

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

Volume 45 Issue 1

Internet address: www.zoa.cjb.net

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EDITORIAL

The 2000-2001 season will be underway in some centres by the time this issue of West Wind reaches you. As always, there have been a few developments over the winter. Our AGM is reported on inside, and it did have some moments of controversy. There was general anticipation in the North of a 'Top of the South' contest venue, ideally Nelson, and some expressed disappointment when this did not come about. However, Timaru turned on an enjoyable championship two years ago. It may lack Nelson's tourist reputation, but it has its own charm. I would appeal to those disappointed at not going to Nelson, to give Timaru a try. You may be pleasantly surprised. I have reported inside this issue on the preliminary work I have been doing on how we might get boats there.

A number of boats have changed hands in both Islands. There is a bit of a cluster of Zephyrs gathering out West in Auckland, with #253 (among others) making its way there. We look forward to some new faces and some older boats appearing. If you are a new Zephyr owner you are entitled to a copy of the class handbook which contains the Class Rules, some comments on their interpretation, the Constitution of the ZOA, and a variety of renovation tips. We would also encourage you to have your boat measured and a current certificate issued.

Noel May, our Patron, has confirmed his faith in the future of the class with the donation of a new trophy. As many will know, Noel is a retired boat builder who spent much of his time building Townson boats. Noel has made a scale model of a Zephyr as a trophy and has offered some ideas on how it might be awarded. I hope to have a picture of it at some stage soon. Thanks Noel for your continued interest in the class.

Winter has been calm and quiet here in Hamilton. Our Zephyr fleet may be down on numbers this year. Some of our younger skippers have moved on to jobs out of Hamilton, one our older skippers has relocated out of town and another has retired for health reasons. We will be looking to recruit some new faces into the class. A young family and a flare-up in a chronic back problem look likely to reduce my sailing hours this year too, but I remain hopeful of making the Nationals in Timaru.

As always, this issue of West Wind contains an invoice for national and regional associations. Our subscriptions are still very reasonable in an effort to retain and grow our membership. As always, prompt payment is appreciated, as it makes the job of running the ZOA that little bit easier.

The observant amongst you will have noted a sudden jump in the volume numbers for West Wind in attempt to keep track of how old the Zephyr class is. Des Townson delivered the first Zephyr to Bill Moyes in August 1956, a fact recored in the programme for the 21st National Zephyr Contest held at French Bay in February 1977 (1976-77 season). By my reckoning, the 2000-2001 season is the 45th, and this is the first issue of the season!

As always, enjoy this issue, and best wishes for the coming season.

FROM THE PEN OF ALEX AITKEN National President



We approach the start of a new season in a positive mood. Your executive and local committees have been busy with the national contest programme, people wanting to buy and sell Zephyrs, investigating web sites etc.

On the Auckland scene I have been informed that Point Chevalier has attracted around four new Zephyr owners. *Ebbtide Express* #253 (ex Andrew Brown in Canterbury) is one of the four. Hopefully this is a resurgence of interest in the Auckland Zephyr scene. Keep up the good work. I believe one or two boats in Hamilton have changed hands, Rob may care to make comment. There is interest in Lower Hutt. Mike Haley (Ph 04 5678906) is keen to pick up a Zephyr.

In the Canterbury scene, Mark Nichols is busy renovating recently purchased # 95, and his friend Rob Pither has purchased # 306 from Howard Thomas. Both these keen sailers are into new foils and # 95 has purchased a new sail. Jeff Peek is the new owner of # 320, *William Tell*. Caught up with Paul Holland from the Waimak Sailing Club who has purchased #102, *Kahu*. Paul is eager to get his Zephyr on the water and swell the fleet numbers at the Waimak.

One of the cedar glassed Zephyrs that featured in a number of contests on the Estuary has changed hands. I think it was about three years ago that John Wearn, a member of the Christchurch Yacht Club, purchased # 252 from an Auckland owner and renamed her *Twilight*. John was a former Commodore of Christchurch Yacht Club and a well known Finn sailor in Canterbury in the 1960s. Whenever he sailed in Zephyr fleet races he was always up with the top skippers and off the wind he could make *Twilight* fly. A sudden stroke last year left John disabled and unable to continue with the sport. Lyndsey Ebert, no stranger to the class, sailed *Twilight* on a number of occasions and is now the new owner.

