

# West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

Volume 5 Issue 3

July 1998

## NO BREEZE FOR THE ZEPHYR NATIONALS

*Easter 1998*

Twenty five skippers gathered in Waiuku for the 1998 Zephyr Nationals. Principal sponsor BHP New Zealand Steel was assisted by the Pacifica Transport Group and Titan Cranes Ltd. Seven boats from Christchurch made the journey north in a container courtesy of Pacifica Transport Group, joined by six boats from Hamilton and twelve from the Auckland and Waiuku areas.

Unfortunately, the large high pressure system parked over New Zealand conspired to defeat our Waiuku hosts, with only two races completed on Easter Saturday. The tidal nature of the Waiuku basin means that the timely arrival of the wind is critical, but it did not really matter, as the breeze seemed determined to stay away. Easter Sunday was calm and sunny, with an occasional puff, but insufficient to set a course. The fleet spent three hours roasting on the water before Race Officer Justin Hurst accepted the inevitable. Easter Monday was little better but a very light Easterly enabled a start and completion of a triangle before the breeze died and our familiar battle with the tide resumed. Inevitably, the water receded, and with it, our hopes of an official result. Justin had no choice but to abandon the series for the first time in 37 years of National Championships.

The calm conditions made for alternative on-water pursuits. Andrew Geddes took out the prize for the best wind-provoking haka, an act which tested the construction of his boat and unfortunately intimidated the Wind Gods for the rest of the contest! Melanie Hutchinson was awarded best capsized, albeit instigated by her father, Peter, although Melanie now suspects she's adopted! Alex Aitken hopped in for a dip, only to see his boat depart rapidly without him! His Presidential status warranted rescue boat intervention, but he is far less intimidating with only his head above water!

Daniel Jamieson, points leader after the two races, took out the Sean Fitzpatrick prize for the most back chat to the Race Committee. Murray Hay merited an award for damaging his centreboard on the bottom without Resource Management Act consent.

Conditions made it difficult to assess who the form skippers are at the moment but a protest in the first race and a good number of well prepared boats suggest there is a keen competitive interest in the class. The weather clearly disappointed Waiuku Commodore Mike O'Connell and his organising Committee, who had worked exceptionally hard to make the contest a success. Off the water arrangements were flawless, and many remarked on the relaxed and friendly atmosphere that prevailed throughout the weekend. The thought and effort was

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (Inc)

*President's Report*

*1 July 1997 to 31 May 1998*

**Alex Aitken**



I bring you greetings from the Executive. We have had another busy year and I trust the efforts have benefited you and your sailing.

We recovered our Constitution during the last year, and discovered that for some unexplained reason we have not adhered to our Rules which state that the financial year will commence from 1 June.

Looking over my last report 97/98 I have concluded that the achievements for that year were quite substantial. This past year I can report that:-

- We have increased our paid financial membership to 72 members.
- The "West Wind" continues to be the vehicle that keeps our members informed.
- One Cedar hull #257 has been built and sold and a deposit on hull # 258 has been paid.
- The trading account base has been expanded to include Masts, Booms and Rigging.
- Rob Ebert has completed the updated Zephyr Class Rules and incorporated them into a class handbook. This will be available to ZOA members during the 1998-99 season.
- A marked increase in fleet numbers on the water in Canterbury and Hamilton. Auckland has a fleet at French Bay and it is pleasing to see a growing fleet at Waiuku. Yet to hear from Wellington?
- The Masters Games in Dunedin over Waitangi weekend 98 was a first for ten Zephyrs from Canterbury. Bren Nelson from Otago borrowed "Zippy" from Sandra Hammond. Next games will be held in Wanganui?
- 1998 Nationals. Thanks to the Waiuku Club for hosting the event. Despite the lack of wind the social interaction was great. This would be the first on record for a "no contest". Very pleasing to see 25 Zephyrs lining up on the beach. The 40' container from Canterbury was a successful cost saving exercise and with careful packing you can load up to 12 boats. The North Island owners should be looking at this for the next contest.

