

Duplicate



Starboard Quarter

Fall

September 2004

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Sunfish Volunteers

Our Sunfish volunteers do it yet again! Thanks to all "the usual suspects." Your help in building daggerboards, repairing rudders, hanking on sails, making tiller extensions as well as patching and painting is greatly appreciated. Nick R organized a couple of "worker bee" days and through the efforts of many we were able to put 14 Sunfish on the

water for our State Championship. It was "nip and tuck" for awhile with epoxy and paint still setting up by the morning of the first races. John L works best under extreme pressure from an impending deadline. YMCA boat number 8 and 9 were still in his driveway without fittings and with drying paint the day before the race.

The Big Island Sailing

Foundation headed by our Vice Commodore (West) Alicia Starsong was also a major contributor with the donation of 3 sets of brand new booms and Jim Patterson of Force Marine repaired several boats for the races.

Check out the totally awesome photo by Robbyn Peck below.

Incredible!!!!



Hilo's Second Boat Ramp "Waiakea"

Glenn Shiroma has been making his feelings known to legislators and state boating officials about the need for a second boat ramp at Wailoa. The second boat ramp, "Waiakea Kai" would be used primarily for launching rigged sailboats and powerboats which are unable to use

the existing ramp on the "wrong side" of Wailoa River Bridge. For example, long powerboats suffer damage when using the ramp with its uneven slope and it is impossible for fishing vessels with "tuna towers" to launch because of the height of their rigs.

Glenn has asked for our

help in circulating a petition and in contacting legislators. Glenn's numbers are: 959-7682 and 896-9801.

♦ *It is my, the editors, belief that the economy of Hilo could be improved through sailing events that are now prevented by lack of ramp infrastructure.*

Club Officers

- ♦ *Commodore: Larry Peck*
- ♦ *Vice Commodore (East): John Luchau*
- ♦ *Vice Commodore (West): Alicia Starsong*
- ♦ *Rear Commodore Power: Jon Olson*
- ♦ *Rear Commodore Sail: Mauricio Barbis*
- ♦ *Secretary: Nick Rees*
- ♦ *Treasurer: Robbyn Peck*

New Yacht Club Site

Those of you who have taken the time to explore the proposed new yacht club site will have noticed a lot of construction equipment along Kalaniana'ole Avenue and in the site itself which is currently being used as a base yard. The sewer is coming down the street!

Progress is being made with the environmental assessment and the Rotary Club has drawn up architectural plans which includes a 50 foot by 50 foot space for each the U of H Sailing, Na Hoa Holomoku and the YMCA Aquatics. The 3 50 by 50 sites are to be located along the left side of the area facing Reeds Bay on the shore side of the two large trees near the entrance.

We should have a conceptual drawing for the sites soon.



Let's get our landscaping equipment ready because the Rotary

will be asking for our help within the next couple of months.

Sunfish Race Memories by series winner Nick Rees

The first two races the race committee laid the course hoping for trades, but in reality they had a close reach for the first leg and the second leg was to windward because the wind was from the NNW. All races in the morning were very light and patchy. In the first race Tomas got a great start to leeward on the start line and kept his wind clear and was first to the first mark. I was second and Mauricio third. Tomas tacked to the left first on the second leg, and first myself, and then Mauricio passed him by staying right. These places held to the finish.

In the second race, I think I was first to the first mark, but Mauricio was close and passed me and won by a long way by again getting to the right on the second leg. Eve-



We're all close after the start of this race

lyne was third and Stefano fourth. For the third race, the Race committee changed the course around to the North West, so the first leg was to windward. By the end of the race the wind had (of course!) shifted to the North East, and the

last reach turned into a beat. This race was notable because Stefano had a good lead at the end of the first lap and then went right on the second beat and ran out of wind. Everyone else lifted up behind him as the wind shifted left. (Cont'd 5)

Skipper in the Spotlight—John Messina

This issue's Skipper in the Spotlight is John Messina of "Cheers." John's first experience with sailboats and sailing began with an excursion to Greenwich, Ct. from his home in Brooklyn, NY in 1947. He and a friend drove to Greenwich because they were always interested in small powerboats and came upon a boatyard where they spotted an Alden Class O sailboat. As with all boats, it needed a little work. John said that basically the only things good were the mast and sails. They purchased the boat for \$125 and took it to the friend's cousin's place in Byram and started rebuilding by constructing a steam bending operation. One by one they bent and replaced all the ribs

with white oak, the keel with red oak and when it was strong enough trucked it to Brooklyn to rivet all the planks to the ribs. They also rebuilt the transom and the centerboard trunk. When she was finished they trucked it to a beach in Ct. and launched and sailed from Byram, Ct. John recalls being capsized by a white squall that came from nowhere while they were sailing to an island in the Long Island Sound for a picnic in 1948. They were sailing happily when all of a sudden there was no wind and very quickly a 50k gust which knocked them over instantaneously. There was thunder, lightning and after that just the bow of his boat was afloat. Everything else was un-

derwater. Because they had no way of knowing the Coast Guard had seen them John and his two friends swam for shore. (Cont'd next page)



