



New Comet Hull  
at Mathews Bros.

## PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER, FALL-2011

It is hard to believe I have been President of the Comet class for the past four years. I want to thank everyone who has helped me and the class during my time as president. These four years have seen many changes, mostly behind the scenes and with many others directly involved: Reed Rogers, our a new Secretary/Treasurer attends to our financial and management details. Tina Lauver, our new Web Master, has brought organization and clarity to our site. Peter Tasi, designer-editor-producer of COMET E-NEWSLETTER also serves as Vice-President of Championship Regattas, taking over from Dave Rodgers who served in this position for many years. Bill Wolf has assembled a binder filled with the history of building Comets. He is pursuing further development towards a new production boat.

Bill Wolf, Ed McLean and I drove to upstate N.Y with my trailer and picked up the Oberg hull and deck molds from Jim Hendee. We also have both the Pusson and Oberg molds, which are all in my barn. With these molds we have been trying to find a builder to embrace this project. Bill, at his own expense, built the newest Comet, 4147. He sailed it in the CRYC Fall Series, placing fourth out of eleven, and felt the boat sailed very well.

The first builder Bill selected closed his shop a month before he was to start our new boat project. We found another builder, Judge Yachts, who agreed to build the new boat. Their boat looked great, but lacked attention to details. We now have a new builder, Mathews Brothers, that will build a new Comet according to our requirements. I am very confident that they will do a great job and the boat will look fabulous. Our class should be excited to have Mathews Bros., a company that likes doing this kind of project. Many hours have gone into this endeavor. I feel the Class needs a new boat in order to preserve and strengthen the Class in years to come. Bill Wolf, after many hours and many phone calls, worked out an arrangement with Selden Spars to be the Class supplier for masts and booms. We also worked out an arrangement with Coral Reef for gear: hats, shirts, bags and jackets, all customized with our Class symbol. A percentage of each sale will be added to our treasury.

As you can see, there has been a lot going on behind the scenes, all to the benefit our Class and its' members. I cannot thank all of you involved enough, for helping me these past four years to keep things going. All our support should now go to Talbott Ingram, our new president. I know he will do a tremendous job to keep the class moving in a positive direction.

Thank you everyone,  
*Wick Dudley*

# FROM THE DECK OF THE COMET CLASS PRESIDENT



As your new Class President, I look forward to taking an active role in the administration of the Class. I have been racing Comets for over 50 years, during which time I have purchased three new Comets. The original was a wooden Beaton, then an Oberg-Branning glass with wood deck, and for the past 30 years an Oberg double bottom. I have raced dozens of different boats, but it is the Comet that I have been most attached to. It has sleek lines with enough controls that new skippers and particularly new crews can adapt to quickly and be competitive racers. Naturally the camaraderie of the various fleets has always made it enjoyable on and off the water.

I would like to express the Comet Class' gratitude to Wick Dudley for his years of dedicated service as President. Wick has been instrumental in developing his Corsica River Fleet as well as encouraging racing for all Comet Sailors. He has devoted countless hours in the development of a new Comet, working with Bill Wolf and recently with Pete Mathews.

I will continue the development of a new Comet with the new builder – Mathews Brothers. The idea is to build a refined competitive design by next spring. We will keep you informed on the progress in future mailings.

In addition to having a builder, equally important to the growth of the Comet Class is to increase our membership. It is important that everyone involved with Comets become an active member. It is vital to encourage all Comet owners to join the class and to participate in as many regattas a possible. As new boats become available for current and new members, the class will be strengthened and revitalized. Hopefully, people from other classes will now begin switching to the Comet.

Fleet racing is the nucleus of the Class, however participating in an occasional regatta has many benefits. It is a chance to travel to other Clubs, meet other sailors, and to increase your racing skills. Your learning curve is greatly increased with every regatta you attend. During the long non-sailing season, reach out to non-active sailors to encourage them to dust off their boats and come out and join the fun next year. There are various inactive individuals and fleets that need a little encouragement to get back on the water.

I am open to all comments and suggestions that might add to the improvement and growth of our class.