Now that we have the ZOA structure in place your Executive is looking to consolidate in each region and expand the membership base. Your National body is there to look after the members' interests and will only be effective if you work and promote the class in your area. Rob Ebert and myself have put in a lot of effort to get where we are at present. You can help by networking and give us your ideas.

Our finances are on track and we aim to hold the subscriptions



**ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Christchurch Yacht Club**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**  
**1930hrs**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Matters arising from the previous meeting
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Budget and Subscriptions
7. Election of Officers
  - *President:* Alex Aitken has agreed to stand for another term.
  - *Secretary:* Rob Ebert has agreed to stand for another term
  - *Treasurer:* Alex Aitken has agreed to carry on with this role
  - *Auditor:* Richard Ineson (Richard is a ZOA member, but is not a signatory for ZOA accounts and has no financial input other than general accounting advice).
  - *Regional Representatives.* AZO, HAZO, CZOA, Lower North Island.
8. National Contest 1999
9. General Business
  - New Rule Book
    - Imperial Measurements
    - Cost & Distribution
    - Surveying boats and Certification
    - National Contest 2000
    - Deck post amendments
10. Social Half Hour

(Continued from page 1)

evident in the daily arrangements. Briefing was accompanied by coffee and hot cross buns, with a barbecue lunch after the race.

Access to the local Cosmopolitan Club had been arranged for Super 12 Rugby viewers, and the Saturday evening meal. Sunday saw a barbecue tea at the Waiuku Yacht Club. The prize giving on Monday reflected the generosity of BHP as the major sponsor.

A contest Special General Meeting approved an updated set of rules, reported the ZOA's financial position, and canvassed issues of concern to Zephyr sailors.

The 1999 contest is planned for Christchurch in January.

(Continued from page 3)

Owners' are meeting this weekend (July 5) to take a decision on the local options. We will keep you posted, probably by sending out a post AGM mini West Wind with ZOA subscriptions in late August or early September.

My thanks to Alex Aitken for all his efforts over this last year. We are on a much firmer footing than we were a year ago, but the running of ZOA is very dependent upon the efforts of Alex and myself. If you are a Zephyr yachting with a bit of time to devote to help out locally or nationally, we would welcome your input. Think of it as protecting the financial investment in your boat, and the sailing skills acquired over many years.

**Rob Ebert**

**ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**SUGGESTED BUDGET FOR 98/99**

<u>INCOME</u>	98/99	97/98
Donations	50	50
Subscriptions	1125	1080
Interest	45	45
Trading (\$900 less cost of \$226 insurance and \$150 admin)	524	464
	<b>1744</b>	<b>1639</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
National competition	nil	nil
Hull & Mould Insurance	nil	226
West Wind	300	250
Postage & Stationary	100	117
Tolls & General (admin and trading)	250	413
YNZ Subscription	96	96
Travel President	200	386
Meeting Expenses	50	40
Promotion & Development	250	146
	<b>1146</b>	<b>1674</b>

**NOTES**

**Income**

Expect a modest increase through trading activity. Tolls & General. A sum (\$150) will be transferred to the trading account.

**Expenses**

Suggest we keep admin and travel to a minimum. The \$146 was a one off in the Promotion and Development (sail computer design) so the \$250 allowance will mean that we can look seriously at a good quality brochure. The West Wind budget figure should allow for five publications.

Insurance: According to an insurance broker the \$226 is a minimum figure. In fact, Gary Mathews, our builder, carries no cover due to prohibitive costs and says he has had no losses over the past six years. As this involves funds in trust, we need to resolve this issue at the AGM.

**Alex Aitken**

**TRADING CORNER**

You will see from the "financial performance" that we have been busy and the net surplus has been a help to offset the administration costs.

