

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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www.hyc.org.nz/zephyr

December 2004

From the Pen of Alex Aitken National President

This is the last edition of West Wind for 2004. It has been a busy year so far, with a number of Zephyrs changing hands.

Looking back at the October issue I note that progress has been achieved with a number of projects. Unfortunately the commitment of owners to the Zephyr Owners Association and local associations is very variable throughout the country. Despite a plea to pay annual subscriptions by the 30th of November there has only been a 60% response with Canterbury close to 95% response followed by Hamilton with around 75% and Auckland about 50%. Please pay up!! Download a subscription form from the ZOA web site or find a copy of the October West Wind. Failing that, send me \$30! We hope to have a new accounting package up and running soon with the ability to generate invoices for local and national subscriptions. The accounting package will be tied in with trading and the boat register.

Arrangements for the Akaroa National Contest 27/30 January 2005 are well in hand. It promises to be a memorable event. Present indications are that we will have a fleet of 45 boats including five from Hamilton, at least four from Auckland and one from Palmerston North. On the weekend of December 11/12 the Canterbury fleet along with #141 from Timaru tested the venue and sailing conditions. There were 27 entries for the SI championships and we experienced a strong to moderate Southerly followed by a light to moderate Easterly. Good deep water sailing.

Report on my recent trip to Auckland and Hamilton.

Hull redesign. Russell Turner and I visited Robert Brooke's workshop, situated about 30 minutes drive west of Auckland City. We were impressed with the completed jig. The box section supporting the computer cut patterns is built solid (it will fit on a 6x4 trailer) and requires three people to lift. The exercise has been well thought through with emphasis on producing hulls to a high specification. Two layers of Radiata Pine and one layer of Western Hemlock veneer will make up the first triple skinned hull. A second female constraining jig will be assembled over the hull using three stations. The hull will rest in the female jig during completion to stage one. Robert is a real enthusiast and he has hinted that a completed boat for the Akaroa contest could be a possibility!! Des Townson is keeping a close eye on the project. Robert will own the first hull and ZOA have made a bulk purchase of veneer to build another 4/5 hulls to order. The question at this stage is "what will a new hull sell for". Costing for this project is within budget and on completion of the first hull the design sub committee and myself will assess all costs and determine an hourly rate that reflects future construction by part time or semi retired boat builders. We hope to have figures out by February 2005.

Sail development. Russell and I had a meeting with Chris McMaster of Doyle Sails. The latest development includes fitting a bungy cord in place of the bolt rope. The theory is, loosening the boom outhaul will allow the bottom sail section to fill out in downwind and light conditions. This was tested

out on the Hamilton Lake during the freshwater championship weekend with inconclusive results. Chris McMaster did point out that sail shape can be influenced by the full length battens. The test sail is now in Christchurch for further evaluation. At a meeting of CZOA, Ron Mackie in association with members of the Waimak club offered to do some testing. The association will persist with testing but in the end we may have to accept that the only way forward is to design a more modern sail that could be phased in over a number of years. In the meantime nothing has changed and Doyles are contracted to supply standard Zephyr sails.

Accounting. As I indicated in the President's report the association is looking at a package to help maintain records and give scope to expand a range of tasks. Russell has a daughter who is an accountant with a working knowledge of MYOB. At the moment I am sorting out ZOA accounts using Cashbook Complete, a freebie program available in the PC World magazine CD! We spent some time looking at the options and I am keen to adopt the MYOB program if it proves to be compatible with the membership database that Rob Ebert is using.

ZOA finances. The cheque account has a balance of \$3537.90. Account number 50 shows a balance of \$8324.65. The trading turnover to date is \$7877.00 and subscription income is \$1500.00.

On Administration expenses we have spent \$4266.85 which includes \$3157.98 (against a budget of \$5000) on Promotion and Development.

Trading Corner. We have placed another order for Zephyr sails with Doyle's. Sails sold and orders in progress to date total 10. I have had people talk about holding off ordering pending trials of test sails. Nothing is likely to happen till after the 50th Jubilee in February 2006. Doyle's are under pressure and if you want a new sail for the Akaroa contest please get your order in now.

A recent stock order of masts and booms has been sold. I have in stock at home one mast and a set of Blue Streak battens. With the battens, please be aware that they come pre-shaped but be prepared to fine tune to your preference in sail shape.

