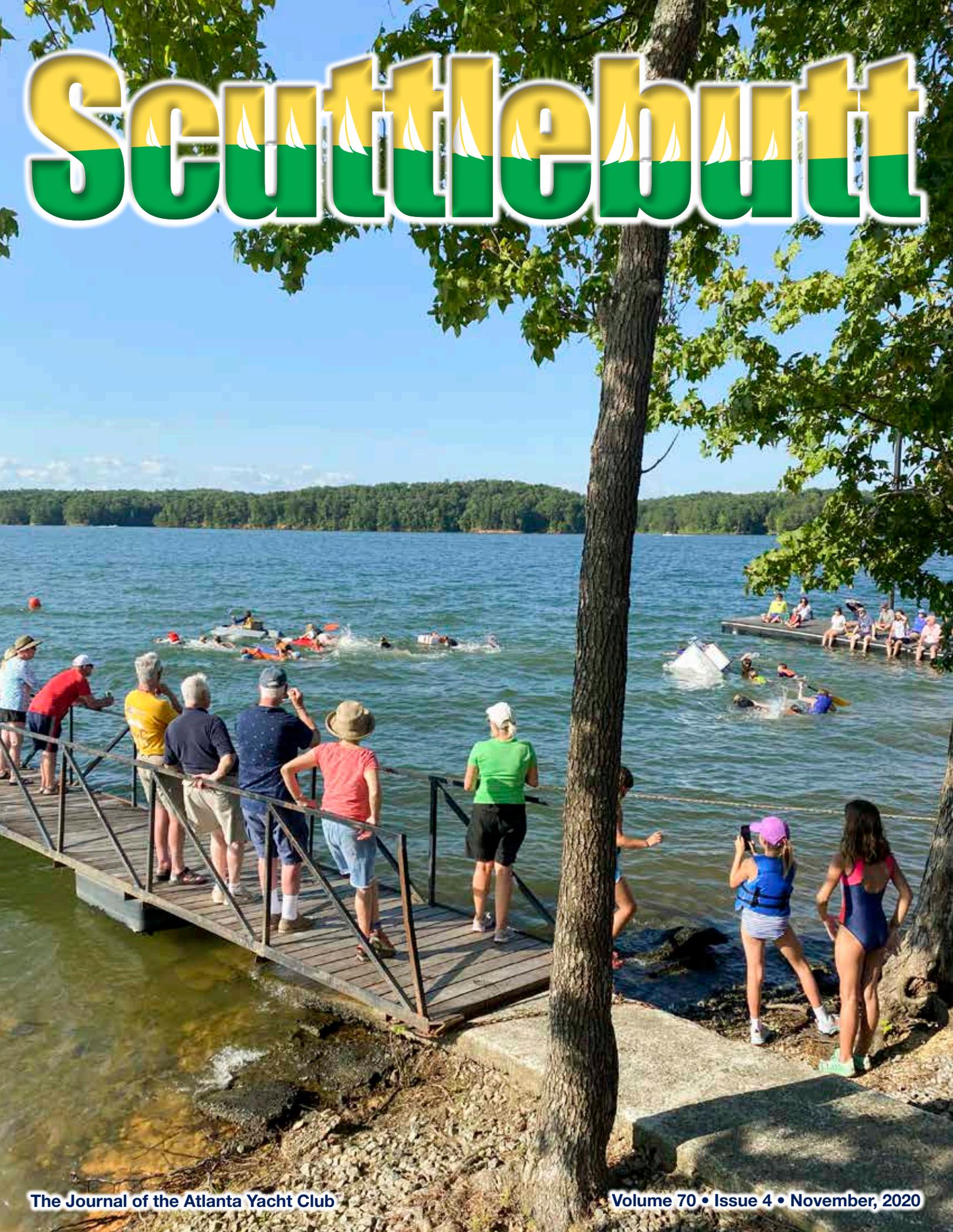


Scuttlebutt



Scuttlebutt

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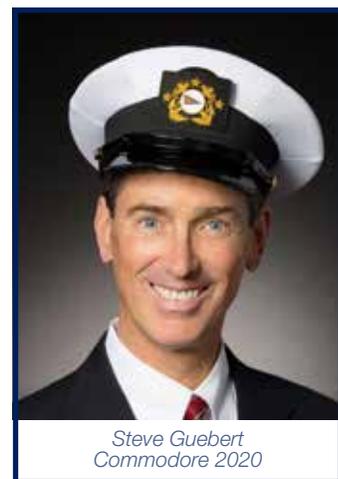


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ATLANTA YACHT CLUB est. 1950
Atlanta Yacht Club, north of Atlanta on Allatoona Lake, has been home to small-boat sailors of all ages since 1950. On weekends throughout the year, you will find our shores busy with one-design sailing craft heading out for competition or just the pleasure of being on the water.



Steve Guebert
Commodore 2020

This year we have been celebrating 70 years of sailing on Lake Allatoona. In January, few would have guessed that our celebrations and social events would be so limited, and sadly, we have elected to not attempt to hold our Annual Awards Banquet. We all hope that come spring, the risks will have greatly subsided and allow us to hold a fabulous Commissioning event where we intend to share the 2020 awards. In the meantime, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate this year's club champions:

- Junior Champion: Evie Blauvelt
- Women's Champion: Lucy Spearman
- Club Champion: Bryce Dryden

While our big regattas have all been canceled, and our social events have been greatly curtailed this year, I am pleased that fleet sailing and other outdoor events have continued. In fact, as the summer has come to a close, I think the number of boats out sailing has picked up. I applaud all of you that continued to venture out on the water this year and I would like to thank all of you who served on race committee.

I also applaud the members who took advantage of the camping area this year, creating our own little AYC Campground City. I don't think the camping area has ever had the level of usage that it has had this year, at least not in recent memory. Fortunately, both sailing and camping are well suited to these times of social distancing!

I'm glad that we were able to proceed with the fall Adult Training series. A big thank you to our directors Henry and Jeanette Taylor, our lead instructor Amy Thompson, all the juniors that also helped with the instruction and support for the students, and the Thistle, Y-Flyer, and Snipe fleets for your continued support for these classes.

Did you know that we had more than a dozen on the wait list for the fall class? I believe this is evidence that during this pandemic, there are people looking for new recreational opportunities that take them outdoors where they can have fun with a relatively low risk of contracting the virus. I encourage all members to continue to follow CDC guidelines to help stop the spread, but please go ahead and spread the word about our wonderful club!