John at Grenadier's helm

YMCA Plans For Sailing Classes

The Waiakea Settlement YMCA with club board director Claudia Wilcox-Boucher in charge will be planning future sailing classes. The YMCA now has nine fully functional Sunfish Sailboats to use for instruction and can also offer classes in windsurfing. The Y's policy has been that the class sizes be limited to two students

per training vessel.

Help Claudia plan for future sailing classes. Please call her at 935-3721 and express your interest in sailing instruction for yourself or your children from 8 years of age.

Adult grad Paul Henderson at right is having a great sail.



More Classifieds and Stuffs

-Various assorted used sails for 32-36 ft boat. Call Donna at 969-7708.

-Wanted—8 to 10' Whisker Pole. Call Richard at 937-0808.

-Want sailing instruction? Club members who are U. S. Sailing Certified Instructors who can sign your qualifications for use of Hilo Sailing Org. boats: Mauricio Barbis 961-6730, Kevin Horton

965-1084, Drew Kerlee 938-5622, John Luchau 982-5959, Kim Magnuson 966-7788, Jon Olson 443-1036, Jacques Peysson 981-5323, Nick Rees 935-4158.

Wanted: Volunteers for Club jobs. Contact Larry at 960-1314 or John at 982-5959.

Skipper in the Spotlight (Cont'd)

The Coast Guard had seen them and came and towed their boat to a crane at their USCG station near a lighthouse. John's swim was about 200 yards to shore and he said they had lifejackets but when they got ashore they were separated from the boat and had to find their way to the lighthouse.

The Coast Guard put them up for the night in the lighthouse and the next day they managed to have the crane lift the boat enough to bail it out. They were able to sail home again.

John sailed his Class O, an 18 foot open daysailer for a few years all along the Long Island Sound and had it moored on a Coast Guard mooring in

Sheepshead Bay in New York. He had to sell the boat when he went into the Army. After the Army he had an Alden Barnacle but never got around to rebuilding it at his upstate New York farm. His priorities were farm and raising five children.

Since here in Hawaii John has had "Grenadier" a Mariner 31 ketch and "Cheers" the red International Folkboat that is anchored in Reeds Bay. John did a lot of rebuilding of Grenadier and it was tragic when she slipped her mooring and went aground. Her keel was lodged between rocks off of Ocean View Drive and all was lost except those items that he and club members helped him recover.

"Cheers" has been rerigged with everything led to the cockpit and been repainted since John assumed ownership. You can see John most days out on "Cheers" at the mooring or out sailing. He has come near shore on club sail days to take passengers out for a ride. John has been a club board member for several years and very active for the club.

John and Miki are selling their beautiful home in Hawaiian Shores and "Cheers" will also be up for sale when they are ready to move. We will miss Club Charter Members John and Miki very much.

NHH and YMCA Host Sunfish State Championship

August 21st and 22nd our club and the YMCA were teamed up to host the Sunfish State Championships.

Light wind was the order for the series.

Results of the Championship races are as follows:

First-Nick Rees

Second-Stefano Barbis

Third-Mauricio Barbis

Fourth-Jacques Peysson

Fifth-Evelyne Schotte

Six-John Luchau

Seventh-Brunella Barbis

Eighth-Daniel Starsong

Ninth-Ron Reilly

Tenth-Tereza Chylkova

Eleventh-Tomas Chylek

Twelfth-Alicia Starsong

Thirteenth and fourteenth were shared by Kim Magnuson and David Foote both who did not make it to the races.

Trophies for the first three winners of each category will be presented at the Potluck on Wednesday September 8th.



Front: Tomas, Tereza, Nick, Brunella, Stefano. Back: John, Ron, Jacques, Alicia, Daniel, Mauricio and Evelyne

What is Hilo Sailing Org?

Hilo Sailing Org is a non-profit sailing organization that owns the boats of Na Hoa Holomoku. We currently have 4 Walker Bay 10s, three Sunfish, one Hobie 14, a Hobie 16, a West Wight Potter 19 and a Boston Whaler.

