

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

Volume 46 Issue 1

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EDITORIAL

This issue of West Wind marks the beginning of the 46th season of Zephyr sailing. Those involved in the early years of the class did not plan for such longevity, but the 50th season of Zephyr sailing looks certain to be celebrated in due course. Preliminary planning for it was begun at the recent Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the AGM will appear in the next West Wind. We had a well attended meeting, with some new faces in the form of Shaun Connolly and Stuart Macky, supplemented by Zephyr veterans Keith Smith and Ted Frankham. Class Patron Noel May also made a welcome attendance. Noel presented Alex Aitken with a recently crafted "Presidential Seal of Office" - a handsomely crafted half model of a Zephyr mounted for wall hanging. Fortunately Dennis Craig had a camera handy so hopefully he will have recorded the moment for the future.

The procedural matters of the AGM proceeded smoothly, there being little change in the day to day running of the Association. More vigorous debate came in the General Business items on the agenda. The Notice of Motion "That the ZOA Executive prepare an amendment to the class rules allowing glass reinforced plastic hulls" put by myself and Alex Aitken generated considerable debate before being narrowly defeated on a show of hands. Comments in the discussion were that the overall cost of a Zephyr is considerable at around \$10,000 and that this represents a barrier to entering the class. Glass construction has the potential to lower construction costs considerably - though construction costs are perhaps only about a third of the overall costs. The "wooden boat" look and classic lines are a major part of the Zephyr's appeal. An element of this would certainly be lost in glass construction. Glass Zephyrs would not look like the wooden ones.

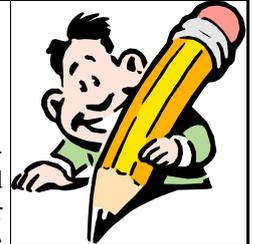
The experience of the Starling class, which had recently gone into fibreglass construction were also germane to the debate. Glass Starlings appealed to adults who were buying them for their children. There was a "just add water" approach which was important in the Starling class, but which may not necessarily apply to Zephyrs. Zephyrs tend to be purchased for owner (adult) use with more of a vintage car philosophy applying. The general effects of glass construction were felt to be beneficial overall - more wooden boats were built as well. Glass Starlings were priced to be comparable to wooden ones. This kept wooden boats viable and allowed a margin for the builder.

Whilst the motion to amend the rules was defeated, the mood to the meeting was to keep exploring this issue. A follow up resolution directed the Executive to investigate and cost various construction methods for Zephyrs. Gary Matthews has indicated that he does not want to build any more hulls, so #259 may be the last for a while. Gary's hulls steadily improved so #259 should be spot on.

A suggestion to hold the AGMs at the National Contest

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FROM THE PEN OF ALEX AITKEN National President



I was pleased to chair the Annual General Meeting at French Bay. A record attendance of nineteen owners plus our Patron Noel May contributed some

lively debate. Thanks to Bob Allen for providing nibbles and refreshments for the social half-hour prior to the AGM.

Prior to the AGM I met up with Stuart Macky #258 and Shaun Connolly #329 who are members of the Glendowie Boating club. We shared information on Zephyr hull construction and general topics relating to club activities and centreboard racing in Auckland.

During my stay in Auckland I visited Des Townson who designed the Zephyr and built 219 hulls in his workshop. I have a copy of "An interview with Des Townson" (covering 20 years of boat building) published in the September 1978 issue of Sea Spray. I also had a phone conversation with Barry Morley who was the first secretary of ZOA and was instrumental in keeping track of Zephyr hulls as they came off the mould. Barry owned # 22 *Gaye* and admits to being very much of a one-man band in the early days of the association. His involvement ceased about thirty years ago. I will send him some current information on the class and he will try and resurrect some memories.

Unfortunately there has been no response to a call for an Archivist (see May 2001 publication). Auckland has undertaken to set up a 50th Anniversary 2006 organising committee. It would be good if past and present members look through all their old photos and clippings on Zephyr events etc, for potential inclusion in an Anniversary publication.