On a personal note, I fully expected 2020 to be a fun and exciting year. Here I am, Commodore of the Atlanta Yacht Club! Of all the things you might consider doing in your lifetime, this ranks right up there! But...anything else? Well, since you asked...yes. Outside my role of

See *COMMODORE*, page 3





From the
Vice Commodore

Happy Fall Y'all! Competition on the water has been HOT and even though the change in season is here, there has been a lot of activity on the water since I last reported. By the time we end this sailing season, over 65 fleet races will have been administered by 24 different PROs and 12 Race Committee teams.

A special thanks goes to Len Wert who chaired the Race Committee effort this year which includes not only scheduling the teams, but also keeping up with the equipment. This year, the lake has had a real taste for mushrooms and gobbled up a number of our "mushroom" anchors. After much testing, Len believes the culprit is the carabiners (clips) we have been using so he has now replaced them with locking carabiners. We are looking forward to excellent results. Please remember to inform Len if anything is lost or missing during your Race Committee duty.

As you will see sprinkled through this issue, all three of our championship regattas were sailed this year and the competition was fierce. Many thanks to the regatta chairs and PROs – Kenneth Maassen and Clint Hodges for Juniors; Craig and Gayle McLean, Anna and Clay Haddon and Bryce Dryden for the Ladies; and Jennifer Cross and Bill Ross for the Club Champs. We wouldn't be able to race and have such a fabulous club without all of these volunteers!

We just wrapped up another great season of Adult Sailing. Many thanks to Jeannette and Henry Taylor for leading this important program which helps our members and the community learn to sail. The fall class was over-subscribed so a number of people were put on the wait list for the spring class. Several of our newer members, Rachel Moncrief and Jason Frost, along with two juniors, Frances Hanson and Brynn Garrett, also joined the class. Junior Commodore Jason Kopin and his sister, Lucy, helped teach the class along with instructor, Amy Thompson. Other juniors helped out as well and I talked with them about their experience. They said they learn by teaching. We hope to attract some new members from this fall round of participants – with the fleets participating and showing the various boats, this help provide exposure to not only the boats but other members. It is not only the membership committee's responsibility to help foster new members, it's all of ours – and it's important to remember that we are not only looking for new members, we want to keep the ones we have. Please do your part in cultivating relationships with new members and nurturing existing relationships and developing some new ones. When you see a new face, please say hello and introduce yourself – it's so worth the investment of your energy, and we have some really amazing members.

Looking forward to seeing you at the lake. Yours in Service, Tracy Tumlin Allardice



COMMODORE, con't. from page 2

Commodore, some other notable events: Grand baby #2 (Rohan) came along in March; my daughter Katie was married to Chaz Black in the smallest wedding I have ever attended (big party will wait until next year); my son Kevin married Halie Johnson in October, choosing to continue with their wedding event in the AYC clubhouse with masks and social distancing; and after 28+ years working at Coca-Cola, I now happily enter into retirement, looking forward to a variety of activities, including messing around in boats. 2020 is a year I will not forget!

Now let's go sailing!

We have a sign in our cabin that says “Escape to the Lake!” According to the Allatoona Corps Project Office, that is just what Georgians have done. Our lake use this year, as of Labor Day, was 137% of the average annual usage. AYC has followed that trend.

Since the last time we “talked”, we have had an incredible Labor Day led by Reid and Anne Thompson. If you weren’t there, you missed a weekend full of great weather that sparked competitive Junior and Women’s Championships complemented by our traditional Balloon Bash, Allatoona Shuffle, Pancake Breakfast, and Cardboard Boat Race. To bring some normalcy back to our events, we opened up the kitchen for a Saturday night Conga Line Hamburger Bar courtesy of Lavon and Nile, and Sunday was highlighted by Reid’s Music Challenge. We showed our age a bit when we revealed which songs we wanted played. I know I’ve missed some things from that weekend, but if you weren’t there, you really missed something. Thanks, Anne and Reid!

Facilities wise, we are doing well. Barry and Lane constructed our second set of kayak racks. All of the kayaks that were on the ground have now been put up and we have room for a couple more boats. Through some volunteer effort we completed some greatly needed painting on the clubhouse, Bing’s Point and the BBQ pit. We are trying to hit those areas where a coat of paint will help make the club shine for us and our visitors. We also refinished some of the signs around the club and we have some replacement traffic signs to put up that Robert Mitchell graciously procured for us. Please pay attention to your speed. Our speed limit is 15mph for your safety and that of the “young crews in training” running around the club.

We said goodbye to our Assistant Dock Master, Lane Mitchell, as he has taken another job that is much closer to his house. We will miss his enthusiasm and willingness to dive into any project, and we are working hard to find someone that can possibly fill his shoes.

Even though we are past Labor Day, activity at the club hasn’t really waned. On the last Saturday of September, all of this happened: the 4th class of Adult Sailing with Henry hosting record numbers; the kids had an impromptu game of hide and seek that I know spread from our cabin down to the point; racing continued with Thistles on the line and informal sailing instruction occurred with Bryce showing new Thistle sailors some boat handling basics; the clubhouse was full that night with the Motor Boat fleet meeting in person for the first time in a long time; the Thistle fleet gathered for George’s birthday party; plus a large football watch party on the Lake View Porch. This prompted Tom Henderson to say, “This is the most normal weekend that we have had in 2020!”

So, go ahead. Escape to the Lake . . . and I’ll see you there!

Scuttlebutt

Front Cover Photo — Labor Day Cardboard Boat Race competition was fast, fierce and soggy. Future boat designers showed their vision and moxy with some slick and floaty (and not so-floaty) contraptions. A yachty-good-time was had by all!

Photo Credit Lavon Hatcher

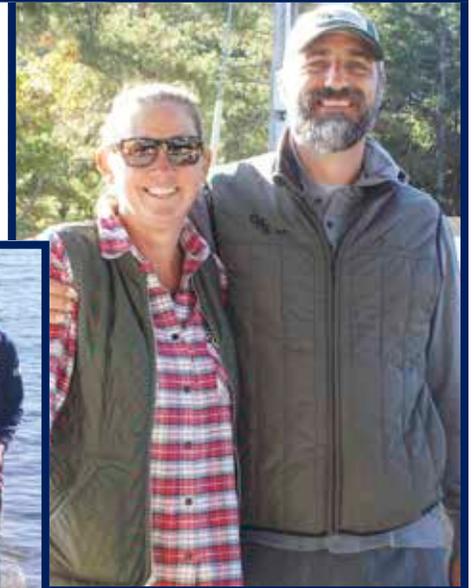


ANNUAL ALLATOONA CLEAN UP EFFORT

Susan Smith

18 Clean Up Heroes came out to clean the water line around the club's campus. The water was still high, so not much trash this year, but a couple of intrepid cleaner-uppers managed to fish out an old tire and a rusted barrel from out of the Canoe Colony cove. That alone made the day a great success!