Visit to Hamilton

It was good to meet up with the Hamilton fleet and a small but enthusiastic team from Auckland. Thanks to Russell Turner for picking me up at 6.30am on the Saturday and delivering me to the Auckland Airport on Sunday evening. I was hoping to discuss the 50th Jubilee celebrations in 2006. I believe there has been a meeting of the organising committee and we look forward to a progress report.

South Island Masters Games – Timaru 9/11 October. A small fleet of five Zephyrs sailed an enjoyable contest over three days. We were part of a total mixed fleet of 17. Every contestant won a medal. Timaru Yacht Club members organised lunches and the contest went like clockwork in light to moderate sailing conditions.



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EDITORIAL

By the time this newsletter reaches you, Christmas and perhaps New Year will be over, so it is a bit pointless to be wishing you compliments of the season. Nevertheless, I hope it all went well and that the traditional activities did not exact too heavy a toll.

The current season has proved an indifferent one for sailing. Here in Hamilton the weekends have been windy enough to regularly deter the veteran Zephyr sailors. Our Optimist Learn to Sail graduates have been similarly discouraged.

Hamilton Zephyr Weekend was something of an exception, with moderate breezes from a Westerly direction for the duration of the event. Race Officer Peter Hutchinson had no difficulty in getting the racing schedule completed. The breeze oscillated in typical Hamilton Lake fashion to the chagrin of those on the venue for the first time.

Current National Champion Mark O'Brien (1,2,2,2,2) took out the event from Jim Gilpin (4,4,4,1,2), Jack Nannes (3,3,6,3,1) followed by Brian Smith, Keith Paine, Graham Bridges and Rob Ebert. Colin Maddren was the best of Auckland visitors — Bob Allen, Tim Snedden, Bill Heathwaite and Russell Turner. Peter Stacey and Bob Smyth (Tauranga) and Alex Aitken filled out the guest list. The fleet featured two female skippers for the first time in a while in Vicky Moon and Debbie Meech, both new to the class.

Zephyr Weekend was my first competitive outing in revamped #257, *TimeOut*. I have had the boat for several seasons and have never really enjoyed good results in it. It was plagued by a very noticeable vibration at low speeds, not alleviated by various changes to foil shapes. The centrecase was narrower than necessary and it deviated from the centre of the boat at its forward edge— i.e. it was twisted. With Don Currie's encouragement and advice, I chopped out the old case and fitted a wider, correctly aligned version. The vibration has gone, but it is early days in the results stakes.

The other project that has kept me out of the Zephyr has been the completion and launching of a couple of Optimus Maximus. Local designer Stu Reid drew up a 4m jumbo optimist in the 70s. Some 20 or so were built originally, but these were the first for some time. They have proved a real show stopper on the beach and are more than adequate performers on the water — especially well behaved in a breeze, though the one capsized so far has determined that they hold an awful lot of water! The Optimax exercise has been a real eye opener for a number of reasons. They are a magnet for Optimist and P Class skippers looking for some social sailing after racing. The current record is sailing five up! The excellent stability and ease of handling has made them ideal for the increasing numbers of adults that want to learn to sail — there are no really docile adult training boats around.

To return to Zephyr business, I can but reiterate Alex's moan about subscriptions. We are both putting a good deal of time into the Association and it is discouraging to have to chase people to pay up. We both regularly receive calls/communications from Zephyr sailors on aspects of the class, only to find they are not actually members!

Hamilton skippers Rob Ebert, Graham Bridges, Mark O'Brien, Keith Paine, honorary Hamiltonian Andrew Geddes and non-sailing Captain Jim Brokenshire are definite starters for Akaroa. We have been fortunate in receiving a grant from the Lion Foundation towards travel costs so we will be driv-

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Zephyr Components Price List

Effective 30th June 2004

Confidential to ZOA and its members

Prices include freight and GST.

Mast; anodised with riveted track and halyard cap	\$698
Mast; assembled complete with halyard lock, sliding goose neck, T cleat, kicker hanger, halyard strop and tail, 2 1/2 " 2 pin plug	\$1160*
Boom; 2.69m x mast section (tapered one end)	\$300
Boom; assembled complete with boom plug, block hangers (main and vang), x 3, adjustable outhaul complete	\$725*
Rigging. 10m x 2.5mm 1x19 stainless, 2.5mm hook swages x 3, 3x backing plates. (slotted into mast at heights listed in class rules, included in mast assembly)	\$103*
Sails complete with window, number, insignia (black, blue, red or green) wind indicators and tube bag. <i>Note; Coloured sails can be supplied at this price if included in a bulk order</i>	\$615
Sail Tube bag with Zephyr Logo sold separately	\$45
Sail coloured one off order (subject to availability of cloth)	\$678
Battens; Blue Streak per set	\$170
Gear bag; medium with Zephyr Logo.	\$75

Notes.

