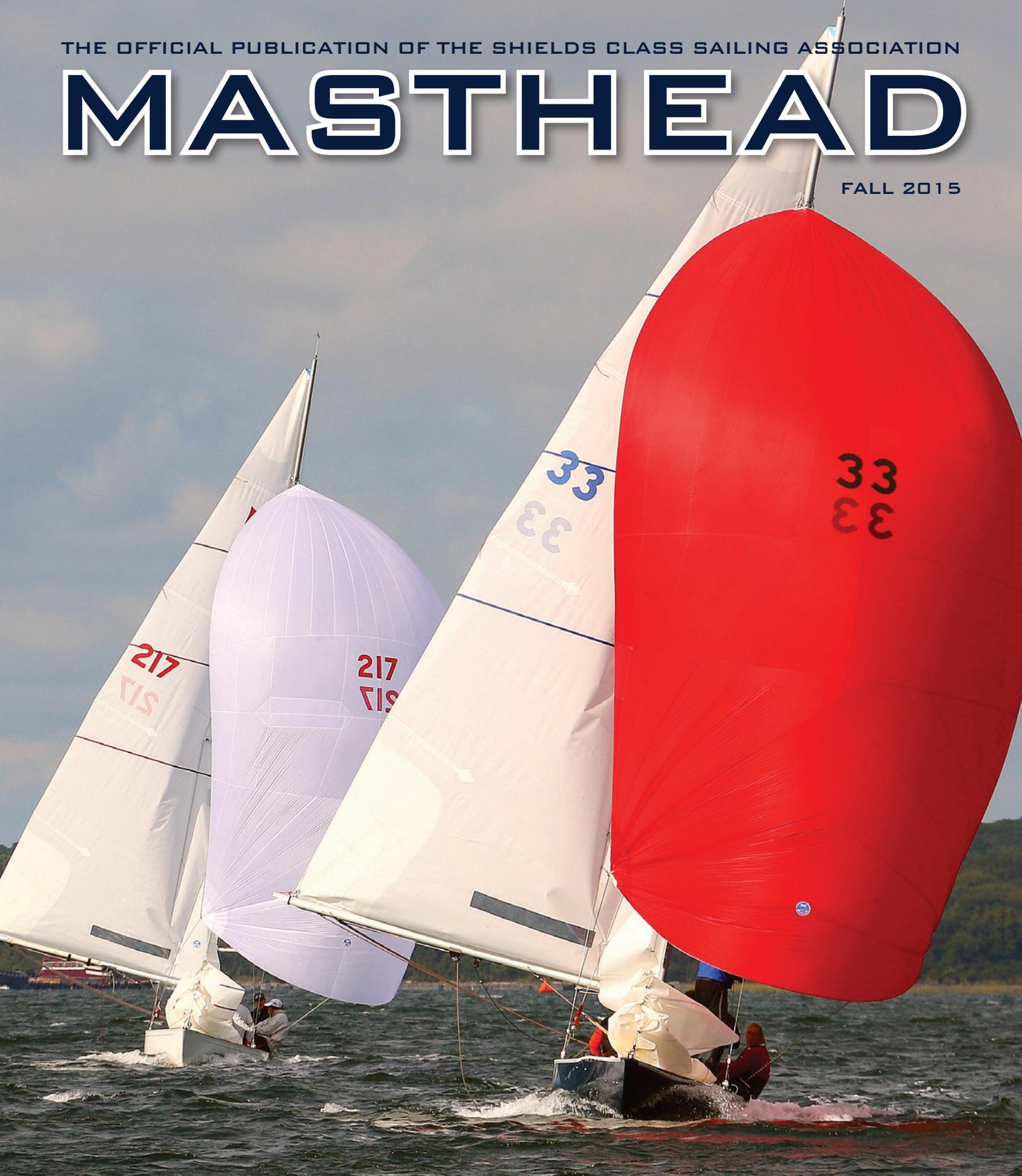


THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHIELDS CLASS SAILING ASSOCIATION

