



January 2008

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FROM THE QUARTERDECK



Happy Holidays and we're off to a Great year in 2008.

I hope you enjoyed the special times spent with loved ones during the Holiday Season, because once the sailing season starts you may be too busy to see much of them. If you enjoyed the good cheer and celebrations of the season, the quality time spent with family and friends, the smiles and glee that getting something you really wanted brings, then be sure to come out sailing and racing next season and experience it all over again.

The docks are pretty much empty, the East bathhouse is closed, the club house and Fannies House are silent and the campus is empty. The new Board has had its first meeting and the coffee mugs seemed to be a big hit. The scheduling group has finished the first part of their work and posted the schedule for the 2008 season for your review. One event I'll draw your attention to will happen on July 11, 12, 13th. This will be the 10th Anniversary of the Southern Chesapeake Leukemia Cup Regatta and FBYC is proud to be the host Club for this year's, award winning, community-based, charitable regatta. Be sure to save the date and join us on the race course or volunteer to help our club stage this event. Our Vice Comdr. Noel Clinard and the Division Commanders now start the tough project of re-writing the events book, and Mary Spencer updates the Year Book with new members and all our new information. Eric Powers, our Junior Division Commander reports that he has our two expert coaches signed up for next season, and they are ready. We still search for a coach for

the Learn 2 sail program.

Have you ever found yourself short on crew? Well, we start our Crew Recruiting efforts at the Richmond Boat show on Jan 11, 12, 13th at the Richmond Convention Center. Thanks again to Norton Yachts' booth sharing plus Ed O'Connor and Sharon Bauer lining up the FBYC representatives to man our station. Our Winter Programs Chair, S.B. Londrey will sponsor our traditional Bermuda High Party on Friday the 25th. So pull out your flower shirt and join us to warm up your winter.

Our Member training opportunities are still taking shape for spring and rumor has it that we will have some interesting speaker seminars and our FBYC, PRO & Race Committee training, but I want to mention one that will not be at FBYC. It will happen on Feb. 2nd in Norfolk, at the ODU Sailing Center. John McCarthy will host a clinic on "the role of the crew", discussing such matters as crew work on the upwind leg, reaching techniques, sail trim and working the pole. If you don't know John, take my word it will be well worth the small fee. Stay tuned for next month's announcements for other great training events coming up this spring.

All the slip holders have received their "slip lease agreements" and you need to remember to call your insurance carrier to send a certificate of insurance as you are sending your signed lease back to Mary.

At this time of year we all get a reminder of what it means and what it takes to be a FBYC member. During the doldrums of winter I have the opportunity to present some important themes in the Log. My theme for January is Volunteerism. This month, our committee chairs will be doing one very important part of their job and that is recruiting many of the volunteers that will help run our season's events. We all know that as Members of FBYC we are obligated and privileged to not only race and sail in as many events as we can but also to contribute a minimum of two days of volunteer service. Many of us choose to do much more, many have already done

that much more, I thank them all, because they know how valuable our volunteers are to the success of our programs and our Club.

What makes a good volunteer? They are willing, capable and available. They are willing to make another commitment in their already busy lives. They are capable because they have the talent and the training that we have offered. And, they make themselves available by setting aside at least the two days to help their club's activities.

What makes the perfect volunteer? A proactive effort. The member that looks at our 2008 schedule, picks the program or events that are of interest to them, checks their schedule, then picks up the phone and calls the listed event chair or the Division Comdr. And says, for example, "I want to volunteer to work race committee for the offshore Spring Series #2, I've been to the training class; I can take wind readings, work the flags or keep time. I'm can run the mark boat and I'm good with the GPS, so sign me up." If you don't feel that qualified, come to the training class and sign up to help anyway, we'll train you on the job. Or maybe your talent is helping with a social event, big or small. Maybe you like merchandising and have a few days to help man the FBYC Store during Leukemia Cup, Annual Regatta and Stingray Point Regatta. Maybe you like building things, painting things, or planting things. The opportunities to help through volunteer service are endless.

What makes FBYC different, unique and recognized for our programs, our events, our race committees, and our skilled Junior sailors? I think it's our amazing member volunteers! Let's make a difference together.

Happy New Year, let's make it a great year.

Ric Bauer

FBYC BOARD MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 8, 2007



Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commodore **Ric Bauer**.

After welcoming those in attendance, Ric discussed his goals for the coming year, which include growing the sailing program and member training opportunities; increasing our member and community participation in FBYC activities; recruiting new, active sailing members to our FBYC family; and continuing to improve our club's facilities.

REAR COMMODORE – C. MAYO TABB, JR.



