

# West Wind

## The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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[www.zephyr.org.nz](http://www.zephyr.org.nz)

December 2008

### Editorial

This is a quick pre-Christmas newsletter to signal a SGM at the Lyttelton Nationals. We have a couple of rule issues to tidy up in accordance with our Constitution and Class Rules. See the notice elsewhere in this issue.

#### *Des Townson, 1934-2008*

Des Townson passed away as our October West Wind went to press. Acknowledgment of his contribution to New Zealand sailing occurred in the mainstream and sailing press. A celebration of his life was conducted by family friend, Brian Peet, at Buckland's Beach Yacht Club on October 28<sup>st</sup>. As you might expect, Des' farewell was well attended by the many sailors associated with him and his craft. A number of Des' Zephyrs, Mistrals and Electrons graced the premises. A few of the photos from Des' farewell are over the page.

#### *Zephyr/Mistral Weekend*

This year's Zephyr/Mistral weekend was held in blustery northerly conditions that challenged all sailors. The wind direction meant Hamilton Lake could not be used to best advantage. The result was vintage lake sailing – a tight course, variable wind strength from a variable direction. Once into the spirit of it, it proved great fun!

Twenty Zephyrs and thirteen Mistrals made up the fleet, the latter boosted by a great attendance from Kerikeri. They made the HYC club house their home and were a great addition to the regatta. The short legs and variable wind conditions made flying spinnakers more of a hindrance than a help. The spinnaker division was not deterred though and were rewarded with some spectacular runs (albeit brief!).

Rob and Julia Ebert took out the non-spinnaker Mistral prize (1,1,2,1,1) from Adrian France (2,2,1,2,3) and Adriaan Bosch (4,5,3,3,2). Spinnaker division was won by Sam Brierly (1,1,1,3,1) from Duncan Barnard (2,2,1,2,2) and Geoff Camm (3,3,3,2,1).

In the Zephyr fleet, Tim Snedden and *Pilatus* made their first appearance on Hamilton Lake. #309, *Pilatus* confirmed its reputation as a champion boat, with Tim taking out the weekend (1,1,1,1,2) from Murray Sargisson and Jim Gilpin (5,4,2,5,5,1). The fleet had its share of excitement too, with an occasional capsizing in the flukey conditions. Class veteran Brian Smith suffered the ignominy of a rudder pin failure and subsequent separation from his rudder.

The Hamilton Zephyr fleet is slowly changing. Older sailors are picking their days a bit more, and we have lost a number of boats to Auckland (hasn't everyone!). New Zephyr sailors are not yet sailing regularly, but it was pleasing to see teenager Katie de Lange making an appearance in the class.

#### *New Boats*

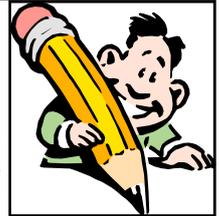
Zephyr #520 has been delivered to a Tauranga sailor, so we look forward to seeing it on the water soon. The success of the ZOA building programme surpassed all our expectations. Hopefully the trickle of new boats onto the water will continue.

#### *Zephyr "North Islands", Feb 2009*

Tauranga Yacht Club has expressed interest in hosting the 2010 National Championships. The club regularly hosts major events, but it's not particularly well known to Auckland Zephyr sailors. To promote the venue and provide some sailing exposure, the club will hold a "one off" North Islands Champs in conjunction with the Tauranga Regatta on Feb 21 & 22, 2009.

### *From the Pen of Alex Aitken National President*

Greetings to all Zephyr owners, families and partners. At this time of the year we reflect on what Christmas really means and how we cope with the pressures of busi-



ness, consumerism, family, and holidays. With the New Zealand economy linked to the world trading economy there is stress and concern that we may be heading into a recession. As Zephyr Owners we are part of this economy and the realities of paying the rent, lease, staff, mortgage, HP and credit cards will know doubt stretch resources. I'm looking at a magazine "People Helping People" (celebrating 100 years of Presbyterian Support in the South Island), the "Focus on Community" features family workers in schools, day activity programmes, Tai Chi for falls prevention, mentoring programmes, Holly House for young mothers and their babies learning life skills, grandparents as parents support groups. We all have within us a "Focus on Community" and this spirit translates into caring and helping one another through life's journey.

One important part of the Zephyr Class is that we have fellowship both on and off the water. This builds up a sense of belonging and *has to be a plus* for the well being of the class.

Trading activities in hulls, masts, booms, rigging, sails and battens sets are strong with a turnover to date around \$25,000. As at 24 November 2008 the Society Cheque account showed a balance of \$16,306.74 (mainly trading) and I have transferred \$5000 into the 50 Accelerator account which as at 02 December, with interest, shows a balance of \$22,100.04.

There is a steady demand for new sails prior to the 2009 Nationals at Lyttelton, so get your order in. Doyles' have seven (7) Zephyr sails in their loft.

ZOA subscriptions income for the year to date stands at \$1300 from Auckland and Hamilton. The budget for this year's administration is set at \$2400 so please get your subscription paid into your local treasurer/secretary asap.

Canterbury Zephyr fleets of up to 24 boats have featured in club and championship events with light to gusty and strong winds. Hopefully the spring weather patterns will settle in time for the national contest.

Looking forward to a number of Zephyrs from Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga and Wellington to join the Canterbury fleet at the nationals, 22/25 January 2009 for a bit of R & R, and beautiful scenery along with Southern Hospitality.

May you and your families have an enjoyable Christmas.

## Rule Interpretation

### PBO stays

The ZOA has received a query as to whether Dyneema (PBO) stays are permitted under the Class Rules.

PBO is Polyphenylene benzobisoxazole a polyethylene compound used increasingly in keel boat rigging. It is substantially lighter than traditional rod rigging. A set of 1.8mm PBO stays for a foiling moth is reported to weigh some 70gm, compared to around 400gm for traditional wire.

The material has a soft, rope like feel and is relatively easy to work. It can be cut with a knife, convenient when a rig needs to be cut away, but it also means less resistance to abrasion. It is likely to become more available in local chandleries.

The ZOA Executive's view was that the Class Rules be amended to exclude the use of this product. This will be done in due course.

**Rob Ebert**  
Secretary

## Zephyr Owners' Association Special General Meeting In conjunction with 2009 Zephyr Class National Championship 22nd – 25th January, 2009 Naval Point Club, Lyttelton (NPCL)

### Agenda

#### 1. Apologies

#### 2. Rule Changes

Six signatures have been received supporting the following rule changes:

##### Equipment: 3.9 Compasses

*Digital Compasses and timing devices are permitted. All other digital devices are prohibited.*

This rule was circulated in the last West Wind, but seems to have confused people. Very few responded at all and some of those that did thought they were voting against all compasses. The intention of the rule is to allow the growing use of digital compasses, but not the growing range of GPS containing devices.

##### Rule 3.1.5, Rigging

*Two side stays and one forestay shall be fitted. Stay material shall be 1x19 SS wire where all strands are of circular and equal cross section, overall wire diameter to be minimum 2.5mm.*

This confirms stainless steel wire as the class position on stays.

##### Rule 1.9.2 Rule Changes

*Details of such change, together with the relevant details have been circulated to all registered owners, at least four weeks before the vote being taken.*

This shortens the period of notification from six weeks to four.

#### 3. General Business

## Zephyr North Islands In conjunction with the Tauranga Regatta Feb 21 & 22, 2009

See web site for details in due course.

## Des Townson 1934-2008



### SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008-2009

Subscriptions for 2008-9 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