



the FROSTBITER

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FROM THE COMMODORE



Welcome to the 2004-2005 season.

As this is my first newsletter as Commodore I thought I might start with a bit of my history with the club. I started sailing at the club in about 1969 in a sabot which at the time was the junior class. Opti's hadn't even been thought of then.

In those days only racing was offered and any form of coaching came from parents or friends. There were no opportunities to race at other clubs in sabots - the only regatta away from the club was the Anniversary Day Regatta in the harbour. To get to the start off Devonport Wharf, we either sailed or were towed by the patrol boat.

My next progression was into a Sunburst purchased off the son of our patron George Gair named Toby Joe (#81). The Sunbursts seemed big and powerful. Three years later I was lucky enough to own a new wooden sunburst called Van der Hum built by Don Brooke. I sailed Van der Hum for a couple of seasons before moving into other classes such as Cherubs, 12 foot skiffs, Javelins and 14ft skiffs, with a few seasons of keel boat racing in between. So I suppose I have all most gone the full circle, back to where I started.

The thing that I have always enjoyed about Wakatere is that it is a genuine family club where the whole family can race if they so desire, and we have plenty of examples of that. On the other hand it has a good social scene and there are not many places better than Narrowneck Beach to spend your Sunday! And then there is the pie shop.

This season, once again, we will have strong fleets in all classes. Our keen, eager class reps aim to satisfy all your sailing requirements which the club has to offer. Don't hesitate to contact them - they are there to help.

It was great to see Wakatere's name in the news with Paul Snow-Hansen's fantastic performance of second place overall at the Opti Worlds. As a club, we are very proud of him.

Here's hoping we are treated to another good season both on and off the water.

—Bruce Yarnton

Good News
Sunburst #1679



NEWS AROUND THE CLASSES

OK Dinghy

It has been a hectic year for the Wakatere OK Dinghy team, which has competed in regattas all over NZ and around the world. In February the OK Nationals were held at Worsler Bay in Wellington, and as predicted it blew like hell - one race was started in approx 28 knots, and was clocked at 42 knots halfway up the first beat. Despite this, 11 sailors finished the race including "Team Wakatere" members Russ Wood, Mark Perrow and Ben Morrison. Definitely the windiest race I've finished in an OK - we found that the new carbon rigs make windy conditions more manageable and the race was actually a lot of fun. Russ Wood went on to win the nationals in a fantastic performance given the strength of the home Wellington fleet, and retain the national title for Auckland.

At Easter we sent a strong team to the OK Inter-dominions at Airlie Beach, Australia, which included

See updated www.wakatere.org.nz for news...

Wakatere members Phil Rzepecky, Mark Perrow and new member Grant Pedersen. All performed well in the 40-plus strong Australian fleet, Mark taking 2nd place, Phil 10th in a personal best performance, and Grant 16th.

In July, four members of Team Wakatere, Russ Wood, Mark Perrow, Mike Inwood and Ben Morrison, set out as part of the 11-strong NZ OK team to compete in the 2004 OK Worlds in Poole, England. Unfortunately it proved to be a somewhat frustrating regatta for the Wakatere boys, with extreme tides, huge windshifts and an incompetent race officer. One of the results of this was boat-end biased starts with massive tides running and the black flag in force from the first start of every race: you can imagine the situation at the committee boat end of the line - the stuff of nightmares. Russ and I were both black flagged out of a race each which made for a difficult contest. Another unfortunate day saw a race started in 0-1 knots with no breeze at one end of the line. At one stage of the race Russ, Mark and I found ourselves in the bottom 10 of 81 boats, declaring loudly that we would never return to England! However, we hung in there and managed to retain some dignity.

The best sailor clearly won with Jim Hunt of England outclassing everyone, claiming England's first OK World title and proving that no matter what the situation, the best prepared and most focused sailor will usually prevail. Mark finished a creditable 14th, I was 16th, Russ 22nd and Mike 26th. While it was a disappointing result for us, we still finished in the front bunch, had a great trip and were very well looked after by Parkstone Yacht Club and everyone associated with the contest (except the race officer).