I was at the opening of Pleasant Point Yacht Club and talking to Ron Hitchcock who is the owner of # 45 *Ozzie*. Apparently this Zephyr has a history. I mentioned this boat to Andy Holland and he says that *Ozzie* was one of the first Zephyrs introduced to Canterbury and sailed at Stewarts Gully Sailing Club. Ron is keen to sell *Ozzie*, - see boats for sale.

It's all about People, People, and People.

There is a lot more to talk about. Have a browse through this issue of West Wind.

Alex Aitken

THE HAMILTON YACHT CLUB**ZEPHYR WEEKEND***2nd – 3rd December 2000*

The organizing authority for the 2000 Zephyr Weekend is the Hamilton Yacht Club, PO Box 647, Hamilton.

1 Rules

The regatta will be covered by The Racing Rules of Sailing (rules), the prescriptions of Yachting New Zealand (YNZ), the rules of the Zephyr Class and this Notice of Race (except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions) and the Sailing Instructions. For the purposes of RRS Appendix G, the regatta is designated Category B.

2 Eligibility & Entry

All competitors must be financial members of a yacht club affiliated with YNZ and the Zephyr Owners' Association. This latter requirement may be met at the venue. All competing yachts must comply with the Zephyr class rules.

Entries and the \$15.00 entry fee will be accepted on the entry form available at HYC on Saturday morning.

3 Programme

Saturday, 2 December 2000 1000 hrs Briefing
1030 Race 1
1200 Race 2
1430 Race 3

Sunday, 3 December 2000 1030 Race 4
1200 Race 5

Times for races 2,3 & 5 are approximate, depending on prevailing weather conditions. It may only be possible to complete two races on Saturday, in which case it will be a four race series.

4 Courses

Courses will be set within the confines of Hamilton Lake and explained at the briefing.

5 Sailing Instructions

Sailing Instructions are published in the HYC Programme of Events. Copies will be available on completion of entry.

6 Scoring Systems

The bonus points scoring system (RRS Appendix A2) will apply. With five races sailed, a boat's worst score is to be discarded, the lowest series score wins. With four or less races sailed, the lowest score wins.

7 Prizes & Prizegiving

Prizes will be awarded for at least the first four places on line and handicap, depending on entries. Spot prizes may also be awarded. Prize giving will be held as soon as possible after the last race.

8 Social Functions

The Hamilton Area Zephyr Owners and Hamilton Yacht Club will host a post race barbecue on Saturday evening. A small charge to cover costs is likely and local contestants should anticipate contributing a salad etc.

9 Attitude

This is a good chance to experience challenging lake sailing conditions in a convivial atmosphere.

10 Accommodation

If you let us know your needs, we will arrange something for you.

11 Contacts

Rob Ebert, 15 Gilbass Ave, Hamilton, ph 07 838 9375
Craig Peebles, 9 Morrison Crescent, Hamilton, ph 07 843 7746

ZOA TRADING & FINANCES

The trading side has been very quiet but you should be aware that Zephyr sails will be affected by the low NZ dollar. The association has five in stock at \$585.00 each. We buy in batches of six in order to attract a discount from Doyle Sails, but a price rise with the next batch must be likely.

If you have a good rig and foils but the hull is in need of repairs or is just looking tired what about transferring the rig to a new cedar glass hull. Saving in maintenance time and energy is a real plus. Talk to Dennis Craig or Alex Aitken about the new hull we have in stock.

On the financial side, our closing balances at the ASB

Bank 05 Sept 2000 read ;

Society cheque account \$815.68

less liability \$169.68

\$646.00

50 accelerator account \$3619.65

51 insurance account \$520.02

Included in this edition of West Wind is a request for you to renew your annual subscription. Would you please post your cheque to your local ZOA treasurer today. This will save having to draw down on reserves in order to meet budgeted expenses.

Canterbury Capers

A small dedicated Zephyr fleet participated in a winter series of races sponsored and run by the Mount Pleasant Yacht Club. The weather in the months of May, June, July and August were ideal with light to moderate breezes and mild temperatures. Overall winner for the series was Ron Mackie in # 39 Windbag II.

The Canterbury Zephyr Owners' Association Spring 2000 Newsletter kept local sailors informed. Thanks to Russell and Brenda for putting together such a wealth of news. By the look of the programme for Zephyr contests and local club events every available weekend is devoted to the sport we love. The "dob in a sailor" scheme should provide some fun.