Thank you, Thank you! to all who came out and walked and bent over and picked things up.



ANCHORS AWEIGH

*Midshipman Carlyn Blauvelt Awarded
LCDR Robert S. Williams Seamanship Award*

AYC's own Carlyn Blauvelt completed her Plebe (Freshman) year at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where she sailed on the Varsity Intercollegiate Sailing Team. She earned her first letter in sailing and was awarded the Lieutenant Commander Robert S. Williams Seamanship Award. The award is given to a Plebe on the team who displays the most improvement over the course of the season, as well as sportsmanship, dedication to the team and enthusiasm for the sport. Carlyn's name will be engraved on the trophy, which will remain on display in the Hall of Fame at the Robert Crown Sailing Center. She was also presented the book, "My Old Man and the Sea," as a keeper award.

"I realized that I have been preparing my whole life to attend the Naval Academy," said Carlyn. "Preparing for life as a Midshipman included sailing at AYC, being raised by a father who is a former naval aviator, my coursework at The Walker School and even learning how to iron crisp seams as a costumer for the high school musical."

Carlyn started sailing at age 5 at AYC in the Optimist. She went on to Team Trial Qualify six times during her Optimist career. When she graduated from the Opti, she went on to found The Walker Sailing Team with her sister Evie. Fellow AYCers Erika Kaczynski and Grayson Berrier also

were founding members, taking the team to the Districts in 2019. Carlyn also competed in a Youth Olympic Campaign in the Nacra 15 and was the alternate for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

"I really enjoyed sailing for Navy this year," said Carlyn. "College sailing is very competitive and I was fortunate to be able to both skipper and crew this year. While the season was cut short, I am very proud of everything the team accomplished. I am looking forward to getting back on the water in Annapolis."

The LCDR Robert S. Williams Award was established in 1997. Williams was a pioneer Navy jet pilot in World War II and later was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas as a flight instructor. After he retired from the Navy, he moved to Annapolis, where he became an active supporter of the midshipmen sailing program. He successfully raced his Cal 25 and Call 227 on the Chesapeake Bay.



EC12 METER REPORT

John Muhlhausen

After completing 98 fleet races that constituted our 2020 Summer Pandemic Series, Ian Elliott emerged as our winner - the recipient of our "Once in a Lifetime Zoonotic Cup". Scott Vernon, John Muhlhausen, and George Willis finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively. Also participating, but not qualifying, were Bill Tumlin and Gabe Berris. Over the course of the series, all skippers won multiple races and were able to briefly bask in the limelight. However, it was Ian who won a gazillion of races - our true Zoonotic Cup 2020 Champion.

Racing on Thursday afternoons proved to be an ideal time, as skippers had the water front to themselves with smooth waters, fresh breezes, and no packed Viewing Pavilion filled with partisan spectators chanting, "LUFF HIM UP, LUFF HIM UP, LUFF HIM UP." Only two sailing days had to be canceled due to visits from Wet n' Windy Sally on September 17, followed by Soggy Betta on September 24.



When seeking a unique trophy for this unique sailing year, John suggested a bat theme would be appropriate, since a bat may be the vector responsible for our current zoonosis. One of our distinguished members, who wishes to remain anonymous and be identified only as DCM, took hold of the idea, knew of a nearby cauldron of vampire bats and possessed the special equipment required to catch one. So early in the morning hours of September 2, during the full moon at AYC, a vampire bat was caught using a modified spinnaker pole that held a cup full of warm tasty blood and a designer spinnaker net. DCM bagged his prey, took it to a local taxidermist, and had it hung from a bronze medallion emblematic of the fleet's inaugural Zoonotic Cup. Some will say this is not really a cup, and certainly not of America's Cup stature, but perhaps worthy, nevertheless, displayed in the club's trophy case. Ian didn't look comfortable (Lisa screamed) when it was hung around his neck during our awards ceremony. He requested all photos taken during the event be destroyed. Beth was asked to handle this. She reports she dumped them out the window during their recent RV road trip to Branson, MO; more digital trash litter on I-44.



Now it is on to Murphey-Candler Park for our Fall/Winter Series and more social distancing fun . . .

SOCIAL DISTANCING



2020 JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP



Saturday, September 5, AYC hosted the 2020 Junior Championship. With time seeming to have lost all meaning this year, all it took was the chilly morning temperatures and the crisp breeze and anyone could've thought that fall had finally arrived!

With nine 420s on the water and 18 competitors, there was constant sailing action to watch throughout the day. Something that made this regatta so much fun to host and to spectate was the immense variety of experience levels in the boats. Some sailors were garnering the memories of participating in their first regatta, and others were well accustomed to the environment. Nevertheless, the amount of comradery between all ages was encouraging to see.

Throughout the day the races were close and competitive. The finish of each race gave forth to a new discussion of which sailors would take the crown. Though the more seasoned skippers were able to pull out the win, newcomers Lief Carlson and Tucker Mansfield gave the podium finishers a run for

the money throughout the day, finishing close behind them in the final rankings.

A great day of competition was topped off by some time to celebrate the victors. Evie Blauvelt and Erika Kaczynski came out as the 2020 Junior Champions, followed closely by Lucy Spearman and Josie Sherry, and Ellie Spearman and Ben Woods took third place. Congratulations to all of the amazing sailors that competed in this regatta!



JULY CLINIC

This July, AYC Juniors hit the road for some college sailing training. The team practiced out of the College of Charleston and was coached by Jacksonville University's sailing coach, Jon Faudree. Scuttlebutt readers may recall that AYC Juniors have enjoyed coaching from Jon Faudree since their Opti days. Now, Evie Blauvelt's longtime sailing partner, Izzy Smith (Birmingham Sailing Club), is a freshman at JU and was able to hook us up with this great opportunity. Longtime AYC connections with Charleston secured us the venue and use of their boats for the weeklong clinic.

At the clinic were: Evie Blauvelt, Lucy and Ellie Spearman, Josie Sherry, Ben Woods and Izzy Smith. Also pictured here are AYC Junior sailors and sibling support teams of Kate and Lauren Woods and Colin Sherry.



AYC Juniors (and Dad!) Dominate at Lake Lanier Sailing Club's Reggae Regatta

This June, AYC dominated the leader board at Lake Lanier's annual Reggae Regatta. Not pictured are Leif Carlson, Mike Carlson and AYC Junior Mascot Stephon, who also attended the event to cheer on the team.

Opti Fleet:

- Leif Carlson (2nd place)
- James Folk (4th place)

Adult Laser Fleet:

- Mike Carlson (2nd place)

420 Fleet:

- Lucy Spearman and Josie Sherry (1st place)
- Izzy Smith (Birmingham Sailing Club) and Ellie Spearman (2nd place)
- Ben Woods and his Atlanta Classical Academy school teammate, Maddie Snider (3rd place)



JUNIOR OLD GOATS WOULD BE “KIDS?”

