



The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing

Live well! Have fun! Sail!

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Gala Awards Dinner

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 Back issues are available [HERE](#).

Photo of the Month



Sam Hawkins shows off the Laser Series Award at the 2023 Awards Dinner on November 17.

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2023 PYC Race Committee

Jack White, Chair
 Marc Gleichert, Vice Chair (IL)
 Clark Chapin, Secretary
 Rick Lyons (LA) Tom Ehman
 Bill O’Donnel Bill Foster
 Brian Hawkins (FS) Ann Taylor
 Brook Smith Steve Wiseman

2024 HPYC Board of Governors

Steve Wiseman, Commodore
 Brian Hawkins, Past Commodore
 Clark Chapin, Secretary
 Brook Smith, Treasurer
 Bill O’Donnel, Governor

Handy Reference Links

[PYC Sailing Calendar](#)

Annual Awards Dinner

The PYC Annual Awards Dinner was held on Friday November 17. The sailors were treated to an engaging show of photos from this year’s season. Stories (sometimes embellished) were told and good times were had.

Gold Series:

Flying Scot:

1. Brian & Suzy Hawkins
2. Jack White & Nancy Staub
3. Ron & Sharon Frisbie

Interlake:

1. Clark Chapin & Chuck White
2. Brook Smith & Bill O’Donnel

Silver Series:

ILCA (Laser):

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Rick Lyons | 2. Paul Ehman |
| 3. Sam Hawkins | 4. Steve Wiseman |

Flying Scot:

1. Brian & Suzy Hawkins
2. Jack White & Nancy Staub
3. Greg & Melinda Marion
4. Bill Foster & Michael Ehnis

Interlake:

1. Clark Chapin & Chuck White
2. Brook Smith & Bill O'Donnel
3. Marc Gleichert & Brian Williams

Perpetual Awards

The highlight of the evening, as always, was the presentation of the perpetual awards that recognize more than mere race results. This year was no exception.



Roy Toth Award: "Awarded to the Laser Sailor who has demonstrated unrelenting enthusiasm and participation in the face of stiff competition...." This award went to **Ann Taylor** for her efforts in her first year sailing ILCAs.



Chapin Coaching Award: "This award is to be presented to a person who has over the previous year distinguished themselves by helping others become better sailors...." For the second straight year, this award was made to **Chuck White** for his

willingness to climb aboard any boat and help them improve their performance.



Most Promising Beginner: "The Walt Rensel Memorial Trophy. A beginning sailor who displays outstanding sportsmanship, desire, courage, and sailing skill...." This award, presented to the Club by Walt's widow, Kaye, is a signed Peter Max print. This year, the recipient was

Melinda Marion who demonstrated determination and increasing skill in the Flying Scot sailing with her husband, Greg.



Sailor-of-the-Year: This trophy was donated in 1981 by Tom and Leslie Ehman. The Deed of Gift says, "Given in recognition of outstanding performance in competition and

sportsmanship... The recipient should have demonstrated extraordinary performance both at Portage Lake and elsewhere. The person shall have been a credit to the club in demonstrated sportsmanship." This year, the award was made to **Clark Chapin and Chuck White** for their racing successes and contributions to both the Club and US Sailing.



Nancy Staub accepts (albeit reluctantly) the Broken Rudder Award.

Broken Rudder: This is, by far, the least-serious award that the Club

awards, The Race Committee only makes the award if the recipient can accept it in good spirits. The Deed of Gift says, "Someone who contributes to the degradation of the image of the yachtsman by extraordinary incompetence, sluggish thinking, or ludicrous behavior." This year's recipient, **Nancy Staub**, had assistance from her husband, Jack White, when they managed to sever the anchor line of the windward mark during the final race of the final evening of Silver Series Racing. In addition to the Broken Rudder Trophy, Nancy was presented with the anchor reel with the severed remains of the anchor line.

Star Sailors League Gold Cup



Although sailing is winding down in these latitudes as the temperatures decline (or plummet), there are several other competitions elsewhere.

The Star Sailors League has set out to create the equivalent of the Soccer World Cup for sailing – a tournament for sailing teams the world over to claim a global prize. The tournament is seeded based upon ranking of sailors in many different classes and disciplines. Lesser known countries can qualify



and compete all the way to the finals. A total of 56 nations were entered.

The boats are identical 47-foot boats with asymmetrical spinnakers and gold-colored reflecting hulls. There are only four boats in any one race. Oddly enough, high-point scoring is used (4 points for first, 3 for second, etc.) with the last race in each series counting double.



Team USA ("The Eagles") were still in the running after a thrilling must-win victory on Thursday, Nov 23, but came up just short the following day. The final rounds were sailed off Grand Canary Island last week.

