

Bagpipe



Poor Paukie Sail!

The Skipper's Meeting

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Tom Hubbell

We had a great time in Dallas. We had wind and seven races. We had lots of sunshine, lots of free beer and pop, lots of pool, lots of boats, and lots of party. The top five boats were very close in points. Seventy-seven boats raced in the main event and the women's and youth events were well subscribed also. Chris Klotz, Dee Klotz and Andy Muss raced Thistle #1 to victory. The boat is 44 years old. The boat last won the nationals in 1956 with Sandy Douglass driving. The Presidents Division was led by Chris Holzaepfel steering a 4 month old boat, 3838. Scott Griffin skippered the winning Junior Nationals boat and Ann MacLean-Henderson won the Women's Nationals.

At least 30 of the 77 boats were sailed with two or more from one family aboard. Of these, 20 were sailing with a spouse. Six of the top ten in the Championship Division were husband-wife (plus a third person) teams, including the champions. Five families had two boats racing. I'd say the Thistle Class is alive and well. We can build on that.

Ron Smith: Ron was recognized with the prestigious Minton Trophy this year. This award is for long, quality service to the class. Ron has served as a fleet officer, District Governor,

Regional V.P., Chief Measurer for five years, First V.P., and President. No stranger to travel, his drive-18-sleep-6 hours strategy brings the "Ugly Red Boat" to major regattas in all corners of the country. He has distinguished himself, with a team usually including Jim Moyer, by sailing well at all levels of regattas. They led the Nationals after three races, in Montana in '88. As Chief Measurer, Ron completed the painstaking job of bringing the official plans up to date, i.e., new drawings and notes. Ron, we salute your continuing sailing activity and enthusiasm as well as your contributions to date!

Chuck Kaufholz: Speaking of contributions, thanks are in order for Chuck and co-chairman **Jeff Progelhof** for work as National's Regatta Chairmen. Planning the Nationals is like being the tour director for 300 energetic vacationers of all ages for eight days utilizing an army (navy) of volunteers. The TCA championship regatta has many requirements for facilities and people. Putting that together is a serious undertaking. They completed the mission with polish.

Kelson Elam served as National Race Committee Chairman and convinced **Bob Gough** to be the Principal Race Officer. Bob and his team did a super job.

No endorsements: Some people have questioned whether class officers are endorsing sails. We are not.

Newsletters: I wish I could show everyone three excellent district newsletters I recently received. The pride of the litter is the NCAL District Newsletter by **Mike Gillum**. It's full of race results, details of some events, plans, photocopied photos, the works. Nice job Mike. Another was from PNW, by **Eric Egge**. **Ann Jones** put together a single mailing list for LEW and LEE containing all the available regatta flyers for the season for the area. The East Coast Fall Series has done this for a few years. I appreciate the scoop from my district's occasional newsletter. If you are getting a useful newsletter, tell the District Governor it's well received. It is no small task to

put one together and no doubt the effort often goes unrewarded.

Discouraged? Virtually all of us race with a hopeful expectation of our finish position. Many of us sail to the dock with long faces not having met the expectation. As ABC told us years ago, sports offer the "thrill... and the agony..." but somehow it's always a surprise to do less well. You're never alone in this regard. At the risk of sounding clinical, the social functions of regattas represent our own sailing support group at work reinforcing us individually as we struggle to better our previous performances. The contest is to beat our own standard. Friends are there to challenge that standard on the water and to bolster our (wounded) egos ashore. So don't skip the social functions and don't just go away dejected. Lean on your friends, get some coaching, break a bad, old habit in the boat. There will be another day. Having said that, I feel better!

We're off to the club Labor Day series and five fall regattas. Rev up the van and let's go to the races.