AYC had 3 junior teams/boats participate in the Old Goat at Lake Lanier. All performed well and held their own in a very competitive 24 boat fleet.

Darby Dryden skippered a boat with crew Josie Sherry and Evie Blauvelt. They placed 18th and Darby was the youngest skipper.

Lucy Spearman with crew Ben Woods and Darby Smith finished 16/24 and sailed in an AYC boat on loan from Lauren Yapp.

Isabel (Izzy) Smith (long time AYC friend from Birmingham Sailing Club) skippered with Ellie Spearman and a college friend of Izzy's from Jacksonville University. Izzy and team finished in 15th place and were the top ranking Junior Team – and proud recipients of some LLSC barware.

Also of note was AYC grand-baby George Abdullah, who at the tender age of almost two, debuted in his first regatta with parents Paul and Marie and proud grandparents Allan and Brenda watching on.



Y FLYER & FRIENDS

In September, AYC Y-Flyer Fleet #1 took four boats to James Island Yacht Club to sail in the Y -Flyer and Friends Regatta and to get to know the Y's newest fleet in Charleston.

JiYC hosted a great socially-distanced event and all teams were glad to be on the water, despite tough conditions of light to no wind.

Making the trip from AYC to JiYC were:

- Carlin and Amanda Hodges who brought home the hardware and placed 3rd
- Clint Hodges and Rae Traina who placed 5th (and would likely have moved up the leader board had work not dictated they only sail Saturday)



- Lucy and Ellie Spearman who placed 9th and were the top junior team

- Kate Rose and Trixie Hanson who placed 12th

- AYC Junior Team Josie Sherry and Ben Woods who placed 14th - with an impressive 4th in one race!

Y

AUGUSTA HALLOWEEN REGATTA

October 10 and 11, four AYC Lasers, including Mike and Leif Carlson, Tucker Mansfield, and James Folk competed in the Augusta Halloween Regatta.

For the three junior sailors, this was their first away Laser regatta.

For Tucker, this was also his very first time sailing outside of AYC. Go Tucker!

There were 13 tough 4.7 competitors and the AYC boys did great. Leif came in 5th, James 9th, and Tucker 10th. Many thanks to the Laser fleet for allowing us to borrow the fleet's 4.7 sails, the fleet boat, and the super trailer!

Other highlights and lowlights: Leif and Tucker's tent flooded on Saturday night; Mr. Folk taught us a fabulous new song that made us wiggle and giggle; Everyone getting tripped by the neighbor's hammock tie downs (Tucker holds the record for catching all 3 before 6 am); The Food! Amazing Ona ice treats, a Saturday night picnic dinner under the stars, and an endless bowl of Sunday morning breakfast cheese grits.

Oh, yeah...and memories that will last a lifetime!

As Ed would say "Laser sailing. Gotta love it."



NOT THE BEERS REGATTA

Amanda Hodges

17 registered boats: 5 were out-of-town and 4 were skippered by AYC juniors. This thrown-together event was fueled by a want for some racing before the end of the season and several neighboring fleets said they would come if we gave them a start.



So....we had the “NOT the Beers Regatta” Regatta – Covid-compliant (as much as practical) and AYC wonderful. Hurricane Delta scared off some boats and several families had made other plans when the official Beers Memorial Regatta was canceled 2 ½ months ago. That stated, the boats that sailed for the weekend had a little of everything: tough starts, variety of courses, hard hiking, frustrating puff chasing, interesting mark roundings and challenging competition.

We also had a massive low country boil put on by the Henderson/Hodges cooking tag team and Smithfield/Smith/Hodges desserts. (Sorry that we ran out of the peach cobbler and lemon meringue pie so quickly).



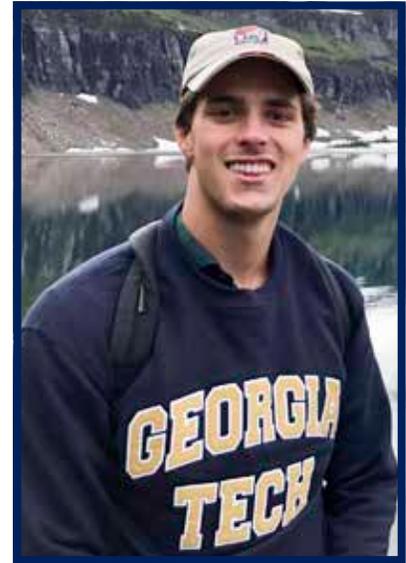
Kudos go to Wanda and Kevin Black for traveling from Indy to sail with us and an extra whoop-whoop to our own AYC junior superstars, Evie Blauvelt and Ellie Spearman, for schooling the rest of us in sailboat racing. Congrats to Evie and Ellie for winning the first and hopefully only “NOT the Beers Regatta” Regatta!



NEW AYC MEMBERS

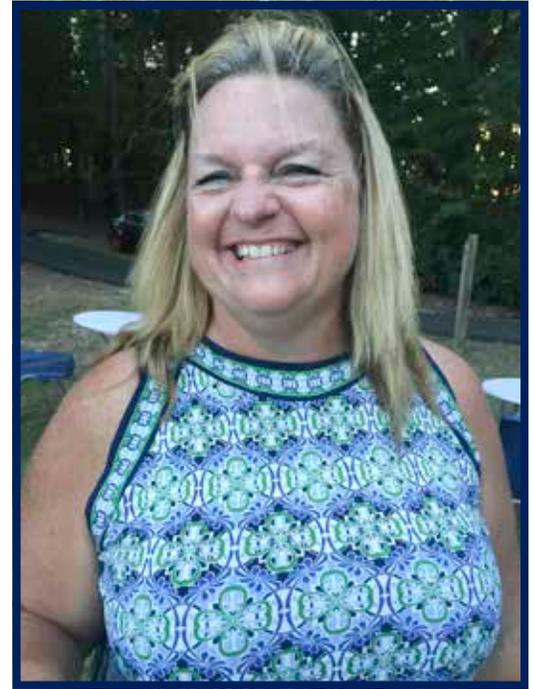
Welcome!

New student member **Max Irvine** is no stranger to AYC. Blessed with the gene pool of parents John and Leslie Irvine, he started sailing in the Opti program here before he can even remember, experiencing early on the fun of traveling to regattas. Moving on to Junior Week, the Laser Fleet, and eventually into the 420 as a member of the Georgia Tech varsity sailing team, Max has become an excellent sailor who is comfortable in many boats and gets his adrenaline up when there are heavy air days to race. Meanwhile he is a junior at Tech studying business administration; also works part-time for a gig-economy startup in Midtown; enjoys golf, travel and fly-fishing; and oh, by the way, still finds plenty of time for an active social life — are we surprised? Clearly Max is pre-qualified to be a GREAT new AYC member!