Some of the best racing was in the Semi Finals on 2-Dec that can be viewed [HERE](#). The racing itself starts at 27:30. (WARNING: The primary announcer is a little over-caffinated.)

The Finals were held the following day and can be viewed [HERE](#). A recap of the Top Ten Moments of the preceding races is at about 37:04 and the racing starts at about 48:02

The racing was close and sometimes a single error spelled the difference

The series can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@Starsailors/streams>

SailGP Expands!



SailGP is an exciting, worldwide series sailed in foiling catamarans that are one-design versions

of the boats used in the 2017 America's Cup competition in Bermuda.

The Series has been bankrolled by billionaire Larry Ellison, but he has required the teams to move

transition to independent ownership within a strict timeframe.

Team USA has had its ups and downs, but in late November, a new group of investors purchased the team and made some sweeping changes: James Spithill, the skipper, left the team and moved to a new team from Italy. Taylor Canfield from the US Virgin Islands, a winning match race competitor, has been named as the new skipper just a week ahead of the next event in Dubai, UAE.

After four events, the standings are:

Pos	Team	Skipper	Points
1	AUS	Tom Slingsby	43
2	DEN	Nicolai Sehested	36
3	USA	Taylor Canfield	32
4	ESP	Diego Botin	32
5	GBR	Ben Ainslie	32
6	NZL	Peter Burling	30
7	CAN	Phil Robertson	24
8	FRA	Quentin Delapierre	24
9	SUI	Sébastien Schneider	11
10	GER	Erik Heil	8

The remaining events are:

- Dubai, UAE December 9-10
- Abu Dhabi, UAE January 13-14
- Sydney, AUS February 24-25
- TBD, NZL March 23-24
- Bermuda May 4-5
- Halifax, CAN June 1-2
- New York, USA June 22-23
- San Francisco, USA July 13-14

America's Cup Preliminary Event



The second of two off-site "Preliminary Events" for the 37th America's Cup was held December 1-3, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on the Red Sea.

The first event in Spain was widely panned for several reasons:



- The event was not sailed in the 75-foot foiling monohulls that will be used next year in the Cup itself, but in 40-foot boats that are one-design, highly automated, and sailed with only four people on the boat.

- The first two days of the event were marred by light sailing conditions that prevented the boats from foiling, supposedly the compelling reason for creating such a radical design.
- The light wind conditions on the final day led to cancellation of the match racing final.

The same light wind conditions plagued the event in Jeddah with some more drawbacks added in:

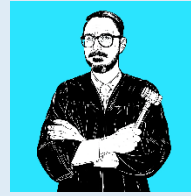
- The lack of a competitive sailing tradition in Saudi Arabia.
- The abominable human rights record of the Saudi regime led to accusations of “sports washing” against Team New Zealand CEO Grant Dalton.

This time, the Kiwis won the fleet event and were handily leading the match race Grand Finale when their opponent, Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli, nose-dived rounding one of the final marks and didn't bother finishing.

There will be another “preliminary event” at the regatta site in Barcelona in August. This will be the first time that the Challengers will race against each other in their full-size AC75 boats.

The selection series for the challenger will be held in Barcelona, ESP from 29-Aug to 7-Oct next year and the racing for the Cup itself begins on 12-Oct. A competition for both a Women's America's Cup and a Youth America's Cup in the AC40 boats will be held from 26-Sep to 12-Oct on dates when the “real” boats aren't racing.

New York Times Judge John Hodgeman Weighs in



Sara: My mother sails every weekend and often throughout the week. It's not uncommon to try to plan a family event, only for her to ask that it be rescheduled to a time she wouldn't prefer to

be sailing, like nighttime or during a storm. Such events include my brother's 40th birthday, baby showers, and even my wedding. Please ask her to stop this.

Judge Hodgeman: I'm sorry your mother is married to the sea. But please understand: Sailing is a meditative puzzle for the hands and the mind that frees you, briefly and semi literally, from the bonds of Earth and attunes you to the wordless language of nature. It's such a magical experience that it's easy for sailors to forget it's just a hobby like any other: essentially yoga with the world's most expensive mat. Explain to your mother that pretty days exist for other people's happiness as well. If that doesn't persuade her to stop asking, skip her next birthday and go LARPING.

Eight Bells – Jan Davis



One of the “Founding Mothers” of Portage Yacht Club passed away peacefully on Sunday 3-Dec after a battle with lung cancer. Jan was the 1964 Rebel National Championship Crew. Her family, drawn from Dexter, Hawaii, California, and Germany, gathered with her in mid-November for an “early Thanksgiving.”

Fair winds and following seas to Jan.