We have a number of new Wakatere members this season, including Grant Pedersen and Alistair Deaves, so the OK fleet will be stronger than ever. We might even manage to get Russ to pay his subs! We are always keen to get more people into the class so if any of you feel you are up to the challenge, get in touch with me or one of the other OK guys and we'll be happy to line a boat up for you to give it a try.

—Ben Morrison

Sunburst update

The Sunburst fleet is ready and rearing to go. Mike Long and Nigel Price have new fibreglass boats and James Corbett is putting the finishing touches

on his new wooden boat. Some coaching for us all is in the offing early in the season, so watch this space. The North Island champs are in Taupo in mid January and it would be great to get a good turnout from Wakatere down there. If we had a team of eight at Wellington then hopefully we can better that. The Nationals next year are in Christchurch at Easter so if you are considering a South Island holiday give it some thought. If any of you have some friends who might like to sail a sunburst there are some good second hand boats for sale. Remember, opening day October 3rd. See you on the start line.

Frostbite News

It seems that all of the half dozen or so Wakatere frostbiters from last year will be back this season. We hope that Bob Gillies will can also be lured away from his keel boat from time to time to show us how it should be done. Looking forward to some enjoyable racing.

— William Grieve



Opti update

The new season is not long away and we are looking forward to seeing our ever expanding Opti fleet out on the waters of Rangitoto channel in the coming months. As well as running the usual Sunday afternoon club Open and Green fleet races, we plan to organise a late morning race, to encourage the Sunday am 'learn to sail' sailors to have a go at racing. The races will be short and close to the shore but will give the children a taste of competitive starting and fleet racing.

Advance notice for your diary, this coming season the Opti National are being held in the sunny North over the Easter break (24 – 28 March '05) at Taipa Yacht Club, Doubtless Bay, Northland. Being closer than Wellington or the South Island (!) and warmer we hope to see even more WBC sailors competing this year.

—Duncan McQueen

Laser News

The Laser class is showing remarkable growth at Wakatere. As a confirmed Laserite I am really keen to help see this growth continue and make sure that we have lots of fun in the process. There are a wide range of abilities and it would appear that some sharing of knowledge and experience would be great.

I have set up an email group of about 20 Laser

Upcoming junior regattas

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sailors who I know, however this may easily not be everyone who sails a Laser at Wakatere. So, please contact me and I will put you on the email list. The idea is to keep up to date with happenings and to have some suggestions. In the first email there is a bit of support for some coaching/training. My initial thought is that this would be great, but it needs to be appropriate to the skill levels. I think some on-the-water coaching would be a great start on a once-a-month basis. How about the first one on Sunday 17 Oct? Lets develop it from there.

You will notice that there are a few Laser regattas away from Wakatere that are listed on the sailing programme. I think it would be good to get a bit of a Wakatere contingent for some of these.

See you on the water soon.
— Pete Thomas

P Class News

First up this season for the Wakatere P's is a team event - the United Services Trophy, held in conjunction with the Winter Champs at MBSC. As the 2003 representatives for North Harbour in the Tanner Cup, Wakatere hosts the TC trials on October 6, 7 & 13. Kate Ellingham will be hoping to hold onto her title when, along with Wade Gatfield, Paul S-H, Mathew Knox, Chris Kelly, Nick Mitchel, and Jeremy Dey, she competes against other North Harbour sailors. NI champs in Tauranga 23 & 24 October.

Starling News

The Starling fleet continues to grow, along with rumours of more sailors stepping out of P's to join them. Some hardy characters have been training through winter, and racing at Lake Pupuke...it's going to be a great season. The NI champs are in Tauranga on 23/24 October & the Nationals will be in early January 2005, also Tauranga.