*Talbott Ingram*

President, CCYRA

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# 2011 COMET INTERNATIONALS AT TAYC

The 2011 Comet Internationals were held at Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford, Maryland. Due to the impending hurricane, what was supposed to be a 3 day event held August 26-28 was shortened to just one. But even with hurricane Irene on the horizon, 18 boats made the trip to Oxford including three all women crews, one junior boat, and four wooden boats. As the winds were light and variable, it truly was the calm before the storm. The Comet Class Rules for championship regattas called for an Olympic course and the Race Committee did admirably to get in three races. The first race was held on the inside course with the wind out of the N.E. Throughout the entire race, the wind was up and down and and shifting in all directions.

Wick Dudley was first around the top mark followed by Rudy Bailey. But the breeze as it was, it was anyone's race. At the final leeward mark Bailey was first, followed by Talbott Ingram, Emily DuPont and Dudley. A large pack followed close behind. Half way to the finish, on the final leg, the air filled in from the South and Dudley, being the furthest to the right, got the wind first and was able to sneak by for the gun. He was closely followed by DuPont, Bailey, and Ingram.

As the wind continued to fill in from the South, the Race Committee moved the course out to the widest part of the Tred Avon, in front of Oxford Park. The second race was started in a five-eight knot southerly with a flood tide. This was the only race where both skipper and crew would sit on the rail. The race began with everyone spread out along the line. Ingram was down at the pin end while Dudley, DuPont, Andy Wood and Larry Sutter were about a third of the way down, closer to the R.C. boat. Due to the strength of the current, many boats were late to the start.

About half way up the first leg, Dudley tacked to cover the fleet along with DuPont while Ingram stayed on starboard, sneaking up the shoreline out of the tide. Ingram rounded the top mark first, followed by DuPont, and then Dudley who had found himself a hole. Around the bottom mark Ingram was still leading but failed to cover well enough and ended up trailing Dudley around the windward mark, with DuPont in third. The breeze held steady to the finish and Dudley crossed the line first with Ingram, DuPont, Sutter and Bob Slook following.

As the starting sequence for the third race began, the wind shifted to the west causing a heavily favored boat end and the first general recall. By the knots the breeze began to die, halfway up the first windward beat. At this point the fleet was spread out all across the river. Bailey was as close to the shore as he could get on the right. Wood was all the way to the left. Everyone else was in the middle, not knowing which way to go nor where the breeze might come from next.

As the fleet approached the weather mark, the air picked up just enough to carry everyone around and down towards the reach mark. About two-thirds the way down to the mark, Ingram, DuPont, Bailey, Elliot Oldak, Brad Meade, Elizabeth Wainwright, Dudley, and Wood were abreast, vying for first place. Not something one sees very often. This was going to be interesting. Talbott, as the inside-most-boat, had room on everyone and rounded first, followed by Dudley, Wood and Sutter.

At the leeward mark, the fleet was notified of a course change to the weather mark. Dudley, Bailey, and DuPont all tacked to port for clear air. Unfortunately for them, the better pressure came from the right. Ingram and Sutter, having gone right, placed first and second respectively, followed by Wainwright, Oldak, and Dudley. With the breeze having died out, racing was over for the day, and everyone headed for the club, air conditioning and cool drinks.

The Tred Avon kitchen put on a fine spread of crab cakes and grilled chicken. Everyone had plenty to eat. As we settled into the evening, our attentions turned to Irene. What was happening with the hurricane. . . and was sailing on Saturday a possibility? Originally, Irene was due to hit late Saturday afternoon. But her arrival time was becoming earlier and so a decision had to be made whether or not to continue the regatta. Calling it a shortened regatta turned out the prudent thing to do. Irene hit the Eastern Shore mid-morning, Saturday, with all regatta participants and their boats safely out of harms way.

Wick Dudley won the event on a tie breaker with Talbott Ingram. Both had seven points but Dudley had two firsts while Ingram had only one. Emily DuPont was awarded third as well as the trophy for the highest finish as a first-timer in a Comet Internationals. Larry Sutter was fourth followed by Rudy Bailey in fifth. Thanks again to Tred Avon Yacht Club for putting on a great event and to all participants who made the effort, despite the approaching storm.

