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News about our sailors

Chris Price and Amanda Reynold were married on May 29th

Kevin Buruchian and Ashley were married on October 3.

Congratulations from the Comet Class!

Mark Your Calendar

**Comet Pumpkin Bowl Regatta
November 7**

Tred Avon Yacht Club
Oxford, Maryland

From the President's Desk

This has been another active season for the Comet Class. Since the last E-New there have been four successful regattas: Corsica River Annual Regatta, the Junior Championship, the Internationals, and the Pigskin Regatta. Information regarding them is to follow. A new Comet fleet is in the making down in Hampton, Virginia and they are looking to grow their fleet. We welcome the new owners Scott Wolff and Kathy Barber.

Many thanks are extended to Andy Wood for his diligent commitment to running both the North Americans and the International Championships. The time and effort of sending many emails, making many phone calls, revision of both the NORs and the SIs is greatly appreciated. For his dedication, he was again awarded the Presidents Cup.

This year the Citizens Cup was awarded to Lee Ingram for all her contributions to the Class. She has been willing and able to give guidance and assistance to myself, Brad, and many others regardless of the task at hand.

Whitecap Composites has now completed the new hull mold and are in the process of making their first Comet. Lee and I plan to test sail her before going down to the Pumpkin Bowl November 7. Come down to check out the new Comet.

Thanks again to the many donors that made the new hull mold possible. Thanks to Brad Meade for his expertise in spear heading the technical aspects with the builders. Thanks to Dick Harmon and Kevin Buruchian for always being available to assist on this project. It takes many dedicated hands for all the pieces to fall into to place. Thanks to Bob and Debbie Slook for running the Junior Championship and hosting the Friday dinner. Congratulations to Brittney and Tom Slook for their convincing win of the Junior Championship. Thanks to the Miles River Yacht Club for hosting the Internationals and to Dick Kelly who coordinated the event with Andy.

Hope to see many of you at the Pumpkin Bowl before the season winds down and the long Winter is upon us.

Smooth Sailing and have fun.

Talbott Ingram
President CCYRA

Corsica River Yacht Club Annual Regatta

2015 Results - July 25 & 26, 2015

CRYC Annual Regatta 25-July-2015 Comet Class														
Place	Skipper	Crew	Boat #	Club	Race 1	Points	Race 2	Points	Race 3	Points	Race 4	Points	Race 5	Total
1	Oldak, Elliott	Best, Barbara	3406	SSA	3	3	1	4	1	5	2	7	4	11
2	Ingram, Talbott	Ingram, Lee	4099	SSYC	1	1	2	3	5	8	7	15	3	18
3	Silcox, Art	Brower, Deborah	4069	SSA	7	7	3	10	3	13	4	17	1	18
4	Dudley, Wick	Ashley, Philip	2908	CRYC	2	2	4	6	2	8	1	9	DNS	20
5	Dudley, Wick I.	Rogers, James	4148	CRYC	6	6	5	11	4	15	3	18	2	20
6	Valliant, Reed	Kelley, Ridgely	4077	CRYC	5	5	6	11	6	17	5	22	6	28
7	Wood, Andy	Keating, Jamie	4087	CRYC	4	4	7	11	8	19	6	25	5	30
8	Downes, Sandy	Duffey, Stoney	4046	CRYC	8	8	8	16	7	23	DNS	34	DNS	45
9	Roth, Charlie	Davis, Tom	4131	CRYC	9	9	DNS	20	DNS	31	DNS	42	DNS	53
10	Kerr, Kevin	Kane, Lincoln	3819	CRYC	10	10	DNF	21	DNS	32	DNS	43	DNS	54
CRYC Comet 26-July-2015														
Place	Skipper	Crew	Boat #	Club	Race 1	Points	Race 2	Points	Race 3	Total				
1	Ingram, Talbott	Ingram, Lee	4099	SSYC	1	1	1	2	1	3				
2	Wood, Andy	Keating, Jamie	4087	CRYC	2	2	2	4	2	6				
3	Dudley, Wick	Ashley, Philip	2908	CRYC	4	4	3	7	3	10				
4	Silcox, Art	Brower, Deborah	4069	SSA	3	3	5	8	4	12				
5	Valliant, Reed	Kelley, Ridgely	4077	CRYC	5	5	4	9	6	15				
6	Kerr, Kevin	Kane, Lincoln	3819	CRYC	6	6	6	12	5	17				

