Burnham and Baer Win the Monterey Nationals by Narrowest Margin in Class History
MASTHEAD
The Official Publication of the Shields Class Sailing Association

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President’s Message

Welcome to the Hotel California...
It was an entirely fitting finish to an anything but ordinary week. After the 7th and final race on Saturday, three Past National Champions found themselves in an unprecedented tie atop the leaderboard. John and Reed prevailed via the tiebreaker rules, leaving Bill Berry in second and Michael Polkabla in third. All three sailed a fantastic series, each deserving of victory. The aptly named Team Grace, showed plenty of it during the awards ceremony, while Bill and Michael were true gentlemen, displaying character and class in not winning. It was an out-of-the-ordinary regatta on so many levels.

Such a lovely place...
We thoroughly enjoyed sharing our club, our harbor and our beautiful bay with our fellow Shieldsmen.

Such a lovely face...
Four crews, all finishing in the top half of the fleet, were helmed by lady skippers.

They livin’ it up at the Hotel California...
Speaking of hotels, the Monterey Marriott was the perfect venue for the Tuesday evening President’s Reception and Saturday night Awards Ceremony. We are thrilled to list them among our numerous sponsors.

What a nice surprise...
We had no idea the humpback whales would join us, resulting in perhaps the most famous photo in Shields Class history.

Bring your alibis...
Visiting competitors were faced with the reality of sailing for a championship in a borrowed boat and in an unfamiliar place. Judging by the impressive finishes by non-local crews, perhaps the anxiety of a borrowed boat has been resolved.

So I called up the Captain, please bring me your wine...
Keeper trophies for the top finishers were Shields half-hull models, hand made by Regatta Chairman Garth Hobson over 8 months and custom designed magnums of local wine featuring the regatta logo.

We haven’t had that spirit here since 1984...
It has been a long time since Monterey hosted a Shields National Regatta, in fact too long. 1984 saw a 23-year old Michael Polkabla winning the championship with his dad, Steve Polkabla on his crew.

You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave...
We are grateful for all the visiting crews who came out to race and party and celebrate a true California classic, the Shields!

You are hereby honorary members of the Monterey Fleet.

Eric Anderson
Shields Class President
#191 Tiburon
Below: Stillwater, October, Meritage
All Photos by Patrick Tregenza

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View from the Tiller of #107 Grace

Reed and I always say our primary goal is to have a chance to win on the last day, but when Team Grace went to Monterey to sail in a new venue and a borrowed boat, we set different expectations. Let’s make the top five if the planets line up right, but bring along a solid Plan B: let’s have an awesome time and finish in the top half.

We felt good about Plan B beginning way back at the Newport Nationals when we sampled Garth Hobson’s Monterey wine. And we felt even better when we met super-friendly hosts, Dino, Karen, Remo and Dahnelle, who immediately cranked up their fire pits and hot tubs. Boat owner John Feeley proudly showed us around Medora, which was in great shape, albeit a reported 200 pounds heavier than many Shields. John generously allowed us to drill some extra holes in the jib tracks, lengthen the headstay and change out a few blocks.

Fitting in a quick sail on Tuesday encouraged us to add purchase to the traveler and lengthen the headstay slightly so on Wednesday we could practice seriously and tune against other boats. The practice race was a trifle concerning though. Defending champs Ted Slee/Betsy Alison sailed higher and faster, winning easily. Mike Polkabla looked formidable in Yankee with an ultra-smooth horizon job in the first race on Thursday.

So how did we end up a couple of days later, losing a photo finish to Bill Berry’s Syrinx team, yet winning the title despite a three-way series tie?

First, Reed and I credit Ted, Rachel, and Pete for great focus and teamwork while keeping it fun, plus awesome support from Anne and Christie, our shoreside team. Second, when we won the second race, we realized that Medora wanted us to do well. Third, we kept learning from our competitors—early from Mike and other locals to go left and not worry about why, and then from Bill, observing that we could work a higher point mode on starboard when sailing across the swells. Fourth, our wind-callers never quit and found us passing lanes on the runs more than once.

Finally, Lady Luck clearly smiled on our Grace team. But hats off to the Yankee and Syrinx teams for sailing great regattas, too. It’s a privilege to share the podium with you all. Next time, one of you will get the Heineken spray-down!

