

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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December 2001

EDITORIAL

There's been nothing but bad news to accompany the 2001-02 sailing season. The season opened with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre which precipitated yet another war in Afghanistan. The senseless killing of Sir Peter Blake in an aggravated robbery affected us all.

Zephyrs Regained

If there are turbulent events on the international scene, locally we have seen steady growth in our class. A small fleet has sprung up in Tauranga with #'s 6, 88, 124, 34 making their way over there. In addition, #'s 167 and 32 have gone to Papamoa and Whitianga. These were boats that were stored and had not been seen for a while so it is great to have them back out on the water again. There are lots more like that out there!

Championship Trophy

There had been concerns over the whereabouts of the original Zephyr National Championship Trophy. At Ted Frankham's suggestion I contacted Tamaki Yacht Club who confirmed that they have it safely stored in their trophy cabinet.

Plimmerton Nationals

Arrangements for this year's event are in hand. Alex and I have not had much time to work on prizes so we could be a bit lean this time. Without a local fleet we really are not able to approach the local chandler for support. Doyle Sails and Bay of Islands Spars and Rigging have obliged with some prizes however. We operate on a budget of about \$1000 which really only covers contest running costs.

Nelson Nationals in 2003?

I have approached Nelson over the last year with a view to a "top of the south" venue. Nelson Yacht Club (NYC) are willing to host our competition in 2003. They have asked us to supply a date, but feel that the last week of the School Holidays in January would ensure the best selection of volunteers from the club. We would need to do our own NOR and have NYC verify it before it is released. We would have to organise our own Race Officer, but there are four people in Nelson that could be approached. Sailing instructions would be a joint effort closer to the time.

NYC are willing to provide drivers for the rescue boats (3 needed for 30 competitors or 2 for 20) but we would need to provide volunteers (family, partners etc) as crew on the boats. NYC can provide facilities to use to make up lunches, or provide you with a list of local bakeries that are able to do this for us.

Basically we would need to have two or three partners or support people willing to help with lunches and boats, then Nelson Yacht Club would be able to provide the rest. No decision has been taken yet, we will be looking for direction at Plimmerton.

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FROM THE PEN OF ALEX AITKEN

National President



As I write this report the flags of the yachting world have been lowered to half-mast in recognition of the life of Sir Peter Blake. There is no doubt that his enthusiasm and dedication for

yachting and conservation has touched the hearts of many. There could well be a number of Zephyr owners who knew Sir Peter and will have memories of a great yachtsman and ambassador for New Zealand. We are all saddened by his death.

The Zephyr Owners' Association has fielded a record number of enquiries from yachties wanting to purchase boats. Interest has been generated through the enthusiasm of local owners' associations and there seems to be a move away from crewed boats to a less hassled life of owning small single handed yachts. There is no doubt that fleets of a dozen or more Zephyrs sailing at club or provincial level attract interest in the class.

The classic boat image is strong and one owner in Canterbury has such a passion for working with timber that the all-wooden rig is making a comeback! I have had the privilege of working alongside Don Currie in his workshop and the two new centre boards have made a difference to # 147. Building in wood is very labour intensive and your association is looking closely at the long term viability of the class and the possibility of manufacturing hulls in GRP. This is some way off and will need careful consideration before any action is taken. This is one of the good things about the Zephyr class rules. There has to be at least a two thirds agreement from owners for a rule change to take effect. However, we have to be mindful that changing life styles and developments within the boat building industry dictate the future of the class.

It is pleasing to see the Auckland association bubbling with enthusiasm and the increased membership shows that something is happening. Welcome to Russell Turner # 258 who has stepped into the role of President of AZO. Glendowie and Tamaki Boating Clubs were the foundation clubs when the Zephyr came off the production mould at Des Townson's workshop. The national association is looking forward to working with Auckland on the 2006 50th anniversary celebration. I don't think I've told anyone, but at that celebration I will hand over the President's Badge of Office to someone younger. That's a presumption on my part that the association doesn't throw me on the scrap heap before then!

I believe Tauranga Zephyrs had an inaugural social sailing weekend and the association wishes them well as they build up the interest in the class.

