you wanted to be here, and I'd have loved to give you the lay of the land and the Hauraki Gulf. So, I hoped a cameo on TV at the village with the AYC burgee would help for some consolation (it will stay here, and I'll bring the GHYC burgee home).

And perhaps an article talking about what it's like watching in the City of Sails (highest per capita sails to humans in the world), so you can live vicariously.

When NZ won the America's Cup in Bermuda in 2017, the plans to come back to Auckland in 2021 were put into inevitable motion. I lived in NZ from '04-'11 (Auckland '04-'06) and was able to come back thanks to my NZ citizenship from that time. I got into sailing here, in Windy Wellington in '07, where the winds are fierce, the trailer sailors with swing keels are nimble, and reefing points well used. Sailing took me away (transatlantics and super yachting) and it's fitting sailing brought me back.

Race Days 2 & 3 I spent with the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club, where I sailed last year and met some awesome folks. It was a great atmosphere and knowledgeable crowd to watch with. Day #3 was when we did a special Fun Friday, and it was awesome seeing everyone that had joined.



The assumption after 3 days was that first/port entry into the starting gate gave a strong chance of winning the start, and if you won the start you won the race (bar any glaring mistakes). The series was split every day, and the score was 3-3 in the first to 7 series. That all changed, and from Race 7 on, this America's Cup Series made it so that assumptions were reverted to their prior definition regarding donkeys.

Race 7 & 8, I was at the America's Cup Village, when many of you saw me on TV. There's live music, interactive stuff, the AC shop, the ETNZ building, the Italian temporary building, tons of bars/restaurants around, and reportedly a unicorn. There are 3



former AC boats up on display around the Viaduct (I've seen 2 losing boats in random locations around the city over the years).

The atmosphere was full of anticipation and excitement. And boy were we rewarded for being there. Race 7 started out with Italy winning the start, and they were first after Leg 1. Leg 2 the lead increased. However, they didn't cover in Leg 3, and NZ overtook



them and didn't look back. Jibs were different as well (I figured NZ was down for a gamble as they had the less ideal starting position).

Then, there was Race 8. We thought Race 7 had some excitement with the first lead change. But, it was nothing compared to Race 8 with what might be the largest comeback ever. There was some psychological stuff with jibs (neither changed from race 1 in the end), and they looked to favour Italy at the beginning. Here's a little something I whipped up within an hour, to describe what it could have felt like on ETNZ in a convo with one of my crew:

Slower, gaining, duking, oops, consolation finish on the horizon, well maybe there's a chance if they make a mistake, oooh you're saying there's a chance, that's a chance, keep that speed up, wait...are they going to call starboard or no steerage right in the middle of the upwind gate?? Whew. Keep it up. Don't look down. Just keep foiling. Relief. Celebration.

Race 9 the next day (only race of the day thanks to dropping/shifty winds after), I went to Devonport. It's a picturesque seaside village just a short hop across from downtown on a ferry, as the weather finally permitted the racing to be in a place we could see it from. The North Head portion of Devonport is where the first marine centric fortifications were built in NZ, in 1885.

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Pre-Race 9: I found a sparsely populated pier at a naval museum. The windward gate was just beyond shouting distance, and being able to see the boats up close on practice runs was awe inspiring. They were much bigger than on TV. They say the sail area is the space of 2 tennis ball courts, which seemed insane. I believe it now. The amount of spray coming off the boats was something to behold as well. TV didn't really do that justice.

Postponed/Course Adjustment: The wind looked a little suspicious to me, and it kept clocking around. They made the wise call to postpone, so I made my way around then up the hill. Found a great spot with a view of the entire race course (from the windward gates) and the puffs coming down the left side of the course.

Race 9 Recap: This was the best race to date, and may have been the most important race too, putting NZ within 1 race of successfully defending the Auld Mug for the second time (the first was in 2000). The first 6 were good staging. Race 7 was an overtake which was an important paradigm shift. Race 8 the drama and emotion. But Race 9. Wow.

