



From the President's Desk

The sailing season has begun for some of us and soon will be for everyone else. I am very much looking forward to the coming season because I will have my new Comet. After 34 years racing my Oberg double bottom, it was time to treat Lee to a brand new boat. Twenty fifteen was a busy year with the first attempt with the old hull mold. When production did not succeed, it was necessary to collect donations to have a new mold made, then transport the Molly Brown up to Whitecap Composites, to have the prototype built. With the success of the Pumpkin Bowl on November 7th, it was apparent that all the efforts were worthwhile.

Whitecap has been busy making modifications to the deck mold by making a bulkhead at the aft deck. They also made a new rudder mold. I took the first rudder built down to Bermuda for Rockal Evans, who proved it was fast in all wind conditions. As of this writing I have not yet received my new Comet, but look forward to racing her in the Comet Masters on Memorial weekend at SSYC and the Randall DeLeeuw Regatta at Green Pond.

Andy Wood has been very busy organizing the North Americans at SSA in Annapolis. This will be one of the premier regattas this coming summer.

Check over the following list of regattas and decide all the ones you will be attending. Regattas at various Clubs are fun and a good way to improve your sailing skills.

The Riverton Comet Fleet #26 is back on the map. They now have a four boat fleet headed up with the Curran family Dan & Patrick each skippering their own boat. Welcome Back.

The builders and I plan on holding a few demonstrations at Clubs where future fleets are a strong possibility. Our boats will naturally be on display at many of the regattas this summer.

My sailing season began down in Bermuda on March 26 for the Mid Winters and continued on March 31 for the International Race Week. Lee and I had a wonderful time racing, sightseeing for many days, and spending time with the Bermuda sailors. The sailors were most hospitable in assisting us with borrowed boats and making sure all the equipment was satisfactory. We had the added attraction of watching the two Oracle AC-45s fly around - and occasionally stop to watch the Comets.

Thanks to Gladwin Lambert for housing us during the regatta and providing us and the Lauvers with transportation to their Club and taking us to see many interesting local sights. Two reasons everyone should plan on going to Bermuda are the wonderful sailing and seeing the many picturesque sights.

Now we look forward to sailing on the Shrewsbury River in our new Comet and seeing everyone out on the race course.

Smooth Sailing and have Fun
Talbot Ingram, President CCYRA

Comet in Sailing World

Paul Zimmerman, of Whitecap Builders, is working with Harken to have the Comet on their "Showcase" page of Sailing World Magazine. This will be good advertising for the Comet and all the Harken equipment now being used. This full page listing will be no charge to the Class. Look for it in Sailing World soon.

2016 Regatta Schedule

April 30	Jack Peters Regatta Tred Avon Yacht Club
May 15	Spring Regatta Corsica River Yacht Club
May 29	Comet Masters Regatta Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club
June 4	Randall DeLeeuw Regatta Green Pond Yacht Club NOR (click here)
June 18-19	North Americans Regatta Severn Sailing Association, NOR (click here)
July 9-10	Martin Murray Regatta Green Pond Yacht Club NOR (click here)
July 23-24	Corsica River Annual Regatta Corsica River Yacht Club
August 19-21	Comet Internationals Championship Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club
August 27-28	Heritage Regatta Tred Avon Yacht Club
September 17	Drew Bowl Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club
October 29	Pumpkin Bowl Tred Avon Yacht Club (unconfirmed)

**Support your Comet Class - pay your dues today.
Print form on last page or click here to download.**

North American Championship

This year the Comet North American Championship will be hosted at the Severn Sailing Association (SSA) in Annapolis, Maryland on June 18-19. This is a great venue as the clubhouse was recently renovated and the sailing will be in very open water off the mouth of the Severn River. We will be sharing the race course with Snipes as SSA is hosting the Snipe Junior Championships. This will be an excellent opportunity to show off our Comets, old and new!

[Click here for the Notice of Race](#) with lots of information about the event. Please contact Andy Wood (410-310-9374) by phone or email at woodhaus226@gmail.com.

com with your intent to register and then follow-up by mailing in completed registration and waiver forms attached as early as possible with payment. This will help in coordinating and planning for the correct number of meals during the weekend. Speaking of meals, SSA has a new caterer and I've negotiated a very good meal plan for the weekend.

Looking forward to a great turnout and seeing everyone in Annapolis!

