

# West Wind

## The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

Volume 52 Issue 1

www.zephyr.org.nz

December 2007

### Editorial

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the West Wind. As always, it's taken a bit longer to get off the press. My day job, family, and other yachting commitments keep getting in the way. There are a few things to report.

#### Rules Issues

A few rules issues have surfaced recently from new owners fitting out and equipping boats. I am therefore proposing we amend the following rules as outlined below. Depending upon the reaction, they would require six signatures and the voting process outlined in the class rules - as with previous rule changes. I don't have a firm view on them, they have been suggested by members

#### Gooseneck and Sail Track Height.

Approaches to the gooseneck have varied in the class over the years. It was not that long ago that sailors preferred the old fashioned jaws that moved up and down the mast with mainsheet tension. Subsequently, track and slide systems were favoured. Now there is a preference for fixed goosenecks but the distance between the gooseneck and the start of the track makes it a bit of a fiddle to get the sail hoisted. The rules currently have a restriction of 1000mm from the base of the mast to the start of the track. It is proposed that this be lifted to 1050mm. This would require a change to rule 3.1.2 (Masts). The final bullet point would need to read "*Masts to be supplied with welded top cap, sail track cut away to maximum of 1050 mm above the heel.*"

**Mast Hole:** The rules state "*the hole shall be a 65 ± 2mm diameter circle.*" This can be negated by applying a collar or strips to the side of the mast and the rules are silent on this. I think we should consider having a maximum only and dropping the requirement for the hole to be circular. This would require rule 2.5.3 (Mast Collar) to read "*The hole shall be a maximum 67mm. Any shape is permitted.*"

**Compasses:** Digital compasses are now readily available and increasingly affordable. We did have an informal agreement that the class would not allow them but this was not widely publicized and many sailors are using them. Older sailors find them easier to read. I have had a look at other classes' approach and would propose we add a rule, to the Equipment section along the lines.

*3.9 Compasses; Compasses are permitted. If electronic, only compasses with heading, heading memory and timing functions are allowed. Wrist watches with compass functionality are permitted additionally. Devices capable of receiving satellite navigation signals are not permitted.*

#### Zephyr Weekend

A slow moving weather pattern made this year's Zephyr weekend a quiet affair for the 26 entrants. Five races were completed in very light and shifty conditions - typical inland lake sailing conditions. Even Andrew Geddes' wind dance was ignored by the gods, though they

*(Continued on page 3)*

### From the Pen of Alex Aitken National President

Greetings to all Zephyr sailors from the President and the Executive. I am impressed by the vigorous debate going on about issues relating to class rules. It appears that some owners who have recently purchased new hulls are looking to incorporate "gadgets and gizmos".

I have been talking with a number of people who have expressed the opinion that "the spirit of the one class design" should prevail. However, we must be seen as open to forward thinking so that young sailors can be encouraged into the class. Looking at the word 'Spirit' in Roget's Thesaurus, communication of ideas, meaning, substance, resoluteness, determination, sensitivity are but a few descriptive terms.

I have had it reported that mid - week sailing in Auckland has attracted Zephyr fleets of 15 to 20. This is great. There are very few centre board classes in New Zealand that can produce large fleets. The same comment applies to Canterbury where we have good fleets at most championship events. I hear that the weekend contest on the Hamilton Lake attracted a number of visitors and Steve Pyatt enjoyed jogging around the lake in between contests and enjoying the fellowship.

May I bring to your attention that your annual subscriptions help us to meet ZOA administration costs. If you haven't filled in the subscription form and posted a cheque for \$30.00, please attend to this ASAP. This also applies to the President!!

The "Trading Corner" continues to provide a service to members. I have ordered a third batch of new design sails to keep up with the demand and there is a steady inquiry for new alloy masts and booms. It also seems that fixed goosenecks are preferred to the adjustable type.

#147 Zero is back in the water after an extensive winter refit. Thanks to Don Currie for re-decking the cockpit area and Peter Crofts for spray painting in new colours. For those who have been critical of the under weight hull, Andy Holland weighed the hull last Sunday at the Waimakariri Club. 59 Kg is now the official weight verified by a number of interested bystanders.

In regards to the Nationals at Manly beach 2 - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008, it appears that around 10 South Islanders will journey north. The venue is excellent and we look forward to fun and fellowship both on and off the water. At a recent Canterbury Zephyr meeting we short listed a number of South Island venues for the 2009 contest.

Could I wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and may you go well for the new year.



Zephyr/Mistral Weekend action!

**Zephyr Owners' Association**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Pt Chevalier Yacht Club, Auckland**  
**1930hrs, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Attendance:** A Aitken (Chair), R Ebert (Secretary), D Blair, A Miller, M Sargisson, T Snedden, P Stokell, A Geddes, R Wilson, R Dew, R Waterer, R Martin, K Gager, G Gager, T Sadler, S Pyatt, W Heathwaite, R Turner, R Allen, C Maddren.