The start was very contested. Leg 1 was very close, and they split a permanent pilot pylon (there would have been a sinking if they hit it). Then Italy went right, tacked, and were on a lay line (heading straight for me). NZ went left, to where the puffy stuff was, and had an extra tack. But, they were right there at the gate, having to duck the starboard Italian boat right after at the gate. From way up on the hill you could hear the jib on the Prada



Pirelli boat being let out, there was so much force. Hopefully there is a photo of this time in the race.

Leg 2 saw multiple lead changes. In the end, Italy was on starboard and Francesco Bruni forced ETNZ far to port and a little past the port gate. After they both rounded the starboard gate, Italy had a 150m lead.

Leg 3 Italy covered. Leg 4 Peter Burling of ETNZ splits off to get some separation. Leg 5 Jimmy Spithill of Prada Pirelli finally has a chance and takes it to tack on top of ETNZ, who immediately tack off to the right hoping for the "North Head shift" known locally after winning a little dueling chess match. The Italians probably knew something about it, as I think that's what they had Leg 1. But it was a gamble to get back to the right side so quickly. And, that was all she wrote. NZ was leading at the end of Leg 5, and opened up a huge margin on the last downwind leg.

Race 10 was over when Luna Rossa didn't close out Te Rehutai at the start, and the Kiwis bore off to starboard and took

a lead they would never relinquish. At the time of my final edit, I'm heading into town to see the celebration.



Multihull Fleet Report

by Bill Coon



Russ Shermer kicked-off his 2021 racing with two second-place finishes in the first two Opening Series races as he double-handed his Corsair 24mk2 Trial Run with **Brandon Furey** as crew. **Jim Casto** was the sole catamaran racer for Opening Day on his Prindle 16 OMB. We're hoping warmer weather will bring out more of our multihull members.

Six AYC multi-hullers travelled to the 2021 Corsair Nationals on Sarasota Bay to compete in the Corsair Sprint 750 class. The "Lucy Gene" was skippered by **Aaron McCulley** with crew (and fellow AYC skippers) **Brigitte Benquet** and **Mike Beuerlein**. The "Humility" was skippered by **Bill Coon** with crew **Juke Ball** and Past Commodore **Johannes Brinkmann**.



Lucy Gene #1130 wins the start – Corsair Nationals – March 7, 2021 – Aaron McCulley, Brigitte Benquet, Mike Beuerlein

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The wide, clear blue waters of Sarasota Bay, strong one design competition and sustained winds ranging from 3 to 25 knots made for challenging and exhilarating sailing plus very competitive and exciting racing. Conditions varied significantly over the 3-day regatta: from very light winds the first day; moderate wind with steady rain the second day; to high winds and significant chop on the final day.

After four races in the first two days, the Lucy Gene was in 4th place – one point ahead of Humility – and both boats were many points out of third place. But, heading into the final race of the regatta, just two points separated the boats battling for third place – again with only one point separating the Lucy Gene and Humility. After trailing the Lucy Gene the entire final race, Team Humility squeaked past the Lucy Gene in the final leg to the finish.

Sprint750 (6 boats) (top)

Series Standing - 7 races scored

Information is provisional and subject to modification

Regatta results last updated: Sunday, March 07, 2021 1:17:53 PM CDT

Click on race number to view detailed race information.

Pos	Sail	Boat	Rating	Skipper	Yacht Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Pos
1	172	Hat Trick	33	Philip Styne	None	1	1	1	1	[4]	2	1	7	1
2	164	Third Tri 2	33	Larry Geller	HISC	2	2	[3]	2	1	1	2	10	2
3	130	Humility	33	Bill Coon	Austin Yacht Club	[5]	4	5	4	2	3	3	21	3
4	USA 1	TriPolar	33	Jay Roth Joe Geller	Gulf Coast Sail Club	4	3	2	3	[5]	5	5	22	4
5	1130	Lucy Gene	33	Aaron McCulley	Austin Yacht Club	3	[5]	4	5	3	4	4	23	5
6	161	triforce	33	Bob Neff	sarasota sailing squadron	6	6	6	6	[7/DNS]	7/DNS	7/DNC	38	6