MASTHEAD

FALL 2015



Newport Nationals and 2015 Season Highlights

Photo: Spectrum Photo/Fran Grenon

MASTHEAD

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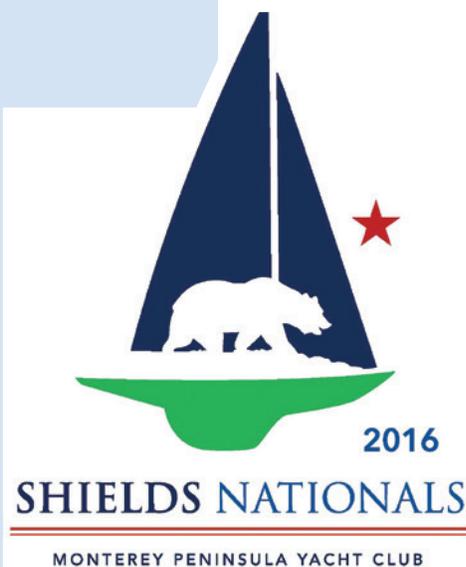
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PHOTOS All Shields Nationals photos courtesy of Spectrum Photo/Fran Grenon

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ON THE COVER:

National champion #33 Maverick heads downwind in Newport, R.I., ahead of #217 John Dory.



2016 National Regatta SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1

Planning for the 2016 Shields Nationals on Monterey Bay is underway. We have received 4 advance registrations and deposits (thanks to our wine tasting bar this year at Ida Lewis YC).

With the goal of getting the greatest number of crews to participate, our organizing committee is working closely with the Class Governing Board to identify and secure additional west coast Shields for our charter pool. Additionally, we have formed a group to review an array of transport options for sailors considering bringing their own boat to the regatta.

Monterey is truly one of the most scenic and challenging of sailing venues and the home of the largest marine sanctuary in the United States. Our website www.montereyshields2016.com contains the most current and complete information regarding registration, boat charter opportunities, housing, schedule, and sponsorship opportunities. Major airports nearby are San Jose and San Francisco, with Monterey Regional Airport served by most major airlines.

—Jaime Anderson, Fleet 7/12



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CLASS MEMBERSHIP

Dues are payable by June 1 each year. If you are affiliated with a Shields Fleet or Yacht Club, please pay your dues through your fleet treasurer. If you are an owner or crew not affiliated with a fleet, please join at <http://www.shieldsclass.com/join/index.php> or contact the Class Secretary, as above.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Outgoing: Com Crocker, #23

In my house we like to say, "Sail like a girl." Last year in Larchmont, Ashley Hobson and Charlotte Benbow let the class know what that meant, with strong finishes in their first Nationals. This year, Betsy Alison took it a step further as the first woman to etch her name on the Trophy. She, Ted Slee and the crew on #33 *Maverick* sailed a tremendous regatta. Here's to getting it done with one of the older boats in the fleet, a further testament to the strength of Corny's One-Design vision. Congratulations to Robbie Benjamin, Fleet 9, and Ida Lewis YC for running such a wonderful event.

The strength of the Shields Class is the passion of its members. I have been particularly humbled by the leadership and dedication of officers Wendy Goodwin, Rich Robbins, and Jay Dayton, and cannot thank them enough for their years of service. We are better for it. The Class continues to grow in new and exciting directions, with Marion hosting the 3rd Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup next year and Monterey hosting the Nationals for the first time in 32 years. When Eric Anderson and Garth Hobson first expressed interest in bringing the Nationals to California, I was hesitant. But their enthusiasm, organization, and leadership won over the Board, and they've done nothing but impress since. Those who travel to Monterey next fall are in for an incredible time both on and off the water. Moreover, with Eric taking over as President, the Class couldn't be in better hands. I hope he finds it every bit as rewarding as I have.

Speaking of Monterey, after Team Stillwater's second strong showing this year and with the Nationals headed to Ashley's home waters next year, we may not have long to wait for the next woman to put her name on the Trophy.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Class these past couple of years. It's been a blast.

Incoming: Eric Anderson, #191

Several years ago at our club newcomers' night, I was introduced to Jerry Stratton, the guy most responsible for the Monterey Fleet's turnaround. His first sentence was, "Eric, you've got to become part of our Shields Fleet; you can sail with me next Wednesday!" Within the hour I met Garth Hobson who also suggested I check out the Shields fleet. Later that evening, I encountered numerous other members with a similar refrain. The following Wednesday was my inaugural Shields race, thus beginning an activity I have rigorously and passionately maintained ever since.

Our class has enjoyed the exceptional leadership of Com Crocker both as President and National Champion. The accomplishments during his tenure are many: impressive Nationals at Larchmont and Ida Lewis, the revitalization of the Ocean Great-Lakes Challenge Cup, the preservation of our history in the Shields book, the engagement of Richard Slaughter to publish a professional Masthead, and not insignificantly, the courage to allow the Monterey Fleet to host our 2016 National Regatta. Thank you Com, Wendy, and other members of our outgoing board.