–John Burnham
View from the Tiller of #239 Syrinx

As members of the Shields Class we are fortunate to have our National Championship Regatta available to us every year. We sail a great boat in beautiful venues with warm hospitality, great competition, and rare protests. For Team Syrinx the opportunity to learn from the different conditions we face and the team camaraderie are priceless. This year the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club raised the bar by holding an exceptional event. I won’t go into the regatta management and social events which were great, but the things beyond their control; the sailing conditions and competitiveness, were top notch. I don’t know, but it must be rare to have a three-way tie for first with the finishes decided on tie breakers.

When we sailed the Shields Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup the previous year the conditions were excellent, but totally different. This time they were uniquely challenging. Strong winds offshore raised a large swell, but the winds decreased on approaching the bay. The wave orientation was skewed by the shoreline effect, and the wave shape by the changing water depth, so we ended up with more waves than wind, waves skewed to the wind direction by as much as thirty degrees, and a wave shape that varied considerably over the course. Nothing that we have experienced could prepare us for this and it seemed that this was the defining factor in the regatta, so it became a constant process of problem solving for our team. Choosing the proper angle to sail to the waves was the first problem and next came the sail trim which also constantly changed with the underlying principle being as deep and twisted. In the lighter conditions the jib sheet was our go to gear shift and in the higher wind ranges it was mainsheet then a little backstay. We have sailed many regattas together, so the team work was outstanding; and the front of the boat was not reluctant to inform the back of the boat that things were not right especially if I was not steering a good angle. It was interesting to note that Team Grace and Team Yankee seemed to be trimming different than us, but getting comparable results.

Tactically there were a lot of shifts, bands, and holes, but all these factors couldn’t distract you from the fact that you had to go hard left. The holes could be deadly since it was hard to re-accelerate in the waves, but aside from over standing in a lefty there didn’t seem to be much risk in the left corner. The Race Committee did a great job setting the start, and it didn’t seem to matter much where you started since you could hold a lane to the left from either end or the middle of the line. Team Yankee was generally at the pin, Team Grace in the middle, and more often than not, we were at the boat. Our boat end starts worked well for us, as we either came out a little ahead or were in good position to lead out from the left corner.

I want to thank my teammates Ken Deyett, Dan Berry, Curtis Johnson, and Mary Endsley for their expertise, and hard work. Thanks to Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club for their great hospitality and an exceptional event. Congratulations to Team Grace and Team Yankee for a hard sailed, and well sailed regatta. – Bill Berry
View from the Tiller of #187 Yankee

It certainly has been quite a while since the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club hosted the Shields National Championship Regatta. Our group of volunteers who ran or served on organizing committees; including the club staff, sponsors, and supporters worked for close to two full years to coordinate the event and to pull it all off. It was truly a grand team effort from an amazing group of talented and dedicated individuals.

Our team was formed only seven months prior to the regatta with my purchase of Yankee #187. My boat was owned and sailed locally for decades by Monterey’s longest-serving fleet member COL Bob Furney who passed away only a few months after selling her to me. When I got her, Yankee certainly had lots of “patina” but also had lots of great stories of being a mainstay of local Shields sailing here in Monterey. Indeed, without argue, Yankee was responsible for introducing more new local sailors to one-design Shields sailing than any other boat in the fleet… Now it was my job to get her and a new crew ready in short order, for the upcoming qualifying series and ultimately the National Championship in October.

For the last two years after returning to Monterey, I sailed as tactician and main trimmer with the Hobson family on Stillwater #103. I competed in the previous two nationals in Larchmont and Newport, sailing with Garth, and his very talented daughter Ashley, and crew. Sailing with the Stillwater team had been like sailing with my family. Purchasing another boat with the objective to compete “against” them was certainly bitter sweet, yet understood by my previous team. During the championship regatta, Ashley’s young, but very capable crew of Austin Book and Jacob Paoletti commented that sailing against me on Yankee was like sailing against their Dad or their college sailing team coach. In fact, competing against most of the sailors here in Monterey during the year’s qualifying series was a cooperative team effort where the clear goal was to race hard and to improve together. We succeeded in sharpening our skills as a fleet for the upcoming National Regatta.

Knowing that the championship regatta was to be sailed in early October meant that the local conditions were going to be “variable” at best… and they definitely were. Indeed, the regatta was sailed in a total of seven races from light winds (with flat water) to 20+ knots with some pretty
aggressive Pacific Ocean generated swell and seas. There wasn’t a single boat that didn’t require some bailing out during this regatta! Well, they say that National championship regattas are meant to be difficult and challenging to its competitors and this year’s regatta was certainly that!