*Wick Dudley*

# 2011 COMET INTERNATIONALS - AUGUST 26 TRED AVON YACHT CLUB OXFORD, MARYLAND



**Wick Dudley and his daughter, Elizabeth earned Top Honors for the Regatta, capping his four years as Class President. They were also awarded the C. Lowndes Johnson trophy for winner of the first race.**

## Series Standing - 3 races scored

Information is provisional and subject to modification Division: COMET (18 boats)

| Pos. | Sail | Skipper              | Crew               | Race 1 | Race 2 | Race 3 | Points | Pos. |
|------|------|----------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| 1    | 2908 | Wick Dudley          | Elizabeth Dudley   | 1      | 1      | 5      | 7.00   | 1    |
| 2    | 4099 | Talbott Ingram       | Lee Ingram         | 4      | 2      | 1      | 7.00   | 2    |
| 3    | 4073 | Emily duPont         | Hayley Jenkins     | 2      | 3      | 9      | 14.00  | 3    |
| 4    | 3430 | Larry Sutter         | Marguerite Koehler | 8      | 4      | 2      | 14.00  | 4    |
| 5    | 4127 | Rupert Bailey        | Antonio Bailey     | 3      | 8      | 6      | 17.00  | 5    |
| 6    | 3737 | Elliott Oldak        | Barbara Best       | 9      | 6      | 4      | 19.00  | 6    |
| 7    | 4131 | Elizabeth Wainwright | Jane Delashmutt    | 12     | 9      | 3      | 24.00  | 7    |
| 8    | 3468 | Bradley Meade        | Morgan Bench       | 5      | 11     | 8      | 24.00  | 8    |
| 9    | 4043 | Chris Price          | Scott Adler        | 7      | 7      | 10     | 24.00  | 9    |
| 10   | 4074 | Bob Slook            | Brittany Slook     | 10     | 5      | 11     | 26.00  | 10   |
| 11   | 4046 | Sandy Downes         | Sandy Westphal     | 6      | 12     | 13     | 31.00  | 11   |
| 12   | 4087 | Andrew Wood          | Nick Sullivan      | 13     | 13     | 7      | 33.00  | 12   |
| 13   | 3997 | Bob Lippincott       | Aaron Lippincott   | 11     | 10     | 16     | 37.00  | 13   |
| 14   | 3951 | Joe Lauver           | Tina Lauver        | 16     | 15     | 12     | 43.00  | 14   |
| 15   | 4077 | Reed Rogers          | Pam Dinkel         | 15     | 14     | 14     | 43.00  | 15   |
| 16   | 3864 | Ridgely Kelly        | Peter Tasi         | 14     | 16     | 15     | 43.00  | 16   |
| 17   | 3973 | Charles Roth         | Eric Rice          | 18     | 17     | 17     | 52.00  | 17   |
| 18   | 2910 | Phillip Logan        | Jeremy Williams    | 17     | 18     | 18     | 53.00  | 18   |

- Notes: (1) Scoring System is ISAF Low Point 2009-2012  
 (2) Time limit expired (TLE) penalty is: Finishers plus 1  
 (3) Finishes in [brackets] denote throwouts

TAYC Principal Race Officer: Charlie Webb

# COMET INTERNATIONALS



**2<sup>nd</sup>** Wick Dudley, presented the Jay Achenbach Troph perpetual trophy to Lee and Talbott Ingram. They also claimed the Wilbur Hamilton-Haines Trophy for winning the last race.



**4<sup>th</sup>** Larry Sutter and Margaurite Koehler

This one-day International Regatta surely set a record for the shortest, with the smallest turnout.

Only the brave showed up.

Many Thanks to the TAYC staff for squeezing in three good races, a great dinner party and a firm notice for all to evacuate Friday evening, before the hurricane's arrival.



**3<sup>rd</sup>** Hayley Jenkins and Emily duPont won the Dave Rogers Trophy.



**5<sup>th</sup>** Nephew, Atonio Bailey and Rudy Bailey represented the Bermudean Comets. . . a long round-trip for a single day of racing.