Thank you,
Andy Wood
Comet Class VP Championship Regattas

Comet Mid-Winter Championship Regatta at Bermuda

By Rockal Evans

The 2016 Comet Class Race Season got underway off the West End Sailboat Club. In light and shifty winds the Class managed three races in the Mid-Winter Regatta that also saw International Comet Sailors compete.

Stephen Dickinson and his crew Pat Young sailed to the overall victory picking up 4 points, Dickinson and Young held off a strong challenge from Gladwin Lambert and his crew Wesley Tucker in the first race, with Dickinson winning by an inch. Shrewsbury Sailing & YC members from New Jersey, Talbott and Lee Ingram finished second overall with 8 points recording a win in the third race of the day.

Rockal Evans and Damian Payne rounded out the top three finishers with 9 points.



Mid-Winter Champions - Stevie & Patricia

Results:

1.	4109 Stephen Dickinson & Pat Young	1	1	2	=	4
2.	4099 Talbott & Lee Ingram	3	4	1	=	8
3.	Rockal Evans & Damian Payne	4	2	3	=	9
4.	Gladwin Lambert & Wesley Tucker	2	6	4	=	12
5.	Joe and Ian Lauver	6	3	6	=	15
6.	Antoine Wingood & Fred Bulford	7	5	5	=	17
7.	Quinton Simons & Greg Proctor	5	7	7	=	17
8.	Dale Brangman & Zaniko Hendrickson	DNF	DNS	DNS	=	27

Beautiful Water, Exhilarating Sailing, Spectacular Friends, Race Week 2016

By Joe Lauver

We enjoyed light winds at the beginning of the week but as the week progressed and with big winds in the forecast, it was obvious that the Bermuda conditions were changing in a hurry. The questions that lingered was how big and whether we would get to sail at all. After a couple of fantastic days of sightseeing and being chauffeured around the island by our Bermudian friends it was time to get down to the reason we really came.

We knew the wind was big and even the Bermudians seem somewhat hesitant about us going out with the forecast. We had our own reservations but Tina and I decided that we were going to give it a try. Trying to come to terms with a loaner boat is always a challenge, the guys had done their best to supply us with a competitive boat and we had spent some time earlier in the week setting it up for what we all knew was going to be a big wind event.

Thursday came and with the wind blowing directly at the club at a consistent 20 mph, the waves made launching the boat a bit of a challenge, but once off the shore and sailing, the waves and breeze didn't seem so bad. The first race got underway with Stevie and Rockal taking off on starboard, but the real surprise was when Dale managed to cross the fleet on port and beat everyone to the first mark showing just how heavy the wind was and how big the seas were.



What a beautiful place to spend a week.



In line to be hauled out.

Anticipation of what was going to happen when we rounded the mark and headed downwind was on everyone's mind. It didn't take long to find out, as the weather mark wasn't far away. The first boats were around before you knew it, flying downwind surfing the waves on a full plane. When it was our turn we didn't fare quite as well. Rounding near the back of the fleet and heading off, it soon became clear just how much of a balancing act it was going to be keeping the boat on its feet. I was concerned about the integrity of the whisker pole, which seemed a bit flimsy, and elected not to put the pole up. Now reaching, we



Rockal showing his form



Gladwin & Lorenzo



Planing into the leeward mark

Results

1.	4125	Rockal Evans & Damian Payne	1	1	2	= 4
2.	4109	Stephen Dickinson & Pat Young	3	3	1	= 7
3.	4099	Talbott & Lee Ingram	2	2	3	= 7
4.	11	Dale Brangman & Zaniko Hendrickson	4	4	4	= 12
5.	4126	Gladwin & Lorenzo Lambert	DNF	5	5	= 20
6.	4118	Quinton Simons & Greg Proctor	5	DNF	DNC	= 25
7.	4137	Joe & Tina Lauver	DNF	DNC	DNC	= 30
8.	4119	Antoine Wingood & Fred Bulford	DNF	DNF	DNC	= 30
9.	4069	Art Silcox & Deb Brower	DNC	DNC	DNC	= 30



Start of 3rd race.