All these boats are available to NHH and Hilo Sailing Org members to check

out and use with the exception of the Boston Whaler which can only be used by U. S. Sailing qualified instructors and those who have had special permission from Commodore Larry Peck for emergency purposes.

Membership in Hilo Sailing Org is available for \$50 a year to current members of Na Hoa Holomoku.



That \$50 a year entitles members to use one Walker Bay or Sunfish (not Y Sunfish) at any time they wish for no charge once their qualifications have been established. (The Walker Bay, Sunfish and Hobies are available on Club Sail and Race Days to any Na Hoa Holomoku Member who has met qualifications even if they are not

members of Hilo Sailing Org.)

The Hobies and West Wight Potter have additional charges and additional qualifications expected.

Please contact any of the club board members to find out more specifics on Hilo Sailing Org.

Race Memories (Cont'd)

At the end of the second leg Stefano was near last. However, he recovered nearly all he had lost by going left on the second last leg (which was originally a reach, but ended up a beat). Nick won by a long way by taking advantage of Stefano's misfortune on the second beat and then getting a shift ahead of everyone else which made a huge difference as the wind died and shifted back again through over 90 degrees.

Fourth was held after a lunch break, and the wind had settled down into light trades. I was a premature starter but had trusty #14

which did wonders for me. I was about 4-5th around the first mark, and caught a number of places on the reaches. My big break came after the run when Mauricio, who was leading, stalled his boat as the wind came in on the second last beat, and Nick was able to sail around him to leeward and then take the lead. Things were starting to settle down in this race, with Jacques getting fourth after Stefano and Evelyne 5th.

The fifth race started off bad, because I remember losing concentration and realizing when the 1 minute gun went that I was more

than a minute away from the line. It continued to be a bad one since Mauricio and I overlaid the first mark by sailing a long way out to the left on Starboard after the start. (I was to leeward and Mauricio wouldn't tack!). Ron finally had a good start and first leg and showed great speed to comfortably keep second the whole race. Stefano won by a street, marking a great return to form (he won 6 of the last 10 races after having 3rds and 4ths in the first 4. There was a gaggle of boats in 3rd-5th who had a great race, with Jacques getting 3rd, Mauricio 4th, and Daniel 5th. My

Race Memories (Cont'd)

race was made when I crashed into Brunella on the second beat and had to do 2 circles and spent most of the race around eighth, finally getting 6th after getting past Brunella and Evelyne on the last beat – a humbling experience.

In the sixth race I remember being capsized in Evelyne's boat (boat 5) at the 4 minute gun trying to get the daggerboard up. I couldn't do it. Despite this, I had a good start and I think was first to the first mark and thought I was going to win by a street. However, I had boat 2, which was dog slow, especially as the epoxy started peeling off the daggerboard. (The following race Tomas Chylek had the boat and the epoxy came off in sheets and I found it all in the bailer). Evelyne (and maybe Mauricio?) sailed past me by going right on the second beat and I remember noticing that the fact that Evelyne's daggerboard wouldn't come up didn't make much difference as she was ahead going down the run. Somehow I managed to get past and win – I'm not sure how (I might have sailed through to leeward of Mauricio again on the second last beat).

This seventh was the last race of a long day and it showed. The wind was dying and everyone was thinking more about the food. Alicia called it a day early and didn't start. Stefano got to the front early, and I was content to follow him around, and no-one complained when the race committee shortened the course after the first lap. Mauricio was third or fourth but stalled as the wind died just before the finish line and about 6

boats went past him. He ultimately didn't bother to finish since he knew he had a good discard. It was lucky the committee

elected to only sail a single lap since the wind died completely shortly afterwards. The race committee had a terrible time getting back to their moorings as all the outboards we had failed, and Patrio had to borrow a Jet-ski to tow the committee home.

The pace was noticeably slower as the second day dawned. We had all had a great feed the night before (Mahalo nui loa Claudia!), and it was raining, and by the scheduled start time it was raining, flat calm, and very few people had made it to the beach. However, we got the boats out slowly and by about 11 AM, the winds had started to come in. The Race committee elected to have an early lunch, and then start around 11:45. The course was initially aligned with the first leg NW, with the wind against tide forcing a general recall. The second attempt at a start also failed because of an error in the starting sequence. By this time we were all getting quite expert at informing the race committee when they slipped up. The wind also shifted around to the

Stefano gets a little help on a launch from Luciano



NNE, and so the race committee altered the course.