Congratulations to 2015 National Champions Betsy Alison, Ted Slee and crew on their tremendous performance at this year's championship. My personal thanks to Robbie Benjamin and Betsy Yale for untold hours of work to pull off this memorable event and to John Burnham for making this year's editions of the Masthead a reality.

I enthusiastically accept the responsibilities of serving our great class. I would like to thank returning board members Jay Dayton, Richard Robbins, Chris Wick and Rick Hendee for their continued service and welcome our incoming board members. As we embark on our second 50 years, I hope to borrow from the vision of Corny Shields, the energy of Com Crocker, and the commitment of Jerry Stratton to keep our class vibrant, meaningful and enduring.



Two-time champion #233 *Syrinx*, steered by Bill Berry, is first to set en route to winning Friday's second race at the 2015 Nationals.



Jay Dayton's #73, *Black Pearl*, one of three Fleet 21 boats racing, heads downwind as skies began to clear on Friday afternoon.



An offset at the weather mark kept the traffic manageable during Friday's breezy races.



Walter Bundy's #224 *Virginia*, steered by Joel Hanneman, sails downwind on the way to a big win in the third race on Friday.



2015 Shields Nationals
Newport, Rhode Island

Alison and Slee Take 51st Nationals

The 2016 Nationals in Newport featured three race days and six races, with a fleet of 24 boats sailing in light to blustery breezes both in Narragansett Bay and out on the ocean in Rhode Island Sound. Taking the gun in the first race, the second race, and the last, the home fleet's Betsy Alison, Ted Slee, and crew on #33 *Maverick* put on a convincing display of speed and smarts to earn their first nationals title.

Despite winning half the races, *Maverick's* victory was not a given. The second day of racing was held north of the Pell Bridge in a gusty, bumpy northeasterly, and while Team *Maverick* won the first race of the day, they sailed a throwout in the second, which made them vulnerable, while Walter Bundy and Joe Hanneman's #224 *Virginia* and Bill Berry's #239 *Syrinx* each scored a first to tighten things up considerably.

On the last day of racing, in a light southeasterly in swells, Tom Hirsch and Tim Dawson in #254 *Aeolus* took the gun in the opening race and Bundy/Hanneman's #224 was second, which moved the two boats ahead of *Maverick*, which finished 8th, a score they wouldn't be able to throw out.

But in the final series race, the leaders slipped up, while #33 broke away from the pack with two other boats, took the lead on the final run to the finish, and won the regatta by seven points over Dawson/Hirsch in #254 and Berry's #239, and 8 points ahead of Bundy/Hanneman's #224.

Ten Newport Fleet 9 boats raced, and seven of them placed in the top 10. Besides Berry's #239, of Marion, the other top out-of-town boats were Garth and Ashley Hobson's #103 in sixth and Com Crocker/Kurt Weisenfluh's #23 in seventh. In total, seven fleets were represented.

In addition to Alison and Slee, the winning crew consisted of Patrick Gavin-Brynes, Bob Geisser, and Jon Howland.

— John Burnham, #107



Shown in the regatta's strongest breeze, during Friday's first race #239 *Syrinx* looks comfortable in Buzzards Bay-like conditions.

Five Keys to a Nationals Win

by Betsy Alison

If the secret to winning were as simple as taking a multi-vitamin, life would be simple. But reflecting on Team Maverick's win at the Nationals, I can point to five key elements, each of which made a critical difference:

5 FIVE: Boat maintenance before and during the season. At the end of last season, we discussed what was the most important "fix" *Maverick* needed? Prioritizing what will give you the the most bang for the buck for (including sweat equity) is the first step. With a boat that's 50 years young, we felt a decent bottom would make the biggest difference. So, like many teams with limited financial resources, we did all of the prep work before having the bottom sprayed at Waterline Systems. Then a team sanding party finished the job. Other projects included replacing the boom and adding a fine tune on the mainsheet. Also, if something failed to work well one week, we made a point to address it before the next race day.

4 FOUR: A team that sails together consistently. Our core of six—Andy Green, Betsy Alison, Ted Slee, Patrick Gavin-Byrnes, Bob Geisser, and Jon Howland—meant we had a steady five on most Wednesday nights all season. We were also able to test each team member in a role that suited them best for our optimum performance. By Nationals, everyone was happy and well versed in their roles. Each knew what was expected and comfortable with it, plus, if something went wrong, we had buddies on board who could help out.

