

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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February 2007

Editorial

Akaroa Championship Report

Fifty boats lined up to contest the Nationals this year in picturesque Akaroa. It included a strong contingent from the Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, support that was most appreciated by the organising committee. The fleet was remarkably well behaved, with few of the gaffes, misdemeanours and "holiday" behaviour that can be a feature of this event. The exception may have been the Hamilton contingent, who made the most of both the sailing and social opportunities. The scene was set with a visit to a local golf course the day before the Championship began. Ladies Day was in progress, one local lass being fortunate enough to score a hole in one. The gallant Hamilton lads felt obliged to accept the pressing invitation to celebrate the occasion to the detriment of their training programme. Many such invitations were to follow, prompting one Hamiltonian to remark that "the Hamilton drinking team had a golfing and sailing problem".

The only other notable pre-championship glitch was with Steve Pyatt and #212, *Lush*. In closing his venturi, he had the misfortune to pull it completely out of his boat - necessitating rather comprehensive overnight repairs!

This year capsizes were rare, though rumour has it President Alex was the first recorded dunking. Other notables were #508, down for a long time by the Committee Boat, and #209, reported to be the first capsize during racing. Chris Bridges distinguished himself by sailing round the stern of a patrol boat, only to discover it was attempting to position the pin end buoy on the starting line!

Akaroa Sailing Club Commodore Peter Cropp and Councillor Ken Cox opened the Championships ahead of a comprehensive briefing from Race Officer Jim Park. Then it was on to the water for the Practice Race in dying southerly conditions, cool overcast conditions, 8-12 knots and an awkward sea. With limited time before lunch and an afternoon's racing to get underway, Race Officer Park got in some race management practice and shortened the course.

The wind was back again for Race 1 - a freshening breeze of 15 or so knots and a trapezoidal course. It subsided again for Race 2, but the left over sea and lighter conditions made pointing and boat speed difficult. Akaroa's famed Hectors Dolphins were in occasional evidence, but displayed only a cursory interest in proceedings.

The social programme got underway with a barbecue at the Akaroa Cruising Club in an evening easterly that only just (not quite) kept the sandflies at bay. Thus emboldened, a number of contestants sampled the local night spots.

Day Two was calm and misty initially, but sufficient of a SW breeze appeared for the fleet to launch for a 1000hrs start. The start was delayed for the breeze to stabilize, but when the race did get underway, the breeze petered out, with the first boat failing to reach the mark within the required time limit. It was all ashore for an early lunch followed by the ZOA Special General Meeting. The SW breeze filled in enough for

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President's Report

We had a wonderful time at the Akaroa 2007 Zephyr Nationals. The eighteen strong fleet from the North Island meant a truly national contest. Some of the high lights are commented on throughout this publication. I am looking through my comments in the November 2006 West Wind and in a memo to ZOA executive in early February 07 I covered a number of issues. Here is a brief overview.

The exercise between Doyle Sails and a ZOA appointed sub-committee on the Zephyr sail development has completed, with a rule change passed at Special General Meeting at Akaroa. See the minutes elsewhere in the West Wind.

Negotiations with Doyles' on the price of the new production sail has been finalised and details are in the new price list, effective 1 February 07. Regrettably, there is a hefty price increase - a result of the manufacturer failing to address the question of incremental increases in costs over the past five years. A Zephyr sail now costs about the same as a Starling or P Class sail - but the chances are it will last a bit longer! Ten new sails have been ordered, four have been sold and six are in the sail loft ready for orders. A new and lighter range of Blue Streak battens are now available to complement the new sail. Prices for these are unchanged.

Bay of Islands Spars and Rigging have not so far advised price increases, the exception being the freight component of the price, which moves in line with fuel prices.

One of the three new hulls has been purchased and hull (#511) will boost the increasing fleet numbers in Auckland. Two hulls remain available from Horizon Yachts, one to Stage 3, (decked and trimmed) and Stage 1 (bulkheads etc). ZOA has no financial commitment to these hulls part from the stock of veneer that has all been used.

The alloy beach trolley has been sold to a Timaru owner and the last set of battens - donated as are prize for the Akaroa contest by the ZOA, are going to #4 *Why*.