That brings up the question of involving your wife or partner and family in decisions as to whether the lawns, painting the house, golf etc can be put on the back burner. *Your National President is unavailable for mediation and ZOA is not covered for damages inflicted by axe throwing, disgruntled families!*

The South Island Masters Games are on from 7th -15th October. Jon Olds in Timaru knows of eight entries so far for this three day event. I believe that our two Zephyrs in Dunedin and one in Invercargill will be there.

Alex Aitken

BOAT RENOVATIONS

Looking to have someone spruce up your Zephyr?

Russell Warner

23 Kowhai Cr

Katikati

07 549 0932

025 2796 286

Zephyr Owners' Association (Inc)

Annual General Meeting
French Bay Boating Club
 1930hrs Monday, July 3rd 2000

Present: A Aitken (Chair), R Ebert, A Ebert, T Frankham, Murray Sargisson, Bob Allen, Dennis Craig, Richard Waterer, Fred McNeil, Bob Still, Don Waterer, Alan Retter, Andrew Geddes. In attendance, Garth Naulls, Commodore FBBC

Apologies: Craig Peebles, Bob Foster, Keith Smith, Fred Elley.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous AGM held at the Hamilton Yacht Club on Tuesday 10th August 1999. They had been previously published in West Wind, and were circulated at the meeting. They were taken as read and accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting. (Allen/Ebert)

Matters Arising: Rules Amendment. Dennis Craig queried whether the rules amendment passed at the previous AGM had been incorporated in the class rules. R Ebert replied that the change had been approved by Yachting New Zealand, and the Class handbook updated.

President's Report: A Aitken read his President's Report, it having been previously published in West Wind, and moved its acceptance. (Aitken/R Waterer)

Treasurer's Report: A Aitken presented an audited set of accounts for the previous financial year for acceptance by the meeting. (A Aitken/A Ebert). He commented on the favourable surplus generated principally by increased activity in the trading section, which reflected continued interest in the class. M Sargisson sought clarification on how the National Contest surplus was generated.

Budget: A Aitken presented the proposed budget, as outlined in the most recent West Wind, for acceptance by the meeting. (R Waterer/A Ebert)

Subscriptions: Recommended to remain at \$15.00. (R Waterer/A Ebert)

Election of Officers:

In the absence of other nominees, the following were declared elected: (R Ebert/R Waterer)

Patron: Noel May

President: Alex Aitken

Treasurer: Alex Aitken

Secretary: Rob Ebert

Auditor: R Ineson (from last year)

Regional Representatives: A Aitken (Canty), Bob Allen (Ak), Rob Ebert (Hamilton), Bren Nelson (Dunedin) Mike O'Connell to be seconded again for Waiuku.

General Business

⊙ **Honorarium:** Notice of Motion "That the ZOA President be allocated an honorarium of \$100 for services rendered" received from R Ineson and R Mackie in Christchurch was passed.

⊙ **National Contest:** Timaru Yacht Club have agreed to host the national contest in Jan 2001 (4-7). D Craig expressed

strong disappointment at the selection of this venue, stating that the mood of the Tauranga contest was for a venue at the top of the South Island. He felt strongly that the Timaru venue was not in the best interests of the class. Alex Aitken assured the meeting that attempts had been made to fulfil the wishes expressed in Tauranga, but Nelson Yacht Club had a catamaran national contest at our preferred time, and this club seemed the only viable prospect for a national contest. It was strongly felt that a contest venue should be sufficiently attractive to encourage partners and family to accompany skippers.

Few Auckland skippers expressed interest in making the trip to Timaru, but Bob Allen and Andrew Geddes are likely starters.

⊙ **Future Contests:** Napier/Hastings, New Plymouth, Tauranga or Whitianga were possibles for 2002.

Hamilton have indicated an interest in hosting a National contest on their lake. This was not seen as a viable option!

⊙ **General Discussion:** A Aitken submitted a number of points for the meeting to consider:

⊙ **Class Community:** People joined the class for a combination of sailing and social contact. Personal contact and encouragement had been instrumental in the return of two previously "retired" members to the active sailing ranks. ZOA need to be aware of the power of personal contact in encouraging new members.

⊙ **West Wind newsletter:** There was general satisfaction with the content and presentation of the newsletter.

⊙ **Use of funds:** There was considerable discussion on the use of accumulating surpluses in the ZOA accounts and how they might be used for class promotion. Points to follow up were:

⊙ Zephyrs were still an attractive boat with a niche to fill "every day boats for every day racing for every day people"

⊙ Older boats were a cheap option (perhaps too cheap). Some boat builders were interested in renovating older boats at moderate cost. Supplies of plywood becoming limited to a few types.