Since the AGM things have moved on. In response to the sentiments expressed at the AGM, I have had a phone conversation with Richard Waterer and authorised him to obtain a quote to complete cedar hull #259 to a stage ready for painting. There has been a general feeling for some time that a completed hull would be a more saleable proposition. Richard will also explore the cost structures of building Zephyrs and we will publish his findings. A large number of hulls were built in Canterbury during the seventies and eighties and I have asked Andy Holland (Waimak Club) to review this experience and report to me.

Matthews Marine have indicated a wish to discontinue building hulls for ZOA. Dennis Craig has picked up the mould and has another contact within AZO that could be interested. We will keep you posted.

The issues around building hulls in fibreglass have been clarified somewhat, principally as a result of Glendowie's recent experience in building glass Starlings. The initial set up cost of a mould would be considerable and there is legitimate concern that "plastic" construction techniques don't fit

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2002 46th Zephyr Class National Championships

Thursday 3rd – Sunday 6th January 2002

Plimmerton Boating Club

The Organising Authority is the Plimmerton Boating Club PO Box 54019, Mana.
Ph 04 233 1592 Fax 04 233 1581. e-mail plimboat@paradise.net.nz

Notice of Race

1 Rules

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2001-2005.
- 1.2. The YNZ Safety Regulations Part 1 shall apply

2 Eligibility and Entry

- 2.1. The regatta is open to all boats of the Zephyr Class.
- 2.2. Advance entries will be accepted until the normal closing date of 21st December 2001, by completing the attached entry form accompanied by a fee of \$50 and mailing it to Zephyr National Contest, Plimmerton Boating Club, PO Box 54019, Mana.
- 2.3. Late entries, accompanied by a late entry fee of an additional \$20 (Total Fee \$70), may be accepted at the Race Committee's discretion until 1230 Thursday 3rd January 2002.
- 2.4. Measurement is not required but each boat shall submit proof of holding a valid measurement or rating certificate at registration.
- 2.5. To be eligible to compete in this event each competitor shall be a financial member of a club recognised by the competitor's national authority.
- 2.6. Each competitor shall be a financial member of the Zephyr Owners Association.

3 Schedule of Events

- 3.1. Registration:
Thursday 3rd January 2002 From 0830 hrs To 0930 hrs at the Plimmerton Boating Club.
- 3.2. Briefing:
Thursday 3rd January 2002 hrs at 0945 hrs at the Plimmerton Boating Club
- 3.3. Racing Schedule:

Date	Time of First Warning Signal	No. of Races
Thursday 3 rd January 2002	1055hrs	1 (Practice Race)
Thursday 3 rd January 2002	1355hrs	2
Friday 4 th January 2002	1025hrs	3
Saturday 5 th January 2002	1025hrs	3
Sunday 6 th January 2002	1055hrs	1

- 3.3.1. Back to back races are scheduled.
- 3.3.2. No race shall start after 1230 hours on Sunday 6th January 2002

4 Sailing Instructions

- 4.1. The Sailing Instructions will be available at Registration on Thursday 3rd January 2002

5 Racing Area

- 5.1. The races will be held in the vicinity of Plimmerton Boating Club.

6 Courses To Be Sailed

- 6.1. The courses will be either Triangular or Windward Leeward.

7 Scoring

- 7.1. The Low-Points scoring system of Appendix A will apply.
- 7.2. 5 races will be required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 7.3. No score will be excluded until 6 races have been completed.

8 Prizes

- 8.1. The following prizes will be awarded
 - Zephyr Championship
 - Zephyr Championship Runner Up.
 - Zephyr Handicap Trophy.
 - Zephyr Championship – Female.

9 Team Support Boats

- 9.1. Support boats must be registered with the organising authority at registration (clause 3.1 above).

Trading Corner

We started off the year with a 'hiss and a roar' but at the date of this publication the order book is empty. We have a supply of new sails in stock at \$585.00 each delivered to your door. With the nationals in Plimmerton this coming January, now would be the time to purchase a new wardrobe!

Cedar hull #259 is currently stored at French Bay Boating Club. The ZOA will obtain a quote to fit the deck, beadings, coamings, mast collar and prepare all surfaces for painting. If there is a prospective owner out there without the time or skill to complete a hull we would be interested in hearing from you.