Overall, the ZOA remains in good shape. Finances are healthy and we are carrying little inventory at present. Owner membership subscriptions are on a par with last year. As with all voluntary organisations the Zephyr class must look to the future and adapt to the growing pressure of life style sports. I have been told more than once, encourage young women to sail a Zephyr and the young men will become interested

The need to have standard subscription forms for the three regions is becoming apparent. Rob and I will look at computer generated invoices inserted in the West Wind. There is a trend in the IT communication industry to put everything on e-mail and web sites to be down loaded and printed off. Some owners are not "wired in" and I think it still cool, and friendly, to receive mail in your letter box.!

Trophies have been engraved and forwarded.

Alex Aitken



Zephyr National Championship Results, 2007

No.	Yacht Name	Skipper	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Race 9	Series Points	Series Place
309	Pilatus	Glen McKenzie	1	1	3	5	3	1	1	52	5	20	1
259	Zephyrus	Tim Sneddon	3	2	6	3	4	2	2	3	1	20	2
59	Escapade	Keley Gager	2	10	1	1	1	7	6	1	3	22	3
154	White Hot	Bevan Stevens	5	14	5	9	13	5	3	5	2	47	4
308	Titan	Matthew Hannah	10	3	2	13	2	4	10	7	16	51	5
260	Mi Mistress	Richard Ineson	12	9	52	6	12	8	4	11	4	66	6
4	Why	Jess Proko	11	8	4	8	5	9	16	6	52	67	7
212	Lush	Steve Pyatt	24	13	8	7	11	11	8	9	6	73	8
65	Miss Maddie	Jimmy Gilpin	17	4	11	18	6	6	14	10	7	75	9
82	Gazelle	Murray Sargisson	6	12	10	32	8	3	7	2	52	80	10
256	Front Runner	Don Le Page	4	16	14	17	16	12	12	4	9	87	11
75	Cracklin Rosie	Chris Bridges	8	17	13	12	7	28	9	16	13	95	12
253	Ebb Tide Express	Colin Maddren	14	7	17	10	17	25	20	8	11	104	13
92	Destiny	Murray Hay	18	20	9	15	18	15	13	12	10	110	14
330	Kiwi Monograms	Naomi O'Leary	9	6	29	27	25	17	5	25	12	126	15
188	Wizard	Bob Allen	13	11	15	15	14	26	27	13	20	127	16
18	Sherilee	Keith Paine	23	15	52	4	9	33	19	20	23	146	17
200	Zonda	Graham Bridges	20	24	12	27	30	16	15	14	18	146	18
85	Gamble	Andrew Crofts	21	35	16	26	24	13	11	24	14	149	19
304	Hustle	Rob Ebert	16	25	19	24	38	18	22	21	15	160	20
327	Saucy Susan	Saul Proko	22	18	52	2	15	20	18	15	52	162	21
88	Triple B	Bob Smyth	15	36	7	33	20	24	25	48	8	168	22
22	Gae	Bruce Hopwood	25	32	22	22	23	14	24	19	21	170	23
69	Echo	Bill Beere	19	23	30	19	28	22	30	17	22	180	24
126	Hauriki	Vaughan Johnson	26	22	20	21	26	21	26	29	25	187	25
29	Wild Child	Russell Wenham	37	52	28	11	22	27	17	23	27	192	26
323	Exception	John Kennett	7	5	52	14	10	10	52	52	52	202	27
325	Bad News	Mike Agnew	27	28	52	23	27	23	21	27	35	211	28
322	Victoria	Peter Stokell	44	40	18	27	21	29	23	28	28	214	29
2	Arise	Phil Le...	20	24	22	20	27	26	20	21	24	226	30