⊙ Unfinished state of construction seen as a barrier. Few people had the inclination or skill to finish boats themselves these days. Resolved that "D Craig to obtain prices for three stages of Zephyr cedar hull construction: hull and deck beams, decked and undercoated hull, and sail away price." (Frankham/McNeil)

⊙ Tracking down older boats: ZOA to consider a flyer to all names in the register.

⊙ Create a second hand market: Existing owners should sell their boats and build new ones. This would ease the chronic shortage of new boats. "They are like family heirlooms!"

⊙ Features for sailing magazines: They are prepared to publish good polished copy!

⊙ Ads in Sailing magazines: ZOA to consider placing small promotional ads.

Meeting ended 2205hrs.

Rob Ebert
Secretary

ZEPHYRS FOR SALE

84 Marie Arizona

Spare sail, lifejacket, wetsuit (ladies M) \$950
Contact: Elizabeth Woodfield (07) 8434 985

#14 Karora

Wooden mast, alloy boom, two sails, beach trolley, optional road trailer. Good all round order.

Contact: Ian Buck (07) 8541151

#109 Play Lunch

Alloy Spars, beach trolley
Contact: Frank Lee (07) 8540108

#215 Minx

Alloy rig, galvanised boat trailer with tool box
Beautiful red with silver stripe and well looked after

Contact: Allan Richardson (07) 856 7796

Fax (07) 8556928

email richkiwi@ihug.co.nz

#34 Pussyfoot

Contact Peter Skilbeck (07) 388 1115 (Taihape)

#45 Ozzie

Contact: Ron Hitchlock (03) 338 3187

WANTED

Zephyr in good condition

Contact: Mike Haley Ph 04 5678906

Sail Wanted

One second hand Zephyr sail in good condition.

Contact: Richard Whitney. (09) 3786507

Email whitney@clear.net.nz

TRANSPORT TO TIMARU

I have been working on transport options to get boats to the National Championships in Timaru.

I have approached Pacifica Shipping about hiring a 40' container and obtained a quote for just under \$5500! I have used this for the basis of a Pub Charity application to a local hotel.

I have also contacted other transport firms with the help of Russell Wenham in Chch — who organised the container to Tauranga last year. There is considerable variation in quoted rates, and some freight companies don't return calls. Lowest quotes indicate a cost of around \$4000, perhaps a bit less, for a container that will take 8 boats or so.

It would help to have expressions of interest in making the trip down so I can assess the likely "quorum" for a container. If we are fewer in number, we need perhaps to be talking about sharing the costs of road transport. At present there are four Hamilton skippers and two or three Auckland sailors who have expressed interest. It obviously takes a bit of my time, so any support and interest would be appreciated.

*Rob Ebert***CLASS HANDBOOKS****Reminder**

The ZOA compiled and updated its rules a couple of years ago. Any member that does not have a class handbook please contact me and I will send you one.

*Rob Ebert***Club Instructor Course Report****Cambridge Yacht Club****August 11th – 12th 2000**

Two Zephyr skippers were among the twelve or so participants in a recent weekend YNZ Club Instructor's Training Course. Rob Ebert & Harold Gratton spent an enjoyable two days in the rustic surroundings of Cambridge Yacht Club along with representatives from Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga and Cambridge Yacht Clubs. YNZ Instructor Julie Worth proved an amiable and effective facilitator, despite the early failure of her overhead projector!

The course began on Saturday morning. A discussion of the attributes of an effective coach preceded the afternoon sailing proficiency test. The weather initially looked promising, with a light breeze and occasional sun, but a lunchtime hail-storm heightened our anticipation of the on-the-water session!

A short course was set in a very variable breeze for a collection of Zephyrs (2), Lasers, Phase 2s and a Micron. A pretty good sailing standard was soon apparent. I managed to revive my sailing backwards skills, something not practiced since P Class days. Sailing without a rudder was a bit more of a challenge, but eventually I managed to complete the small course. Once the Zephyr was settled into a straight line, I found the boat easy to steer through a combination of sheeting and heel. Tacking though, was something else! I had great difficulty in getting the boat to bear away – it seemed intent on tacking again immediately. I lost count of the number of tacks I did!

Coming alongside and sailor overboard skills were also tested, as was basic powerboat proficiency. A capsizing drill, done immediately before coming ashore, completed the exercise and ended the first day.

