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From the President's Desk

As I look back, 2013 was a very successful season for the Comet Class. The regattas were well attended with record numbers in recent years for the North Americans, Internationals, Drew Bowl, and the Pumpkin Bowl. The membership increased for the first time in a few years. Most importantly, in 2013 we had the launching of the new Comet, which met all our expectations.

Mylar sails were used most of the summer on an experimental basis and received final approval at the annual meeting. They have proven to be very competitive, as shown in the light air found at the Pumpkin Bowl.

There was a nice article and picture about the new Comet in the November issue of Sailing World Magazine. The write up was sent to their E-News subscribers as well, which gave us double publicity. We also will be in the Harken One Design Showcase in the back of Sailing World during 2014. Now that new boats are available, we want all of this new publicity to reach out to a larger number of interested sailors.

Wick is working on the Price List Brochure for new boats and replacement equipment for our present boats. This will be available to everyone so it will not be such a challenge when anyone needs new equipment or a new boat.

The Class has three loaner boats available for qualified sailors who are strong possibilities to join the Class or want to occasionally participate. The Molly Brown is with Talbott at Shrewsbury, the white side tank Comet is with

Joe Lauer at the Susquehanna YC, and the yellow double bottom is with Wick at Corsica River YC. We want to encourage use of these boats for both Club racing and regattas. The Molly Brown was sailed at the Internationals by Stuart Van Winkle who won the Herbert L. Stone Trophy for being the highest placing first time skipper in the event. The Molly Brown was also used in the Drew Bowl when two young juniors finished third.

Our new VP for Championship Regattas, Andy Wood, has been very busy setting the dates and location for the North Americans and Internationals. This information is posted in the E-News.

Back by popular demand after a ten year hiatus, the Comet Junior Nationals will be hosted by the Shrewsbury Sailing and Yacht Club. Date to be determined. Begin thinking what juniors at your Club are ready to step up to a more challenging boat. They may be surprised how well they adapt to it after a little practice.

For those of you who have not yet done so, be sure to sign up for Facebook and "Like" the Comet Class Association. It all helps in getting the word out that the Comet is back!

As we look forward to the 2014 sailing season, I encourage all of our fleet members to reach out to any new or previously active sailors in their area to encourage even greater participation next summer.

Talbott Ingram
President CCYRA

2014 Championship Regattas

by Andy Wood

Since being elected as VP of Championship Regattas, Andy Wood has been working behind the scenes to coordinate with various yacht clubs to host our two major championship regattas. The dates are set and the venues selected.

Comet North American Championship Regatta

Rock Hall Yacht Club, Maryland

June 21-22, 2014

<http://www.rockhallyachtclub.org>

The Rock Hall Yacht Club was founded in 1937 and is located in Langford Creek off the Chester River. Regattas are held in the wide open space of Chester River. The sailing venue is excellent for one design racing and next year's Comet North Americans will be in held in conjunction with RHYC's Annual Regatta. This will provide an excellent opportunity to show off the Comet to other Chesapeake Bay one-design fleets. Plan now to attend. (By Andy Wood)

Comet International Championship Regatta

Ocean Gate Yacht Club, New Jersey

August 22-24, 2014

<http://www.ogyc.net>

The Ocean Gate Yacht Club founded in 1909 is located at the foot of Ocean Gate Ave where the Toms River meets the Barnegat Bay. A founding member of the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association, OGYC still actively participates in one design racing throughout the sailing season. The sailing venue is ideal for one design racing with water depths of 6 to 8 feet throughout the area with little or no current and winds normally moderate and predictable. The area available to sail is large enough for meaningful legs on portable mark courses.

The membership of 135 families supports a vibrant sailing program and looks forward to hosting the Comet fleet with an abundance of Jersey shore hospitality and fun. We look forward to seeing you next summer! (by RHYC).

Other 2014 Regatta Information

by Tina Lauver

2014 is fast approaching and it is time to prepare the website with the upcoming 2014 regatta information as well as update the fleet information. If you are planning any of the regattas in 2014 please send me the race information - race title, date, Notice of Race (if you have one) and your name and correct contact email and phone number.