Alex Aitken.

PRICE LIST FOR ZEPHYR COMPONENTS

Effective 1st July 2001

All prices include freight and GST*

<i>Component</i>	<i>All NZ</i>
Mast	\$645
Boom	\$300
Sails	\$585 Batch order
Sails (coloured)	\$678 (one off)
Sail Battens	\$170
Hull #259	\$3176

*Prices subject to change at any time.

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well with the classic design. One day, someone will come up a new material that could well suit the type of construction and price.

On the Auckland front, Bob Allen (secretary/treasurer AZO) intends to call a meeting around mid October to set the Zephyr sailing programme for the coming season and appoint a new Chairman. Dennis Craig has involved himself with the Prada challenge for the America Cup and will not be as active in the Zephyr class for a while. Thanks Dennis for holding the Auckland fleet together and promoting the class to a variety of contacts. Team NZ has members sailing with some distinction in the 3.7 class, so maybe we will see some Prada sailors in a Zephyr! We wish you well with your new challenge.

In general I am quietly satisfied with the state of the organisation throughout the country. We have a steady/slowly growing membership and we are in a financially sound footing. The attraction of sailing a Zephyr is as durable as ever. The event we need to concentrate on is getting a good fleet to the Plimmerton nationals. Auckland has indicated eight starters at this stage and I know Canterbury is looking at ten or twelve to venture across the strait.

CONTACTING THE ZOA

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Estuary Capers

Winter 2001

The Canterbury yachting season is under way! Ten Zephyrs competed in an Estuary race to mark the opening of the Christchurch Yacht Club on Saturday 2nd of September. The Coastguard vessel based at Lyttelton sailed across the bar for the opening ceremony. There was a gentle 8 knot breeze and Alex did not require to be rescued! The following day four Zephyrs took part in the opening of Stewarts Gully Sailing Club. While some sailors complained about the cold water it turned to be a magic weekend. The secret is - Don't fall out !!

Thanks, Russell and Brenda for recently putting together an interesting bulletin of local news and views. I've been comparing it with West Wind and decided that maybe you have a more competitive edge with all the graphics. Rob is of the same opinion but feels he does not have the time or the ability to duplicate southern artistic flair! Should owners in the other island want some spellbinding 'gos' Russell will no doubt be happy to correspond. E-mail address, russellwenham@hotmail.co.

The Canterbury Yachting Association has published a handbook that lists all the major Zephyr races. There is a race on practically every weekend at club level. The message is *visit as many clubs and events as practical during the season!* Large fleets on the water are the best promotion for the class.

Pleasing too are the number of new owners this year – a big welcome to you. An encouraging number are in the younger age bracket. In the Zephyr class, where age and experience are revered, under 40 is considered young (the writer is 61.5).

For those who know Daniel Jamieson, he and his wife have shifted from Invercargill and are now in the process of building in Nelson. Daniel parted with #325 *Bad News* but is threatening to be back for the nationals in (possibly) Nelson in 2003. Rob Ebert also tells me that Don Mason has re-joined the class after a long absence when he re-purchased his old boat #37, *Joey*. Don is currently Chief Executive Officer of Blind Sailing New Zealand but in about 1962 he says he remembers finishing third in the Zephyr Nationals, before going on to 18 footers and keel boat sailing.

Fair Sailing

Alex Aitken

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venue was also rejected by the meeting, so the custom of rotating the AGM venue will continue. We also elected to adopt YNZ Category C, allowing advertising on hulls, spars and sails without restriction except in the space reserved for identification.

This issue contains the Entry Form for the National Champs and the subscriptions invoice. Fill out and return both so the Zephyr class can continue to thrive on and off the water!

Rob Ebert

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2001-2002

Subscriptions for 2001-2 are \$15.00 for the NZZZOA, and \$10.00 for local associations in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch. If you are an "orphan" outside these areas, the \$15.00 NZZZOA sub can be forwarded to Alex Aitken, President, or Rob Ebert, Secretary. Please include your boat name and number, so we can update the Zephyr Register.

We need your support for all sorts of reasons!