Sunday morning was a run through the various skill elements of a learn to sail course and the components of the National Sailing Scheme. In the afternoon it was our turn to present a lesson on some aspect of learning to sail. Topics such as tacking, gybing, the five essentials, clothing, capsizing etc were presented to our newfound classmates to try out our teaching techniques. Some good ideas were on offer for getting the messages across!

As always, much of the teaching came from the ideas and experiences of other course participants, and it was a good opportunity to learn how other clubs are faring. Rotorua seems to be undergoing a bit of a revival, and they have an Opti building program underway, supervised by John Welsford. Cambridge has a couple of plastic Optis that have stood up well to the rigors of sailing training for a couple of seasons so far.

All in all, a very enjoyable course, one I would recommend to anyone with an interest in passing on their sailing skills.

*Rob Ebert***CONTACTING THE ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION****National President**

Alex Aitken
2 Shaftesbury Street
Christchurch 4
phone: 03 358 4600
fax: 03 358 4620
email: a-a.aitken@clear.net.nz

National Secretary

Rob Ebert
15 Gilbass Ave
Hamilton
phone: 07 838 9375
fax: 07 838 9376
email: ebertr@wave.co.nz

**2001 ZEPHYR CLASS
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
4TH - 7TH January 2001 Inclusive**

The Organizing Authority is the Timaru Yacht & Powerboat Club, PO Box 93, Timaru

1. Rules

- 1 The regatta will be covered by The Racing Rules of Sailing (rules), the prescriptions of Yachting New Zealand (YNZ), the rules of the Zephyr Class and this Notice of Race (except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions) and the Sailing Instructions.
- 2 The regatta is designated Category B.
- 3 All competitors' advertising must be declared with entry and must not conflict with the interests of the event sponsor.
- 4 The YNZ Safety Regulations Part 1 shall apply

2. Alterations of Racing Rules

3. Alterations of Class Rules

4. Eligibility and Entry

- 1 To be eligible to compete in this event a competitor shall be a member of a club or other organisation affiliated to the National Authority.
- 2 The regatta is open to all boats of the Zephyr Class complying with class rules.
- 3 Advance entries will be accepted until the normal closing date of 30th December 2000, by completing the attached form accompanied by an entry fee of \$50 and mailing it to Zephyr Contest Secretary, PO Box 93, Timaru.
- 4 Late entries, accompanied by a late entry fee of \$70 may be accepted at the Race Committee's discretion until 1200 hours on 5th January 2001.
- 5 Measurement is not required but each boat shall submit proof of holding a valid measurement or rating certificate at registration.

5. Schedule of Events

1 Registration

Thursday 4th January 2001 from 0800 hrs to 0930 hrs at Timaru Yacht & Powerboat Club.

2 Briefing

Thursday 4th January 2001 from 0930 hrs to 1000 hrs at Timaru Yacht & Powerboat Club.

3 Racing Schedule

- The scheduled time of the warning signal for the Practice Race is 1100hrs on Thursday 4th January 2001.
- The scheduled time of the warning signal for the Race 1 is 1424 hrs on Thursday 4th January 2001.
- Three [back to back] races are scheduled per day
- No race shall start after 1500hrs on Sunday 7th January 2001

6. Sailing Instructions

The Sailing Instructions will be available at the time of registration.

7. Racing Area

The races will be held on Caroline Bay and approaches to Timaru Harbour

8. Courses to be Sailed

The course(s) will be triangle, windward and leeward combination or windward and leeward.

9. Scoring

- The [Low Points Scoring System], rule A2 of the Racing Rules will apply.
- Five races shall be completed to constitute a series.

10. Alternative Penalties

11. Decisions of the Jury

12. Prizes

The following prizes will be awarded:

- Zephyr Championship
- Zephyr Handicap Trophy
- Zephyr Championship – Female

13. Team Support Boats

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Timaru Yacht & Power Boat Club is situated on the North Mole, Timaru. Excellent facilities include a large tar sealed yard for rigging, two good concrete launching ramps, modern clubrooms, including showers, changing rooms, etc, and a lock-up yard available for boat storage.

ENTERTAINMENT AND MEALS:

Lunches will be available for purchase at the yacht club. Barbecues each day after racing. Timaru has a number of local restaurants and cafes.

Please come and join us for this regatta. We are a friendly bunch and will do our utmost to make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

INQUIRIES TO:

Jon Olds

Contest Convenor

Timaru Yacht and Power Boat Club

Telephone: 03 6864837(home)

oldsie@xtra.co.nz