SECRETARY - The following Resolutions were presented by the Secretary, **George Burke**:



RESOLUTION to make annual inspection of the contents of Safe Deposit Box at First Market Bank.

RESOLUTION to renew the Honorary Memberships of Mr. &

Mrs. Gary A. Jobson and Fishing Bay Yacht Club's Deltaville neighbors.

RESOLUTION to vote into membership the 20 children who have reached 10 years of age by January 1, 2008.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, these Resolutions were passed.

George named the members of his Membership Committee and advised that he met with them on De-

ember 11 to discuss the expanded role of the committee. Committee members will assist people who do not know any club members but who have an interest in applying for membership. There will be a regular membership meeting on January 8, 2008.

TREASURER – Chip Hall presented a Cash Basis Financial Statement showing actual year-end figures as of November 30, 2007 and advised that the club is in good financial condition going into 2008.

HOUSE – Ken Odell has inspected the buildings to determine what maintenance projects should be undertaken before next Spring. There is some damage on the screen porch and a ventilation system is needed in the bathrooms.

Also, the lockers on the Jackson Creek side are in poor condition.

DOCKS – David Hinckle advised that Dixon Cole and Alex Alvis have checked the dock pilings and 33 pilings need to be replaced. After meeting with the contractor, he will have the replacement cost available at the January Board meeting. David will also arrange for the Sea Craft lift to be repaired.

GROUNDSS – Almost four dozen volunteers showed up for Fall Clean-Up Day. In addition to cleaning up the club property, they also cleaned debris from a section of the Richardson property.

WEBMASTER – Strother Scott distributed a 24-page Manual for Web Site Tools & Events for Board members to use in learning to work in the web site. He also discussed the progress on the FBYC headers project for the web site, the color online Log and the printed Log and

asked for feedback on the various sample headers.

WINTER PROGRAMS – Susan Londrey has a possible speaker for a winter program in mind but nothing has been confirmed.

VICE COMMODORE – R. NOEL CLINARD

Noel Clinard handed out the latest version of the Sailing Events Schedule. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society has requested that the club include a one design event as part of the Leukemia Cup efforts this year. The May 31 Spring Series



race will be combined with a Leukemia Cup One Design Regatta. There has also been a request to change the Laser Masters to October and that move is

under consideration if an appropriate date can be found. The Sail Against SIDS will be held in conjunction with the Indian Summer Regatta.

OFFSHORE DIVISION – The offshore schedule is set and Mike Dale has forwarded it to Lin McCarthy for inclusion in the CBYRA Schedule.

CRUISING DIVISION – Ed O'Connor has scheduled a meeting on December 17 to discuss last year's cruises and to firm up some 2008 events.

JUNIOR DIVISION – Luis Canuto has been hired as Head Junior Coach and a colleague of his has been hired as the Opti coach for next summer. Eric still needs a local summer coach to help with Opti training and to run the Learn-2-Sail program. The Junior Division has the opportunity to purchase two used Optis and the Board approved the purchase.

SAILING FLEET LT. – Jay Buhl has been taking inventory of the

boats, sails and gear as well as checking for broken parts. He is setting up an Excel database so that he can keep track of the boats. His goal is to get everything organized and equipment purchased before the season opens.

CBYRA DELEGATE – Tom Roberts attended the annual CBYRA meeting. He plans to hold the CBYRA Awards Dinner at the club in early February. Tom reported that there is interest in holding the Mobjack Nationals at FBYC again in 2008 in conjunction with our Annual One Design Regatta.

OLD BUSINESS – Ric Bauer reported that the wooden part of the pool steps has been completed. The railings should arrive and be installed so that the project can be completed by the January deadline.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Membership

RESIGNATION:

Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Bryde.

Dec: Pep talk for sailors

Priceless Advice from the Commodore

Bummed out about those bad spinnaker sets; hourglass raps getting your crew frustrated, all that time shrimping and ya don't really catch anything, and your spinnaker jibes, just not going right. Well, are they?

Tell ya what ya do! Change to the non-spinnaker fleet. They're nice folks too, and once you make your way through the crowd at the windward mark you can pop a cold beverage instead of that shoot. Your crew is much happier, and by the second rounding of that W2 all those spinnakers will be behind ya. And that's a beautiful sight.

Think about it this winter.