3	Anna	Tim Jones	29	34	35	44	48	19	38	26	32	248	30
107	By Golly	Gavin Bird	35	29	25	44	48	19	38	26	32	248	31
39	Windbag II	Ron Mackie	32	26	26	34	31	35	47	37	29	250	32
217	Zoom	Tony Park	42	19	38	36	32	39	39	22	26	251	33
508	Wedgy Man	Craig Moss	39	39	24	37	19	47	41	34	19	252	34
178	Sirocco	Barry Elliott	28	37	34	31	34	30	28	32	36	253	35
170	Coriana II	Rick Proko	34	30	23	30	33	38	36	36	52	260	36
192	Solo	Richard Mackay	40	31	52	25	36	37	34	18	52	273	37
252	Twilight	Trevor Kite	36	27	35	39	39	31	31	38	39	276	38
194	Karyn	Dave Mackey	30	33	41	41	35	42	42	30	34	286	39
64	Mystic	Paul Fisher	33	45	52	35	43	44	33	40	17	290	40
49	Iolanthe	Andrew Geddes	43	21	27	51	29	40	49	46	38	293	41
314	Chortle	John Foster	31	48	21	43	51	48	40	35	33	299	42
255	Volumini	Russell Turner	46	42	37	38	42	46	37	33	52	321	43
254	Wave Dancer	Richard Stemmer	45	46	44	46	50	41	32	41	30	325	44
510	Cuthbert Collingwood	Howard Smith	38	41	42	42	41	50	44	44	41	333	45
209	Born Free	Simon Jones	50	52	31	45	40	49	52	39	31	337	46
141	Ripple	John Blunden	52	52	32	48	49	32	45	43	37	338	47
102	Kahu	Paul Holland	41	38	40	40	47	43	46	49	43	338	48
147	Zero	Alex Aitken	49	44	39	47	45	51	35	42	42	343	49
161	Gem	Donald Foley	47	47	36	49	44	45	43	47	40	349	50
179	Geisha	Chris Sellars	48	43	43	50	46	34	48	45	44	351	51

Zephyr Championship Trophy	Glen McKenzie
Zephyr Championship Runner-Up Trophy	Tim Sneddon
Zephyr Handicap Trophy	Paul Fisher
Zephyr Championship Trophy - Female	Naomi O'Leary
Zephyr Masters Champion Trophy 60 years and over	Jimmy Gilpin
Zephyr Masters Champion Trophy 50 - 59 years	Tim Sneddon
Zephyr Masters Champion Trophy 40 - 49 years	Steve Pyatt

**Special General Meeting
Akaroa, Jan 25th, 2007, 1300hrs**

Attendance: A Aitken (Chair), R Ebert (Secretary) and 45 members of the association.

Alex Aitken opened the meeting and welcomed members.

Rule Changes

Proposed changes to the class rules, previously notified in November 2006 West Wind were read out.

Rule 1.7.1

Tim Snedden then updated members on progress since the AGM.

Chris Salthouse had evaluated and provided a report on the new sail, published in November West Wind. The changes recommended had been carried out and the sail was now as close to the original as possible. Members would need to adapt themselves to rigging the elasticated foot and the appearance of the foot shelf, instead of the older dart appearance along the boom.

Tim also recommended more doubling fabric on the clew end of the sail to ensure it stays in the boom, and restoring the Cunningham eye to the same place as in the older sails.

Tim also explained that battens to better suit the new sail had also been organised.

There being no further questions, the rule change was put to the meeting and passed unanimously on a show on hands.

A Aitken indicated Doyles now required a production lot of 10 sails and that a price increase was likely.

Rule 1.7.2 (Reefing Points)

This change was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

General Business

No items

Meeting closed 1330hrs

**Ron Bull Boats
ZEPHYR FOILS**

As used by Tim Snedden and Colin Maddren at Akaroa.

Construction is foam core, carbon reinforcement, E glass sheathing, 3 coats paint (finish white).

We also do foils for other classes including P Class, Starling, Mistral, Sunburst, OK Dinghy, Finn, Elliot 5.9, Flying Dutchman, etc.

For further information contact

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Ph: 09 428-3950

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021 164 0504

09 416 1023

ZEPHYR COMPONENTS PRICE LIST

Effective 1 Feb 2007

Confidential to ZOA and its members

Prices include freight and GST.

Mast; anodised with riveted track and halyard cap	\$775
Mast; assembled complete with halyard lock, sliding goose neck, T cleat, kicker hanger, halyard strop and tail, 2 1/2 " 2 pin plug	\$1263
Boom; 2.69m x mast section (angled one end)	\$317
Boom; assembled complete with boom plug, block hangers (main and vang), internal adjustable out-haul complete	\$805
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)	\$113*
Sails complete with window, number, insignia (black, blue, red or green) wind indicators and tube bag. <i>Note; We no longer recommend coloured sails as the cloth is different.</i>	\$738
Draft Stripes, (optional) set of two	\$20
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	\$223
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.

Enquiries and Orders:

Alex Aitken 03 358 4600
Russell Turner 09 534 7747

NEW HULLS

More details on the web site.