3 THREE: Get all the ducks in a row. Make sure you have everything in order to ensure peace of mind when you start the event. Registration details complete (waivers, packet pick-up, measurement forms, declarations, etc.); NOR and SIs read by all crew members; tide times and charts researched; radios and digital compasses charged; excess stuff off the boat. Everyone shows up early and helps prep the boat. Lunch schedules made and workload distributed. Only bring what you'll use/wear on that day, and take it off at the end of the day – including the wet spinnaker and empty water bottles. A tidy and well organized boat is a happy boat.

2 TWO: Get into race mode early. Especially with long sails or tows to the racecourse, it's easy to lose focus. On the sail out, gather information that will help you make a strategic plan: current flow, shift/puff patterns, headings on each tack, weather forecasts, geographic considerations. If on a tow, take time to reflect on what you know, and then test it once on the racecourse. Everyone on board needs to know the plan and to feel comfortable feeding information and making observations. Five sets of eyes are way better than one or two! When you sail with a consistent team, the language commonly used among the team is easy and familiar. So, when things get stressful—and you know they will—that comfort level goes a long way to elevating the team back up. Confidence in your information, your trimmers, your boat speed, and the team's ability to dig out of a bad situation are critical. Easy to say, hard to do. Example: At the start of Race 4, with 1:42 to go, we had a collision! My bad – I did not see the starboard boat until way too late. We extricated ourselves, took the penalty, and refocused on the start. Only well after finishing did we let ourselves consider how big a disaster the incident might have been. Being able to refocus after a snafu of any kind is the mark of a well-prepared and well-trained team.

1 ONE: Leave any baggage on the water. Huh? What does that really mean? No matter who you are or who you sail with there will always be times when one or more of you will be frustrated or annoyed with a teammate or each other. Whether sparked by a bad tactical call, boathandling error, or tone of voice in a tense moment, frustration and negativity needs to be left on the water after the race. If something is amiss on *Maverick*, we talk about it openly, hear what each other has to say, and let go of the baggage. We may agree to disagree on certain things, but there is no place for negativity onboard.

When all is said and done, success on a Shields is not the doing of a single individual. Each one of us on board *Maverick* brings specific skills and strengths to the program and each has the desire to win, but it's the collective effort that gets the job done.



Teamwork was the common denominator for nationals champ, #33 *Maverick*, from a spring sanding to September sailing.



Not the newest Shields on the water, #33 demonstrated that a well-maintained veteran can win the big one.



THE 51ST NATIONALS, BEHIND THE SCENES

by Robbie Murphy Benjamin,
event chair

**Breezy on the Bay: Jim Alpi/
Mike Rajacich's #180 Seagull
of Fleet 21, joins the action on
a typically crowded start line
at the Nationals, and Jamie
Hilton's #217 John Dory heads
upwind in front of David
Bush-Brown's #121 Mahi.**

PLANNING FOR THE NATIONALS BEGAN OVER TWO YEARS AGO. The event committee included Fleet 9 officers and other current and past Shields sailors—Betsy Yale, Ron Oard, Ted Slee, and Tom Rich, plus Andy Segal, Trish Walcott, Robin Wallace, and ILYC Race Committee Chair John Horton.

OUR RACE COMMITTEE was led by PRO Robin Wallace, whose team included five US Sailing Certified PROs on the water. Organizing the writing of the NOR and the Sailing Instructions, Robin recruited Peter Gerard, Ron Hopkins, and others to review, edit, and finalize. Our signal boat, *Reliance*, was volunteered by Doug Ferguson, and loaner Shields were provided by Kim Roberts and Tom Rich.

OUR JUDGE COMMITTEE was chaired by Carol Barrow, and although on hand every day, the jury saw no action. **OUR PHOTOGRAPHER**, Fran Grenon of Spectrum Photo, was in our photo boat skippered by Alan Bernard, and they saw plenty (spectrumphotofg.com)!

THE 2015 SHIELDS NATIONALS LOGO was designed by Kara Acosta, and **GEAR** was organized by Ted Slee and Martha Parker and the Team One staff. The **WEBSITE** was maintained and managed by me, but many thanks to Richard Robbins for his assistance with any questions. Fleet 9 **MEASURER**, Mike Vellucci, was in charge of measurement at the regatta. And the **TROPHY COMMITTEE**, consisting of Betsy Yale and me, were amazed that with over 100 trophies, there appeared to be no mistakes on engraving.