**Apologies:** N May, G Adams, K Paine, C Moss. R Brooke. *Accepted, Aitken/Geddes*

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held at the The Sand Bar Hotel, Christchurch, on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006, previously published in the West Wind were taken as read and accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting. *Stokell/Snedden*

**Matters Arising:** Nil

**President's Report:** Circulated in West Wind and taken as read. A Aitken elaborated on some aspects of the report, acknowledging those that contributed to the hull and sail developments. Interest from the Wellington region was especially welcome. *Accepted, Aitken/Geddes*

**Treasurer's Report:** The accounts had been published in the West Wind. A Aitken presented an audited set of accounts to the meeting and thanked Auditor R Ineson. A Aitken elaborated on some items. Fewer Zephyr hulls had been built this year, but at more profit. The mould is essentially now fully written off. T Snedden queried the amount of the travel grant Hamilton sailors had received for Akaroa. A Aitken explained that this was a Lion Foundation grant that had been handled via the Association. A Geddes suggested the ZOA's liability taxation be kept under review. With that, the President's Report was accepted. *Aitken/Proko*.

**Budget:** A Aitken outlined the budget for 2006-07. Total budgeted income was \$2400, not \$2600 as published in West Wind. *Accepted Aitken/Snedden*

**Subscriptions:** To remain at \$20. *Accepted. Aitken/Stokell*

#### **Election of Officers**

The following Officers had agreed to continue and there being no other nominations, were elected unopposed.

**Patron:** N May

**President:** A Aitken

**Secretary:** R Ebert

**Treasurer:** A Aitken

**Auditor:** R Ineson

**Regional Representatives:** The following were nominated, Hamilton: *Keith Paine*, Auckland: *Tim Snedden* and *Russell Turner*, Canterbury: *Peter Stokell* and *Don Currie*, and duly elected. *Aitken/Ebert*

#### **General Business**

- **President's Honorarium**

The motion "*That the President be allocated an honorarium of \$250 for services rendered*" was carried. *Ebert/Stokell*

- **Nominations for Life Members**

R Ebert spoke in support of the following nominations for Life Membership.

The four men nominated for life membership have been instrumental in ensuring the survival of the class by building new hulls after Des Townson stopped doing so.

In 1975, **Austin Ebert** and **Maurice Hines** wanted boats for themselves or their children. They enlisted aid of **Ken Maynard**, associated with the class through wife Rema, a

life member. The only way was to build them themselves. They took patterns off existing boats and constructed a mould, subsequently producing Zephyrs 301-304. The new boats sparked a building revival and the mould became basis of the "300" series boats produced by builders Ian Franklin then Ray Frost. The availability of new boats was a significant boost to the Canterbury Zephyr fleet which became the mainstay of the class for a considerable period. The ZOA acknowledges their efforts on behalf of the class in awarding them life membership.

Class Patron **Noel May** continued the building impetus with the development of the cedar glass jig and the production of the first "250" series boats. As ZOA Patron and former Zephyr builder, he has contributed his substantial knowledge of boat building and Townson designs to the ZOA, along with a number of full and half models. He also deserves recognition as life member of the ZOA.

- **Sail Construction Update:** Tim Snedden expressed general satisfaction with the sail. The Velcro batten ties may not be strong enough and the inner batten ends are too far from the bolt rope. These quality issues will be raised with Doyle Sails shortly.
- **Centrecase Modification;** R Ebert suggested a modification to the standard centrecase to permit higher mounting of the mainsheet lazy block. It was suggested D Currie be asked to formulate a design for this. S Pyatt pointed out that if this was made a standard for new boats, any owner removing it would need a dispensation from class rules which do not permit modifications to Zephyrs as built.
- **New Hulls:** The rationale behind a slight reduction in veneer size and the subsequent weight savings were explained. One completed hull remained at Horizon boats, available for \$3950.
- **Constitutional Amendment:** R Ebert outlined changes to the constitution, reflecting the difficulty small businesses are experiencing in getting their accounts audited. Subsequently the following motion was put to the meeting; "That the following sections of the Constitution be amended to read:  
**6.2.4** the appointment of a suitably qualified person to inspect the financial accounts.  
**11.5** The accounts of the Association shall be inspected by a suitably qualified person who is not a member of the Executive Committee"  
*Ebert/Aitken Carried unanimously.*
- **Masters' Lane:** A pin end start line for Masters Zephyr sailors had been mooted following the Akaroa Nationals. Generally the meeting was "lukewarm" on the idea, but the motion: "*that a port end masters start lane be trialled*" was carried 5/3.
- **National Contest 2008.** Arrangements in hand. Manly Commodore Steven Wagstaff is an enthusiastic supporter of the event. Social programme in development.
- **Timing of National Contests:** Need to stay as yearly events, especially as some sailors only attend when it's in their part of the country.
- **Web Site:** Getting a bit tired. Needs more modern photos.