Team Yankee, lovingly known to some as “Damn Yankee” went into the regatta with a crew of four which included: local fast guy Dave Morris on foredeck, Jared January (Moose) and my sweetheart Michelle. We were a light crew with only four, but were also very efficient and agile. A strong blow would also mean that we were short on weight and would force us to work harder, but would also be very fast off the wind. Staying focused and working well together through everything a regatta can throw at us was our greatest strength. It is the “Journey and not the Destination” that was our focus as well as our joint goal. I could not be more proud of Team Yankee who handled everything we faced and kept improving and developing throughout the year.

Our hats are off to all the competitors who brought their best efforts and abilities to prepare, to sacrifice, and to compete in this year’s championship regatta. Having a three-way tie for first place after seven hard fought and close races under challenging and diverse conditions is a testament to the level and depth of talent within the Shields Class. Congratulations to this year’s champion, John Burnham, Team Grace and to the second-place team of Bill Berry, Team Syrinx. Both displayed professional and gracious attitudes, keen skill and creativity which resulted in consistent top finishes.

– Michael Polkabla
The 2016 season started on a sad note, with long time Shields sailor and Fleet One member Don Tomlin passing away on May 1st at the age of 82. An LYC member, Don was an active Shields sailor in the 70's and 80's. He joined us for the Legends Regatta in 2014. He and his son Reid also grace the Shields book, and can be found on page 75.

Fleet One held 30 races this year, with 11 Shields qualifying for the season. The racing was highly competitive with 8 different boats winning a race.

Larchmont Race Week was held in July with excellent sailing conditions. Fred Werblow and his team on Checkmate #25, put in a strong performance to win the 6-race series. Skip McGuire, Lure #182 was 2nd with Carr/Azzaretti, Cornelia #221 finishing 3rd. The Season Championship had a similar theme with Werblow coming out on top. Fred and crew dominated the series, winning 14/30 races.

Three Larchmont Shields were featured in the NBC pilot show “The Tap”. The drama takes place around 1969, during the height of America’s cultural and political revolution, and NBC needed 1960’s era boats to participate in some yacht racing scenes. What could be better than a Shields or three? Connected to NBC by our Hollywood agent in training, John Mawe, Shields #38, #106 and #176 were crewed by a mix of actors and Larchmont sailors who had an exhilarating late October day in sunshine and strong breeze.

Fleet 1
Larchmont Yacht Club, Larchmont, NY

We are now making plans for hosting the Ocean Great Lakes Challenge in June 2017, and looking forward to sending boats up to Mystic for Nationals in September. We hope to see many of you in Larchmont in June for the Ocean Great Lakes Challenge!

—Peter McWhinnie

Fleet 2
Indian Harbor Yacht Club, CT

Indian Harbor Yacht Club hosted the Classic Yacht Regatta again this year, which has grown to 50+ yachts. Shields have been a part of the Classic for the past 5 years.

After a long postponement, a 15 kt Sou’west breeze thankfully filled in and nine classes in five divisions started on an impressive 10-mile course. This was a departure from the typical short windward-leeward courses.

Shields at Classic Yacht Regatta

We thought it would be entertaining to mix it up with boats 3 times our size which take several minutes and hundreds of feet to alter course. Fortunately, there were no reports of carnage.

Per IHYC’s Mary Alice Carmichael: “sailing is one of the most beautiful sports to photograph, especially when the boats are classic yachts. Not only do their long, slim hull shapes glide so gracefully through water, but the geometric shapes of their sails, whether backlit or bright white in the sunlight, create sculpture on water. It is as thrilling for photographers as it is for spectators to see classics gather for this regatta.”

—Rick Hendee

Fleet 3
Chicago Yacht Club, Chicago, IL

Shields Fleet 3 had a spectacular weather year in 2016 and excellent participation as a part of Chicago Yacht Club’s Racing Yacht Fleet. Season standings were #1 Peanut (88), #2 Insidious (196), #3 Sundance (130). New crew, in the form of growing skippers’ kids, are now joining in the action as Fleet 3 develops a third generation of one-design sailors. Until April, we now bundle up in Chicago...

—Chris Economos

Fleet 4
No. Massachusetts Bay, MA

2016 marks the Northern Massachusetts Bay fleet’s fiftieth anniversary and ends with an adieu to Rich Moffitt’s 72-Great Haste, one of the original boats in the Marblehead fleet now departed way down east from here.

This year’s Fiftieth Anniversary Crocker race was July 9th in Manchester is one opportunity for Fleet 4, which is scattered across several harbors in Northern Massachusetts Bay, to get together and race. The course featured a 12.3- NM triangle with turning marks off Eastern Point in Gloucester and the Newcomb Ledge Buoy, approximately midway between Gloucester and Marblehead. Rick Metzinger on Brio #24 came in first in the Shields Class and Ed Berger on Caviar #118 was second.