Other information that should be reviewed and updated is the Comet Fleets page and the Classifieds page. If you have sold a boat or have one to sell please let me know. All communications should be sent to peacockgraphics@comcast.net.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have other questions about the website.



2013 International Regatta,
Shrewsbury Sailing and Yacht Club

Comet Drew Bowl 2013

by Peter Munger

On September 21st 2013 Shrewsbury Sailing and Yacht Club held its annual Drew Bowl Comet Regatta. Fourteen Competitors from New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania traveled to SSYC for the event.

There was no wind at the beginning of the day, and when it was time to leave the dock the river was a sheet of glass with no wind in any direction. We put up the postponement flag and ordered our lunch, that we were planning on having after the regatta. While we were finishing lunch the wind came in, and by the time we got out on the water wind had come in at a steady 20 to 25 mph with stronger gusts.

The challenging conditions caused many boats to capsize. Some like Mike O'Brien were able to quickly recover and finish all three races. Others like myself buried their masts deep in the mud and had to withdraw. Still others like Pete Schell had breakdowns that forced them to withdraw.

In the end only three boats finished all three races, and as a result they were the top three finishers. In third place were Michael Munger and Robert Gruskos. They are both 15 years old and are Laser Radial sailors. They sailed "the unsinkable" Molly Brown and despite capsizing and swamping were able

to recover and show their much older and more experienced competition that youth sailors are not to be underestimated. In second place were Bob Slook and Kelly Brinton, and if first place were Mike O'Brien and Britney Slook.

Once again we want to Thank Jeff Jacobi for being race chair and running another well managed regatta. Jeff was race chair for the 2013 Comet Internationals also held at SSYC and has recently won the NJYRA 2013 Race Management Award in recognition of the outstanding job he did in managing that regatta. Well done Jeff.

The Drew Bowl, named in memory of SSYC Comet sailor Jerry Drew, is held annually in late September or early October. We were pleased to have such a good turn out and look forward to hosting this event for years to come.



2013 Drew Bowl Regatta Results

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	Skipper	Crew	Sail #	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Points	Place
	Mike O'Brien	Brittney Slook	3090	2	1	1	4	1
	Bob Slook	Kelly Brinton	4074	1	2	2	5	2
	Michael Munger	Robert Gruskos	4061	5	4	3	12	3
	Mark Beaton	Kyle Lavin	4	3	3	DNF 15	21	4
	Keith Landgraf	Rob Gearon	3958	8	5	DNS 15	28	5
	Talbott Ingram	Lee Ingram	EXP	4	DNF 15	DNS 15	34	6
	Andy Wood	Teddy Schroeder	4087	6	DNF 15	DNS 15	36	7
	John Costanzo	Stacey Kelley	4115	7	DNS 15	DNS 15	37	8
	Wick Dudley	Mike Evans	4148	9	DNS 15	DNS 15	39	9
	Matthew Welch	Angela Welch	4135	DNF 15	DNS 15	DNS 15	45	
	Peter Munger	Georgi Munger	3866	DNF 15	DNS 15	DNS 15	45	
	Peter Schell	Ainsley Hilfiker	4115	DNF 15	DNS 15	DNS 15	45	
	Joe Lauver	Tina Lauver	3951	DNS15	DNS 15	DNS 15	45	
	Jim Widdis	Peter Manning	4061	DNS15	DNS 15	DNS 15	45	

Comet Drew Bowl 2013



Need more practice when I find my crew



Mike & Brittney on to victory



A quick recovery before the start



Keith Landgraf & Robby Gearon



Michael Munger & Robert Gruskos in the Molly Brown

2013 Comet Pumpkin Bowl Regatta

by Elizabeth Dudley

On November 2nd, the Comet sailors spent a beautiful Saturday on the water for the Pumpkin Bowl that was hosted by the Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford, Md. Sailors from Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey showed up for a total of 12 Comets who were also joined by 12 Laser and Penguin frostbiters to keep things interesting on the water.