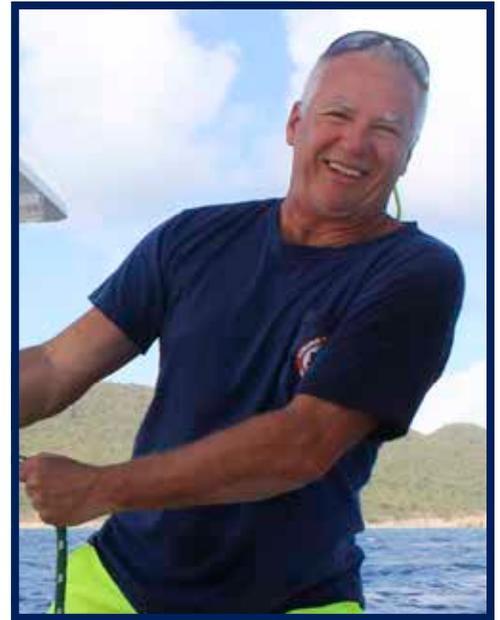
The **Johnny Sinclair** in this photo is now the newest Sinclair to join the AYC roster. Brother of David, son of “Big Johnny,” and grandson of “Sinny,” one of AYC’s earliest members and a legendary Thistle sailor, this Johnny grew up sailing Thistles, Sunfish and Lasers at the lake, acquiring a treasure trove of great AYC memories and fun stories still tucked away in his creative brain. He was a Junior Week camper for seven years and our most sought-after volunteer for three more after that (undisputed king of the Shaving Cream War!). After college and an MBA from Emory, Johnny built a successful career in real estate, finding time to also serve on the Marietta City Council for twelve years. Outside of AYC, he loves spending time with his nieces and nephews and enjoys an active social life with his partner, Mark. Enthusiastic about getting back on the water with his family and tightening the bonds with his lake friends, Johnny is sure to be an active volunteer, as well. Sponsors Tish Spearman and Tracy Allardice, close friends, describe him as “embodying the spirit of AYC.” We are so glad to have him back!

Meet **Rachel Moncrief**, every bit the eager new Interim Member that her smiling photo conveys. She is also a brand new sailor. Rachel left her home in Texas in 1991 to visit her parents in Georgia — and never left! While she grew up on the beach, loves the water, and has been camping on the lake for 20+ years, she never had the opportunity to sail until she visited AYC last fall. There she was reacquainted with George Willis, who became her sponsor, and also met her new best friend, Joy Finch. After sailing that day and the next, Rachel was hooked. She has since been crewing at every opportunity and, thanks to a cancellation in the Adult Sailing Class, is now enrolled in the fall session. At the lake, Rachel can often be found hanging out in our newly revitalized beach campground, which she has helped to renovate and turn into a popular gathering spot. At home in nearby Hiram, she is the mother of one daughter and grandmother to three, who she hopes will one day get to go sailing with her at the helm of her own boat.



New Interim Member **Henri Hollis** and his wife, Kim, found us through Google while searching for a way to pursue sailing around Atlanta. An Atlanta native now living in West Midtown, Henri is a free-lance journalist, writer and photographer, currently working for the AJC and looking forward to one day combining sailing and photography (*Hey, we can help!*). He grew up sailing Sunfish on vacations in South Carolina and is interested in expanding his sailing experience along with Kim, both of whom plan to take the Adult Sailing class together. Not yet committed to a boat, Henri is open to all our fleets, has been an eager participant in club races with co-sponsor Bryce Dryden, and has spent several weekends at the lake with new friend and host Clint Hodges. He and Kim are big into sports, travel, hiking and cooking, but are eager to fit sailing into their busy lives. As sponsor Tracy Allardice asks, “How many new members do you know who have already read and processed our Rule Book?” This guy is ready to dive right in! Please welcome Henri and Kim when you meet them.

New Regular Member **John Cole** comes to us with a lengthy resumé of sailing experience and a wall full of boating course certificates. After retiring six years ago from his job managing the financing portfolio for CoBank, John decided to get more serious about sailing and bought a Nacra 18 catamaran, which caught the eye of his neighbor BJ Donahue and led to a visit to AYC for last fall's Halloween Regatta, followed by a couple of club races aboard BJ's Snipe and Paul Eberhard's and Eddie Kuznicki's Y-Flyers. He'd like to get aboard a Thistle next, and once he figures out which boat is right for him, he plans to get out on the race course and the regatta circuit. Meanwhile he stays active in tennis and adult league baseball, occasionally as an umpire. John and his wife, Lori, have three "20-something" age kids, two of them products of Georgia Tech, and the youngest, Anna, on hold in Marietta waiting to resume her dancing career with the Washington Ballet when COVID permits.



The smile on the face of **Elizabeth Shipp** will be familiar to many of us. Daughter of members Trey and Dawn Shipp, Elizabeth has been crewing on her father's Snipe since she was eight years old. A recent graduate of Agnes Scott with a degree in Public Health and a job as a medical scribe, she now has more time to spend at AYC, sailing and volunteering as an adult. While she loves crewing on the Snipe and is casting an eye toward skippering, she is also hoping to get involved with the Y Fleet, as the Y is "such a fun and versatile boat and I always have an absolute blast when I sail one!" In addition to sailing, Elizabeth's other interests include reading, history and volunteering. Her sponsor Craig McLean (master of understatement) writes that she is "charming, comfortable on the water, engaging conversationally, and rather brilliant." What more could we possibly look for in a brand new Associate Member?



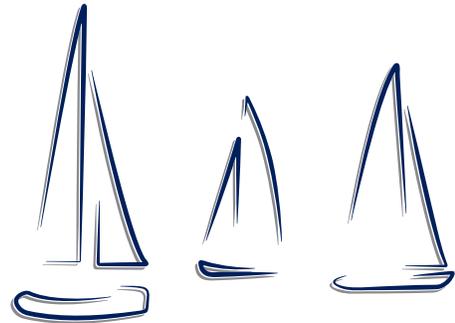
Everybody loves the Scuttlebutt! Don't be shy in sending your news to Scuttlebutt.editor@gmail.com



New Interim Member **Isabel Ospina** was inspired to learn to sail after reading a book written by the youngest sailor ever to circumnavigate the globe, Laura Dekker. Tracking down AYC on the web, Isabel signed up for our Adult Sailing Class in the spring of 2019 and fell in love with the sport, soon joining the club and regularly crewing for sponsor, Kathy Bronaugh, and other racing Snipe sailors.