THE HOUSING COMMITTEE was “organized” early on, but completing the job was a moving target with late sign-ups and the challenge of housing teams as close together as possible. We thank our members for their hospitality and know that lasting friendships may well result. I heard of some very good times in the Jacuzzi from the Oxford teams at Judy McLennan’s and that some of our members (Judy and Jocko Allpress) have already had reciprocal visits with Monterey teams.

THE IDA LEWIS YACHT CLUB venue is interesting when planning an event. Although on a very small footprint, our club is quite adaptable. The social, beginning with our weekly Wednesday night Shields Grill and ending with Becky’s Barbecue at our Award’s dinner, showed that it is amazing what we can do on the “rock”. Thank you to Carrie Slee, Jen Clark, and our club steward, Mark Kellner, for their efforts.

REGISTRATION was an amazing team experience. A number of individuals were involved and should be acknowledged. Bird Stasz, Denise MacGillivray, Nancy Cardoza and many more were there with smiles, dinner tickets, and forms to be signed by participants.

MY PERSONAL THANKS to Com Crocker, organizer of the previous Nationals and Class president, for his helpful responses to our many questions! Likewise, our flag officers Commodore Gary Lash and Vice Commodore Robert Connerney were always supportive.

Having just finished writing over 70 thank you notes to members, volunteers and organizations at press time, it is now time for me to thank the class, **SHIELDS FLEET NINE** and particularly the participants of the 51st Shields National Championship for their part in making the 51st Nationals a successful event. We look forward to the return of the Shields Nationals in the future at Ida Lewis Yacht Club.





CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

National champs: Bob Geisser, Ted Slee, Patrick Gavin-Brynes, Jon Howland, Betsy Alison

Richard Robbins' #238 *White Rabbit* crosses the finish line of the third race on Friday.

Reaching on a triangle course on Saturday, Ron Oard/John Andrew's #158 *Glory* and Dan Van Winkle's #7 *Rip*.

Sixth-place finisher Ashley Hobson steers round the weather mark on Saturday aboard #103 *Stillwater* (aka *Tango*, a chartered Fleet 1 boat).

On Saturday, racing in the ocean off Newport, the foul weather gear came off and the super heroes appeared.

Two-time national champ, #254 *Aeolus* won the first Saturday race and finished second overall.



FLEET NEWS

■ FLEET 1

LARCHMONT YACHT CLUB, LARCHMONT, NY

Looking to build on the energy from the 2014 Nationals, we set ourselves a simple objective to get more boats on the line. The Fleet held 29 races, with 15 boats competing, 11 Shields qualifying for the season, and 9 boats winning at least one race. Early season participation was strong with 10 boats out for the Memorial Day Regatta and overall participation was up 8 percent, a step in the right direction.

Proving again that age is no barrier, Fred Werblow and his crew sailed a very consistent season, winning 9 races to claim the championship. Neil Meyer and Justin Gibbons in #54 finished 2nd and Com Crocker, third.

Larchmont Race Week was held over two July weekends, with the first doubling as Western Long Island Districts. A youth crew aboard #16, skippered by Alex Curtiss, dominated that weekend in light conditions to win the Districts. However, they fared less well in stronger winds the next weekend, and Com Crocker on #23, *Rascal*, won the 7 race series. Fred Werblow, #25, was second; Neil Meyer and Justin Gibbons on #54 were third.

In addition to regular local racing, 6 boats went up to Indian Harbor Yacht Club for the Classic Yacht Regatta in September and enjoyed five tight races and excellent hospitality. The Fleet plans to make this a regular part of the schedule to support Fleet 2 and an excellent racing and social event.

Peter McWhinnie
Fleet Captain, #142



PHOTO CREDIT:
Mary Alice Fisher Photography
(maryalicefisher.com/portfolio/nautical/)

■ FLEET 2

INDIAN HARBOR YACHT CLUB, CT

Along with the Indian Harbor YC, Fleet 2 hosted the 2015 Classic Regatta in September.

With over 50 entries including some of the most beautiful classics in the Northeast, the 8 boat Shields fleet was in good company. This was the fourth year

Shields participated in the Classic, and each year it gets better. The RC waited for the southwester to fill and ran 5 close races. When it was over, Fred Werblow and his *Checkmate* team had a convincing win with 4 bullets. Doug Campbell, Neil Meyer and Justin Gibbons were 2nd and the team of Tom O'Brian and Jim Lawless were 3rd. Fleet 2 looks forward to the 2016 season and welcoming Shields back to the Classic Regatta!