Race 9 was another one where I lost concentration before the start, and was more than one minute away from the line at the one minute gun. I remember being really boxed in on the first beat and tacking a number of times to clear my wind – eventually getting a bit too far left. Stefano got the first mark first, with Mauricio second. I was pleased to see the order change later in the race because it brought me one place closer to Stefano, who was turning out to be the big threat because of his consistency. I had another accident at the beginning of the second beat (failing to keep clear of Ron Reilly, to leeward as he pointed much higher than me on port tack) and so I had to do another 2 circles. I was 5th or 6th most of the race, and was lucky to catch up 2 places on the last beat by going left and getting to the favored end of the line. This meant I was only one place behind Stefano, who finished miles ahead as he and Mauricio cleared off into the distance.

Race Memories (Cont'd)

On race 10 I finally got a great start again and lead by a relatively long way at the first mark. I had a good 20 metres lead by the leeward mark and tacked to cover. However, Stefano had the spell on me and gained every tack and by the windward mark was dead even. He came in on port tack and tacked inside me at the mark and hit the mark. This was two mistakes (because I had to luff above close hauled to clear him at the mark), for which I feel he owed me 3 circles, and Evelyne and I did quite a bit of shouting at him – Evelyne was just behind in 3rd. He sailed really well down the run and got so far ahead he eventually did one circle on the third beat and went on to win.

On race 11 again, a good start at the committee boat end. I remember I rolled Stefano just at the start and tried to shake my sail a bit to slow him down further. He also had boat 2, which didn't help and he shot out the back like a pip out of an orange. I got what I wanted since I led all the way and he finished fourth, which made up for the 3 times he had beaten me by one place in the races earlier in the day.

The final three races were memorable for a number of reasons. Firstly it was clear that the series was between Stefano and I, with me just having to finish within a place or two of him every race because I had the advantage after the first day, and we had an equal number of points on the second day up to this point. Second, we all realized that there was a chance of getting all races in, with the

race committee shortening the course by one lap in every race. In the end Stefano and I finished either first or second every race. In the first of these three races, Stefano led the entire race. I think Ron Reilly got to the left on the first beat and ended up fourth. I think it was this race in which I had an altercation with Jacques at the end of the third beat and again at the bottom of the run. It wasn't clear who was right and we needed to consult the rulebook after the race to decide who was in the right. I told the race committee that I would retire if the rules proved me wrong. Ultimately, we decided it was ambiguous and let it pass. I think Ron may have been second at the last mark, and let Mauricio (who was 5th) and I past, with Jacques dropping from fourth to fifth.

The second to last race was very short since the wind was the best we had all series, with planing reaches and hiking out up the beat. Stefano and I had an exciting battle, with myself in the lead and close covering all the time. We must have tacked about 10 -20 times on the second leg. I was occasionally worried about others passing as we sailed our own match race, but they never threatened. It was a great race, with the boats close together and any mistake would have been immediately punished, but I held on to get one back.

The final race Stefano won. Before the start I was pretty sure the series was all over, but wasn't certain at the time and wanted a good result. In fact, I had won the series after

the 12 race, but didn't know. Stefano led all the way we had another close tacking duel on the second leg, with the roles reversed. In the end he won comfortably and I was second, Mauricio third, and Daniel with a good fourth. By the end the wind was beginning to die, and everyone was getting quite tired, but I think we were all really feeling very happy.



Author and winner of the Hawaii State Sunfish Championships Nick Rees

Editor Note—Prizes and trophies will be awarded at the Wednesday evening potluck beginning at 6:30PM

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Potluck begins at 6:30PM September 8th at Wailoa State Park Pavilion #3

Membership/Donations

Since our Club began in late 2000 our membership has steadily grown. We started with 47 Charter Members and had about 120 not including honorary members at the end of 2003. As you know, membership ends on December 31 of each year and we now have 85 members for 2004 not counting honorary members. That's really good and I know we'll bring in more this year.

Our budget and what we can do depends on you so renew now with a check to Na Hoa Holomoku mailed to P. O. Box 1661, Kea'au, HI 96749. Make certain you notify us of any change of address, phone numbers or e-address. Talk to your friends about us. Our membership depends on "word of mouth."

Spread the word!

Membership: Regular family membership \$40. Associate (off island) \$24 and Junior (under 18 or full-time student) \$20.

Schedule of stuff:

September 8th—Potluck
September 11th—Club, Y Sail Day
September 26th—Club, Y, UH Handicap Race
October 5—Board Meeting at the Peck Const. Office
October 9—Annual Barry Bolln Hands across the Island BBQ and Potluck