Meeting closed 2000hrs.

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS 2007-2008**

Subscriptions for 2007-8 are \$20 for the NZZOA, and \$10 for local associations in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch. If you are outside these areas, the \$20 NZZOA sub can be forwarded to Alex Aitken, or Rob Ebert

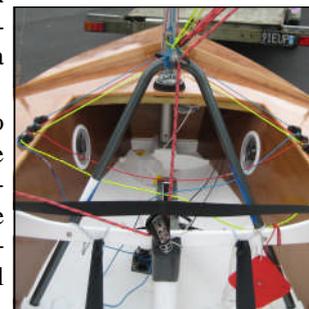
512 COSTS	
Item	Cost
Hull	3950
Mast and boom	1309.06
Sail and battens	961
Fittings	1766.15
Glassing and painting	1300
Epoxy (prize!)	100
Rudder	940
Centreboard	650
Deck	780
Andersen Venturi and teflon	137
Supersucker	149
Harken blocks and hatches etc	233.64
Mast foot	20
Trolley	420.68
Labour (finishing spars and hull)!!!	1000
Stays ends	55.5
Compass	250
Carbon	50
Hoop	75
Stern tubes	20
Tiller Extension	70
Halyard	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>14287.03</b>

## Rule Interpretation Traveler Hoop

Steve Pyatt, of #511 sought an interpretation of the class rules before fitting a traveller hoop to his new Zephyr. In considering the request, the ZOA was of the view that it was essentially the same as the rope bridles many skippers are using and thus part of the "freedom of finish and equipment" permitted under class rules.

As one might expect, it has already been dubbed the "Zimmer frame" and Steve reports its handle function has come in handy a few times.

Zephyr sailors with joint replacements do report needing a bit of support making the transition across the boat. The steadily increasing age of the fleet probably means the future of this device is assured for recreational therapy reasons rather than easier sail handling!



## Auckland News

The Auckland winter series was dogged by bad weather with 2 of the 8 scheduled race days lost due to the conditions, and only one boat turning out on 2 other race days.

Bruce Hopwood (#22 *Gaye*) was rewarded for his enthusiasm and consistency with a popular overall win in the series, which was contested by a disappointing 9 boats.

The summer series also started badly, with race day 1 cancelled due to gale force sou-westerlies.

The Auckland fleet has grown strongly this season, with 20 Zephyrs turning out at Murrays Bay on 11 November – the biggest Auckland club racing fleet in recent years.

The quality of the fleet has been enhanced this season by the addition of 2 new boats, #511 (*Grant Beck*) and #512 *Mickey Finn* (Steve Pyatt). In addition Jim Maloney has borrowed #111, *Solitaire* from Rod Slater. All three skippers have been contesting the top places in the fleet over the early races of the season.

Grant Beck has dominated the early part of the season with 5 wins out of 8 races and looks to have the Pre Christmas Series sewn up. Bruce Hopwood, consistent as ever and very strong in a breeze is second with 2 race days remaining.

The Murray's Bay Sailing Club Wednesday night series has attracted fleets of up to 13 boats with some excellent racing over 3 short courses each evening. Again the feisty Auckland equinoxes have put paid to a number of early season race nights.

Preparations are well in hand for the National Championships at Manly from 2-5 February 2008. An extensive social programme is planned and a list of accommodation in the area is available from Gus Gager [glgager@ihug.co.nz](mailto:glgager@ihug.co.nz). The Notice of Race is available on the ZOA website. Entries close on 11 January 2008.

(Continued from page 1)

did relent late Sunday morning and supply a moderate westerly breeze that allowed intermittent planing. The event was won by Sam Meech sailing #236 (1,2,3,4,7) followed by Jim Gilpin, #65 (2,3,8,1,11) and Roger Walker #118 (5,1,9,11,3,) then Murray Sargisson #82 (8,11,1,6,6), Peter Stacey #34 (10,13,6,2,9) and Steve Pyatt, #511 (DNF,7,4,12,4). Peter Stacey took out the handicap prize from Adam Locke and Chris Hargreaves. Phil Locke and son Adam made their first appearance in the class in borrowed boats, and we hope to see more of them in future years. #100, *Topaz* was back at Zephyr weekend for the first time in a long while, having been purchased a few days earlier by Paul Humphries. Chris Hargreaves made the trip from Wellington for some very un-Wellington type weather, and once again we appreciated his commitment. The event was run by people who have had a long association with the class. Race Officer Jim Brokenshire still owns #236, and he was assisted by Peter Hutchinson, who loaned #83 and Frank Lee, who piloted #109 for many years.