The evening crabcake dinner, a traditional Eastern Shore menu, was bountiful. The Trophy Table displayed a spectacular array of storied silver perpetuals, which are on loan to St. Michaels Maritime Museum. There, Comet #1 resides amongst an historic collection of Chesapeake Bay racing sailboats.



Webmaster Tina Lauver and husband, Joe



Brad Meade and crew, Morgan Bench



Pam Dinkel and Andy Wood



Britney and dad, Bob Slook



Chris Price and crew, Scott Adler



Sandy Downes and Sandy Westphal

## 2011 COMET DREW BOWL, TERRITORY III & NJYRA CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA, SEPT, 17



Bill Engels-Green Pond, Joe Lauver-Harrisburg, Brad Meade and Jim Brinkman-SSYC

SSYC hosted the 2011 Drew Bowl in conjunction with the Comet Territory III and NJYRA Championship Regatta. We were pleased to have 14 boats participate including 6 boats from the local SSYC fleet. This event also drew competitors from Green Pond YC, Susquehanna YC (PA), and as far as Corsica River YC, which is located on the eastern shore of Maryland. We were also happy to have some SSYC alumni sailors return "home" for this event including: James Britton, Theo Ingram, and Steve Wid-dis. Both Theo and James competed in borrowed boats that were made available by the Comet Class Yacht Racing Association.

The air that day was out of the east at 15-18 mph steady, which made for exciting sailing conditions. This easterly breeze coupled with the orientation of the Shrewsbury River also made for some moderate swells with white caps. The competition between the Ingram boats was fierce with Theo and crew Max Neubelt taking finishes of 2-3-2 and Talbott and Lee Ingram posted finishes of 1-1-1. With three "bullets", Talbott and Lee retain the Drew Bowl and Territory III for another year. Competition for places 3, 4, 5, and 6 was also tight with only one point separating each place, with third place going to Mike and Cathy O'Brien, fourth to Bob Slook and Dominique Neubelt, fifth to Wick Dudley and Gabby Neubelt, and sixth to Jim and Kristen Brinkman.

*Jim Brinkman, Fleet Captain*

# 2011 COMET DREW BOWL, TERRITORY III & NJRA CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA, SEPT. 17

| Boat # | Skipper        | Crew              | Club | Race 1   | Race 2   | Race 3   | Points | Place |
|--------|----------------|-------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| 4099   | Talbott Ingram | Lee Ingram        | SSYC | 1        | 1        | 1        | 3      | 1     |
| 3866   | Theo Ingram    | Max Neubelt       | ---  | 2        | 3        | 2        | 7      | 2     |
| 3090   | Mike O'Brien   | Cathy O'Brien     | SSYC | 3        | 5        | 4        | 12     | 3     |
| 4074   | Bob Slook      | Dominique Neubelt | SSYC | 4        | 2        | 7        | 13     | 4     |
| 4131   | Wick Dudley    | Gabby Neubelt     | CRYC | 5        | 6        | 3        | 14     | 5     |
| 4104   | Jim Brinkman   | Kristen Brinkman  | SSYC | 6        | 4        | 5        | 15     | 6     |
| 3966   | Bill Engels    | John Engels       | GPYC | 8        | 8        | 9        | 25     | 7     |
| 4136   | Tommy Slook    | Teddy Fortier     | SSYC | 9        | 9        | 8        | 26     | 8     |
| 4061   | Jim Widdis     | Pete Moller       | SSYC | DNF (15) | 7        | 6        | 28     | 9     |
| 3547   | James Britton  | Andrew O'Brien    | ---  | 10       | 11       | 10       | 31     | 10    |
| 3951   | Joe Lauver     | Tina Lauver       | SYC  | 11       | 10       | 11       | 32     | 11    |
| 4077   | Reed Rogers    | Ridgely Kelly     | CRYC | 7        | 12       | DNS      | 44     | 12    |
| 3468   | Brad Meade     | Catherine Munger  | SSYC | DNF(15)  | DNS(15)  | DNS(15)  | 45     | 13    |
| 4861   | Stephen Widdis | Laura Eichorn     | ---  | DNS (15) | DNS (15) | DNS (15) | 45     | 14    |

The Comet Class would like to thank Jeff Jacobi, our PRO, for the fine courses set for this three-race regatta; and would also like to acknowledge rescue boat work provided by the Wood Pussy fleet. With wind velocities in the mid-teens the stage was set for potential rescue support. The Comet fleet did not disappoint with four capsizes and some muddy sails.



