

Multihull News

The Official Newsletter of the Multihull Yacht Club of Victoria
January/February 2000

SOMR 2000 full review!



*Dennis Green's Pronto enjoys the waves during SOMR 2000
Photo by Robin Rieger.*

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MULTIHULL NEWS

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Alex Macnaughtan's 46' cat Cascade. The veteran boat seems to have found the sailing secret at last - or is it just our imagination that suggests the boat is sailing downhill?!!

Photo by Brenda Tate.

News briefs:

Our next General Meeting will be at the Black Rock Yacht Club on Wednesday March 15th, 8pm.

We will have the 'unedited' video from SOMR 2000 and copies can be ordered on the night. We expect the approximately 90 minute video will cost \$15-20 delivered.

Later in March the MYCV will produce an edited 10-15 minute promotional video from the footage we have. This promo will be prepared professionally.

Also at our General Meeting members attending can buy or order polar fleece jackets and the promised keytags for members will be available to those who have not yet got them. There will also be some 1999 SOMR polo shirts at only \$10 each.

Hot Goss'

*The January 2000 SOMR provided some interesting moments both ashore and afloat. Your correspondent, ever eager to spread the bare facts has developed a sizeable spy network over the years and has received some classic 'notes' and 'conversational snippets'. This year's SOMR was no exception.

*From spy #22 (alias JG of 'Marine perambulator') comes the following gems overheard on the last Saturday of the Regatta :-

1. Sat. morning

Hearty voice from galley of a certain large catamaran: "Come on. Pancake time!"

Weary reply from trampoline: "No thanks". Long pause, then: "Have they got any panadol in them?"

2. Owner of a certain older style trimaran to helmsman: "You're looking tired. You haven't even shaved

today".

Helmsman to owner: "You didn't want to kiss me, did you?"

*Then there was the classic comment attributed to (and later furiously denied by) a well known owner of a small trimaran. His contribution to overt sexism can be summed up by his description of the female human species as 'cleaning animals', and to one such person known to him as 'the cleaning animal'. You were warned, owner of small trimaran!

*Sleeping on small trailerable catamarans with leaking hatches is best done on the trampoline. That's fine provided the weather is likewise (fine, not trampolining) but one night it did rain and on a certain 23' cat one of the crew (known for his liking of trampoline sleeping) was asleep as usual. This much is known for certain. Next morning the skipper, sensibly



Vince and Joyce Gardiner's Searunner trimaran under single headsail during WAFIR 2000.

Vince commented that trying the boat without the cutter configuration improved boatspeed, lowered his rating and made the boat easier to handle with an inexperienced crew. Watch out for the Searunner rocketship in future races!

Photo by Robin Rieger.

making alternative sleeping arrangements noticed no sign of sleeping crew when he went to his boat early. The skipper searched endlessly around the marina to locate the missing crew but to no avail so when the third crew arrived the skipper said “*Joe’s missing” (Joe is a pseudonym).

The response was “You haven’t lost him again, have you?” Joe eventually turned up.

*Overheard on the pathway along the Marina, as weekend visitors/experts view the boats. A man and his partner were looking over towards Raw Nerve when, after careful study of the boat the man said “No. It won’t last. See, the mast has no spreaders so it will just snap in any sort of wind”.

*A VYC representative was being shown around the marina by our Commodore, proudly filling the visitor with multihull propaganda as Raw Nerve came in after Race 6. From a distance you could see the VYC rep’s jaw drop and, in a stuttering voice he said “what the ----- is that?” Short pause, then “where does the main hull touch the water?”

*In the Australia Day Williamstown to Geelong classic (see report in the next issue) the boys on Matuka took quite a hammering in the strong (up to 50 knot winds on the nose) conditions. By the race end the damage amounted to a split centre pod, torn jib and sundry minor bits. According to our spy on the boat the real damage occurred before the race at an un-named but well known ‘Royal’ yacht club the night before the race. Two of the intrepid Matuka regulars decided to have a wee dram which turned out to be a bit more like a ‘whoa, damn!’ with subsequent self inflicted horrors the morning after. Rumour has it that one of the drinkers

actually slept on the deck of Matuka in a 50 knot rain squall that swept the fleet during the race!

*On the subject of Williamstown to Geelong races and rumours, this column has previously tipped a big surprise entry from Kiwi Ross Field. It seemed the week before the race that we may have scooped the yachting world judging by the wild spread of rumours that dominated the RGYC that “a big Kiwi boat was due to shadow the fleet to Geelong”. It did not eventuate but we wonder what was going on - where there’s smoke there’s fire! Rest assured, dear readers that your reporter will stop at nothing to track down these rumours and amplify them out of all proportion if possible!

*Finally, for all you multi freaks who never get enough there is the film ‘The Thomas Crown Affair’ which is due in the video stores shortly. There is some great footage of a race between two Formula 40 cats which ends in one of them capsizing under kite. The spectacle shows how terrific multi sailing looks when filmed with a big budget. See for yourselves - you can tell your wife that it is a love story!

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Dieter Tietz's Reasonable Doubt, SOMR 2000 winning F25. Brilliantly sailed in all conditions (seen here in light winds), Reasonable Doubt won four of a possible six races. Dieter from the ACT was full of praise for his crew of Dave Senior and Matthew Owen. Dieter was again impressed with the Regatta, the facilities at the Western Port Marina and the brilliant sailing variations offered by the waters of Western Port. He described the windy race 2 as "the best sail of my life". Photo by Brenda Tate.

Sail Melbourne SOMR 2000!