Key Contacts for Volunteering:

These are your main contacts; there are others so consult your events book. To help with:

Offshore race committee:

Rob Slotnick 804-290-0270

After race social:

Cathy Clark 804-730-2568

One Design race committee:

Jim Hess 757-220-2924

After race social:

Matt Braun 804-266-4533

Annual One Design Regatta:

Noel Clinard, 804 788 8594

Stingray Point:

Mike Dale 804-758-0334

Opti Kids:

Nica Waters 434-295-1016,

Junior Week:

Stephan Cost 434-973-8861

Leukemia Cup Regatta contacts

Race Comm. :

Brooks Zerkel, 272-7846

Social Events:

Carolyn Schott, 776-6004

New Construction Projects:

House: Ken ODell 241-6080,

Grounds: Charles Lytton 379-8835,

Docks: David Hinckle 217-6648

2008 FBYC Crew Training Course – Back to the Future

By Allan Heyward and Noel Clinard

In 2008, the club's sailing leadership is reviving the classroom-based Crew Training Course, developed and run successfully for many years by MORC Station 70. Over the years this program contributed many long term and active crew for FBYC boats, including many who have become active members, and its passing created a void both for those looking to learn a new sport, and for members who enjoyed getting together to put on the programs and recruit crew in the off season. The program is being revived to supplement the social and on-water crew recruitment activities the club has presented in the years since the MORC Station stopped offering the course.

The course will be held in Richmond and consist of three evening sessions held on weekdays over a three week period in February and early March. It will be open to anyone interested in learning about crewing on racing sailboats. Although much of the course is oriented towards crewing on keelboats with crews of four or more, we will be talking about how the skills and knowhow apply across the range, from Lasers to big

boats, and we encourage veteran skippers and crew from all of racing fleets to participate. All of FBYC's racing skippers will be invited to meet the participants at the third session, and a social gathering for skippers and crew trainees will follow the third session. The timing will be designed to lead in to the first of the on-water crew training ses-



sions.

The course will, as in the past, cover sailing dynamics, terminology, sail controls, deck and race course layouts, racing rules, crew positions, crew etiquette, appropriate dress, and safety. The focus of the course is on providing practical information for people new to sailing, or just new to racing, and its purpose is to demystify what goes happens on a racing sailboat on the race course, and to build knowledge and confidence before going out for the on-water sessions. The program will

combine "chalk talks" with demonstrations and hands-on exposure to gear, sails and equipment, all presented in low keyed educational sessions. The faculty will be drawn from the membership, and we'll need lots of props for the demonstrations, so don't be surprised to get a call asking for your help. Even if you are not making presentations you are welcome to stop by: there's always something for volunteers to do.

There will be a modest charge to participants to help defray the costs of the printed materials that will be provided to all participants, refreshments, and the social gathering on the last evening. As this is written we are still setting up a firm schedule and confirming a location, so keep an eye on the web site and your emails, and spread the word. We hope to have some handouts and flyers on the program completed by the boat show. If you have any questions, can help by posting some flyers to get the word out, or want to get involved in some other way, get in touch with Allan Heyward or Noel Clinard.

Volunteering in 2008

As indicated in Ric's article, in 2008 FBYC wants to continue to capitalize on our web-based Volunteer system. In order to make the system work, we really need to know the Volunteer Preferences of all our members. We have recorded the preferences from many members, but for the rest – about 400 people (counting spouses and children 18+), Mary Spencer included a Member Preference Sheet in the mailing for the annual billing. **PLEASE FILL THOSE SHEETS OUT AND RETURN THEM TO MARY.**

Or if you want to indicate or update your preferences yourself, please visit www.fbyc.net Log in as a Member, and click on My FBYC on the top right hand corner of the web site.



You will then see a section that looks like
For those Family members who show “no

Mr. Joseph Blow preferences are: [\(Click Here to change\)](#):
Race Committee ~~ Loan a Mark Boat
Event Staff ~~ Event Staff
Mrs. Joe Blow preferences are: [\(Click Here to change\)](#):
We have no Volunteer Preferences from Mrs. Joe Blow
Mr. J. Blow, Jr preferences are: [\(Click Here to change\)](#):
We have no Volunteer Preferences from Mr. J. Blow, Jr.

Volunteer Preferences...” click on the link – [Click Here to change](#), fill out the preferences, and click Save Preferences at the bottom.

By doing this now, it will enable Event Managers to match up volunteers with suitable jobs. Thank you in advance.

R. Strother Scott

Sailing Events Schedule For 2008

By Noel Clinard, Vice Commodore

The Sailing Events Committee has drafted the 2008 FBYC Sailing Events Schedule, which the Board has approved, subject to modification in publishing the Sailing Events Book. The Schedule appears in draft form in this issue. The Committee is now laboring to conform the book to the new schedule and recruiting volunteers for Race Committee and Social positions. The book must be finalized for the printer by the end of January. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the commands of the various club divisions who have responsibility for staffing the events, or give generously of your time when they call you for assistance. The club could not maintain its full schedule of events without your support. The schedule is a complex undertaking and it is possible the Committee has overlooked something, so please direct any comments on the schedule to Noel Clinard at nclinard@hunton.com.