**We have in stock:-**

one mast in Auckland  
 one mast in Christchurch  
 one gooseneck (fixed)  
 one halyard strop & tail  
 one two pin plug for mast  
 one set of wire stays with hook swages  
 four sails at Boyd & McMaster  
 one new hull #258 (under construction)

**Contact**

Alex Aitken Ph 03 358 4600  
 Dennis Craig Ph 04 817 3150  
 for sails at Boyd & McMaster

**ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION INC**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
*FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 1998*

<u>TRADING ACCOUNT</u>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sails	2375	
Spars and Rigging	5072	
Hull 257	1100	
	<u>8547</u>	<u>2318</u>
<b>Less COST OF SALES</b>		
Opening Stock 1/7/97	1392	
Sails	3109	
Spars and Rigging	5372	
Hull 257	2279	
Hull 258	760	
Administration Costs	<u>203</u>	
	13115	
Less Closing Stock 31/5/98	<u>5032</u>	<u>2350</u>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>464</u>	<u>(32)</u>
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations	50	38
Subscriptions	1080	895
Interest	44	31
Sundry	<u>45</u>	<u>0</u>
	1219	964
<b>Less EXPENDITURE</b>		
Auckland Nationals		200
Bank Charges	3	0
Engraving	0	5
Hull & Mould Insurance	226	0
Newsletter	250	159
Postage & Stationary	117	220
Tolls & General Expenses	210	204
YNZ Subs	96	84
Travel President	386	304
Meeting Expenses	40	49
Promotions & Development	<u>146</u>	<u>161</u>
	1474	1386
<b>NET (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>(255)</u>	<u>(422)</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS FROM TRADING ACCOUNT</b>	<u>464</u>	<u>968</u>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS FOR YEAR</b>	<u>209</u>	<u>54</u>
(Transferred to Member Funds)		
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Add Net Surplus (Deficit)	9383	8837
	<u>209</u>	<u>546</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS 31/5/98</b>	<u>9592</u>	<u>9383</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
ASB Bank Account - 50	2515	
ASB Bank Account - 00	83	5829
Stock in Hand	<u>5032</u>	<u>1392</u>
	7630	7221
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Building Moulds and Patterns (at Cost)	2162	2362
Less Royalties Received	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>9592</u>	<u>9383</u>

## EDITORIAL

This edition of West Wind resembles a patch work quilt rather than a carefully laid out newsletter. The format of the Financial Reports and Budget do not make for an attractive, flexible layout. I am off to Australia for a couple of weeks sabbatical, so time for tinkering is scarce!

This is very much a mid winter issue, concerned with the Annual General Meeting. Alex and I attended the Yachting New Zealand AGM in Auckland, and caught up with Dennis Craig and Rhys Burton. Hamilton Owners have held their AGM recently, so between us we will have got round most of the Association members by the time of the AGM.

I have purchased Mathews hull 257 for completion over the next year. The overall standard of construction looks good. Austin Ebert will be decking and fitting it out for me. I am hoping to incorporate the ideas I have had for setting up Zephyrs over the years in the new boat. I want it to be "just so" so it is unlikely to be sailing this season. The purchase indicates a degree of confidence in the future of the class and a desire to ease the burden of winter maintenance.

As mentioned, Alex and I attended the YNZ Annual General Meeting. Most of the meeting was devoted to reforming the YNZ management structure, though there were a number of informative workshops held as well.

The results of a survey of clubs conducted last season was presented. It revealed that many clubs are in a precarious situation with declining memberships and small fleets at all levels. A fuller report on the AGM will appear in the next West Wind, if it does turn up in one of the yachting publications. YNZ has made an arrangement to distribute its own publication to yacht club members later this year, as part of its strategy of getting closer to yachties. It has also adopted a "Sport for Life" philosophy.

In general, YNZ seems well aware of the criticisms made of it over the last while, and is positioning itself to respond constructively. Time will tell if the strategies are successful, but the beast is moving!

This edition of West Wind contains the Waiuku Contest Report, notable for the lack of wind, and the overwhelming hospitality of the host club. Thanks again Waiuku.

The location of the 1999 contest is still being decided. The Canterbury Zephyr

*(Continued on page 2)*

These Financial Reports have been audited. The Audit Report is available for inspection with the ZOA (Inc) President and will be available at the AGM.