Raw Nerve versus Reasonable Doubt

The Sail Melbourne Southern Oceans Multihull Regatta 2000 was a two boat Regatta. Dieter Tietz's F25 'Reasonable Doubt' won four of a possible six races with brilliant sailing skill in the widest possible conditions ranging from 45 knots to 5 knots. Martyn Riley debuted the 50' racing cat "Raw Nerve" at SOMR and won line honours in every race it started and by convincing margins. Nothing else came close to beating Raw Nerve for outright speed and there were no 'slow' boats at the Regatta.

While Reasonable Doubt has figured in the placings at previous Regattas (SOMR and others around the country), it was Dieter's first Regatta win, and he was delighted. Supported strongly by his regular

crew of Dave Senior and joined by hot-shot sailor Matthew Owen, the trio simply outsailed some strong and experienced local combinations. Particularly impressive was the adaptability and tuning of the F25 so much so that the trio proved almost unbeatable in light, moderate and strong conditions. Dieter described the Race 2 of about 32 nautical miles in winds up to 45 knots as "the best sail of my life".

The big name at the Regatta was 'Raw Nerve', a Southern Ocean 50 catamaran designed by Brett Crowther and built by Mal Hart, both of whom crewed on the boat. After her initial launching in '98, her break-up and later rebuilding, there was obvious nervousness as the boat made

her first official start line only to retire with some minor problems. In the windy Race 2, Raw nerve blitzed the fleet which included many fast multis like Rapid Ride, Spirit of Emu, Bagatelle and Blithe Spirit. None could match the rock steady non-pitching motion or sheer speed of Raw Nerve. Most competitors soon realized they had witnessed the arrival of Australia's fastest sailing boat. It will simply shatter the line honours aspirations of all competitors, multi or mno, in this country. You have been warned!

Back in the fleet, Wayne Huxley's (now sold) 30' flier "Rapid Ride" could beat every other boat for speed except Raw Nerve, although Rapid Ride actually passed Raw Nerve downwind in one triangle leg of Race 4. Rapid Ride got the most severe testing in the heavier days and came through unscathed, a testament to the preparation by Wayne and a good omen for her new owner in Western Australia.

'Bagatelle', Lindsay Cumings evergreen 45' cat sported a brand new 'airblade' wing mast stepped very recently and suffered from not enough familiarisation time. 'Spirit of Emu' was another rush preparation and could not display her true abilities.

In the smaller sizes, Chris Culph and Craig Unthank's 31' tri 'Slick Willie' performed well and took second place in the Regatta ahead of Chris O'Brien's F24 Mk2 'Sayonara'.

The Multihull Yacht Club of Victoria ran the event from the fabulous Western Port Marina at Hastings, near Melbourne. Together with sup-

port from the Marina and the Mornington Peninsula Shire, the MYCV hired a professional cameraman, a helicopter and a speed boat and will produce a video of the event. Unfortunately, on day 2 of the Regatta the helicopter was grounded by the notorious fuel crisis that affected certain aircraft.

The event was strongly supported by the Sail Melbourne organisation and by Horizon Sails and the Galley at the Marina. Speak to any of the competitors and be prepared for rave reviews of the facilities and the sailing location. It was a memorable start to 2000. Full results are on the Sail Melbourne website <sailmelbourne.vyc.com.au> (note no www)

Phillip Hames, January 2000



Martyn Riley's 50' Raw Nerve seen here under spinnaker at SOMR 2000. Photo by Brenda Tate.



Chris Culph's 31' maxi trailerable trimaran Slick Willie finished a gallant 2nd in SOMR 2000 despite last minute repairs to a beam socket only finished on the Sunday of the Invitation race. Photo by Phil Hames



Despite some hard charging as above, Chris O'Brien's F24 MK2 Sayonara could not catch the SOMR winner in 2000. Chris did, however, win race 6 which enabled him to finish a creditable 3rd overall for the Regatta.



Raw Nerve under reacher at SOMR 2000. Unless the course dictates very deep angles downwind or the wind is very light, the boat is too fast for spinnakers.

Note the forward raked daggerboards and the height above the beams of the central cabin/pod. 3-D sail laminates are being made for serious attempts on forthcoming Australian east coast races. The sails used at SOMR are the 'cruising' spectra type.

Martyn Riley and crew drove the boat very hard to windward in the late January Williamstown to Geelong race following SOMR. The conditions were severe with winds up to 50 knots. After stuffing the bows heavily into a wave, the crew backed off from their 20 knots boatspeed.



George Bulka's much modified Seawind 33' Seatrek. The boat is now 36' long, and performs very well in stronger conditions. Here the boat is pictured during the WAFIR race late January 2000.

Photo by Robin Rieger

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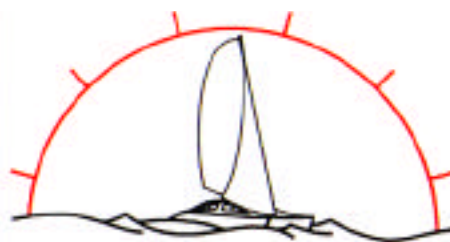
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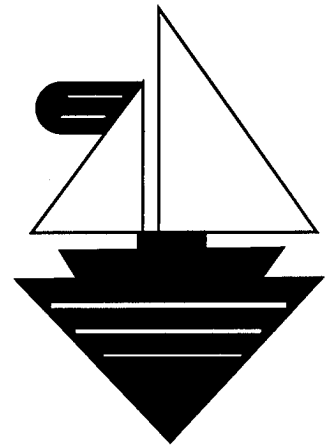


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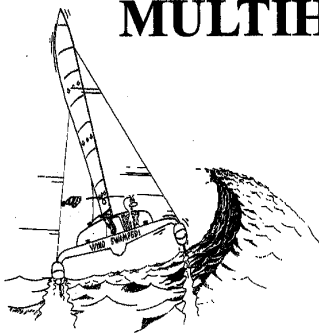
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