Highlights of this year's schedule include:

- Opening Day is April 19 and has been denominated one of the Offshore Spring Series.
- Junior Week is June 16-20, with Opti-Kids the two weekends before.
- Leukemia Cup is July 11-13 with all events at FBYC. This event will require a significant volunteer effort by members of all the sponsoring clubs, including FBYC.
- The Long Distance One Design Race is scheduled for Friday, July 4, followed by a One Design Summer Seabreeze on Saturday July 5.
- Sailing Against SIDs has been consolidated with Indian Summer, again a one day event. The hope is that the synergy of these two events will breathe life back into Indian Summer and offer Sailing Against SIDs a unique fund raising opportunity. Thanks to Matt and A.L. Braun for undertaking this important event and trying this new schedule.
- Significant efforts have been made to avoid conflicts with other local clubs and signature events such as Turkey Shoot, Southern Bay Race Week and Screw Pile.
- The Annual Party on November 7 is just a placeholder at this point pending input from Social on location choice and availability. The actual date should be in the Sailing Events Book.
- Thanks to the Committee for its focused effort to draft this schedule and to Tom Roberts and Jon Deutsch for preparing the Schedule

Day	Date	Offshore	One Design	Junior	Cruising	Notes
Sun	Feb-24			Winter Program		
Sun	Mar-9			Easter		Daylight Savings begins
Sun	Mar-23	Easter				Fltjng Scot Midwinters
	Mar 23-27					
Sat	Mar-29	PRO Training/Spring Clean-up Day	PRO Training/Spring Clean-up Day	Spring Clean-up Day	Welcome Cruisers/Spring Clean-up Day	
Sun	Mar-30					
Sat	Apr-5	<i>Crew Training</i>			Cruising Events TBD	
Sun	Apr-6					
Sat	Apr-12					
Sun	Apr-13	Mr. Roberts/KC Training			Safety at Sea Seminar	
Sat	Apr-19	Opening Day -Spring Series	Opening Day	Opening Day	Opening Day	LOW One Design Full Moon
Sun	Apr-20	Spring Series				AYC NOOD
Sat	Apr-26	Spring Series	Stew Pot Regatta/Spring Series	Stew Pot Regatta/Spring Series		AYC NOOD
Sun	Apr-27	Spring Series				YPYC Spring Series
Sat	May-3	YPYC Spring Series				
Sun	May-4	Spring Series	Salsa Bowl/Spring Series	Salsa Bowl/Spring Series		
Sat	May-10	Spring Series				
Sun	May-11	<i>Mothers Day</i>	<i>Mothers Day</i>	<i>Mothers Day</i>	<i>Mothers Day</i>	<i>Mothers Day</i>
Sat	May-17	RRYC Spring Series	Piankatank Regatta/Spring Series	Piankatank Regatta/Spring Series		RRYC Spring Series
Sun	May-18	Spring Series				May 20 Full Moon
Sat	May-24	Long Dist Series - Urbanna				
Sun	May-25	RRYC Race(s)				
Mon	May-26	<i>Memorial Day</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>		<i>Memorial Day</i>
Fri	May-30					
Sat	May-31		Leukemia Cup/Spring Series			<i>Southern Bay Race Week</i>
Sun	Jun-1					<i>Southern Bay Race Week</i>
Friday	Jun-6	Art on Fishing Bay - LC	Art on Fishing Bay - LC	Art on Fishing Bay - LC	Art on Fishing Bay - LC	Art on Fishing Bay - LC
Sat	Jun-7	June Long Distance Race				Last day of School - Private Harborfest/FS Wife/Husband
Sun	Jun-8			Opti Kids		SAT Tests
Sat	Jun-14			Opti Kids		Harborfest/FS Wife/Husband
Sun	Jun-15	<i>Fathers Day</i>	<i>Fathers Day</i>	<i>Fathers Day</i>	<i>Fathers Day</i>	<i>Fathers Day</i>
Mon-Fri	Jun 16-20	Junior Week	Junior Week	Junior Week	Junior Week	Full Moon Jun 18
Tue	Jun-17		Parents Race - Laser 420			
Thur	Jun-19					
Sat	Jun-21	Moonlight Regatta		Leukemia Sail-a-thon		
Sun	Jun-22			Jr Regatta/VA State Champs		Cock Island Race BBSA and SMSA OD regattas
Fri	Jun-27					
Sat	Jun-28		Summer Seabreeze #1			
Sun	Jun-29					
Wed	Jul-2					
Fri	Jul-4	Long Distance Race		Annapolis YC Junior Regatta ?		
Sat	Jul-5	Summer Seabreeze #2		HYC Junior Regatta		
Sun	Jul-6					
						HYC Annual OD Regatta
						HYC Annual OD Regatta