— Rick Gibson

Fleet 7 & 12
Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, CA

2016 has been a busy year for our fleets. While preparations for the September National Regatta were ongoing, this didn’t keep us from having an outstanding and competitive year of racing within our local fleet. Our weekend series included 18 races which ran from late March through October. We had 11 boats racing most Sundays, with 12 on the line during the Fall Series. Our Shields Sunset Series continues to be well supported.

In August, we sadly bid farewell to our dear friend and longtime Shields skipper. Beginning in 2017 the Bob Furney Fleet Service Award will recognize a member who typifies the example of selfless giving that Bob personified.

Monterey Fleet Champ – 209 Rolly

Our fleet owes a very large “Thank You” to Stan Deland. Stan moved to Southern California from Marion, MA three years ago, and brought with him Shields #141 Rebel. Responding to a request from our fleet to borrow the boat for our National Regatta, Stan readily agreed to do so and...
refused to accept any payment for this good deed. The addition of this extra boat was greatly appreciated.

– Eric Anderson

**Fleet 8**

**Edgartown Yacht Club, MA**

Fleet 8’s entry in the 2016 Shields Nationals had a tremendous experience in Monterey. Déjà Vu’s skipper Steve Mettler and his crew including Cindy DeLotto and Bob Hurst gave rave reviews of both the sailing and the hospitality provided by Fleets 7 & 12 and the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. We hope to meet the high bar that has been set for hosting a national event when Fleet 8 and the Edgartown Yacht Club host the 2018 Shields Nationals.

– Ian Smith

**Fleet 9**

**Newport, RI**

The 2016 Season was one of the best yet. All 21 Wednesday Night Series races were held without any weather cancellations.

Fleet 9 is committed to a more robust Shields presence at the many local regattas we have here in Newport for the 2017 season. We hope to bring some of the hibernating Shields out of the woods for these races, Fleet 9 members or not, so we encourage any boats to consider some of these events.

Current owners will be working together to recruit and support new owners & partnerships. We hope to grow our fleet; not just the number of boats, but the number of people involved.

Taking top honors for the 2016 cumulative season scoring, combining all 21 Wednesday night races was #254 Aeolus with Tom Hirsch, Tim Dawson & crew. Top honors for the 6 weekend races went to 74 Karaselet for the Aloha Cup, led by Bill Shore and his crew.

– Ted Slee

**Fleet 10**

**Beverly Yacht Club, Marion, MA**

In Marion, we had another great summer sailing season, blessed with good weather and consistent wind. Highlights were 47 races over 6 series on Thursday nights, and Saturday afternoons. There were 3 different series winners. We had 13 boats competing, adding Ken Deyett and Jeff Egger. Jon Pope’s Madame X was also welcomed back to the active racing fleet. All season long the competition was very tight.

Beverly Yacht Club has always had broad horizons. We hosted and again won the Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup. Rich Robbins went to the Edgartown Regatta finishing a close second. We hosted the Buzzards Bay Regatta with eleven boats competing, and we sent two boats to Monterey for the Nationals. One very bright note is that there was a youth movement, and many enthusiastic high school sailors became involved in our fleet.

We are now trying to bring back the glory days of the Shields in the Buzzard’s Bay Regatta which will be at the New Bedford Yacht Club on August 4-6, 2017. In the 1970s this event could anticipate up to 50 Shields, and is still readily accessible from Marion, Newport, and Edgartown with launching and chartering options available. Stay tuned for updates in the next Masthead.

– Bill Berry

**Fleet 19**

**Mason’s Island Yacht Club, Mystic, CT**

The 2017 season here on Mason’s Island was superb. With Kevin Miller and Pam Gibbs returning to assume Race Committee duties we knew that the starting lines would be square, the courses properly set and races “run by the book.” Any failures on the part of the contestants would be the result of their own doing.

Every season there is one boat in our fleet of seven that seems to get everything right. This year was no exception and the boat to beat in 2016 was Dan Van Winkle’s #7 “Rip”. The combination of Danny’s brilliant tactics and Jim Gibbs’ keen ability at the helm put them at or near the front throughout the season. Welcome Bradley Honan, Shields #89 “Kajsa” to Fleet 19.