She and her husband, Mauricio Ochoa, have already become enthusiastic sailors and volunteers, not only connecting with the Snipe Fleet but also, with encouragement from Bryce Dryden and cohorts, trying out the Thistle.

Sons, Pablo (13) and Diego (11), missed their first Junior Week this year thanks to COVID, but are key players in the Ochoas' decision as to what boat is right for their family. If you haven't already met these delightful new members, be sure to look them up and extend a warm welcome.



If new interim member **Matt Fricker** seems to already know his way around the club, it's because he does. He grew up here!

His father, Scott, and his late grand-parents, AYC's larger-than-life Bill and Kathleen Fricker, saw to it that Matt (or Matthew, to which he also answers) spent his growing-up years at the lake, sailing and crewing in Lasers, Snipes and Thistles, and participating in Junior Week all the years he was available. Post-college, sailing has been on Matt's back burner for some years, but now that he is married with a three-year-old son, he looks back on those good lake years and would like to get back to sailing with family in tow.

The Frickers' Snipe and Laser are not race-ready at this point, but Matt and his dad both plan to take our Adult Sailing Class while they work on getting the boats and themselves up to speed. This past summer and fall have found Matt and son, Henry, hanging out with new friends on the water and in our refurbished camping area. Matt's wife, Megan, will be able to join them more often once she completes her advanced degree in nursing. Be sure to get acquainted (or *re-acquainted*, as the case may be!) with these fun new members!

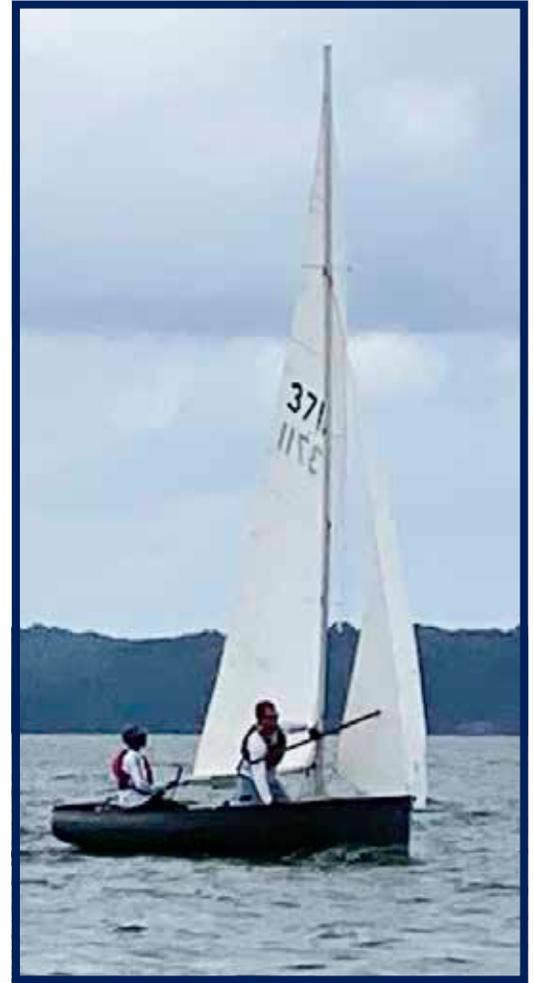


THISTLE FLEET NEWS

Nancy Molitor

Anybody who has spent some time at the lake this summer and fall doesn't have to be told that the Thistle Fleet is surviving the pandemic remarkably well! Despite the many challenges this crazy year has presented, AYC in general and the Thistle Fleet in particular have come through like gangbusters, drumming up creative ways to be together and still socially distance, while we keep on doing what we do best, which is to go sailing with our best buddies.

So much new energy this year! Good proof of that is seen in the number of Thistle skippers qualifying to race in the recent Club Championship. Our fleet scoring system allows the skipper in first place at the cutoff date to be given the first of our three allotted slots, this year nailed down by David Shively. The other two spots are determined by a sail-off among the remaining qualifiers, which included Darby Dryden, Conrad Roos, Reid Thompson, Mark Sherry, Johnny Sinclair, Brett Woods, Len Wert and George Willis. (That list alone is impressive, as it was not so long ago we did not have enough qualifiers to even need the sail-off!) On a Saturday of rollicking winds and extremely challenging racing, the teams that prevailed were Len Wert with Bob McCormack, and Steve and Gillian Bauer. So, add to that roster last year's pre-qualified Club Champion Bryce Dryden, and on the day of the all-important championship we had four formidable contenders in the lineup: Dryden, Shively, Wert and Bauer. You will undoubtedly read elsewhere in this issue all about Bryce's incredible domination of the event, so instead of making you read it twice I will just say "KUDOS to Bryce and Darby — we're so proud they are ours, but you can't have them!"



A wonderful season of fall weather and an inflated amount of free time have ramped up our participation in club races, resulting in more fun and growing confidence among some of our newer people who have not been part of the regatta scene before now. Since the Dixie hit the skids in May, no one knew whether the fall regattas would survive the Covid-19 blahs. So it was a happy day when LLSC announced the Old Goat was ON, and eight Fleet 48 teams jumped right in to join



the Thistle "heavies" and prove that all things are possible when we combine energy, muscle and masks. On September 12-13, 24 boats hit the line at Lake Lanier in anticipation of a pleasant easterly, testifying to the edge and excitement that had been building for many months by causing more than a few general recalls. In the second race, what started as a light rain grew into a "bonified squall" (see Johnny Sinclair Sailing Dictionary) that created total chaos and ended in abandonment for safety's sake. By then, Saturday was done for, but Sunday was beautiful and the RC got three more races off for a total of four. Greg Griffin was the overall winner, but AYC had two in the top ten, Bryce with



Steve Bauer (4th) and Bob McCormack with Len Wert (8th). Ellie Spearman was part of the top Junior team, crewing for Izzy Smith (BSC), and other junior teams included Lucy Spearman with Ben Woods as crew and Darby Dryden with Evie Blauvelt and Josie Sherry as crew. Additional AYC sailors in the 24-boat regatta included Mark and Mindy Sherry, Johnny and Sam Sinclair, George Willis and Conrad Roos, and Brett Woods and David Sinclair. (Conrad, BTW, will be sailing his own Thistle at this event next year! Now the proud owner of #3798, he has NO idea of the depth to which he was vetted while Art and Nancy Molitor and a team of spies gave serious thought to who would be the perfect person to match up with "Windshear." Conrad is IT!) Since LLSC didn't provide meals due to COVID-19, the AYC supporters certainly made sure the sailors didn't go hungry! One group led by Gillian Bauer, Rachel Moncrief and Kathleen Willis cooked up

a Low Country Boil, and another group ordered BBQ from a local joint. It was a fun and memorable weekend for all.