A smaller than usual fleet from the South Island will be competing at the Plimmerton Nationals. However, two of the five competitors are big guns so the mainland will be fighting to keep the national trophy from migrating North. I am looking forward to meeting you at Plimmerton for some drama on the water and plenty of fellowship to go with it.

The Zephyr Owners' Association wishes you a happy and safe Christmas.

Alex Aitken

Hamilton News

Hamilton Zephyr skippers have been unable to appease the weather gods so far this season. Misty, drizzly weather have prevailed for most weekends so far. Wednesday night Twilight sailing has been similarly affected. Rob Ebert, Graham Bridges and Keith Paine paid our Tauranga cousins a visit a couple of weeks ago. I joined Bob Smyth, Bill Faulkner, Peter Stacey and Stuart Macky for a sail up Tauranga harbour for some BBQ refreshments followed by a return sail. The day was overcast with variable winds. Keith Paine and Graham Bridges had better breeze when they contested the club races on the Sunday. Zephyr #6 has also made its way to Tauranga and is now in the hands of Bob de Fluiter. This boat had been lost from the register for a number of years but it turned up when its owner shifted to Raglan.

Refurbishment of the Hamilton fleet continues. John de Fluiter, aided by brother Bob has #109 looking immaculate. Rob Ebert has #84 back in the water after extensive hull repairs.

It's not just the boats that have been refurbished. Frank Ward had major surgery during the winter and is as enthusiastic as ever. The Zephyr Owners' Association would like to acknowledge Waikato Hospital's commitment to Zephyr sailing in scheduling Frank's operation during the winter!

Twenty one skippers contested the recent "Freshwater Worlds" hosted by Hamilton Yacht Club over the weekend of December 1 & 2. A booking error within Hamilton City Council had the NZ Canoe Club holding K1, K2 and K4 selection trials on the Lake on Sunday with only a two hour window between their races. Four races were thus held on Saturday to enable a five race series to be completed.

Good support from Auckland came in the form of Shaun Connolly, Bob Allen, Russell Turner, Colin Madden and Andrew Geddes with Bob Smyth and Bill Faulkner coming over from Tauranga.

Unfortunately the weather man did not support the event to the same degree. Misty, showery, shifty N to NE conditions of 3 - 8 knots prevailed making sailing "character building". Frequent holes in the breeze meant big gains and big losses at times.

Race Officer Peter Hutchinson set a zig-zag course to provide some upwind legs. The first windward mark was carefully placed to receive an intermittent 15 degree windshift, making the final approach to the mark pretty tricky. The second windward mark was afflicted with calm periods ended by breeze from differing directions.

Jack Ninnes mastered the tricky conditions with a perfect score followed by former winners Roger Walker (2,13,4,3,2) and Brian Smith (4,9,2,4,4). Malcolm Paine, a Starling skipper in a borrowed boat (3,5,5,6,5) headed Bob Allen (5,3,6,7,6) and father Keith (15,8,9,5,3). Paul Fisher took out the handicap trophy.

Andrew Geddes arrived on Sunday for the final race, his efforts acknowledged by a special prize for a really late entry. He found time to conduct a water quality survey while his boat waited obediently on its side nearby.

So far we will have six skippers committed to attending the Nationals with another two "possibles" depending upon the weather forecast closer to the time. There is some none too subtle arm twisting going on!

Rob Ebert

Current Owners of Championship Boats

1	Zephyr	Allan Retter	70 Nigel Road	Browns Ba
4	Why	Ron Cameron	54 Scarborough Rd	Scarboroug
8	<i>Radiant</i>	<i>Paul Stemmer</i>	<i>6 Bay View Road</i>	<i>Christchur</i>
12	Cindy	Brian Smith	121 Lake Crescent	Hamilton
17	Gwendoline	Frank Ward	18 Bernard St	Hamilton
35	<i>Komuri</i>	<i>David Bevan</i>	<i>23 Knighton Road</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>
82	Gazelle	Murray Sargisson	11 Okewa Rd	Titirangi, A
85	Gamble	Peter Crofts	30 Woodside Common	Westmorel
112	Skitten	Russell Durrant	8 Hinekohu St	New Lynn
118	Vooka	Roger Walker	12 Westney Place	Hamilton
145	<i>Zeppelin</i>	<i>Ken Hall</i>	<i>20 Hadlow Place</i>	<i>Christchur</i>
168	<i>Baloo</i>	<i>Ron Webber</i>	<i>82 Tanekaha Road</i>	<i>Titirangi, A</i>
183	<i>Kerry</i>	<i>D Cowperthwaite</i>	<i>17 Poronui St</i>	<i>Mt Eden, A</i>
202	Marietta	John Faire	53 The Parade	Bucklandsd
220	Goldfinger	Russell Durrant	8 Hinekohu St	New Lynn
221	<i>Cherie</i>	<i>Rob Goodlet</i>	<i>20 Carlye Ave</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>