Bermuda International Race Week



Relaxing after winning

were preparing to jibe when it happened, the dreaded death roll. Over we went. Our next challenge was getting the boat back up and trying to put things back together in some very heavy winds and seas. This proved to be a bigger challenge than I expected. After several attempts at righting the boat we were on our way back to the club, beat up and not able to race anymore, recognizing that our technique and experience in those conditions was not adequate. Several other boats had retired before us with broken masts and beat up crews.

Unfortunatley, we were too busy dealing with our situation to really get a good look at the rest of the racing but I can tell you from the stories, pictures and what I did see it was extremely close racing at the front of the pack. At the end of the day, with three races sailed, and challenging conditions, Stevie, Talbott, Rockal, Gladwin and Dale I'll demonstrated how it's done in heavy breeze, making it look easy.

An added bonus of spending time at the West End Boat Club was watching the America's Cup boats scream back-and-forth in heavy breeze, sometimes supposedly hitting close to 45 kn. Their practice course was typically right off the point of the boat club, it was amazing to see them foil through their tacks and jibes.

Now to the most memorable part of the trip: the people. I can say with all sincerity that both our old Bermudian friends and new Bermudian friends are some of the most gracious people you will ever meet, their attitude and friendliness second to none.



Steve gives tips to the AC



Top three winners.

Quinton Simons



The infamous George Hayward

Damian Payne & Gladwin



Happy Sailors after the Banquet

2016 Jack Peters Regatta

By Andy Wood

The day looked bleak but the Comets looked sleek on April 30th. The cloudy, brisk, and shifting 5-10k wind conditions on the Tred Avon River were a challenge to kick off this first Comet 2016 event on the Chesapeake Bay. Veterans Elliott Oldak and Barbara Best were able to consistently find the favorable conditions and managed 1st place through the first four races, however, the last race proved beyond a clean sweep. The four boat fleet did have good competition around the race course with several position changes during each race. With a dying breeze and eventually becalmed conditions on the last race, it was a matter of being in the right place at the right time to gain the upper hand. Kudos to Chris Price, Sr. and crew Caroline Price for their first place finish on the last race. A personal thank you goes out to Joe Lauver for race number 3, but that's a story for another day.



Comet Class Membership Dues Form 2016

www.cometclass.com
www.facebook.com/CometClassAssociation
 (Like us there!)

Name: _____ Comet # _____ Fleet _____
Please provide the following only if different from last year:

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Telephone Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Occupation/Interest re CCYRA participation: _____
 (Legal, Graphics, Printing, Marketing, Composition, Photography, Boat Construction/Restoration etc.)

Select Membership Type:
Regular – Comet owner or charterer. Skipper can vote and hold office \$40 _____
Co-Owner – May share ownership of a Comet listed by a Regular member. \$20 _____
 May skipper or vote in place of the Regular Member and may hold office.
 Regular Member's Name: _____
 Co-Owner's Name: _____

Associate – No boat needed. Great for crews, retired sailors or yacht clubs \$20 _____

Classic – Owners of pre-1965 Comets with original bronze/steel centerboard \$20 _____

Junior – No boat needed. Must be under age 19 during calendar year. \$20 _____
 Junior's Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Class Development Fund Suggested minimum \$25 _____
Patron \$10 _____
Booster \$5 _____
CCYRA Handbook – Update in process. PDF of 1994 Handbook **Free** _____
Comet hull line drawing – Blue lines on white, suitable for framing \$10 _____
Comet Plans – Three pages - hull, centerboard, rudder and more \$10 _____
Comet Bumper Sticker (4" X 3") \$4 _____
Comet Bumper Sticker (3.75" X 9") \$5 _____

Total _____

Enclose check payable to CCYRA and mail to:
 CCYRA Treasurer, Reed Valliant, P.O. Box 646, Centreville, MD 21617

Results:						
1st place	4037	Elliott Oldak & Barbara Best	SSA	1,1,1,1,DNF	=	9
2nd place	4087	Andy Wood & Evan Huffaker	CRYC	2,2,2,2,3	=	11
3rd place	4137	Joe Lauver & Tina Lauver	SYC	3,3,3,3,2	=	14
4th place	3957	Chris Price Sr & Caroline Price	PSA	4,4,4,4,1	=	17

Corsica River Spring Regatta Rescheduled

CRYC will try again to host a sailing event on Sunday June 5th. If you think there is any possibility at all that you may participate, please send Andy Wood an email ASAP. woodhaus226@gmail.com