Wakatere Patrol Boat Safety Course

This is a must for all people wanting to help on the water this summer:

The course will run from 0900 – 1600 Sat 25th.Sept

It will contain essential elements of the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Safety Boat Course including:

- Preparation, Boat checks & Safety Equipment
- Launching & retrieving
- Boat handling
- Laying marks
- Communication
- Righting inverted & partially inverted craft
- Casualty rescue
- Towing
- NZ law (Maritime rules Part 91)
- End-of-day procedures

Attendees would need to have experience of operating outboard-driven craft and experience of operating a VHF radio.

I would suggest a maximum of 20 people, for which we would need a minimum of 5 rescue boats plus some dinghys to 'rescue'.

"Powerboating Practical Course Notes" which contains some excellent material on powerboating and safety boat techniques is available from Trans Pacific Marine (09 303 1459) price \$28.95.

SOCIAL EVENTS

GO KARTING

Saturday 19 September 5pm

Auckland Raceway

The Concourse

Henderson

Numbers limited to 50 drivers

(more track time for kids this time)

RSVP with numbers to yarnton@xtra.co.nz

October 3 Sunday

Opening Day & Barbeque

November 14 Sunday

Barbeque

December 19 Sunday

Childrens Christmas party a.m.

Barbeque p.m.

December 20 Monday

Junior sleepover

LOCKERS

With the new sailing season fast approaching it is time to re-allocate ALL LOCKERS. Please make this job easy by co-operating with the following:

- 1) Locker holders who no longer require a locker - advise by email, return the key and vacate the locker. If you have sold your boat it is very important to note that lockers DO NOT go with boats, it is your responsibility to return the key and vacate the locker. The new boat owner must apply for a locker.
- 2) Locker holders who have changed boat type - advise me by email of your new requirements.
- 3) Locker holders who DO NOT meet the locker requirements regarding use or lack of it - please make this job easier by vacating and email me.
- 4) People who have previously applied for a locker and are still waiting - email to confirm your interest for the coming season

Email is john@linn.co.nz - I will follow through with phone calls where necessary. Thanks for your help regarding this process.

—Pauline Ellingham

End of the golden weather...

Masonic Cup 2003-2004

Sunbursts, Frostbites, Starlings, Lasers, OKs, P Class and Optis all competed for the Masonic trophies with a total of around 60 boats. The breeze was a light North easterly and the course included No 1 buoy, Rough Rock, No 9 buoy, Rough Rock and home. As the fleets approached North Head the breeze dropped making things interesting.

Winners were:

Sunburst - James Corbett

Frostbite - William Grieve

Starling - Kate Ellingham

Laser - Carol Donaldson

OK - Mike Wilde

P - Chris Kelly

Opti - Josh Yarnton

A fun night was had in the upstairs bar with just under 100 people dining. The Masonic management were blown away with the support from our members. Next year the race will be scheduled for a later start so that sailors involved with Saturday morning sport will have a greater chance of making the start on time.

Parent & Child Day 2003-2004

After waiting for sufficient wind for an adult to race an Opti, an informal race got under way. The first lap was raced by the children with a 'le mans' start. Finn Drummond managed to get around the first mark successfully and gained a huge lead of at least one leg on the rest of the fleet. The pressure was on when Paula took over for the second lap. Hardy Michel was in second place but when he handed over to father Mark, things improved. With little wind, the tide played a big part. A strong finish from Mark Michel necessitated a photo finish on the beach with Paula diving for the line. A draw!!!! Could there have been any Navman assistance?

The afternoon was still very light. Children were the skippers and fathers were sent forward. It was a simple out and back course to No 1 buoy with a strong incoming tide. Rock hopping up the shore was the best option. Some may need to be reminded to repair the knicks in the centreboard.

The winners were wee Alison Tubby in the Sunburst and Kate Wanless in the Frostbite. Well done girls.

WAKATERE BOATING CLUB: www.wakatere.org.nz

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