We have lost contact with the italicized entries

Tales from Canterbury

"Oh how I wish someone other than the President would offer to write an article!" There is a lot of talent within the Canterbury Zephyr Owners' but the motto seems to be "leave it to the willing horse". Perhaps the editor of Estuary Capers may care to make some comment in the next edition?

Well, what's news? The last two weekends have been busy with Canterbury championship races two and three at MPYC, and four and five at the Waimakariri. Fleets of thirteen boats have been competing. Pigeon Bay was the venue for a five race South Island Championship contest and we had a total of twenty one competing in light weather. Nine races over two weekends is a fair commitment and there are some tired yachties out there. There are still two races to complete the Canterbury champs, and our racing handicapper, Ron Mackie, has been busy feeding the results into the local 'Press' newspaper. Zephyrs have the largest centre board fleet in Canterbury.

Results of the South Island Championship as printed in "The Press".

Race 1: Don Le Page 1, Matthew Hannah 2, Bill Beere 3,

Race 2: Le Page 1, Hannah 2, Russell Wenham 3.

Race 3: Hannah 1, Le Page 2, Richard Ineson 3.

Race 4: Graeme Hore 1, Don Currie 2, Howard Thomas 3.

Race 5: Hannah 1, Mike Agnew 2, Le Page 3.

Over all: Hannah 1, Le Page 2, Agnew 3.

Handicap: Brenda Taylor 1, Currie 2, Agnew 3.

Welcome to Phillip Jones who purchased # 3 Anitra on the Saturday and arrived twenty minutes before the start gun to compete in races 4 and 5 on the Sunday. Phil, an experienced sailor was not sure on some of the rigging and was assisted by a team of four to get his boat on the water. With a 6th and 10th place Phil is no novice.

Another couple of Zephyr owners are worth a mention. David Mackey in # 194 sits in the bottom of the boat and

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 Ak 3
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ZEPHYRS FOR SALE

#215 *Minx*: Alloy rig, galvanised boat trailer and well looked after. Contact: Allan Richardson (07) 856 7796, Fax (07) 8556928, email richkiwi@ihug.co.nz
 #116 *Frith*: Contact: Barry Mackie (07) 849 6556
 #156 *Chinook*: Wooden rig, beach trolley, road trailer, good sail. Needs minor repairs. Contact: Rick Cable 03 312 2667
 #171 *Tania*: Contact: Ted Frankham or Dennis Craig 09 817 3150
 #209 *Born Free*: White boat with wooden rig and good running gear. Sailed mostly for pleasure. Paint needs a little work. Good sail, purpose built galvanised road trailer and launching trolley, both professionally built. \$1200. Contact: Frank Pinion 03 352 6462
 #104 *Gidget* Stored on the Coromandel, not seen for some time. 07 849 6521
 #59 *Escapade*: In good condition. Good wooden spars, two sails, one in good condition with a new set of battens. Beach trolley. \$900. Contact Richard Whitney 09 360 0590.

Class Champions

N Thom	C Duncan
W Moyes	I Cook
R McKay	M Walker
J Farmer	R Durrant
T Finlayson	J Morrison
T McDell	W Beere
M Sargisson	M Murray
G Dickey	A Brown
J Faire	G McKenzie
B Smith	

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50th Nationals

We have started talking up the 50th Nationals, to be held in the North Island in 2006. By my reckoning, that could also be an America's Cup year assuming a successful defense in 2003. It would be good to have as many past winners and their boats participating even if it is just on an invitation race basis. According to my records sixteen boats and nineteen skippers have won the National Champs (see tables inside). Several still own their boats and some sail on a regular basis. We have lost track of many of the earlier skippers so if someone out there can tell us where they all are, we may be able to issue an invitation with sufficient advance warning.