Two significant events closed out the 2016 season. An intrepid team of sailors ventured to Monterey, CA to represent Fleet 19 at the 52nd Shields Nationals. Led by Fleet Captain Al Burnett, Lee Reichart, Tod Williams, Anne Haag and Tom Welch carried the MIYC burgee from the Atlantic across to the Pacific. Later, at Fleet 19’s “Fall Fling,” they regaled attending sailors and guests with tales of monster seas, gale force winds and sea serpents. We heard about fabulous social events and the generous hospitality of their hosts at Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. Kudos to MPYC and Shields Fleets 7 and 12!


– Alan Burnett

**Fleet 21**

**Tred Avon Yacht Club, Oxford, MD**

We are now full into winter thinking of next year’s expectations. The Shields Nationals in Monterey were about to begin and we had one representative, our loyal John Shannahan, who has not missed a Nationals since the beginning of our fleet. The overall winner for the year was Drew Kellogg in Dragonfly, it was a close season with 7-8 boats competing regularly. John Shannahan came in a very close second place, we thought we might have to have a drink off to decide the overall winner. Our Sunday afternoon racing idea for last year worked out very well as the wind usually filled in in the afternoons and we could get at least three races off at that time. All in all, it was a good season.

– Harry Seemans

**Fleet News**

Ted & Ron Congratulate Karaselet

Déjà vu in Monterey

Ken Deyett’s Shields Coloring Book for Fleet 10 children, featuring Patrick Tregenza’s now-famous photo

Beverly Yacht Club, Marion, MA

Mason’s Island Yacht Club

Masons Island Yacht Club, Mystic, CT

Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club

MPYC and Shields Fleets 7 and 12!
From the Builder:

Dear Wendy…

*I bought a used Shields but I’m unable to register/title the boat because the seller never supplied me with a title. Can you provide me with a title?*

Sincerely,

Title-less

Dear Title-less:

Unfortunately, we get this inquiry from time to time as sellers/buyers are unaware that a seller who resides in a title state must supply a signed title when selling Shields with motor brackets. When a Shields is new, Cape Cod Shipbuilding Co. supplies each owner with a certificate of origin, an invoice and instructions on what to do next. It’s up to the first owner of the boat to turn those documents into a title. Whether you must title and register depends on whether the boat has a motor bracket installed and then in what state the boat is sailing/motoring. Here are some important things to know:

1. Registration and title are two different things, similar to the documents you have for your car. A title is the proof of ownership document issued by the state. Registration is something you do on an annual basis; the state will send you a registration sticker which you apply to your bow along with the registration numbers.

2. If your Shields does not have a motor bracket, in most states, you are not required to title or register. If your Shields has a motor bracket and you reside in a non-title state (like Maine for instance) you are not required to title but you must register. If your Shields has a motor bracket and you reside in a title state like Massachusetts for instance, you are required to title and register. The state of Massachusetts considers a sailboat with an outboard bracket a motor boat. Check with your individual state to determine the specific title requirements.

3. For selling/purchasing: If the boat has a motor bracket and the seller resides in a non-title state then they are simply required to supply a bill of sale to the buyer and should also sign over the registration. It’s a good idea to have a notarized signature on the bill of sale if the boat moves over state lines. If you have a notarized bill of sale from a non-title state and were unsuccessful applying for title, I recommend going into your local office in person to alert them that the seller came from a non-title state. If the seller provided you with a bill of sale and you both reside in a title state like Massachusetts or Rhode Island, that documentation is not good enough to acquire title. Go back to the seller and inform them that they are required to supply you with a signed title.

Sincerely,

Wendy J. Goodwin
President
Cape Cod Shipbuilding Co.
Among the oldest trophies in yacht racing, the Ocean Great Lakes Challenge Cup has been the domain of the Shields Class since its revival in 2014. Fleet bragging rights were on the line in June as four crews traveled to the Beverly Yacht Club in Marion, Massachusetts to challenge 2015 winner Bill Berry. Visiting competitors were treated to ideal Buzzard’s Bay sailing conditions and wonderful hospitality. On the water, Bill Berry and the crew of #239 Syrinx defended their 2015 Challenge Cup victory. Other fleets participating were from Monterey, Larchmont, Oxford, and Edgartown. George Gardner, Richard Robbins, Bryan McSweeny, Graham Quinn and Joan Tiffany did a commendable job putting on a very enjoyable weekend.

The 2017 Ocean Great Lakes Challenge Cup will be held at Larchmont Yacht Club on June 23-25. The host fleet provides the boats and housing; making this event very easy for competitors to attend.

See your Fleet Captain to ensure your fleet is represented at the 2017 Challenge Cup.