Reed Rogers and Ridgely Kelly waiting for the skippers meeting.



PRO Jeff Jacobi and Fleet Captain Jim Brinkman discussing conditions of the Drew Bowl



# 2011 CRYC FALL SERIES - OCTOBER 9

## RESULTS (CBYRA) HIGH POINT

| Pos. | Boat | Skipper       | Race 1 | Race 2 | Race 3 | Race 4 | Points | Pos. |
|------|------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| 1    | 4073 | Emily duPont  | 3      | 3      | 1      | 1      | 8      | 1    |
| 2    | 4131 | Wick Dudley   | 1      | 1      | 4      | 3      | 9      | 2    |
| 3    | 4087 | Andy Wood     | 4      | 2      | 3      | 2      | 11     | 3    |
| 4    | 4137 | Stoney Duffey | 2      | 8      | 2      | 6      | 18     | 4    |
| 5    | 4147 | Bill Wolf     | 6      | 5      | 5      | 4      | 20     | 5    |
| 6    | 4023 | Jan White     | 5      | 4      | 9      | 7      | 25     | 6    |
| 7    | 4046 | Sandy Downes  | 7      | 9      | 7      | 5      | 28     | 7    |
| 8    | 4077 | Reed Rogers   | 8      | /      | 6      | 9      | 30     | 8    |
| 9    | 4096 | Mike Hollis   | 9      | 10     | 8      | 8      | 35     | 9    |
| 10   | 4028 | Joe Doll      | 11     | 6      | 10     | 11     | 38     | 10   |
| 11   |      | Charlie Roth  | 10     | 11     | 11     | 10     | 42     | 11   |

### Results Fall Series Sept. 25

|   |      |               |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|------|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 4137 | Stoney Duffey | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6  |
| 2 | 4023 | Jan White     | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9  |
| 3 | 4046 | Sandy Downes  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 10 |
| 4 | 4096 | Mike Hollis   | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 11 |

### Results CRYC Fall Series Oct. 2

|   |      |              |    |    |
|---|------|--------------|----|----|
| 1 | 4131 | Wick Dudley  | 2  | 1  |
| 2 | 4046 | Sandy Downes | 14 | 14 |
| 3 | 4023 | Jan White    | 18 | 18 |
| 4 |      | Mike Hollis  | 17 | 17 |

### 2011 Overall Fall Series

|     |               |         |
|-----|---------------|---------|
| 1st | Jan White     | 36 Pts. |
| 2nd | Sandy Downes  | 41 Pts. |
| 3rd | Stoney Duffey | 42 Pts. |
| 4th | Mike Hollis   | 52 Pts. |
| 5th | Wick Dudley   | 57 Pts. |

# 2011 CRYC FALL SERIES - OCTOBER 9th



Bill Wolf

Wick Dudley

Reed Rogers



Emily being crossed by Reed



Stoney Duffy. . . . . Bill Wolf. . . .and . . . Andy Wood leading the pack



Emily duPont with her Dad, Ebbey

Charlie Roth



Stoney Duffy



Comets return to Corsica's new facilities after a day of perfect sailing conditions.