2008 Fishing Bay Yacht Club Sailing Events Schedule - Second Draft						
Day	Date	Offshore	One Design	Junior	Cruising	Notes
Wed	Jul-2			<i>Annapolis YC Junior Regatta ?</i>		
Fri	Jul-4		Long Distance Race	<i>HYC Junior Regatta</i>		
Sat	Jul-5		Summer Seabreeze #2			HYC Annual OD Regatta
Sun	Jul-6					HYC Annual OD Regatta
Fri	Jul-11	Leukemia Reception				
Sat	Jul-12	Leukemia Cup			Leukemia Cup	
Sun	Jul-13	Leukemia Cup			Leukemia Cup	
Sat	Jul-19	<i>Screwpile Sun 22-Tue 24</i>				Full Moon July 18
Sun	Jul-20					<i>Screwpile Sun 20-Tue 22/FSNAC 20-23</i>
Fri	Jul-25	Cruise Regatta		<i>Rappahannock YC Junior ?</i>		
Sat	Jul-26		Summer Seabreeze #3		Cruise Regatta	<i>BBSA One Design</i>
Sun	Jul-27					
Thur	Jul-31			Junior Kegatta		
Sat	Aug-2					<i>WRYC Gov. Cup (One Design)</i>
Sun	Aug-3					<i>WRYC Gov. Cup (One Design)</i>
Sat	Aug-9		69th Annual Regatta	69th Annual Regatta		<i>Oxford Regatta</i>
Sun	Aug-10		69th Annual Regatta	69th Annual Regatta		<i>Oxford Regatta</i>
Sat	Aug-16	Smith Point LD				Full Moon
Sun	Aug-17		Team Race	Dog Days Junior		
Sat	Aug-23					
Sun	Aug-24					
Fri	Aug-29	Stingray Point Welcome			Stingray Point Welcome	
Sat	Aug-30	Stingray Point Regatta			Stingray Point Regatta	<i>Annapolis Race Week/NY&CC Annual</i>
Sun	Aug-31	Sungray Point Regatta			Sungray Point Regatta	<i>Annapolis Race Week/NY&CC Annual</i>
Sat	Sep-6		Laser Masters			
Sun	Sep-7		Laser Masters			
Sat	Sep-13	Long Dist Series - Wolf Trap				
Sun	Sep-14		Stove Point Regatta/Fall Series			Full Moon Sept 15
Sat	Sep-20		Low Country Boil/Fall Series			
Sun	Sep-21	Fall Series				
Sat	Sep-27	Fall Series				
Sun	Sep-28	Fall Series	Detaville Regatta/ Fall Series			SMSA Small Boat
Sat	Oct-4		Indian Summer Sail Against SIDS			<i>SMSA Small Boat</i>
Sun	Oct-5	Fall Series				
Sat	Oct-11					Turkey Shoot- Annapolis Boat Show - VISA
Sun	Oct-12					Turkey Shoot- Annapolis Boat Show - VISA Small Bo
Sat	Oct-18	Fall Series	Chilly Chili Bowl/ Fall Series		Wilton Creek Cruise	FS Masters
Sun	Oct-19					FS Masters
Fri	Oct-24				Staggered Start Race	Full Moon
Sat	Oct-25	Staggered Start Race/Oyster Roast				
Sun	Oct-26					
Fri	Oct-31	<i>Halloween</i>	<i>Halloween</i>		<i>Halloween</i>	<i>Halloween</i>
Sat	Nov-3					Oyster Festival - Urbanna
Sun	Nov-4	Frostbite				
Fri	Nov-7	<i>Annual Party</i>	Annual Party	Annual Party	<i>Annual Party</i>	
Sat	Nov-8					
Sun	Nov-9					
Mon	Nov-10					
Sat	Nov-15					
Sun	Nov-16					

indicates an event elsewhere

Fishing Bay Yacht Club 2008 Sailing Events Schedule - Less Cruising Events

FBYC History...

When Tzu Hang called at Fishing Bay Jere Dennison

It was a dismal morning in early May, 1967. A small group of sodden FBYC sailors gathered in the large shed at the head of Rurark's Marine Railway on Fishing Bay to await word from the RC (the committee boat, *Black Cat*, was based at the marina there) as to the possible cancellation of the Cruising Class Spring Series race that day. Outside a gale wind raged from the northeast quadrant. Frankly, no one was going to be upset if the race was going to be called, but we were growing impatient for a decision.