Leatherlips Yacht Club Pigskin Regatta

August 29, 2015

The Comet Pigskin regatta took place in variable shifting winds with a three race series. Sailing his first Pigskin was Ken Fallon with wife Drucie. Also on the line was Eric Drobny with daughter Rachel, Dave Seifert with Leslie Jamieson, Dick and Judy Harmon, and Mark Hess and Anne Filbert.

The first two races shook the fleet up and most places were up for grabs until the final race. The lead changed four times in the final race with Hess making a final pass just yards from the finish line.

1. Mark Hess Anne Filbert
2. Dick Harmon Judy Harmon
3. Eric Drobny Rachel Drobny
4. Dave Seifert Leslie Jamieson
5. Ken Fallon Drucie Fallon

Drew Bowl Postponed

New Date - Sunday, October 18, 2015

Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club

Housing available. Closing cocktail party Saturday night. Contact Bob Slook - bslook@gmail.com

Comet Junior Championship

by Lee Ingram

The Comet Junior Championship was held held again at Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club on August 1, 2015.

There was a boat handling seminar held for all available participants on Friday so that everyone could pick up a few pointers from long time Comet sailors Talbott and Lee Ingram, before going sailing. Safety and tuning tips were covered as well as a basic walkthrough of what to expect during a race concerning backstays, whisker pole, and vang adjustments.



Brittney & Tom Slook

Following this, everyone went out for a couple of practice races and a little on the water coaching. Unfortunately, there wasn't much wind to play with, so there were only three short races.

Friday night we were all invited to Bob and Debbie Slook's for a barbeque and pool party where we all cooled off and had a great meal. There was lots of splashing and laughing in the pool.

Saturday brought the big event and a good wind that provided some exciting planing conditions for sailors and spectators alike. It was very impressive to observe the skill level of these juniors ranging in age from 13 to 20. They were all able to handle their Comets so competently.

The PROs were Talbott & Lee Ingram with the able help of Ralph Grossman and Bill Engels of Green Pond. Our Safety boat was run by Bob Slook and Ainsley Hilfiker and supplemented by Rick Hilfiker and Jeff Quinn. Bob also graciously took on any repairs needed.

We were fortunate to have Susan Economou and Kathryn Plosica in the kitchen preparing our breakfast and lunch. They really took care of a bunch of hungry teens (and adults)!

A very special thank you goes out to Comet Class members who so generously made their boats available to these talented young sailors for this event. There were a lot of comments about how much fun it was to sail the Comet and how exciting it was to sail something different from what they were used to

There were eight competitors racing a series of 5 races with 1 drop race.

The racing was close for all the races which was exciting to watch. There were many wind shifts which tended to mix the fleet somewhat. Brittney Slook was the most consistent with four firsts and a drop race of a third. Second, third and fourth place finishers, Robby Gearon, Michael Munger and Robert Gruskos were only 2 points apart. What a close series they sailed.

Congratulations to all of our skippers and crews. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.