Stage 1 - Shell Triple skin shell with deck frames, bulkheads, centre case, mast step. ZOA royalty, admin costs, freight paid to all New Zealand	\$3950
Stage 2 - Decked Seal inside bulkheads, fit deck. Labour content only, with timber to owner's specifications - specialty plywoods can be up to \$500	\$250
Stage 3 - Trimmed To add all finishing trimming. Labour content only, as specialty trims can be expensive.	\$300

Terms

- A payment to ZOA of \$1500.00 is required with order.
- Hull number is supplied through ZOA boat registration.
- ZOA would issue building consent in writing to conform with Zephyr rules and any additional work required.
- It is agreed that all communication will be between ZOA and the prospective owner.
- Delivery details to owner's address is the responsibility of ZOA. Hull to be sealed and wrapped where delivery is undertaken by a cartage contractor.

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another race, but died and became patchy, filling in again for the beat to the finish on a shortened trapezoid course. That was it for the day as the breeze dropped away completely and rain set in. With only three races completed from a 9 race programme, the Sailing Instructions were amended to allow an earlier start and catch up races on day three.

Feature event for the day was the Championship dinner at French Farm Winery. It was well attended and featured speeches from Alex Aitken and Andrew Geddes.

Day three dawned calm and fine. Race Officer Park kept the fleet on shore until 1100. After an early lunch it was on to the water for four back to back races in a variable, generally northerly breeze ranging from 5-20 knots, average around 10-12. One trapezoid and three triangles were completed, with the fleet moving progressively up the harbour with each race. It was a long run back to the club at days end. Fortunes fluctuated considerably over this series of races, with those in the upper fleet showing better consistency.

The final day was fine with a moderate to fresh NE breeze, gusting to 15 knots and every sign of getting the remaining two races completed. Defending champ Glen McKenzie went into the last day with a useful points lead over Tim Snedden and Kelcey Gager, who had emerged as a serious contender with three wins on Friday and Saturday. However a halyard failure whilst in 6th place in race eight forced Glen to withdraw, and put the championship outcome back on the table. On-the-water repairs saw him return for race 9, with Tim Snedden needing to win five places ahead of Glen to take the title. Time duly recorded his only win of the championship, with McKenzie sixth across the line behind Saul Proko who had been adjudged OCS. The result was both sailors tied on 20 points each, with Glen McKenzie retaining the trophy on a count back. Kelcey Gager filled third place on 22 points.

Tim Snedden has been steadily improving over his time in the class. His preparation is meticulous and he sails consistently. As Glen McKenzie suggested at the Prizegiving, Tim's time will come. Class newcomer Kelcey Gager performed extremely well for his first Zephyr Nationals and it would be great to see more of him in the class. Richard Ineson turned in his best performance in a number of years along with other local sailors Chris Bridges and Murray Hay. A welcome addition to the fleet and surprise package was Naomi O'Leary in #330, *Kiwi Monograms* in 15th place. A P Class and Starling graduate, she looked comfortable in the Zephyr, so we hope to see more of her too. Her Dad contributed some Kiwi Monogrammed prizes too, which were most appreciated.

Racing was close so mistakes were costly. A look at the results reveals lots of "races within races" - sailors in similar points bands. The fleet generally finished close together so there was little time lost between races.

Master Starting Lane Proposal

Elsewhere in this West Wind is a proposal for an end of the starting line to be reserved for Masters sailors. I have some sympathy for this proposal, as my own reactions in the boat are beginning to slow. My hips and knees don't have quite the some flexibility as they used to. My neck is also getting pretty stiff so that I can't/don't look around as much as I used to. It is likely that our Master sailors are carrying a mild disability and that we should look to compensate for that -

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Ladies Champion and 15th place getter, Naomi O'Leary in *Kiwi Monograms*. Naomi was quickly at home in the Zephyr and very competitive. We hope she makes the trip north next year.



The smile says it all - and the T shirt! Handicap Winner, Hamiltonian Paul Fisher