On the Start Line – Lucy Gene #1130, Humility #130 – 2021 Corsair Nationals
Photo by Billy Black



Humility 130 (right) racing to finish line to secure third place in Corsair Nationals
– Bill Coon, Juke Ball, Johannes Brinkmann



Burgee Exchange with Sarasota Sailing Squadron

In Early March, two Corsair Sprint 750 trimarans from AYC travelled to the Corsair Nationals on Sarasota Bay, Florida, hosted by the Sarasota Sailing Squadron. The “Lucy Gene” was skippered by **Aaron McCulley** with crew **Mike Beuerlein** and **Brigitte Benquet**, and the “Humility” was skippered by **Bill Coon** with crew **Juke Ball** and **Johannes Brinkmann**. At the Awards ceremony for the event, AYC Past Commodore Johannes Brinkmann expressed the AYC participants’ gratitude to their SSS hosts and presented them with an AYC Burgee, whereupon **Jim Bourgoin** of SSS reciprocated by presenting AYC with a SSS Burgee. All of the AYC participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope to be back again in 2022!

B-Fleet Report by David Weeks



The Frostbite Series ended early with some truly cold weather. The last two races were abandoned, leaving **James Parsons** as the winner of PHRF B despite having made a timely departure for New Zealand before those races. It was a series in which attrition due to wind conditions dominated, and we all hoped that the Opening Series would benefit from better sailing winds.

B-Fleet had race duty on Opening Day, but the current rules permitted the effect on the fleet racing to be limited. **Dave Weeks** was PRO, ably assisted by **Mark Anderson** on the signal boat and with **Andy Linsesisen** and **John Powell** on Chase 1. It proved an interesting afternoon. A late wind shift to SE turned out to dominate around the start time, but the wind then also died from the south. After setting the start line to the south of Cypress Creek the PRO decided to start the series on time, despite the conditions. The race saw wind shifts with a range of over 90 degrees in a very variable gentle breeze, which died to a calm when the fleets were at the northern and southern limits of the course. The challenging conditions were not helped by a missing D mark, but a course modification around Starnes Island for those on B-2 and B-4 allowed the racing to continue with minimal impact. Ultimately a gentle SSE breeze set which allowed most competitors to complete the relatively short courses.

The B-Fleet race was dominated at the front by a tussle between **Mack Warner** in his Ranger 23 and **Bill Records** (P26 OD). **Bill** managed to finish ahead of **Mack** but it wasn't enough - **Mack** corrected over him.



Bill Records & Hazel Sanchez on Café au lait Photos by Marilyn Jackson

Mike and Gina Bayer had made a great start in *Entheos* (P26 OD), but were caught by *Incognito* (P26 **Jenny Loehlin** and **Mike Mashl**) despite *Incognito* taking over 5 minutes to cross the start line. On the way to 7 mark there were less than 200 yards between the boats, but somehow *Entheos* emerged from



Cody Hix on Elysium

the mass of boats with a substantial lead to place third. **Victor Gotay** (P26OD Caribbean Breeze) also overtook *Incognito* to finish fourth with **Cody Hix** (Catalina 22 Elysium) correcting to fifth. **Ty Brockhoeft** (P26 Los Monos) finished seventh just behind *Incognito*. The last finisher was **Brian Carlson** in his P26 OD *Rusalka* which was struggling throughout the race because of a small jib.

The second race of the Opening Series saw better sailing conditions with a NW at 8 knots, gusting heavily at times. A and B fleets were spread out across the start line as the wind increased. **Dave Weeks** (P26 *Incognito*) made a good boat end start on starboard, but **Bill Records** (P26 OD *Café au Lait*) successfully pinched to force *Incognito* to tack away, resulting in a battle with *Entheos* (P26 OD **Gina Bayer** and **Mike Mashl**) and (Ranger 23 **Mack Warner**) tacking to B and continuing on the run/reach to 6. Second and third places changed several times before *Incognito* worked the shifts on the second upwind leg to build a substantial lead at B. Meanwhile *Café au Lait* reached the first windward mark ahead of the J70s and maintained a large lead to the finish. *Entheos* narrowly beat *Warley*, but was in 4th place after PHRF correction. **Ty Brockhoeft** in P26 *Los Monos* came in fifth, followed by **Jeffry Lane** with his seascout crew in P26 *Ryliun Nova*. So with two races to go **Bill** and **Mack** are chasing first place, with **Mike** and **Dave** competing for third and fourth place in the series.