Rick Hendee
Fleet Captain, #145

■ FLEET 3

CHICAGO YACHT CLUB, CHICAGO, IL



Fleet 3 had another great season in Chicago as part of the Chicago Yacht Club Racing Yacht Fleet. The fleet was happy to welcome back Skip Schink, who purchased #150 early in 2015. The overall series champion was Mark Passis, #63, who was crowned and regaled at the November 20 awards dinner.

Chris Economos
Fleet Captain

■ FLEET 4

NO. MASSACHUSETTS BAY, MA

In July's Crocker Memorial Race, in Manchester, Rick Gibson, #195, took first among Shields in fluky, light air. Ed Berger, #118, finished second and Rick Metzinger, #24, third. This year's 49th Crocker Race was settled by not getting stuck in traffic when most of the 57-boat PHRF fleet in pursuit format converged simultaneously in mass confusion at the first mark, with all arriving on parallel courses whether beating on port tack or reaching on starboard. Sadly, this is where Metzinger who had been boiling along well in the lead was last seen before disappearing in a wallowing cluster of family oriented racer-cruisers. The second leg became another yawner weather leg, and the race committee mercifully ended the suffering at the third mark.

FLEET NEWS



Former fleet rep Joan Thayer dredged up Gene Connolly's history of Fleet 4's early years, 1965 to 1976, when the Marblehead fleet grew to 25 boats. A link is available on the class website under history/articles on the home tab. We're sorry to report that Mark Prueser, #237, has left the fleet.

Rick Gibson,
Fleet Captain, #195

■ FLEET 7 & 12

MONTEREY PENINSULA YACHT CLUB, CA



We've been busy in Monterey. We enjoyed a full season of racing with great conditions. Our Sunset Series saw 10 or more Shields regularly on the line each Wednesday. In early May, we witnessed some very competitive sailing during the Ocean Great Lakes Challenge, won by Bill Berry and his crew of Ken Deyett, Mary Endsley, Richard Robbins and Kevin Berry.

The top finishers for our major awards this year were:
Fleet Championship: 1. Pakhtun Shah, 209 2. Ashley Hobson, 103 3. Jerry Stratton, 175
Konigshofer Regatta: 1. Pakhtun Shah, 209 2. Jerry Stratton, 175 3. Dino Pick, 96
Luke's Regatta: 1. Pakhtun Shah, 209 2. Ashley Hobson, 103 3. Eric Anderson, 191
Season Championship: 1. Ashley Hobson, 103, 2. Pakhtun Shah, 209 3. Jerry Stratton, 175

For the second consecutive year, we sent three crews to the Nationals, with #103, #191, and #209 sailing in Newport. The crew of #103 was so happy with their charter boat from 2014 at Larchmont (#26 *Tango*) that owner Kevin Hynes drove it to Newport for their use again this year at Ida Lewis.

We are pleased to announce that 4 Shields pre-registered for next year's National Regatta. Thank you to Monterey County Vintner's Association for providing the wine served at our marketing kiosk in Newport. Thanks also to Art Sutton, who has volunteered to be the Masthead Editor for the 2016 issues.

Eric Anderson
Fleet Captain, #191



■ FLEET 8

EDGARTOWN YACHT CLUB, MA

We welcomed Dan Elias' #62 to Fleet 8 this season, growing the EYC Shields class to eight regular competitors. Conditions and racing were spectacular, and four of eight boats won at least one race. This made the clean sweep of the Independence, July and August Series as well as the Annual Regatta and Commodore's Cup by Paul Mitchell and crew on #251 even more remarkable! Congratulations on a fantastic campaign.

Fleet 8 is always striving to make our sailing more competitive and congenial. A rules clinic is put on early in the season to refresh veterans and educate rookies, the crews are always sharing information in an effort to become better sailors, and we all enjoy the annual fleet cocktail party. As of this season, the EYC fleets reestablished the Club's tradition of weekly awards at Bar One following the races, awarded for the most remarkable, but not necessarily the most successful or advised, action in each fleet on the water that day. These are always good for a laugh and fostering camaraderie among the competitors.



continued on Page 10

FLEET NEWS

continued from Page 7



■ FLEET 9

NEWPORT, RI

Fleet 9's 2015 Season included extremely competitive sailing, although the number of boats racing was down from previous years. Twenty-eight boats were registered. Jamie Hilton, #217, won the Wednesday night season championship, which included 7 races in the spring, 7 in the summer, and 5 in the fall. The non-spinnaker Aloha Series, 8 races over three weekends, was won by Bill Shore and family in #74.