# COMET PUMPKIN BOWL SSA-OCTOBER 23, 2011

Saturday started out beautifully with sunshine and a breeze 10 to 12 from the north-west. Unfortunately only six boats showed up at SSA's Pumpkin Bowl to sail in the final race of the season. After an 11 boat turnout at CRYC the week before, all indications were for a larger fleet. Oh well! As we sailed out to the course for our 11:30 start, the wind began to moderate as the clouds came in. For the rest of the day the wind fluctuated between 2 - 8 but mostly 6 - 7. The race committee did a nice job. Bill Harris, an active Thistle Sailor at SSA has been running the Pumpkin Bowl for three years. He did very well to run five challenging races sailed in the outer part of Annapolis Harbor and we were back at the dock by 3:00. Each race was 4 legs windward-leeward. The wind was very puffy so if you were on the wrong side from the puffs you were SOL. Brad Meade and Wick Dudley were back and forth all day. Brad had two great comebacks to win races. In race 5 he went from 5th to 2nd in the last 200 yds. Wick lead in the fourth race but went to the wrong mark, second time around as the Opti course was also marked with orange balls. Everyone had their moments . . . Stoney looked strong at times along with Reed, unfortunately they missed some of those puffs. Peter and Ridgely were always there. but found to many holes. The racing was close with everyone finishing within a few minutes of each other. Ed Mclean ended up not sailing because of his shoulder. He had rotator surgery this summer and did not want to injure it further. After the boats were put away everyone went over to Café Gurus, in Eastport, on 2nd St. for a late lunch. It finally turned out to be a very nice afternoon for our last regatta of the year.

| Place | Boat | Skipper       | Club | Crew          | Race 1 | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | Total Points | Place |
|-------|------|---------------|------|---------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-------|
| 1     | 4131 | Wick Dudley   | CRYC | Betsey Kulman | 2      | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 7.00         | 1     |
| 2     | 3468 | Brad Meade    | SSYC | Ilene Lipsitz | 1      | 3   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 9.00         | 2     |
| 3     | 4137 | Stoney Duffey | CRYC | Scott Adler   | 5      | 2   | 4   | 4   | 3   | 18.00        | 3     |
| 4     | 4077 | Reed Rogers   | CRYC | Pam Dinkel    | 3      | 5   | 3   | 3   | 4   | 18.00        | 4     |
| 5     | 3864 | Ridgely Kelly | CRYC | Peter Tasi    | 4      | 4   | 5   | 5   | 5   | 23.00        | 5     |
| 6     | 4069 | Ed McLean/    | SSA  | "Dream Girl"  | DNC    | DNC | DNC | DNC | DNC | 35.00        | 6     |

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Next year the Comet E-NEWSLETTER is scheduled for six issues, June through November, focusing on our regattas and timely Comet News. Special issues may be produced off-season, for important Class announcements, pertinent articles and photographs from our members.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.COMETCLASS.COM](http://WWW.COMETCLASS.COM)

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### POSTSCRIPT:

I apologize for the delay in completing this issue of COMET E-News. My basement-level design studio was "decommissioned" by the hurricane passing near Annapolis, on August 27, the day after returning from the Comet Internationals. Heavy winds knocked out our neighborhood transformer, which stopped our sump-pump. Seven inches of rain fell that evening and flooded the floor. Later my son hooked up a gas powered generator and put the sump-pump back to work, but the damage was done.\*

My (un-named) insurance company put me through a long and tedious settlement, challenging the contractors' cost proposals for restoration. I held my (wet) ground and provided detailed quotations from firms currently working on other homes, covered by the same insurer.

They finally approved all the costs to clean up, remove, store and return my office furnishings/equipment when repairs are complete. The sodden drywall and insulation has been removed and replaced. Painting is almost done. A tile floor will replace the original carpet-on-foam, and survive, if ever flooded again. I'm at my gerry-rigged, computer editing this before sending this to our e-mail members and then snail-mail print-copies to all others.

\*My personal despare was lessend, when a dear friend, in the county, called the next day with his sad news, "My wife, daughter and I had just sat down to dinner when our home was struck by lightning . . . we rushed out into the stormy evening and watched it burn to the ground!"

# CORAL REEF SAILING APPAREL

Hi Comet Class Members,

I hope everything for the class is going well!  
I am touching base with you about the holiday  
merchandise promotion for your ship store,  
for November & December.

It is in jpeg format. Your ship store link:  
[http://coralreefsailing.net/comet\\_](http://coralreefsailing.net/comet_)

## HOLIDAY PROMOTION

Take advantage of FREE shipping\* for the holidays!  
(\*FREE standard shipping in the USA valid 11/1/11 – 12/09/11).

Remind club members that personalization options are  
available. Customers can get a team/boat name and sail  
number on their choice of merchandise.

Please let me know if you need anything else.  
CRSA is looking forward to a great holiday season  
with your class!

*Thanks!*