For a number of the AYC attendees (34 of 'em!), the Old Goat was their first "away" Thistle regatta. There was lots of talk about what a great experience it was and how they couldn't wait to attend another. Well, guess what — you will have that chance! Buoyed by the success of the OG, Birmingham is planning to go forward with the Great Pumpkin, followed by the Bloody Mary on Lake Hartwell. Meanwhile the beat goes on at AYC, with Club races through the end of October.

One of the most exciting things to happen to Fleet 48 this year is the honor of being presented with the Thistle Class Association's Growth and Promotion Award. Attending the TCA Annual Meeting as our fleet captain, David Sinclair writes about his pride and reflection at hearing the news:

"After a very nice moment of honoring Doug Laber at Great Midwest for his incredible service as a boat builder, Allison Gillum of TCA began to read an intro to the next award.....

"This year's recipient for the Growth and Promotion Trophy will be awarded to a fleet that has seen an almost 20% increase in membership, growing from 57 members to 68 and measuring in 8 boats. While only a few travel, this fleet encompasses the spirit of the Thistle Class and hosts the largest and most highly anticipated non-chevron regatta of the year known to you all as the Dixie. Located at the Atlanta Yacht Club on Lake Allatoona, Georgia, I am pleased to present the Growth and Promotion Trophy to Fleet 48. I would like to mention that Bryce Dryden has done an incredible job holding Thistle Rallies to keep the fun alive, create friendship, and improve everyone's sailing skills within the fleet."

"There is so much effort that goes into our fleet, from growth and promotion to behind-the-scenes preparation, from water activities to camping and movie nights, from administrative work to just flat out caring for one another!! It's especially nice to see our national organization tip its hat to us for our growth. We are doing so well, in spite of the pandemic, and yet I know our best days are still to come."

Thanks for your leadership, David, and **"CONGRATULATIONS TO US!!"**

AYC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2020 AYC Women's Championship was sailed on Sept 6 and was blessed with beautiful weather and a great breeze, at least for the first race. The morning winds were strong enough that all seven Thistles left the dock three-handed.

Five out of twenty-one competitors were teenagers and two out of seven skippers were teenagers! The teens were not just "out there," they were a force to be reckoned with. But then, every crew was a contender for the championship. The strong showing from junior sailors signals great things ahead for the AYC.

In the first race, Lucy, Evie, and Ellie put the more "experienced" crews on notice that they were in it to win it. They took first place in the first race. The extremely talented team of Kate Rose, Anna Lee, and Trixy were just behind in second place.



For the two afternoon races, the breeze was lighter and presented different challenges from the morning winds. Amanda, Nancy, and Jeanette came back to win the second race, proving experience still counts! Lucy and crew slipped to second in that race and Kate and her crew slipped to third. Lucy and crew banged out another bullet in the third race and earned the traditional congratulations (being tossed into the lake from the short dock). Kate and crew were again second, and Amanda third. Three races were sailed in all.

A Huge Thanks is due to a great race committee captained by Bryce Dryden. Thanks to Len Wort for all his help, including getting the NOR and SI's put together and copied off. Thank you to Gayle McLean and her daughter, Anna, who prepared a healthy and Covid-conscious lunch feast and an adult beverage, coined "Lakeside Breeze." George Willis was drone photographer extraordinaire.

See WOMEN'S, page 20



WOMEN'S, con't. from page 19

Final Results:

First Place: Lucy Spearman (Skipper), Evie Blauvelt, Ellie Spearman

Second Place: Kate Rose (Skipper), Anna Lee Cahill, Trixy Hanson

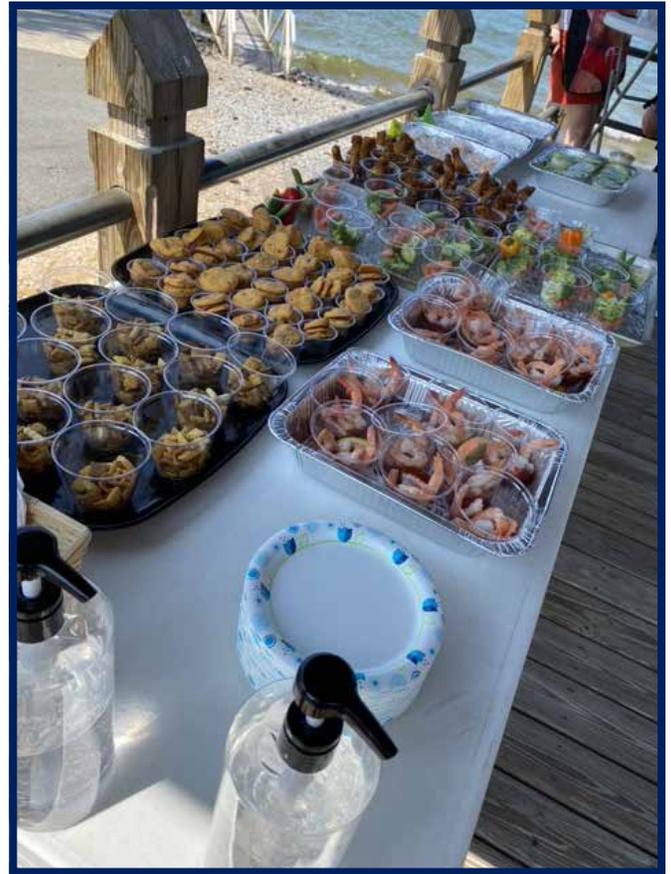
Third Place: Amanda Hodges (Skipper), Nancy Molitor, Jeanette Taylor

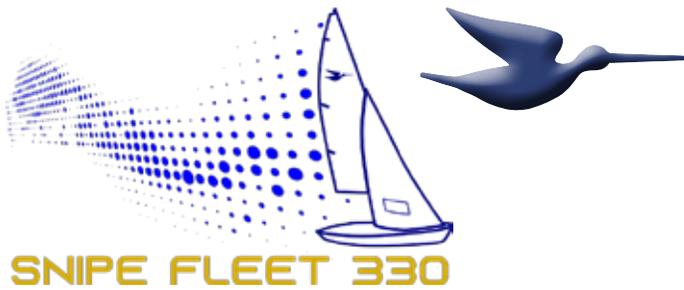
Fourth Place: Mindy Sherry (Skipper), Diane Vandeputte, Lisa Woods

Fifth Place: Jennifer Garrett (Skipper), Tracy Allardice, Adrienne Warnken

Sixth Place: Darby Dryden (Skipper), Josie Sherry, Gillian Bauer

Seventh Place: Ashley Davis (Skipper), Debbie Dryden, Dani Cushion





Joy Finch

While most sailors have some level of disappointment about long held regattas being cancelled this year, Snipe Fleet 330 has enjoyed several distractions. As a warm up to the *Lost In Space* event, the fleet did a fabulous job of improvising for Drills, Thrills and Chills on July 11th!