**R N Ineson - Auditor**

**The New Zealand Zephyr Owners Association (Inc)**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**French Bay Boating Club**  
**August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1997**

**Present:** A Aitken (Chair), R Ebert, K Smith, T Cotterill, V Drew, A Retter, T Davis, D Craig, R Burton, F Elley, R Waterer, D Waterer, R Allen, A Geddes.

**Apologies:** Bob Foster, Ted Frankham, Kevin and Gill McGee.

The meeting followed the Auckland Zephyr Owners' Association AGM, and commenced at 2050hrs.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the previous AGM were read to the meeting. As the previous AGM had been held in Canterbury, they had been confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the CZOA.

**President's Report**

Alex Aitken welcomed all those to the meeting, and introduced his report. This had been circulated to the meeting and taken as read by assent. It was acknowledged that the improved membership figures for the Association were due to Alex's efforts.

**Financial Report**

Alex Aitken circulated and presented his Financial Report. Accepted Aitken/Smith.

**Queries**

- **Mould Costs:** The original cost of the Zephyr moulds was inquired about, but was unknown. Royalties on new hulls: Alex had allowed a Royalty of \$200 in the hull price, to cover the cost of replacing the mould. This allowance was discussed, and referred to the incoming Executive for consideration.

**Budget**

Alex Aitken then presented the Budget for the coming year. The mould was uninsured at present. AZO had originally undertaken to pay the \$200 insurance on the mould, but did not ratify this at the preceding AZO meeting. The \$200 donation from AZO shown on the projected budget was thus deleted, and the income total modified to \$1705. With these modifications, the Budget was accepted. Burton/Craig.

**Election of Officers**

The following Officers were elected:

**President:** Alex Aitken - Burton/Retter

**Secretary:** Rob Ebert - Aitken/Waterer

**Executive:** Dennis Craig (AZO), Bill Ackland (Wgtn), Richard Ineson (CZO).

It was suggested that the AGM should be held at the National Contest, where there is a larger gathering of owners.

**General Business**

- **Sails:** A letter was received from Chris McMaster of Boyd & McMaster confirming that the traditional Zephyr sail has been transferred to a computer plotter. The next batch of sails will be produced using the new method. The ZOA has in stock a brand new 1983 sail that will be compared with the new ones as a check on construction. It was felt that the consistency of sail shape would be superior with the new method.
- **Masts:** Dennis Craig advised the meeting that Barry Saunders of Bay of Island Spars and Rigging was now the supplier of Zephyr masts. Barry had previously worked for Baverstock and Spar Specialties, and was familiar with the original Baverstock and current McKechnie sections.
- There was concern about the quality and consistency of the masts with the change of supplier. Dennis Craig was asked to satisfy himself that the new supplier of Zephyr masts conforms to the letter and spirit of the class rules, and advice the Executive accordingly. Burton/Retter.
- **National Contest:** Keith Smith and Trevor Cotterill confirmed their commitment to hosting the National Contest at Easter 1998. The need to appoint a Race Officer was identified, and some possibilities discussed. Waiuku were assured of the support of the ZOA.
- **Measuring**  
**Auckland Measurers:** Bob Foster, Noel May, Ted Frankham.  
**Hamilton Measurer:** Rob Ebert  
**National Contest Measuring:** Some boats may need to be measured and issued with Certificates for the National Contest. The idea of surveying one aspect of the boats was floated.

**Auditor**

Alex Aitken asked the meeting to note that R Ineson had audited the Financial Report, and asked that he be confirmed as the Auditor. The meeting instructed the incoming Executive to check if the Auditor could be an Association official, and make the appointment.

Meeting ended 2350hrs

**Rob Ebert**  
**Secretary**

***The Zephyr Owners' Association***

**National President**

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

**National Secretary**

Rob Ebert  
 25 Hibiscus Ave  
 Hamilton  
 phone: 07 838 9375  
 fax: 07 838 9376