- Freight costs have caused minor adjustments in the price of masts.
- Items marked with an * are ordered on request and prices quoted are subject to specification.
- New sails supplied by Doyles will be of the current design.

Enquires and orders:

Alex Aitken 03 3584 600

Russell Turner 09 534 7747

Zephyr Owners' Association

National Championship 2005

From 27th January 2005 to 30th January 2005

Akaroa Sailing Club

Akaroa

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Time to be notified during the event

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. General Business
 - Hull Building Update
 - Sail Design Issues
 - Other Items

Notice of Race and Entry form at
www.hyc.org.nz/zephyr

Building Update

Robert Brooke reports steady progress on the building front, as indicated by the adjacent photos Alex Aitken took recently. Robert reports "The mould is now complete, very solid on a rigid base to enable any transportation without structural damage. The computer cut frames were very accurate and this has resulted in a very fair mould.

The keel, stem, centre case assembly was put in place and attached to the transom, side bulkhead battens also fitted. I have completed the first skin of veneer and halfway through the second. The first skin of 2mm pine veneer has been laid at right angles to the keel, each veneer has been spiled to get the correct shape. The second skin is laid at 45 degrees to the keel and stapled together using resorcinol glue. The third skin will be at 45 degrees in the opposite direction. I hope to have the first boat ready to lift off the mould in the first week of January."

The ZOA hopes to be able to give some idea soon of how those interested in a new Zephyr can go about ordering one.



ing down in time for the Practice Race.

The last page carries a scanned image of the original sail plan for the Zephyr. Historically the sails have been built off a set of templates supplied to Boyd McMaster/Doyles in the early days of the class. It is not entirely clear how the sail plan relates to the templates or the completed sails. If time and weather permit, I will measure some of the sails I have against the sail plan. The whole sail "adjustment" exercise has been a bit frustrating. With the benefit of hindsight we would have tackled things differently (or not at all!). We are not quite sure "where to from here" and will be looking for some guidance at the Special General Meeting held at the National Champs. One option may be to build a sail(s) to the plan and evaluate them, in a similar approach to the hull design project— determine the measurements and proceed from there. Any substantial change to the sails will be leisurely well indicated to members.

The Special General Meeting in Akaroa is a departure from the informal forum of the past. Members expressed a desire for the AGM to be at National Contests, but some aspects of that proved problematic— financial year end etc. The compromise is for a SGM so that any resolutions can be binding upon the Executive and the class. Hopefully, there will be lots to talk about and a suitable time for it to happen.

Rob Ebert

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National Contest Akaroa 27/30 January 2005

Christchurch Yacht Club is gearing up for a great contest. The holiday venue of Akaroa lends itself to deep water sailing with plenty of variety. Local bakeries and restaurants will assist with catering. Would you please look at the ZOA web site and download your notice of race and entry form. Entries close on the 10th of January. Late entries (at an extra cost) will be accepted up to 9.00am on the 28th. In order to assist the team of helpers ashore please ensure your sail number is clearly marked on your launching trolley. Please post your entry form in now.

Current measuring certificate

Zephyr Class rules state that no boat is permitted to race in the class unless it has a valid measurement certificate.

At a recent CZOA meeting we became aware that a number in the Canterbury fleet had no current certificate or the existing certificate needed updating. According to ZOA records about 30% of the New Zealand fleet have current certificates. It was therefore resolved that over the next twelve months the entire CZOA fleet be remeasured and issued with new certificates. ZOA endorses this action and asks that all Zephyr owners take steps to ensure they comply before the 50th Jubilee celebrations at the Milford Cruising Club 3-6 February 2006. Authorised ZOA measurers are requested to complete and sign measurement forms and forward these to Rob Ebert. Rob will enter details on the computer data base and issue signed certificates.