### Mistral Weekend

Five Mistrals participated in "Zephyr Weekend" for the first time. Several were deterred by the weather forecast and the MOA has requested that the class be invited back next year. The breeze on Sunday permitted some spinnaker action, and with inexperienced crews trying their hands at kite work for the first time there were some hairy moments for the club

(Continued on page 4)



Zephyr Weekend Mistral Action! Photo courtesy of Murray Borland.

(Continued from page 3)

house "bench sailors" to enjoy! The Mistral section was won by Rob Ebert and Duncan Barnard (3,1,2,3,2) from Chris Sadler and his daughter (1,3,5,1,4). There is continued interest in the Mistral class and our continued close association will benefit us both. The Mistral is very similar to the Zephyr to sail - the mainsails are the same size. I enjoy the challenge of working with young crews of variable boating experience.

#### Life Members

The AGM conferred life membership on current class Patron Noel May, in recognition of his long association with the Zephyr class, especially the cedar glass boats. Also recognized were Canterbury men, Ken Maynard, Maurice Hines and Austin Ebert, all instrumental in building new Zephyrs in the mid 1970s, sparking a building and class revival.

#### Centrease Modification

A number of skippers fashion fittings to elevate the mainsheet lazy block higher on the centrease. New Zephyrs will have the aft part of the case modified to allow the mainsheet lazy block to be attached higher up.

#### Zephyr #513 Sold

Zephyr #513 has changed hands and should be at the Manly Nationals.

#### 2007-8 Subs

Demand for Zephyrs continues to be strong, a reflection on the strength of the ZOA at present. So make sure you keep paying your subs!!

#### Zephyr Costs

Steve Pyatt has supplied details of his expenditure on "Mickey Finn" launched recently. I have published it, albeit with some misgivings. Sometimes I prefer not to be too accurate about these things and to bury them in general household expenses. As you see, there is not much change from \$15k, though there are still considerable savings to be made by those prepared to paint their boat or with the ability to fashion foils, beach trolleys and the like.

**Rob Ebert**

### Ron Bull Boats ZEPHYR FOILS

As used by Tim Snedden, Colin Maddren and Steve Pyatt

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

Ron Bull Boats

19 Hobbs Rd

Whangaparoa

Ph: 09 428-3950

Fax: 09 424-2551

Email: ronbullboats@clear.net.nz

### Robert Brooke

#### Auckland Traditional Boatbuilding School

Buckley Rd, Hobsonville Air Field, Auckland, NZ.

PO Box 84316, Westgate, Auckland, 0657.

021 164 0504 or 09 416 1023

### ZEPHYR COMPONENTS PRICE LIST

Effective 1st Dec 2007

Confidential to ZOA and its members

Prices include freight and GST.

<b>Mast;</b> anodised with riveted track and halyard cap	\$775
<b>Mast;</b> assembled complete with halyard lock, sliding goose neck, T cleat, kicker hanger, halyard strop and tail, 2 1/2 " 2 pin plug	\$1263
<b>Boom;</b> 2.69m x mast section (angled one end)	\$317
<b>Boom;</b> assembled complete with boom plug, block hangers (main and vang), internal adjustable out-haul complete	\$805
<b>Rigging.</b> 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*
<b>Sails</b> 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>	\$758
<b>Draft Stripes,</b> (optional) set of two	\$20
<b>Sail Tube bag with Zephyr Logo</b> sold separately	\$45
<b>Battens;</b> Blue Streak per set	\$223
<b>Gear bag;</b> medium with Zephyr Logo.	\$75
<b>Notes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Freight costs have caused minor adjustments in the price of masts.</li> <li>•Items marked with an * are ordered on request and prices quoted are subject to specification.</li> <li>•New sails supplied by Doyles will be of the current design.</li> </ul>	
<b>Enquiries and Orders:</b>	
Alex Aitken	03 358 4600
Russell Turner	09 534 7747

### NEW HULLS

*More details on the web site.*

<b>Stage 1 - Shell</b> Triple skin shell with deck frames, bulkheads, centre case, mast step. ZOA royalty, admin costs, freight paid to all New Zealand	\$4150
<b>Stage 2 - Decked</b> Seal inside bulkheads, fit deck. Labour content only, with timber to owner's specifications - specialty plywoods can be up to \$500	\$250
<b>Stage 3 - Trimmed</b> To add all finishing trimming. Labour content only, as specialty trims can be expensive.	\$300

#### Terms

- A payment to ZOA of \$1500 is required with order.
- All finishing work can be completed by the owner or negotiated with the builder.
- The minimum weight of a completed hull, painted, with permanent fittings, is 57kg.
- 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.