And back in the yard, **John Powell** and **Andy Linsesisen** are overhauling their P26 *Allegro*. Apparently it hasn't had a bottom job in 15 years, so they're thinking the new name of the boat might be *Blister*... Give them encouragement as you pass the yard. By the time they've finished that hull will be so smooth they'll have more boat speed than any of the P26s!

Ensign Report by David Morley



Sailing activities were nicely ramping up in 2021 until Winter Storm Uri blasted us with single digit temperatures, ice, and snow on Feb 13 – 17, followed by a week of recovery from the aftermath of freeze damage, electrical power outages, and water supply interruptions! Never a dull moment! Nevertheless, we have maintained an active sailing schedule as

we continue to deal with COVID-19. It is great to see Ensigns regularly getting on the water and starting line!

Congratulations to **George** for taking 1st place in the Frostbite Series. **Annie** earned 2nd and **Dave** 3rd. The score sheet was rounded out as follows: **Lewis – 4th, Bill – 5th, Tom – 6th, Anne – 7th, and Carl 8th.**

Race 1 Opening Day Series racers were blessed with beautiful weather, especially compared to the mini ice age in February! We saw exciting competition between **George, Lewis, and Bill**, with less than 2 minutes separating the top three finishes! The finishes were: 1st George; 2nd Lewis; 3rd Bill; 4th Dave; 5th Annie; 6th Anne.

This year's virtual Opening Day Ceremony featured an interview with 2019 Commodore **Annie Lancaster** and a presentation on AYC history by **Lewis Price**. From both, we heard about the rich history of AYC and how the Club has offered generations of family tradition in sailing for so many members. Congratulations to Annie and Lewis for a job well done.



Karel Dahmen
May 23, 1919 – Feb 16, 2021
Ensign 588 (Styf Kop)

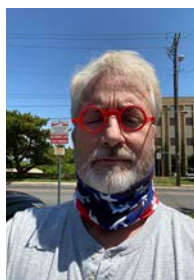


Clift Price
Feb 8, 1924 - Feb 19, 2021
Ensign 929 (Dos Locos)

Our thoughts and prayers are with the **Dahmen family** on their loss of **Karel** on February 16 and the **Price/Lancaster families** on their loss of **Clift** on February 19. It was an honor and joy to know these gentlemen sailors and have the privilege to enjoy AYC and Ensign sailing with them. To borrow from **George's and Lewis'** tributes to their fathers, fair sailing to Karel and Clift; and, in their honor, let's go Ensign sailing!

Thanks to **Fred Ford** for submitting the FUR and getting the Sail 4 Kids schedule set for Saturday, September 25th (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). We are looking forward to another great event!

Dinghy Fleet Report by James Bland



The build is progressing nicely. The last frame has been installed and now the job of making everything square, level and plumb begins. About 40 hours invested in building the jig to date. I'm going to need a little more wood for shoring. Once I get finished planking the hull, the jig will be available to interested parties. Estimating 200 hours to be waterborne and sailing. Materials and

sails probably around \$3000 - \$3500. Hope to be done before it gets hot.

Anyone interested in discussion or whatever, drop me a line, or give me a shout.



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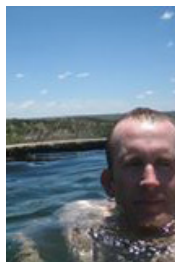


<https://duckworks.com/12-san-francisco-bay-pelican-plans/>.

Finn Nationals are being held at Corpus Christi Yacht Club, June 24 - 27. Champagne conditions are almost guaranteed.