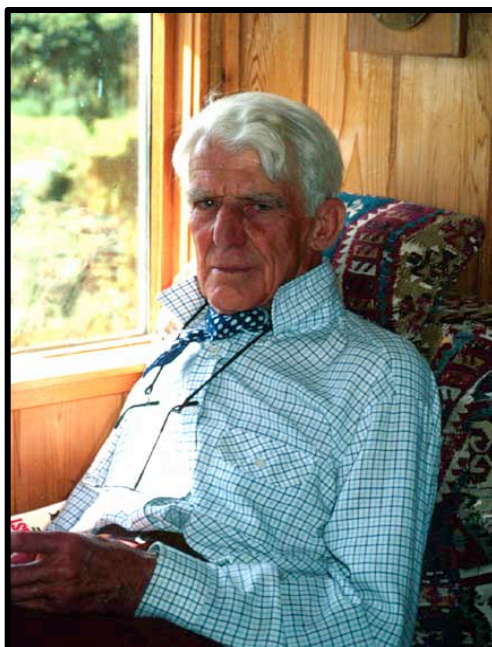
Amid our profane mutterings about the weather, we hardly noticed a dinghy beaching on the nearby shore. At anchor, in the offing, lay a large salty-looking ketch, her topsides painted a bright scarlet. Through torrents of rain and into the gloom of the shed, strode a tall, gangly white-haired man dressed in wet oilskins, water dripping from a ponderous aquiline nose protruding from under his rain hood. .

Allan McCullough (Commodore 1951 and Cal 40 skipper) announced to us in hushed reverent tones that the approaching dignitary was none other than a retired Brigadier in the British Army, now a Canadian citizen, by the name of Miles Smeeton. He and his wife Beryl had pitchpoled their ketch, *Tzu Hang*, twice in the roaring 40's ten years previously while attempting to round Cape Horn and had written a book about their experiences.

Whether Allan had met Miles previously or was just made aware of the Smeetons visit to the neighborhood, I do not know. Nevertheless, Allan and Miles conversed for a period of time while we

in the peanut gallery just listened intently to the soft-spoken Brit who mesmerized us more by his aristocratic but humble demeanor than by the words that emanated from his 6 foot 7 inch frame. Both literally and figuratively, we all looked up in awe at this giant of a man.

I am chagrined to say that I have never read any of Miles Smeeton's books, especially his most classic work on the ill-fated Cape



Horn passage, *Once is Enough*, first published in 1959 but amazingly still in print. What prompted this article was a book that an unknown donor left in the FBYC library with a stack of other books this past fall. The book is entitled *High Endeavors: The Extraordinary Life and Adventures of Miles and Beryl Smeeton* by Miles Clark, Miles Smeeton's godson, published in 1992. Remembering my brief encounter with Miles Smeeton so many years ago, I checked out the book to satisfy my enduring curiosity about *Tzu Hang* and her owners. I found out that there was

more to the Smeetons than just sailing.

Miles and Beryl were members of an elite pantheon of adventurers in the mid-twentieth century whose exploits under sail pioneered the way for the popularity of ocean voyaging today. Other influential sailor/writers during this period, when few were crossing oceans or doubling the Horn or circumnavigating for pleasure, were Eric Hiscock, Sterling Hayden, Sir Francis Chichester, Tristan Jones, Warwick Tompkins, Bernard Moitessier, and Robin Knox-Johnson. In fact the Smeetons, when they finally rounded the Horn, the "hard way," in a subsequent 1968 East – West passage, actually preceded by weeks triumphant roundings in the same direction by Knox-Johnson and Moitessier. Although they weren't life-long sailors, having bought their first and only boat, *Tzu Hang*, in their mid-forties, the Smeeton's globe-girdling adventures took them over 130,000 miles in a twenty year period. During this period at sea, they wrote 11 books and were awarded the Blue-water Medal of the Cruising Club of America, the Royal Cruising Club Medal of Seamanship, and the Liga Maritima de Chile.

Born in Yorkshire, England shortly after the turn of the 20th century, Miles Smeeton's distinguished army career took him to India, Africa, the Middle East, and culminated in Burma during World War II when the Japanese Army Chief-of-Staff there surrendered his sword to him at the conclusion of hostilities. During his army life, he and his wife Beryl found the time to become inveterate adventurers, globe trekking and mountain

climbing throughout the world. Several of their terrestrial wanderings became topics for books published by the Smeeton family in the 1960's.