Comet Junior Trophy Winners

Comet Junior Championship

2015 Comet Junior Regatta Results

Comet Class Junior Championship August 1, 2015													
Skipper	Crew	Club	Boat #	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Total	Place Overall			
Brittney	Slook	Tom Slook	SSYC	4074	3 drop	1	1	1	1	4	1		
Robby	Gearon	Francesco Sgroi	SSYC	3090	1	4	5 drop	3	2	10	2		
Michael	Munger	Addie Sellig	SSYC	4095	2	7 drop	2	2	5	11	3		
Robert	Gruskos	Julianne Gruskos	SSYC	3959	4 drop	2	3	4	3	12	4		
Will	Hilfiker	Mitchell Quinn	SSYC	4899	7 drop	Brittney & Coleen		3	4	5	4	16	5
Elias	Economou	Riley Plosica	SSYC	3956	5	6	6	6	7 drop	23	6		
Jon	Engels	Susan Munger	GPYC	4099	6	5	7 drop	7	6	24	7		
Matt	Grossman	Braydon Huston	GPYC	4093	8	8	8	DNF 9 Drop	DNF 9	33	8		

Brad Meade - Life Member

Brad has been a member of the Comet Class for over sixty years. He has been a staunch supporter of all regattas, particularly in New York and New Jersey for all those years, as well as competing in the International and North American Championship almost every year.

Brad was the Class President for seven years when he worked tirelessly to improve the Class, develop new ideas and increase our membership. His tireless efforts have not ended there. He was always available to assist Wick Dudley during his four years as President.

During Talbott's four years as President, Brad has been available to assist in so many ways. Continuing to devote many hundreds of hours to the Class he is always available with insights into the bylaws and running of the Class Office. He makes numerous phone calls to discuss many of these details with various members.

As VP for Class Development he is always available with technical information about boat building, new molds, Mylar sails and other facets. If he doesn't have a ready answer, he takes the time to find out.

His love for sailing the Comet has never been in doubt. When he joined the Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club five years ago, he would travel round trip (about six hours) from Connecticut to race every Sunday. He always travels with bins of equipment and tools so he can readily assist anyone who has a problem.

Brad has devoted more time, effort, and love for the Class than anyone could imagine. We welcome him as a Life Member

Comet International Championship Regatta

View from the Crew

Anne Filbert, crew on #4110 Scorpion

Our decision to go to Miles River for Internationals was a late one – but once it was made, we packed up the boat and arranged our stay at the former Best Western in St. Michaels. Weather reports suggested a light air weekend was in store, with 3 to 5 mile an hour winds and possibly one day with 9 mph.

We no longer drive to the East Coast in one day – instead we make it an easy 2 day trip. Our preferred route from Columbus, Ohio takes us through the scenic Maryland panhandle on I-68 and I-70. We left home Wednesday afternoon, drove into Maryland, passing through areas that once hosted Civil War troops and battles. After an overnight stay, rain and a revised breezy forecast greeted us as we headed out.

By 11:30 AM we crossed the Bay Bridge in light traffic and could see whitecaps on the water below. Arriving in St. Michaels, we took the boat to the club and set it up. Several of the Comets in the yard looked familiar – it's always fun to anticipate who we will be sailing with. Along with the newer boats, a classic Skaneateles wood Comet (#64) graced the field. The boat is beautifully restored and has an original 75-pound centerboard. After we registered, a very hospitable welcoming team showed us around and we lingered in the club's trophy room, full of stunning log canoe silver. Then it was off to town for a little sightseeing and ice cream.

A Small Craft Advisory was forecast on the Bay for a couple of days and it pumped a North wind down the Miles River, creating waves against the outgoing tide for Friday's races, wonderful sailing conditions on the Chesapeake. Regatta Officer Dick Kelly and his capable team set mile-long Olympic courses with reaches and a lot of upwind work. Many on the Race Committee were former Comet sailors who surely would have been on the starting line had we been racing a few years earlier. In the boat, we kept an eye on the compass, tried to shed our small pond sailing habits and adapt to sailing in waves again. We experimented with weight placement, angle of heel, sheeting and vang, trying to match what was working for the boats ahead of us. Late morning high tides kept us in deep water and we didn't worry about grounding.