Special emphasis was placed on measuring each Shields in our fleet this year, which helped keep the racing more competitive. Fleet measurer Mike Vellucci was recognized for his efforts with the Fleet Captain's award at the annual meeting.

As in past years, Fleet 9 is indebted to the Ida Lewis Yacht Club and its Race Committee. Many thanks to Commodore Gary Lash and RC Chair John Horton. Thanks also to PROs Robin Wallace, Bill O'Hanley and Bill Kirkpatrick.

Fleet 9's success at the Nationals is documented elsewhere in this newsletter. Special thanks to event chair Robbie Benjamin, who at our annual awards dinner received a copy of the Shields 50th Anniversary book as a token of the Fleet's appreciation.

A new slate of officers was elected, and fleet captain Betsy Yale retired with honors after two steady years at the helm. Thank you, Betsy!

Ted Slee
Fleet Captain, #33

■ FLEET 10

BEVERLY YACHT CLUB, MARION, MA



Fleet 10 continues to show a consistency worthy of our home on Buzzards Bay. Sailing conditions were excellent, typically in the 10-16 knot range, and we sailed 49 Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon races. Our largest series had eight boats competing.

Fleet 10 also made its presence felt at several away regattas. Our fleet won the Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup sailed in Monterey, Ca. This was sailed in beautiful conditions with outstanding hospitality, and we are looking forward to returning for the 2016 Nationals. We continue to participate

in the Edgartown Regatta, maintaining our special relationship with Fleet 8 Edgartown, and we sent three boats to the Nationals in Newport with finishes of 3rd, 11th, and 20th.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2016 Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup scheduled for June 17-19, and welcome all those who wish to compete in the great conditions Buzzards Bay offers in early summer.

Bill Berry
Fleet Captain, #239

■ FLEET 17

COASTER'S HARBOR NAVY YACHT CLUB,
NEWPORT, RI



Fleet 17 wrapped up its season with participation by Ron Oard and John Andrew on #158 at the Nationals. It was exciting racing, especially in Friday's breeze, and the crew was happy to place 13th of 24 boats, with a 7th in the second race on Friday. #158 also finished as the top Navy boat during Wednesday racing with Fleet 9. The boat had a wide variety of crew this year as much of the crew was military and civilian personnel moving in and out of Newport. Well done to Todd Hiller, Frank Wells who set the table in the spring, and to John Andrew who provided the stabilizing force as the only crew to raced the entire season aboard.

Fleet 17 again hosted the Coasters Harbor George Winslow Memorial Regatta in July, and David Bush-Brown in #121 narrowly edged out Bill Shore in #74 for top honors.

Fleet 17 welcomes all active-duty military personnel who race in the Newport area to get involved, as the fleet of boats was donated by Cornelius Shields and John Nicholas Brown in the 1960s with this purpose in mind.

Ron Oard
Fleet Captain, #158

■ FLEET 19

MASON'S ISLAND YACHT CLUB, MYSTIC, CT

For the second year, we had six Shields on the line in most races. In 2014, David Krupp, with little sailing experience, decided to purchase #204 and join our fleet. He brings great energy and enthusiasm and is improving steadily. We hope to continue to grow our ranks as Scott Parry expects to launch #170 this

season after two years on the hard. In addition, a Masons Island YC member donated a Shields to the fleet, which is available for other club members to race.

The competition was dominated this year by Dan Van Winkle aboard #7, *Rip*, taking first in the closely contested July Thursday Series over #114 by 1 point. Third was #64. The August Thursday Series was also won by #7, with second going to #64 on a tiebreaker over #114. The Anthony P. Halsey Memorial Trophy, awarded to the Shields with the best record for all the weekend races, was also won by Dan and #7, with #114 second and #210, *Skean Dhu*, in third. #7 also won the Soderberg July 4 and #114 won the Commodore's Trophy.

We would like to thank Martin Lyons for running the Soderberg Race, and Kevin Miller and Pam Gibbs for running our Thursday Series races. We are hoping to change the Thursday Series in 2016 to shorter windward-leeward races allowing for more races in an effort to better prepare for the Nationals. We also are excited about the opportunity to again host the Shields Nationals in 2017.