After Miles's army life was over and bedeviled by financial challenges on a modest military pension, the Smeeton family, although novice sailors, determined that they could continue to satisfy their wanderlust at the lowest possible cost by living afloat on a sailboat capable of transporting them around the globe. In 1951, they purchased *Tzu Hang*, a 46-foot wooden cutter-ketch with a canoe stern built in 1938 in Hong Kong and displacing 18 tons. She was a robust vessel perfectly suited for ocean passages, and a few years later they had sailed her through the South Seas to Australia after selling a small unprofitable farm in Canada where they now claimed citizenship.

In December 1956 they embarked on their most famous voyage of survival. Departing Melbourne, Australia they headed east for Cape Horn bound for Britain with a sailing friend and amateur boat builder, John Guzzwell. At that time very few small sailboats had successfully rounded Cape Horn, and none had sailed as far south as *Tzu Hang*--just north of the Antarctic iceberg limit. Six weeks later, in the icy seas several hundred miles west of Cape Horn, *Tzu Hang* was caught from astern by a huge rogue wave that pitched her.

Beryl, who had been alone at the tiller, was thrown thirty yards into the sea. Despite a broken collarbone, she managed to swim to the wreckage of masts and rigging in the water where Miles and John could heave her on board. *Tzu Hang* was a shambles: the tiller, rudder, doghouse, anchor, compass, and dinghies had all been ripped away; the masts had broken

off level with the deck; and the boat was close to sinking. Working beyond exhaustion, the crew emptied the water - bucket by bucket, salvaged what they could, built a new doghouse, fashioned a jury rig, and five weeks later sailed into Arauco Bay on the Chilean coast.

After ten months of repair work in a Chilean navy yard, Miles and Beryl Smeeton (without John Guzzwell) sailed again toward Cape Horn and again were capsized, dismasted, and nearly sunk by another rogue wave. Once more, they survived the disaster and sailed 2,000 miles to Valparaiso, Chile.



Tzu Hang completed her trip on the deck of a freighter to Britain where she underwent extensive repairs and modifications. Most people would have hung up their oilskins forever after these horrifying experiences, but instead they seemed only to whet the Smeeton family's appetite for their future voyages.

Readers will no doubt wonder, as I did for many years, why *Tzu Hang* was anchored in Fishing Bay that inclement day over 30 years ago. Miles Clark's biography of the Smeeton family sheds some light on the question. Evidently *Tzu*

Hang was nearing the end of an eight year circumnavigation that began in 1959 in which the Smeeton family visited nearly every major port in the world. On the way back to Britain where the voyage had begun, they traversed the Panama Canal and labored north through the Yucatan Passage and the Florida Straits to Charleston and thence to the Chesapeake Bay for a scheduled reception at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. Smeeton was reported later to have remarked that the Bay was "like another street in our village." Of course, we would like to think that he was aware that his voyaging would never be complete until he had visited one of the most pleasant harbors on the planet lying at the mouth of the Piankatank River.

Epilogue: After rounding the Horn in 1968 and returning to Canada via Victoria, B.C., the Smeeton family sold *Tzu Hang* and purchased ranch land near Calgary in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. Here they established a private wildlife trust to protect indigenous wildlife and reintroduce endangered species back into the wild. Beryl Smeeton died in 1979 and Miles in 1988. Their wildlife trust still exists today as the Cochrane Ecological Institute (www.ceinst.org) and is managed by the couple's daughter and only child, Clio. The whereabouts of *Tzu Hang* is unknown.

###

FBYC Juniors Look Ahead to 2008

FBYC juniors can look forward to another great season of racing with returning coach Luis “Dingo” Canuto and our new assistant coach Mr. Damian Saponara. Dingo returns to us as head coach and will continue taking our Laser Radial sailors to a new level, while Damian will pick up on Diego’s success and ramp our Optimist sailors up



Head Coach Luis “Dingo” Canuto

to the next bar of their already successful racing careers.

Damian, who hails from Buenos Aires, Argentina also has a storied sailing career that started when he was six years old, finding his wings in the Optimist class. Since that time, he’s built quite a resume that not only includes the Optimist but also 420, 470 and 29er one-design dinghy classes. He has spent much of his career racing in numerous championships including South American and World Championships in Canada, Ecuador, Italy, Chile, Brazil, and the US. His coaching experience includes many gigs in Argentina, the Chilean National Optimist Team and more recently a summer at Lakewood Yacht Club in Houston, Texas. This spring, Damian will be coaching the Ecuadorian



National Optimist Team before he comes to FBYC in June.

Since leaving FBYC last summer, Dingo has continued to advance his fabled racing career, returning a 13th place against very stiff competition at the Sunfish World Championship in New Jersey in August and then another 13th in the Argentinian 29er Nationals. What’s remarkable about his Sunfish performance is that Dingo had only sailed a Sunfish twice before attending the World Championship event and was going up against some of the worlds best dinghy sailors including the legendary Dick Tillman. We’re really looking forward to having Dingo’s always smiling face back amongst us for the 2008 season.