Comet International Championship Regatta

By afternoon, the first three races were history and the fleet headed in for pizza dinner at the club's bar on the dock. Shrewsbury skippers Talbott Ingram and Bob Slook had solid finishes in first and second place, with a closely bunched group in the next 5 spots. There were still 4 races to sail and a throwout would be likely.

Saturday brought similar racing conditions, Bermuda skies and no sign of rain. After the day's three races, there were a few changes in the overall standings. It looked like Wick Dudley, John Costanzo, Elliott Oldak, Jim Widdis and Reed Valliant would be able to throw out a Friday race, as their Saturday finishes were better overall. On our boat, we had a mixed day, sailing our worst race of the series followed by a first place finish that we can still savor. The yacht club's pool was the most popular place to cool off and tell tales before the championship dinner.

We feasted on an incredible buffet prepared by the club's kitchen staff and watched slides from racing. During the annual meeting, our officers presented updates on junior championships, regattas, finances, the web page, and the progress Whitecap Composites is making on building new boats. During the evening, several members answered Talbott's request for additional pledges to help support the hull mold project. A drawing for raffle prizes capped off the evening, concluding with #3866 (John Costanzo) winning the brand new mylar jib donated by Mark Beaton.

We elected next year's officers and had the secret ballot item - making Brad Meade an Honorary Life Member. Brad was not at the regatta to enjoy the moment but we surprised him with a phone call and he was thrilled to hear the news!

It was almost over - another hot continental breakfast at the club, the last launching and a final race would close the Championship on Sunday. The weather was fine, with a lighter wind and we took some time after racing to explore Long Haul Creek before hoisting out. Lunch followed, with a presentation ceremony for trophies and special awards.



We spent the afternoon packing up, congratulating teams and saying our goodbyes, then slipped back in the pool one last time. Our travel schedule meant we could stay Sunday night in St Michaels instead of trying to get across the Bay Bridge, so we headed downtown for a steamed crab dinner on the waterfront. Monday we made a pilgrimage to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum to visit the beautiful display of Comet #1 before leaving for home.



**And the winners are....
Talbott & Lee Ingram**

Thank You!

Generous Donors to the new mold fund

Bob & Katha Griswold
Rick & Paula Dhein
Andy Wood
Bob Slook
Elliott Oldak
Talbot Ingram
Barbara Best
Anne Filbert & Mark Hess
Profits from Jr. Championship

Walter Ingram
Ralph Grossman
Stoney Duffey
Bill Engels
Art Silcox
Lee Ingram

Class Information

Looking for boats or parts...

For information about used boat equipment contact
Wick Dudley - 410-924-3988,
dudley1@hughes.net.

Also check out the Classifieds section at cometclass.com for sailors selling boats and parts and sailors that are looking for boats and parts.

Passing of Bill Engels

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Bill Engels on August 31st. Bill was a major force in the success of the active sailing at Green Pond Yacht Club. He was a lifelong sailor beginning as a youngster on Peconic Bay, Long Island and then continued at Green Pond. He was deeply involved with the Comet fleet at Green Pond, always active in the races, encouraging others to participate, and also organizing their annual regattas.

The Green Pond Fleet as well as the Comet organization will deeply miss the assistance and guidance that Bill provided over many years. We offer Kristen and her family our deepest sympathy.



2015 Comet Annual Meeting

August 22, 2015

Miles River Yacht Club

Minutes taken by Lee Ingram

Meeting was called to order at 8:28 PM at Miles River Yacht Club by class President Talbott Ingram.

Class Officers present:

Talbott Ingram	President
Andy Wood	Vice President in charge of Championship Regattas
Christina Lauver	Vice President in charge of Information & Publicity
Jim Widdis	Corresponding Secretary
Reed Valliant	Treasurer

Absent:

Bradley Meade	Vice President in charge of Class Development
Dick Harmon	Chief Measurer

President's opening words

Thank you to Andy Wood for arranging the Internationals and working with Miles River Yacht Club to host such a well run event.