Al Burnett
Fleet Captain, #114

■ FLEET 20

CSULB SAILING ASSOCIATION, LONG BEACH, CA

It's been an active and hot summer and fall for Fleet 20. For the first time in almost 10 years, the fleet sailed in weekly Thursday night races hosted by Seal Beach YC from May to September. For two of three series, our Shields went head-to-head in their own class. For the final series, we sailed in a PHRF class against some of Long Beach's most experienced sailors. Overall, the crews showed major improvements by summer's end.

The day-to-day focus of the fleet remains sailing instruction, and this summer we were happy to train

and promote three students as Shields skippers. Currently, three more members are planning to begin our keelboat training program, and we expect they'll pass the program next spring.

Our ongoing restoration of #131, *Josephine*, has taken considerably more time and resources than expected. All of the major work has been completed, however, and we will launch a fundraiser this winter to get her ready to launch in the spring.

Mike Fratantoro

■ FLEET 21

TRED AVON YACHT CLUB, OXFORD, MD

This year was lax, as we were lucky to get four boats on the line each week. It seems that most of the fleet owners being younger have other obligations, namely "their kids", which is a good thing. Some were sailing other boats and some playing in sports, but eventually these kids will grow into crew for the Shields Fleet.

Our Fall series turned out to be a one week event with four boats sailing before going off to the Nationals. We had three boats competing in Newport—*Black Pearl*, *Sea Gull* and *Old Paint*. Luckily, none of them brought home the Golden Stern Award!

One of the highlights of the year was when Allison Downes on *Black Pearl* won the Robert W. Downes III Memorial Trophy, which is presented in honor of her father. It appeared that *Liberty* had done a horizon job on the fleet but the winds of fortune changed, and *Black Pearl* sailed on by to win.

Harry Seemans
Fleet Captain, #110

FLEET NEWS



A highlight of the trophy presentation for the Oxford Regatta was the Robert W. Downes, III trophy for the Robson Round the Buoys Race for the Shields Fleet. *Black Pearl*, the shields owned by Jay Dayton and Richard Slaughter, came in first with Arnie Boughner (left), Richard Slaughter, Allison Downes, Jay Dayton and Jason Wilson aboard. *Black Pearl* was also awarded the High Point Trophy for 2015 during the annual club meeting held in early November.



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FROM THE BUILDER:

Here is a new idea for the Shields Backstay. Harken makes a great ball bearing sheave that we have just installed in the backstay deck castings. For those of you who have the old style casting, ship us your old deck fitting and we can modify your existing casting, or order a new casting complete with this sheave. In years past, we made the sheave out of bronze but this aluminum ball bearing sheave is less expensive to produce and will take a load.

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Fleet 10 Wins Ocean Great Lakes Challenge

In its second year as a Shields trophy, the Ocean Great Lakes Challenge Cup was contested on Monterey Bay in May with one crew from each fleet.

This year's 5 race regatta had several extremely close finishes with Bill Berry and his #239 crew from Fleet 10 winning the trophy with a series score of 9. Second and third were Pakhtun Shah on #209 from Fleet 12 and Com Crocker on #23 from Fleet 1. The Monterey fleet provided the boats and the crews shipped their sails in advance. All competitors were housed by members of MPYC. We were thrilled to have Fleet 20 from the CSU Long Beach Sailing Club join this year's event.

The Challenge Cup traces its history back more than a century. The challenge was proposed by the Chicago Yacht Club as a means to test the finest sailors of the day in Lake Michigan with those in the Eastern U.S. yacht clubs. The Indian Harbor Yacht Club in Greenwich, CT was the first to accept this challenge in 1915. The inaugural regatta was won by skipper Addison Hahan in the P Class yacht Josephine and the cup went to Greenwich.

Last contested by Luders L-16s, the cup had not been raced for since 1953. Mike Schwartz of Chicago's Fleet 3 and Rick Hendee of Fleet 2 in Greenwich decided to revitalize the Challenge using Shields and expanded the working definition of "ocean" in the title to now include our California boats. This has turned out to be a fantastic event.

Pakhtun Shah and his MPYC crew won the Cup in 2014 and with it the honor of hosting the event on the West Coast. To promote maximum attendance and to minimize conflict with the Nationals, the class has scheduled the Challenge Cup as our early season anchor event. We look forward to seeing every fleet at the Beverly Yacht Club in Marion, MA June 17-19, 2016.

Appropriately, the trophy itself is every bit as elegant and historic as the Shields Class.

Ocean Great Lakes Challenge Cup



Bill Berry, Com Crocker and Pakhtun Shah off Del Monte Beach. PHOTO CREDIT: Patrick Tregenza



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