This spring, we’ll continue to build on our weekend training program initiated last year beginning in April. We expect many of our qualifying racers to attend the USODA Team trials in Annapolis the first weekend of May (1st-4th), followed by spring warm-up clinics at FBYC throughout the rest of the month.

As always, our summer programs begin after most area schools finish up in June. We’ll start June with two weekends of Opti Kids (June 7-8 and 14-15th) followed immediately by Junior Week the 16th through the 20th of June and wrapping up with our Junior Regatta on June 21st. As in the past, we’ll have coach’s day the afternoon of the 15th to give our sailors a chance to meet our fabulous coaches and have some time getting acquainted out on the water. This year, we’ll also

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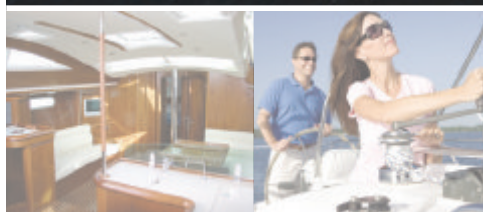
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have nationally recognized Green Fleet coach Tommy Coleman back at FBYC to teach our Intermediate Optimist Classes during Junior Week, including an open clinic the afternoon of Friday the 20th and a Green Fleet race/clinic on the 21st.

The rest of the summer will be filled with lots of home practices and traveling regattas for the race team and at home/nearby practices and regattas for Learn2Sail and a new Racing Development Team. Included in the Race Team Schedule will be the CBYRA circuit plus a trip to the USODA Optimist Girls National Championship (July 23rd) and the Optimist Nationals (July 24th – 27th) in Patchogue, New York. We also hope to attend the USODA New England Championship (early August – date/venue TBA). As in the past, Laser sailors will have a chance to choose from any of several regional events such as Island Heights and Hyannis Regattas. Closer to home, US Sailing's Bay Open Junior Olympic Festival will be held close by at Hampton Yacht Club on July 12th -13th and will likely include the usual Green Fleet clinic run by Tom Coleman.

This summer, we also hope to continue our successful cooperative housing program with Christchurch School to give working parents an alternative to daily windshield time between Richmond and FBYC. Last summer, CCS provided supervised dormitory housing, 3 squares a day, nightly entertainment and shuttle service to-from FBYC during the week as well as access to many of their great camp programs on the Mondays when our coaches are off.



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Registration for all of these great programs will begin in late February-early March. This will include the usual online registration (preferred), but we'll also provide paper registrations as well. A Junior program informational meeting will be held in Ashland, VA February 24th. We hope to see lots of you sailors and parents there!

Eric Powers

Burgees For Sale**Prices include shipping & handling.****Make checks payable to FBYC.****FBYC****P.O. Box 29186****Richmond, VA 23242**

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For Rent: Chesapeake Watch Townhouse. Two/three BR, 2 Bath, Kitchen. Decks off Kitchen and MBR. Three miles from club. \$1000/WEEK, No pets. Tom Ministri. tministri@cox.net.

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See www.lionswhelp.com for details. FBYC members get a 25% discount. Contact Jeff Thomas (804-288-2858).

For Rent: Waterfront townhouse condo w/3 BR in Jackson Creek Harbor, fully equipped, sleeps 8, \$800 per

month plus utilities and \$75 cleaning fee, September to May. Contact: 804 788 8594 or nclnard@hunton.com

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For Sale: "Queen Mary," 36 ft. Alden Trawler, traditional all wood cabin, teak decks, berths and baths fore and aft, wonderful, comfortable, handsome yacht for cruising down the river in style. See at Urbanna Harbor, slip 34, or call Chip and Mary Buxton @ (804) 758-3287.

For Sale: Mobjack 334 with blue hull and white interior is in fair condition, rigged, and ready to go. Trailer is in fair condition. Sails original with boat. Extras are included. \$1,000. Contact Chris Tompkins. Home: (804) 288-1717.

For Sale: Good condition dual axle J-24 trailer for \$1500. Travels well and includes spare tire. Call Skip Hope 252-377-7012 or 252-482-1133 (night) or whope@easternrad.com.

For Sale: 3.5 HP 2 stroke Nissan outboard for \$500. Recently serviced, low hours, good condition. Contact Skip Hope 252-377-7012 or 252-482-1133 (night) or whope@easternrad.com.

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For Sale: New Quantum radial-cut Flying Scot spinnaker. Never Used. Red with Blue horizontal stripe. \$500. Jon Deutsch 804-305-1244 jon@jdeutsch.com

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