Zephyr National Rankings

These handicaps should have given a theoretical 'dead heat' at the Nationals

Skipper	#	Boat Name	Rating
Glen McKenzie	309	Pilatus	0.98
Kelcey Gager	59	Escapade	0.97
Tim Sneddon	259	Zephyrus	0.97
Bevan Stevens	154	White Hot	0.95
Jess Proko	4	Why	0.95
Matthew Hannah	308	Titan	0.94
Richard Ineson	260	Mi Mistress	0.94
John Kennett	323	Exception	0.94
Murray Sargisson	82	Gazelle	0.93
Jimmy Gilpin	65	Miss Maddie	0.93
Steve Pyatt	212	Lush	0.93
Don Le Page	256	Front Runner	0.93
Saul Proko	327	Saucy Susan	0.92
Murray Hay	92	Destiny	0.92
Chris Bridges	75	Cracklin Rosie	0.91
Colin Maddren	253	Ebb Tide Express	0.91
Bob Allen	188	Wizard	0.91
Naomi O'Leary	330	Kiwi Monograms	0.91
Keith Paine	18	Sherilee	0.91
Graham Bridges	152	Zonda	0.90
Rob Ebert	304	Hustle	0.89
Bruce Hopwood	22	Gae	0.89
Bill Beere	69	Echo	0.89
Bob Smyth	88	Triple B	0.89
Vaughan Johnson	126	Hauriki	0.89
Mike Agnew	325	Bad News	0.89
Russell Wenham	29	Wild Child	0.88
Phil Jones	3	Anitra	0.87
Richard Mackay	192	Solo	0.87
Peter Stokell	322	Victoria	0.87
Barry Elliott	178	Sirocco	0.86
Tony Park	217	Zoom	0.86
Rick Proko	170	Coriana II	0.86
Ron Mackie	39	Windbag II	0.86
Gavin Bird	107	By Golly	0.85
Craig Moss	508	Wedgy Man	0.85
Trevor Kite	252	Twilight	0.85
Dave Mackey	194	Karyn	0.85
Paul Fisher	64	Mystic	0.85
Russell Turner	255	Volumini	0.84
John Foster	314	Chortle	0.84
Andrew Geddes	49	Iolanthe	0.83
John Blunden	141	Ripple	0.83
Howard Smith	510	Cuthbert Collingwood	0.83
Richard Stemmer	254	Wave Dancer	0.83
Alex Aitken	147	Zero	0.82
Simon Jones	209	Born Free	0.82
Paul Holland	102	Kahu	0.82
Chris Sellars	179	Geisha	0.82
Donald Foley	161	Gem	0.82

Masters Start Line Proposal

The Zephyr class prides itself on the participation of older sailors, but comments at the Akaroa Nationals suggest that some of our "Old Salts" find some aspects of National Championships difficult. They report that the starts are the most stressful and intimidating part of the race, when all boats are close together. Boat handling is at a premium, and those whose reactions are slowing are conscious of infringing those who react too quickly for them to respond.

To get around this and encourage older sailors to continue to attend the National Championships, it has been suggested that we create a Masters starting lane - one end of the start line would be reserved for them. To effect this, we would need a Sailing Instruction along the following lines. The example below is for a port end "Masters Lane", probably the most practical, but a starboard lane could also be used.

The start line will be in two parts. The Port (leeward) 30 m (or 50m or whatever) portion is reserved for sailors over (60 or 65?) years of age. All other sailors must start on the remainder of the line.

The start line for all other competitors will be between the Orange flag on the Committee boat at the starboard end and the Port end start mark. An additional mark will be placed approximately (30 m ?) from the port end start make. The additional mark may not be on the start line.

Sailors over (60 or 65) may start leaving the Port end start mark to Starboard and the additional mark to Port. All other sailors shall start leaving the Committee boat to Starboard and the Port end mark to Port.

Eligible sailors must indicate at registration which line they will use and may not change thereafter. The Race committee may require that these sailors carry identifying marks.

Starters in the Masters lane would have a cleaner start, but would give up the right to start where they wished on the line. Critics have suggested this would create an advantage for older sailors - one some of them don't really need. But if it makes the difference between having them in the fleet and not having them, it might be worth trying.

What do you think? Comments to ebertr@wave.co.nz
Rob Ebert

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though arguably the likes of Jimmy Gilpin and Colin Maddren don't seem to need much help! There are precedents from other sports - Masters Rugby has a graded system of tackling that keeps its older players in the game.

Akaroa as a Venue

Akaroa had a lot to live up to after the 2005 Championships. Whilst the weather was a bit more variable this year, we completed our racing programme, albeit with a bit of juggling. Wind on the harbour can be a bit shifty, but probably no more so than other venues in the rest of the country. For a recreational contest of 40 - 50 boats, it probably remains the best all round venue in Christchurch. I would happily go back.

National Championships 2008

These will be in Auckland, with Manley, on the Whangaparua Peninsula, the likely venue. Timing is likely to be similar, but details have yet to be confirmed.

Mistral National Champs

Down for Tamaki, March 30, April 1st, for those with a foot in both camps! See www.mistral.org.nz.