Rob Ebert

(Continued from page 2)

with an eye on the sail shape and a steady hand on the helm managed a creditable 11th place. Dave has joined the Waimak Club and hopes to be a regular contestant. Brenda Taylor (engaged to Russell Wenham) is the only active woman sailor in contests and her performance in light conditions is impressive. Howard and son Russell Thomas have purchased #164, and will be giving her a refit over the next few months. This boat had been in Timaru for a number of years as was going to be dumped by its owner. Fortunately he contacted the ZOA and the outcome will be another Zephyr on the water!

All sorts of things are happening and I look forward to reading the next edition of Estuary Capers.

Alex Aitken.

**Notes on ZOA finances and assets.
 Statement of Financial Position as at
 16th November 2001**

ASB bank account 50		\$ 9727.15	
ASB bank account 51 closed *			
ASB cheque account	\$ 2389.92		
plus deposits	\$ 45.00		
less payments	\$ 249.75	\$ 2185.17	
Stock on hand		\$ 1082.58	
Fixed assets. Building moulds	\$ 2362.00		
less Royalties received	\$ 800.00	\$ 1562.00	
Total			\$ 14,556.90

Notes.

Account Closure: Due to changes in ASB bank policies relating to minimum balances, account 51 has been closed and the sum of \$ 930.36 transferred to account 50. Our auditor, Richard Ineson will note this in the annual accounts.

Estimated liabilities for expenses on stock, admin and national contest are around \$5500.00, which leaves us with cash assets of about \$ 7000.00. This is a satisfactory situation but can be eroded quickly if we embark on a hull building programme.

50th Anniversary Seeding: The 50th anniversary in 2006 will require possible "seeding finance". We await a report from AZO on this project and suggestions on funding.

Membership for 2001/2002: The budget for this year's general administration was set at \$1335.00. This equates to a paid up membership of eighty nine based on a subscription of \$15.00. As at early December ZOA records show that 69 Zephyr Owners have paid their annual subscription. It is pleasing to see a growing number of new owners which augurs well for the class. Around twenty owners have not updated their membership. If you have not committed \$25.00 to support your national and local ZOA please post your cheque today.

Trading Corner

We have in Stock:-

2 new Zephyr sails, ex Doyles	\$ 585.00
2 sets blue Streak Sail Battens, Christchurch	\$ 170.00
On order, due early December, Christchurch.	
2 alloy masts	\$ 645.00
1 alloy boom	\$ 300.00

Cedar Hulls: We are at present debating the issue of Cedar hulls. Auckland Zephyr Owners have submitted a builders quote supply hulls to stage one and two with an option to build a Zephyr ready to launch. ZOA is also considering the long term strategy of building hulls and we are investigating the viability of GRP construction. The association will use the "forum" discussion at the Plimmerton nationals to gauge where we should be heading.

Zephyr Owners' Association (Inc)
Annual General Meeting
French Bay Boating Club
2000hrs Friday, August 10th 2001

Present: A Aitken (Chair), R Ebert (Secretary), N May (Patron), A Geddes, A Retter, R Waterer, D Craig, R Allen, R Turner, G Moore, S Macky, S Connolly, K Smith, R Dew, R Still, D Waterer T Frankham, W Russell, D Way, K Andrew.

Apologies: M Sargisson, F Elley, M O'Connell, C Maddren, Because of the late arrival of the Secretary (Rob Ebert) the actual order of business differs from that documented here.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous AGM held at the French Bay Boating Club on 1930hrs Monday, July 3rd 2000 had been previously published in West Wind, and were circulated at the meeting. They were taken as read and accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting. (Allen/Retter)

Matters Arising: A Retter queried whether a completed price for a Zephyr had ever been determined. Detailed costs of equipping a Zephyr had been published in West Wind from which it was possible to estimate a fully completed price. It was felt to be comparable with a Laser.

