

# West Wind

## The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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### *Fibreglass Zephyr Review*

#### **Background:**

It is now one year since the first fibreglass hull Zephyr was produced by Greg Salthouse ( Salthouse Boats), Don Currie and Grant Beck. Hull 601 drew lots of attention at the Jubilee National Championship at Manly in April 2016. What progress been made and what are the results? First let us review the objectives determined by the ZOA subcommittee on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

- *To explore and make recommendations for the construction of Zephyr hulls in glass fibre (or suitable similar material), in order to overcome the cost and quality issues identified with our current wooden construction.*
- *To ensure, as far as possible, that any hull produced has the same characteristics as the current wooden hulls.*
- *To note any issues that could potentially affect the development of a fully fibreglass Zephyr, but this is not the main purpose of the exercise.*

These objectives were formulated after continued problems with build quality (glue voids), sourcing veneer, expensive resorcinol glue, owner satisfaction, competent (low cost) builders and high labour cost (14,000staples!). The committee resolved that the most likely acceptable result for ZOA approval was to produce a Glass/Wood Zephyr that had a glass hull with wooden side tanks, bulkheads, centrecase, mast step, and deckbeams as for the current wooden boats. The glass layup needed to be of similar weight per area as wooden hulls and shape as per the current "500" series boats built on a jig made by the Traditional Boat Building School (Robert Brooke) to lines drawn up by Brett Blakewell-White. After some experimentation with one square metre panels by Grant and Greg of various layups, the one closest in weight distribution to the epoxy finished veneer panel made by Don was chosen and subsequently presented at various Zephyr owner gatherings in each region. At an AGM at Worsler Bay Yacht Club on 27/08/14 the owners present endorsed a motion to spend ZOA funds for the development of a glass/composite Zephyr and Don Currie started on a plug (a three skin Zephyr hull attached to the building jig) at Marco Scuderi's yard in Helensville in May 2015. Murray assisted with the gluing and staple pulling and photographic progress was reported on the ZOA website/facebook until completion in July. Salthouse Boats faired / coated the Plug and finished the mould on 9/09/15. The first vacuumed infused composite epoxy hull was produced ex mould in February 2016. Don decked the new hull for Greg who launched the finished boat at Pt Chevalier on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (video on ZOA website). In May 2016, 98% of Zephyr owners who voted by SurveyMonkey approved the rule change to allow a fibreglass composite hull.

#### **Production to date:**

So far six new hulls have been manufactured by Salthouse boats; #601 Greg Salthouse, #602 Steve Pyatt, #603 Pete Sutton, #604 Murray Sargisson, #605 Brian Baker, #606 Mark Berry.

Brian and Mark will have their boats on the water shortly. Two hulls are to be built for John Kliffen (#609) and Grant Beck (#607).

#### **Costs:**

Don Currie donated his time in preparing the three skin veneer hull for the Plug. Marco Scuderi did not charge for the use of his building space at his yard. Salthouse Boats were responsible for fairing/coating the plug and manufacture of the mould. This cost included a highly discounted labour rate.

The current ZOA selling price to new owners for a hull ex Salthouse yard is \$6500. This cost includes all interior timber and ready for plywood deck.

The ZOA expects to recoup productions costs from the subsequent sale of hulls. In addition, each new boat has a subsequent effect on the demand for sails, spars and foils, as they are completed.

#### **Handling and performance:**

Steve has gone from #512 (58kg) to #602(58.7kg). The new hull form is the same as it is off the same jig but faired professionally and with a smooth finish. The most immediate and noticeable difference for Steve was the smooth cockpit floor (laminated with Ultralon SurfGrip). "I didn't realise how much I subconsciously hesitated in other boats as to where to put my foot down and not be on the wrong edge of a floor batten. Now I can stand anywhere without thinking". Steve commented that the boat seems livelier but that may be the different rudder (EPL vs. Bull) set up and that the bow floats slightly higher. Steve was always quick downwind but other sailors believe he is now quicker however Steve is not so sure. After six months sailing/racing Steve believes this old #512 and new #602 perform and handle the same.

Murray has gone from #82 to #604. A Townson hull to a "500" hull shape and hull weight change from 62 to 58kg. Since 1964 Murray has owned four Zephyrs (#17, #216, #82, #604). # 216 was a fast down-to-weight boat, winner of four Nationals in the 1970's. #604 has similar traits. It planes easily and is faster downwind than #82 which reflects in Murray's better performance at recent Regattas. Up wind it is harder to sail through the waves than #216 and #82 as the bow bounces more, requiring more aggressive steering and sheet control. Overall it is a livelier (in part due to the EPL rudder), faster in a light to moderate breeze and a delight to sail. Murray is also enjoying the smooth cockpit floor which results in easier handling and has yet to experience a capsize.