Best Wishes for the Festive Season

Alex Aitken

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

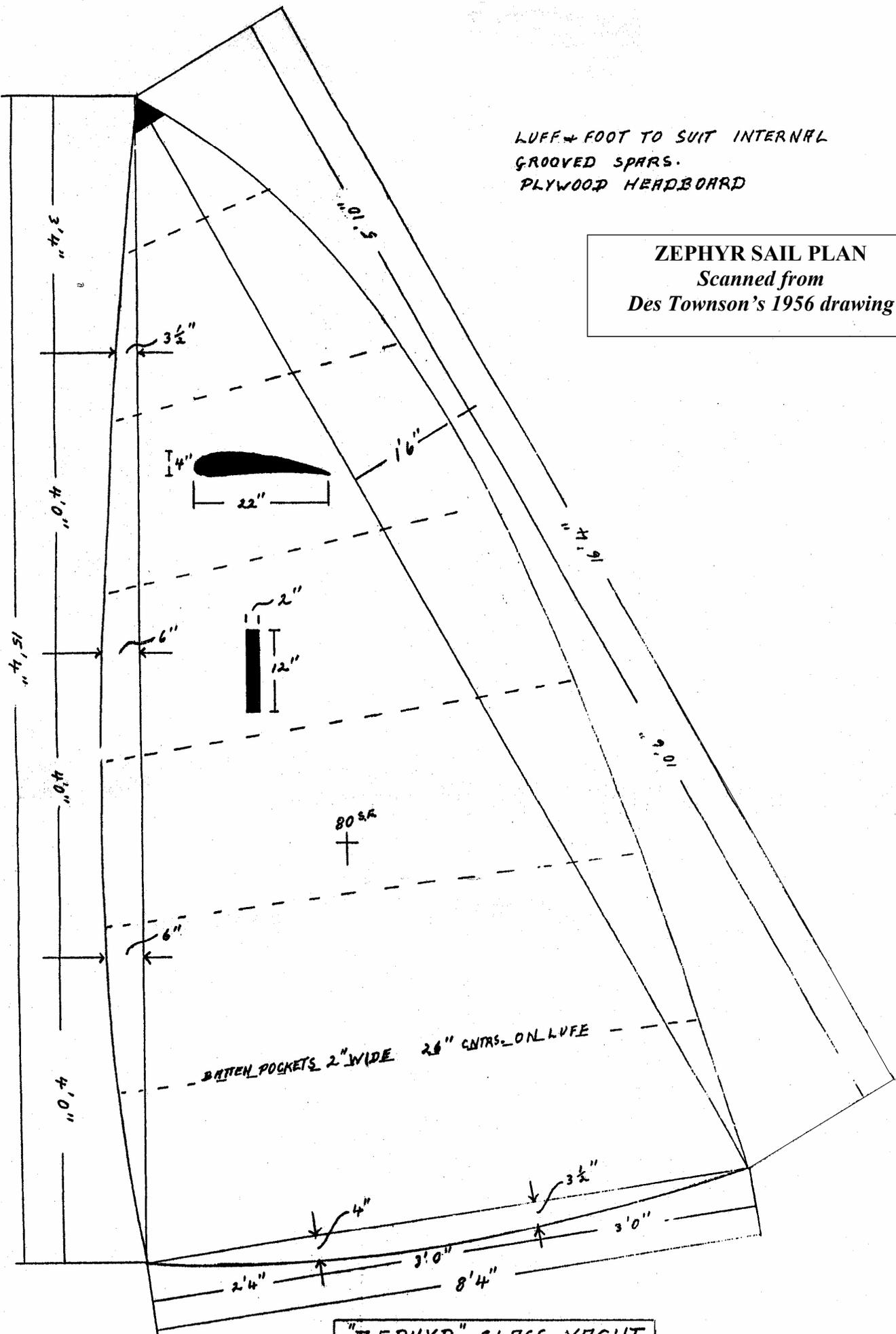
SUBSCRIPTIONS 2004-2005

Subscriptions for 2003-4 are \$20 for the NZZOA, and \$10 for local associations in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch. If you are an "orphan" outside these areas, the \$20 NZZOA 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!

LUFF FOOT TO SUIT INTERNAL
GROOVED SPARS.
PLYWOOD HEADBOARD

ZEPHYR SAIL PLAN
Scanned from
Des Townson's 1956 drawing



"ZEPHYR" CLASS YACHT