I opted not to sail on the Season Opener with winds of 3 mph gusts to 6 mph, being present, but holding on shore. The Race Committee has generously included the Centerboard boats in a start, and I will plan on starting most races from now on, pending conditions being favorable. Sailing keeps you young, get involved.

Roadrunner Fleet Report by David Michael



With the winter behind us, the Roadrunner Fleet is focused on the 2021 Sailing Season.

For the AYC Virtual Opening Day program, fourteen youth sailors, ages six to eighteen, celebrated the occasion with a performance of "Randy-Dandy-Oh," a song that is now a fleet favorite. Special thanks to Kate Hennig for singing the National Anthem so beautifully. The

kids appreciate every opportunity to participate in AYC events!



Youth sailors perform sea shanty during Opening Day Ceremony. Special thanks to Constanze Heitkotter for making it happen!

Also at Opening Day, the Roadrunner fleet had a super successful and fun course-card fundraiser. Seven youth sailors volunteered to help, selling 43 laminated double-sided course cards for \$2 each, before joining the racing. Special thanks to fleet friend Jim Casto and fleet Social Chair Dee Chow for putting this event together.

The fundraiser was well done and, given the popularity of the course card, the Club can expect more laminated course cards to be sold by the fleet in the future.



Course cards for brunch!

continued next page

The Roadrunner Fleet's training boats, the Flying Scot, the Hobie F-18, and the 29er, are being prepared for another season of learning and fun for our youth sailors. **Gal Sela**, our fleet Equipment and Maintenance Chair, is working with some of the teenagers to assist the adults in maintaining these boats. Each teenager will familiarize themselves with a specific boat, regularly inspect it, and be a point-person for identifying and addressing any issues. Special thanks to **Lucy Brock, James Brock, and Julius Heitkoetter** for volunteering for this role. They are going over the boats now and will be working with the adults to address any maintenance needs so that the boats are ready for another year of intensive use.

March 18-21, the Roadrunner fleet Opti Team Racing team will be at Sarasota Yacht Club in Sarasota, Florida, competing in the 2021 United States Optimist Dinghy Association (USODA) Optimist Team Race Midwinter Championship. Our team from AYC will be one of 35 teams from around the country participating. This will be the second group of AYC kids to learn Opti team racing and to go compete in this event. This new group of AYC Opti sailors started learning team racing last summer – they love the action and they have been practicing almost every week since. Now it is time for their first team racing event and they are excited. Special thanks to their coach, our fleet Sportsman Chair **Jeff Bock**, for all the time, knowledge

and enthusiasm he shares with these kids as teaches them this action-packed sport.

March 27-28, the Roadrunner fleet Opti, Laser (standard, Radial, and 4.7), and C420 classes will be a Lake Canyon Yacht Club at Canyon Lake competing in the 2021 Canyon Chaos Regatta. This annual event is part of the Texas Sailing Association (TSA) Youth Sailing Circuit, and the first of 12 regattas of the annual circuit. The Lake Canyon Yacht Club are great hosts, and it is anything like last year's Canyon Chaos Regatta, it is going to be a great weekend of youth racing.

The Roadrunner fleet board is busy planning and preparing for the 2021 Roadrunner Regatta, a popular event on the annual TSA youth sailing circuit. The Roadrunner Regatta was cancelled last year as the Club felt it best to err on the side of caution, a decision that the Roadrunner fleet understands and respects. Now, this year, we all have the benefit of seeing how the youth regattas over the past year have been successfully held without any issues, and we are able to learn from those events to ensure that our Roadrunner Regatta will be safe and fun. We know that the other clubs in the TSA circuit look forward to coming to the regatta at AYC each year, and we are glad that we can play host to them once again for some more youth racing on Lake Travis!



Beautiful photo by Anne Morley

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Independence Day	July 4
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In time for Opening Day, the new course cards were launched, thanks to Jim Casto! The Roadrunner junior sailors offered a laminated, double-sided version for \$2, before joining the racing under a beautiful blue sky.

Photo by Constanze Heitkoetter