#### **Conclusion:**

The move to a glass hull for the Zephyr was essential to ensure new boats could be built using modern materials whilst retaining a traditional wood appearance. The overall objective was to produce a boat with the same potential performance as a good "500" series boat ( eg #512). The results to date suggest that this has been achieved.

Thank you to all those who were involved in the project.

*Murray Sargisson*

*Footnote: Townson built Zephyrs (#9and #160) won the 2016 and 2017 National Championships.*

## Zephyr National Championship Results, Akaroa, 2017

	SailNo	HelmName	R 1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total	Nett
1	160	Wayne Avery	-4	4	3	1	4	1	1	1	19	15
2	502	Phil Williams	-8	3	1	6	1	2	2	6	29	21
3	604	Murary Sargisson	1	8	6	2	5	-10	5	2	39	29
4	152	Ross Bannan	5	5	5	4	2	8	4	-12	45	33
5	331	Daniel Smith	6	10	4	3	3	-13	6	4	49	36
6	508	Peter Soosalu	3	1	12	10	10	9	(34.0 OCS)	5	84	50
7	525	Chris Hargreaves	2	6	-19	15	9	6	3	13	73	54
8	602	Steve Pyatt	9	12	10	7	7	5	(34.0 OCS)	7	91	57
9	211	Robert Ebert	10	9	2	11	-13	12	9	9	75	62
10	509	Guy Taylor Smith	12	2	8	17	8	4	(34.0 OCS)	15	100	66
11	606	Sarah Berry	7	7	11	16	6	7	12	(34.0 OCS)	100	66
12	185	Hannes Hille	-20	13	9	5	14	15	8	8	92	72
13	506	Rob Bryant	14	11	-21	19	11	14	13	10	113	92
14	207	Mark Berry	13	15	-20	14	12	17	11	11	113	93
15	254	Richard Ineson	15	-23	14	9	17	16	15	20	129	106
16	177	Alistair Campbell	16	14	15	18	18	-21	10	18	130	109
17	520	Andy Knowles	11	18	(34.0 DNS)	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNC	3	7	3	144	110
18	74	John Boraston	19	16	16	-25	15	11	16	17	135	110
19	256	Don LePage	18	21	17	12	16	-22	14	22	142	120
20	521	Richard Mackay	21	19	7	26	22	-28	20	19	162	134
21	29	Tim Bird	-25	17	13	20	23	20	21	21	160	135
22	322	Peter Stokell	17	20	(34.0 OCS)	13	25	24	17	23	173	139
23	107	Gavin Bird	-29	24	18	21	26	18	18	16	170	141
24	85	Russell Wenham	24	25	22	8	20	23	22	-27	171	144
25	516	Tony Crew	23	22	24	-27	24	19	24	14	177	150
26	318	Tony Park	27	26	23	-28	21	25	23	25	198	170
27	103	Ian Watson	28	-29	25	22	28	26	19	24	201	172
28	75	Chris Bridges	26	-28	26	24	19	27	25	28	203	175
29	307	Cathryn Bridges	-31	27	27	30	27	29	27	30	228	197
30	141	Donal McKellar	30	(34.0 DNS)	28	23	34.0 DNF	34.0 DNC	26	26	235	201
31	312	Heather Garside	-32	30	29	29	29	30	28	29	236	204
32	317	Murray Hay	22	(34.0 DNF)	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	260	226
33	147	Alex Aitken	(34.0 DNS)	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	34.0 DNS	272	238

## Zephyr National Championship Winners, 2017

Zephyr Championship Trophy	Wayne Avery	Zephyr Masters Tropy 70+ yrs	Alex Aitken
Zephyr Championship Runner-Up	Phil Williams	Zephyr Masters Trophy 65+ years	Phil Williams
Zephyr Handicap Trophy	Tim Bird	Zephyr Masters Trophy 60-65 years	Chris Hargreaves
Zephyr Championship - Female	Sarah Berry	Zephyr Masters Trophy 50 - 59 years	Steve Pyatt
Fresh Breeze Trophy	Daniel Smith	Zephyr Masters Trophy 40 - 49 years	Wayne Avery
		Heavy Weight Trophy	Guy Taylor-Smith

## ***2017 National Championships Report Akaroa***

Thirty three boats competed in this year's Zephyr Nationals, 5 from Auckland, 8 from Wellington, 2 Tauranga, one Hamilton and the remainder Canterbury. Considering that the time of year, the current difficulty of travel down the South Island and the somewhat remote location, this relatively small attendance was anticipated.

Although the weather generally in Akaroa was always fine and often superb, the sailing conditions reflected the NW flow over Canterbury so we experienced several fresh and variable north to nor'west'westerlies and at times southerlies blowing up the harbour. As such, two days sailing were abandoned because the breeze was blowing 25 knots or more. However, 8 races were completed over two days and a clear contest winner emerged. Socially, there was a well-attended contest BBQ at AYC, and a dinner at the Bully Hayes restaurant.