Five boats took to the lake with wonderful winds all day. We started the morning by welcoming Kevin and Haile, who sailed a fleet boat for the day. As a fleet, we are now enjoying the goal of investing in the fleet boats, which was to provide sailing options for those interested in sailing. We welcomed Rita Fullick back to the water, as crew with Greg Kibler. Other sailors included, Ellie and Lucy Spearman, Trey and Ben Shipp, and Tarasa Davis, who sailed single-handed in that wind!

Our AYC Commodore, Steve Guebert, volunteered to provide safety support on the water for the morning and was assisted by photographer, Thank you Steve! Amy Durrett, and her co-captain, Mac. Don and Marianne Hackbarth, were the driving force for motivation in moving forward with activities and plans, even if they have to be adjusted as we go along.

Winds were strong and steady (relative terms, but strong for our lake in July!), as our sailors launched and used the morning to practice, play and reunite with the water, wind and sailing. There were lots of smiles on faces!

The fleet certainly enjoyed the *Lost In Space* event, recounted in the last issues of *Scuttlebutt*.

With gatherings limited, the fleet created a socially distanced fleet meeting in August. On

Saturday, August 1st, the fleet gathered (and attempted to zoom, until connection was lost and those lost on ZOOM were connected by phone) for the August fleet meeting. Several sailors had enjoyed another gloriously windy day on the lake. The day of sailing was described as “puffy and shifty.”

Fifteen members gathered at the distancing deck (BBQ Pavilion) and enjoyed prepackaged refreshments. The theme for the meeting was to share a special sailing memory or lesson learned from sailing. Light-heartedness and humor were themes for the late afternoon meeting and the stories should have been filmed – sailing stories are so rich!

Congratulations to all Snipe Sailors who qualified and sailed in the Club Championship! Sailors included Lucy Spearman, Ellie Spearman, Greg Kibler, Mike Carlson, Leif Carlson, Tucker Mansfield, Ji-Soo Bolles, Don Hackbarth, and Conner Milam.



2020 AYC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regatta Chair, Jennifer Cross

What an amazing weekend we had on Sept 19 and 20 to determine the club's 2020 Champion! While we had a very unusual racing season this year due to COVID, the championship brought it all together in an incredibly competitive and fun regatta. We had a large crowd cheering on the competitors at the pavilions and out on the water, and a wonderful Make-Your-Own-Nachos dinner on Saturday evening.

Twelve skippers and crew qualified for the championship by either winning last year's championship, the 2020 Women's or Junior Championship, or by placing in the top spots for their fleet. And this year we had competitors ranging in age from 12 to 70 years! The competitors included:

Skipper	Crew	Sail #	Fleet/Qualification
Bryce Dryden	Darby Dryden	2682	2019 Champion
Lucy Spearman	Ellie Spearman	2660	Women's Champs
Evie Blauvelt	Erika Kaczynski	2799	Junior Champs
Len Wert	Jennifer Garrett	2746	Thistle Fleet
Steve Bauer	Gillian Bauer	2751	Thistle Fleet
David Shively	Alan Thompson	2684	Thistle Fleet
Don Hackbarth	Conor Milam	2715	Snipe Fleet
Leif Carlson	Tucker Manfield	2762	Snipe Fleet
Michael Carlson	Greg Kibler	2646	Snipe Fleet
Winky Williams	Conrad Roos	2763	Y-Flyer Fleet
Carlin Hodges	Nile Hatcher	2754	Y-Flyer Fleet
Clint Hodges	Rae Traina	2800	Y-Flyer Fleet



Each year the championship is raced on one of the three multi-person fleet boats, and this year was the Y-Flyer. To even the playing field, all competitors were required to beg/borrow (hopefully not steal) someone else's boat. I can only imagine the strategizing, negotiating and cajoling that takes place prior to the races to secure a boat! Not to mention rigging and sailing a boat that is not familiar to them.

As in the past several years, our guest PRO was Bill Ross and his partner "wind charter" Margaret Hughes, both from Lake Norman Yacht Club. Saturday brought beautiful weather and very strong winds. With the wind coming from the east/southeast, Bill set four long and challenging courses, two at Modified Olympic and two at Modified Windward/Leeward twice around – a grueling pace for the competitors!! We saw the impact of the wind early into the first race, with several boats capsizing (with one rescue) and numerous technical difficulties and breakdowns. In fact, our youngest competitors, Leif Carlson and Tucker Mansfield did not have enough weight between them to hold the boat level, so Ji-Soo Bolles jumped right in to join the competition (and approved by the race committee).

With stiff competition during day one, including a virtual tie in one race, Bryce Dryden was a clear leader. But there were still several competitors vying for the #2 and #3 spots. Sunday also brought clear blue skies and good winds (as well as some tired and bruised sailors). After the fifth and final race on Sunday (modified windward/leeward twice), the results were tabulated, and Tracy Allardice presented the awards to our top three winners:

See *CHAMPIONSHIPS*, page 23



CHAMPIONSHIPS, con't. from page 22

- Winner: Bryce Dryden and crew, Darby Dryden
- 2nd place: Clint Hodges and crew, of Rae Traina
- 3rd place: Evie Blauvelt and crew, Erika Kaczynski

Congratulations, everyone, for qualifying and competing against a strong field. Please see the AYC website for the race by race results.

As always, many thanks to everyone who came out to make it happen, including Bill Ross and Margaret Hughes, the race committee, our judge Means Davis, and Eddie Kuznicki on safety. Thanks also to Edward and Suny Bolles for video recording, Diane Vandeputte for photography and Lavon Hatcher for the Saturday night dinner. Finally, we appreciate all the members who came out to watch and cheer them on.



The United States Naval Academy Parents Club of Georgia held its Reform Meeting on the shores of Lake Allatoona on Sunday, September 20. David and Katrina Blauvelt, parents of Midshipman Carlyn Blauvelt, hosted the event at AYC. Approximately 30 Georgia parents attended to share updates on their Midshipmen, discuss club business and upcoming activities and to enjoy the fellowship of their Naval Academy family. In light of COVID-19, the event was held outside at the barbeque pavilion and parents brought their own food, drinks and camp chairs. Many parents commented that being at AYC reminded them of being on the water in Annapolis. And there were even some former dinghy sailors in the group that the Blauvelts are hoping to get back to AYC. Go Navy!



LABOR DAY BURGER BAR



HAPPY
Labor
DAY