Thank you also to the local photographer Bowie Rose for the exciting slideshow we have been watching.

The Comet Junior Championship was again hosted by SSYC. There were eight competitors ranging in age from 13 to 20. The winner was Brittney Slook with her brother Tom crewing. She had four 1sts and dropped a 3rd place finish. Also here today is Kelly Brinton who was winner of the Juniors in 1998.

The Comet was shown at the Annapolis Boat Show October 2014, where the new builder, Whitecap Composites was announced. Thanks go to Wick Dudley for the use of "Wicked" as well as putting in time at the show. Andy Wood and Lee and I also were there for the duration of the show. Thanks to others stopping in to man the booth, such as Joe & Tina Lauver and Elliott Oldak.

Seeing what other boats were on display at the show has confirmed my belief that the Comet is needed to provide a performance boat for sailors after college.

Reed Valliant Treasurer's report

Development Fund
Whitecap Composites was sent a \$3000 check for a deposit to start work on the hull mold.
We had \$3000 in the bank to cover it.

Andy Wood Vice President in charge of Championship Regattas

We are always looking for new venues for our major regattas. Susquehanna did a great job in 2013 and we would like to return in the future.
Northern Lake George had a good turnout and also did an excellent job.
Don't forget to settle up for Guest Dinners tonight.

Tina Lauver- We are going to Bermuda this year. Is anyone else?

Talbott & Lee are also hoping to go.

(Tina puts the E-News together so well, thank you for all your efforts.)

Christina Lauver Vice President in charge of Information & Publicity

Tee shirts for the Internationals. Do we need any fixes or exchanges?

If you didn't order a shirt and would still like to order one (or more) there is a sheet on the bulletin board to sign up.

IF we get 14 or more, a new shipment can be ordered.

Joe Lauver- no one is sending results to Tina. If there is no new information posted, visitors to the site don't think we are active. Please give Tina information on anything going on in your fleet.

Bermuda

Talbott- We really missed having our Bermudian sailors here this year. It always makes for a better regatta and we enjoy seeing our friends. We hope to see them for the Internationals again next year.

Bradley Meade Vice President in charge of Class Development

General summing up by Talbott as Brad couldn't be here.

Progress is being made on the new hull mold. The "Molly Brown" has been taken to Whitecap Composites to use as the plug. We have enough money to write the deposit check and are so close - within about \$800.00 to cover the cost of the mold. Please think about contributing.

Reed Valliant for Bradley Meade- Nominating Committee

Motion to approve the nominated slate, seconded by Elliott Oldak, et al.

Vote taken, unanimously approved.

PROXY for the Nomination of BRADLEY M. MEADE to be an HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Vote taken, unanimously (and loudly) approved.

Everyone was sorry that Brad was not there in person to be honored.

(Following the meeting, we called Brad and told him about the Proxy and all congratulated him. He was very excited and touched by the award.)

Talbott Ingram Raffle

Cory Devlin was asked to do the drawing for the raffle.

4074	Bob Slook	gloves
4031	Andrew Devlin	McLube
4073	Taylor Penwell	hat
3866	Stacey & John Costanzo	Duct tape
4061	Jim Widdis	tell tales
4077	Reed Valliant	Nautical flags sticker
2908	Wick Dudley	red waterproof container

Drawing for MYLAR JIB donated by MARK BEATON

The Comet Class thanks Mark for this generous donation and continuing support.

All sail numbers were returned to the drawing for this special prize.

2908 Wick Dudley was drawn first. He withdrew as he won the jib last year.

3866 John Costanzo's number was then drawn. John said that he is only able to sail in the Internationals and felt the Class could be better served if he donated the jib to the Class for use on the "Molly Brown" for major events as she has no sails of her own. Talbott accepted the jib on behalf of the Class.

Following the raffle a picture was taken of all the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.