At the beginning of the day, sailors were greeted with sun, warm temps, and a wind delay. The waiting time however was welcomed by the sociable Comet sailors and the time was spent checking out some of the boat set-ups, a beloved past time of the sailor.

Talbott and Lee Ingram of Shrewsbury Sailing Yacht Club were hoisting the flashier Mylar sails which are now allowed by the class in the hopes of drawing more attention to the boats. The Comet has a lot of history, but that doesn't mean it can't keep up with the latest technologies.

Joe Lauver of SYC enjoys sailing with his young son, Ian. But Joe found that Ian had trouble pushing the whisker pole out and getting the boat set-up for the downwind legs due to his smaller size. Joe's boat is now set-up so that the whisker pole lies vertically against the mast. Around the top mark, Ian can pull a line that brings the whisker pole perpendicular to the mast and ready to be attached to the jib.

The greatest attraction of that Saturday morning however was hull number 4148, owned by Wick Dudley. As talked about in the November issue of Sailing World, Comets

are getting a new look. The hope is to provide a more modern look and added comfort but still stay true to the roots of the class. The hull maintains the same outside as well as has the same fittings and lines that any other Comet has access to. Wick was also sporting the new Dakron sails that include a full top batton, a larger window for increased visibility, and the option of rigging the main footless.

The breeze did eventually fill in during the early part of the afternoon and races were held just off the club's beach. The breeze was patchy and light, but there was just enough that boats would still move forward in the strong flood tide. All afternoon, the sailing was a game of finding the puff and keeping yourself in it while also being conscious of where you were in relation to the channel. Boats got in trouble when they found themselves in holes that seemed to come out of nowhere and losing patience with the irregular shifts.

Talbott and Lee Ingram in Gemini came out on top with two firsts and a second. They were followed by Elliott Oldak and his crew Barbara Best in Brute of Severn Sailing Association. Wick Dudley and his daughter Elizabeth of Corsica River Yacht Club took third place in Wicked, winning the tie breaker with Bob Slook and Patrick Keating in Phantom.

Overall it was a great day in Oxford and the Comet sailors enjoyed getting together for the final regatta of the 2013 season. Members of the Comet class have developed strong friendships with one another and it is days and events like the Pumpkin Bowl that keep these sailors coming back for more.

2013 Pumpkin Bowl Regatta Results

Sail#	Boat Name	Skipper	Crew	Yacht Club	R1	R2	R3	Total	Pos
EXP	Gemini	Talbott Ingram	Lee Ingram	SSYC	1	1	2	4	1
3737	Brute	Elliott Oldak	Barbara Best	SSA	3	3	1	7	2
4148	Wicked	Wick Dudley	Elizabeth Dudley	CRYC	2	10	4	16T	3
4074	Phantom	Bob Slook	Jamie Keating	SSYC	4	2	10	16T	4
4087	Merlot	Andy Wood	George Bowie	CRYC	6	9	3	18	5
4077	Alice	Reed Rogers	Ridgely Kelly	CRYC	7	8	5	20	6
4147		Bill Wolf	Gray Benson	TAYC	10	4	8	22	7
4031	Tipsy	Andrew Devlin	Cory Dupont	TAYC	13/DNF	5	6	24	8
3951		Joe Lauver	Ian Lauver	SYC	8	6	12	26	9
4046		Sandy Downes	Gail Owings	CRYC	9	11	7	27T	10
4074	Mine!	Ebby Dupont		TAYC	11	7	9	27T	11
3997	Yellow Submarine	Schuyler Benson	Aaron Hemly	TAYC	5	12	11	28	12

2013 Comet Pumpkin Bowl Regatta



Wicked Fast Comet



Pumpkin Bowl Trophies



Andrew Devlin & Cory DuPont



Reed, Alice & Tallbott waiting for the Skippers' Meeting



Joe Lauver's New Pole Launcher