President's Report: A Aitken read his President's Report, it having been previously published in West Wind, and moved its acceptance. (A Geddes/D Waterer)

Treasurer's Report: A Aitken presented an audited set of accounts for the previous financial year for acceptance by the meeting. (A Aitken/A Geddes). He commented on the comprehensive audit carried out by Richard Ineson, Honorary Auditor. The meeting recorded its appreciation of Richard's efforts.

Budget: A Aitken presented the proposed budget, as outlined in the most recent West Wind, for acceptance by the meeting. (A Aitken/R Ebert)

Subscriptions: Recommended to remain at \$15.00. (A Aitken/R Ebert)

Election of Officers:

In the absence of other nominees, the following were declared elected: (R Waterer/D Waterer)

Patron: Noel May

President: Alex Aitken

Treasurer: Alex Aitken

Secretary: Rob Ebert

Auditor: R Ineson (from last year)

Regional Representatives: A Aitken (Canty), Bob Allen (Ak), Rob Ebert (Hamilton), Dennis Craig indicated that work commitments would keep him out of Zephyr sailing for the next two years. Auckland will nominate another representative in his place.

Patron Noel May spoke briefly to the meeting. Des Townson has recently been diagnosed with Cancer, but both he and Noel retained an involvement with the class via the West Wind. Noel presented Alex Aitken with his "Presidential Badge of Office" – a handsome half model of a Zephyr.

General Business

1. **Honorarium:** Notice of Motion "That the President be allocated an honorarium of \$150 for services rendered" received from R Ineson and P Stokell, CZOA was passed.

2. **Glass Hulls:** Notice of Motion "That the ZOA Executive prepare an amendment to the class rules allowing glass reinforced plastic hulls. R Ebert/A Aitken. Defeated on a show of hands, 9/7.

This motion generated considerable debate. Comments in the discussion were:

- Overall cost of a Zephyr is considerable (\$10000) and a barrier to entry. Glass construction has the potential to lower costs considerably.
- The "wooden boat" look and classic lines are a major part of the Zephyr's appeal. This would be lost in glass construction. Glass Zephyrs would not look like the wooden ones.
- Lessons from the Starling class, which had recently gone into fibreglass construction were:
 - Glass starlings appealed to adults who were buying them for their children. There was a "just add water" approach which may not necessarily apply to Zephyrs. Zephyrs tend to be purchased for owner (adult) use – a vintage car philosophy for some.
 - Glass construction lifted the Starling class overall – more wooden boats were built as well.
 - Glass starlings were priced to be comparable to wooden ones. This kept wooden boats viable and allowed a margin for the builder.

The need to investigate further the construction methods was recognised in the following motion:

"The Executive investigate the various construction methods (with costs) for building Zephyrs. R Waterer/ D Waterer. Carried. R Waterer offered to assist with this work.

Dennis Craig informed the meeting that Gary Matthews of Matthews Marine wished to resign as the Zephyr boat builder. He had built three hulls to date, all at a loss. As a result, Dennis felt it was unreasonable to expect him to continue with the present method of construction. After some debate there was general agreement that ZOA look at employing the services of a non commercial builder who may be prepared to work for a nominal hourly rate.

3. **Contest AGM:** Notice of Motion "The next AGM be held at the Plimmerton National Championships" R Ebert/A Aitken. Lost on voices.
4. **YNZ Advertising Code:** "That the ZOA adopt Category C, allowing advertising on hulls, spars and sails without restriction except in the space reserved for identification. Ebert/Aitken, Carried.
5. **Rule Changes:** The meeting noted the recent West Wind article by Don Currie proposing changes to mast construction and mast hole size. Don was commended on his thought and content. There was general concern about adjusting the hole size and a number of methods of strengthening masts at deck level were proposed.
6. **ZOA 50th.** This will be in Auckland in 2006. Possible venues were canvassed. Auckland owners will explore options. Good South Island attendance expected at Plimmerton in 2002.

Meeting closed 2210hrs

Rob Ebert

Secretary

National President

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 2001-2002

Subscriptions for 2001-2 are \$15.00 for the NZZOA, and \$10.00 for local associations in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch. If you are an "orphan" outside these areas, the \$15.00 NZZOA sub can be forwarded to Alex Aitken, President, or Rob Ebert, Secretary. Please include your boat name and number, so we can update the Zephyr Register.

We need your support for all sorts of reasons!