Race Officer, Phil Folter and his crew guided the fleet through some difficult moments and held very fair races with good starts and only one had to be shortened (for lack of wind!). There were 4 or 5 general recalls, resulting in most starts being U flag which the fleet had no difficulties adapting to. It is noted, however, that with U flag starts and the penalty reduced from two to one-turn penalties, skippers were more inclined to barge at the line and accept a one turn penalty rather than be disqualified for being OCS.

## **Racing**

Two races were initially planned for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, but after a recalled start the wind shifted to the SW and strengthened, forcing them to be abandoned. Four races were scheduled for Friday, the first two held in an 18-20kn southerly. After lunch the wind shifted to a 12-15 knot NE which died and became shifty for the last race.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 2 morning races were managed in about 16kn shifty N –NNW. After lunch this breeze softened and became much more variable. One race was scheduled for the last day, which dawned fine and clear. However a wind change to the S-SW brought 25+knot breeze that persisted for several hours. With the fleet in "pack up" mode, a decision was taken to abandon the race in favour of completing the event.

## **Health and Safety**

One skipper abandoned the series after being boomed on day one, requiring stitches above the eye. One skipper missed several races with a wrenched knee sustained in a capsized. One skipper developed gastroenteritis, probably acquired pre-contest. On the final day when racing was abandoned, the seas were running fairly high and quite apart from the safety of the yachts themselves, the rescue boats were struggling in the waves and some could not practically have contributed to a rescue.

## **2018 Nationals**

Worser Bay, February 22-25.

## ***Editorial***

### ***Auckland Zephyr Champs***

Another Zephyr season has drawn to a close, the Auckland Zephyr Champs at Howick being the last formal event on the programme. Tony Miller reported that the event got off to an uncertain start with sailors initially convinced there would be little sailing. However they were sent out late morning and spent considerable time trying to make the start boat which seemed to be half-way to Waiheke. It was hot and light. Forecast was for SE turning SW, but the weatherguessers were all wrong. About 1pm a nice wee NW 5 knots set in (seabreeze down there) and stayed in to give us 3 good races. If you got it wrong you were dogtucker. Once back in the pack it was very easy to lose 3 or 4 boats at a time. Grant Beck came out for another couple of races and won a race only to discover he was OCS. Tim Snedden had a small lead on points but needed to keep a close eye on Murray Sargisson and Steve Pyatt. Luckily he won race 7 to give him the win over Murray and Steve.

Overall Champion and 60 to 64 Masters Tim Snedden, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and 65+ Masters Murray Sargisson, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and 50 to 59 Masters Steve Pyatt. 40 to 40 Juniors James Barker. Handicap Don Currie. Well done to Howick for a great regatta, good racing and great organisation. (We even had burgers available at prizegiving).

### ***Join your Club!***

There have been several recent instances, not just in the Zephyr class, of sailors entering events without being members of a yacht club affiliated to Yachting New Zealand. The Notice of Race for most events requires club membership as do YNZ Regulations. If you are not a club member, your results could be voided via a Rule 69 protest.

### ***The Class Norm!***

In addition, the Zephyr is essentially a one design class, albeit

with a certain freedom of finish and equipment. It does mean you cannot deviate from the class norm and change aspects of the hull and sail. If you are refurbishing a hull and want to make changes, please check with the ZOA first.

### ***Whangarei Report***

Alden Smith from Whangarei provided this report on Zephyrs in the far North.

Two local sailors and members of the Whangarei Cruising Club have purchased Zephyr yachts with the intention of promoting the Zephyr to local senior sailors, newcomers and junior skippers moving up to larger boats.

In the last few months Zephyr 195 'Slipstream' was purchased from Wellington by Alden Smith and Zephyr 97 'Racing Stripes' from Christchurch by Bernie Whyte. Both boats have current measurement certificates. These purchases involved long road journeys that reflect the enthusiasm and commitment these sailors have to their new 'old' Zephyrs.

Currently the boats are being raced at the Onerahi Yacht Club and the Whangarei Cruising Clubs Parua Bay centre board club site. Alden raced in the recent Auckland Champs at Howick Beach and at a ZOA meet at French Bay with a total lack of distinction; but there are plans for the usual Zephyr renovations and light weight gear purchases that bring these delightful little boats up to a competitive level.

Both the Zephyrs attract a lot of attention when they are raced and it is hoped that the interest and attention is followed by the purchase of boats that would add to the current local fleet of two and provide the fun, competition and camaraderie that is apparent within the Zephyr class.

### ***ZOA AGM***

Most likely at Worser Bay, later in the year - continuing the custom of holding at the venue for the next Nationals.