

LOFT LINES

A NEWSLETTER FROM HAARSTICK SAILMAKERS

1461 Hudson Ave. Rochester, NY 14621

(800) 342-5033 (585) 342-5200

email: info@haarsticksailmakers.com

Web site: www.haarsticksailmakers.com

February 11, 2005

In this issue:

- **Turn out at 1st Winter Sailing Seminar - 60+**
- **Seminar/discussions coming up**
- **Playing the Shifts - A Course to Haarstick**

by Ken Davies(intro by Steve Haarstick)

- **Florida Star Sailing- 2004-2005**

by Steve Haarstick

1st Racing Seminar Summary

Wow, what a turn out for our first Course Racing Seminar. On February 5th more than 60 people attended from as far away as Buffalo and Oswego. Jon Faudree did a great job in the spotlight, focusing on starting situations and the beginning of the first upwind leg.

We handed out surveys at the end of the seminar and had quite a bit of positive feedback and a few ideas for next seminar. Everybody said they learned something new and would like to attend future seminars. This tells me that Jon did a great job of accommodating all sailing levels, and made it

interesting and enjoyable for all who attended. We hope to have over 100 attending for our next seminar. (We'll have to rent a PA system.)

We ordered just enough chairs and too many donuts. Steve made us finish all of the fat pills on Monday, even though they were stale. We look forward to the next Seminar on February 26th from 11am-1pm. We will be discussing upwind sailing and windward mark roundings. Please let us know if you will be attending by replying to this e-mail.

Thanks,

Doug Burtner

Haarstick Sales/Service

Winter Seminars Coming up

Open discussion. Starts, tactics, upwind, downwind, rules, driving, crewing, sail trim...

Seminars are right here in the Loft at: 1461 Hudson, Rochester NY, Just North of RT 104

Jon Faudree of Haarstick Sailmakers is the presenter.

2nd Racing Seminar/Discussion- Upwind Sailing and Windward Mark Roundings

Saturday, February 26th, 11:00am-1pm

***NOTE- this has been changed from the 19th. (Jon will be sailing in Florida)

3rd Racing Seminar/Discussion- Setting the Chute and Downwind Sailing

Saturday March 12th, 11:00am-1pm.

4th Racing Seminar/Discussion- Leeward Mark Roundings and Sailing to the Finish

Saturday March 26th 11:00am-1pm

Refreshments provided

Please let us know if you plan to attend the next Seminar so we can make sure we can accommodate all interested. Just reply to this e-mail. (Subject: "Seminars" is fine) Thanks.

Buffalo NY-Master Tactician Courses-Upwind Sailing and Windward Mark Roundings

Jon Faudree has also been invited to speak at this Buffalo Course. February 22, 6pm at the CPO Club Buffalo New York. For more info on this and other Buffalo courses contact Bob Adler:badler@buffnet.net

I would like to introduce Ken Davies to our Newsletter readers. Ken joined our team this past September to learn more about sail design and sailmaking. Ken grew up in Ithaca, NY, and brings a very impressive educational and experience background to Haarstick Sailmakers.

Ken graduated from Cornell University in 2002, Summa Cum Laude, with a BS degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering with a cumulative GPA of 4.03. (I thought 4.00 was the highest possible grade).

In his "Gap" year 2002-2003, Ken traveled to New Zealand, Australia, and beyond, and his first article covers his trip down under. He was also Captain of the Cornell Varsity Crew for the 2001-2002 season, and a member of the West End Rowing Club Elite Team in Auckland NZ, 2002-2003.

In May 2004, Ken received his Masters in Engineering from Cornell (with a 3.96 GPA), and interned last summer with the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards for the US House of Representatives.

I am very excited to have someone with Ken's technical background. While he learns our custom sail production procedure by building sails, as does every Haarstick employee, I have many technical projects for him on his "to do" list.

-Steve Haarstick

Playing the Shifts- A Course to Haarstick Sailmakers

Part One:

High on a hill was a lonely boatman. lay ee odl lay odl lay hee hoo

Few people are fortunate enough to spend the duration of the America's Cup living on the Viaduct Harbor in Auckland, close enough to see the entire syndicate row from a private balcony. In retrospect having had that opportunity as a self-supporting college student might be best described as a successful coupe. With an engineering degree in my hand and an aspiration to design yachts in my heart, I boarded a plane in September of 2002 and moved to Auckland site unseen.

Before the jet lag had worn off I was working as a volunteer for the Louis Vuitton Cup and staying in a succession of tattered youth hostels. Experiences such as attending the opening Louis Vuitton Cup party, meeting Dennis Connor and seeing the majestic power of yachts up close on a daily basis were priceless. Unfortunately the cost of living proved more tangible and I was forced to trade in the daily grind upon water for the daily grind of an espresso machine.

Ironically becoming a waiter brought me even closer to the America's Cup action for I secured a job at the only café on syndicate row, a haunt frequented day and night by the sailors of every syndicate. It was truly the sailor's second home; autographed memorabilia from previous Whitbread races adorned the walls and the topic of conversation rarely drifted from day's racing. The best part was I actually got paid for serving beer to characters such as Russell Coutts. Although I was paid in what looks like monopoly money, it served the purposed and allowed me sublet a small apartment with a priceless view over the epicenter of the sailing world.

Come March the Auckland businessmen known as the Black Hearts sheepishly took down the billboards making fun of the Alinghi boatmen and the Hundred Guinea Cup headed to Europe for the first time in 150 years. Meanwhile I up packed my foul weather gear and continued westward around the world through Australia, China and Europe on my way to another date with a stack of textbooks in Upstate New York.

Two years on I hold these experiences even closer to my heart for after entering the workforce I realize how rare it is to have the opportunity to pick up and move to the other side of the world to bear witness to the oldest competition in all of sports. Two years ago you could find me on the black sand beaches west of Auckland instead of here in Rochester where we have received almost four feet of snow in the last week. Nevertheless I am thankful to have found myself working here in this hemisphere at Haarstick Sailmakers, where again I am lucky enough to earn a living simply messing about with boats.

This has been the first article in a three part series by Ken Davies on living in New Zealand, writing a masters thesis on the Volvo Ocean Race and working at Haarstick Sailmakers.

2004-2005 STAR SAILING

-by Steve Haarstick

Last February, I trailed my Star "No Bozos" down to Miami for the "Zag Masters" regatta and back to Rochester. Unlike previous years, I felt I only had the time to do this one weekend regatta, as the loft had built a very large backlog of work for the winter, and I was in the process of rebuilding "Minute Hand", my 22 foot wooden sailboat. However, Biscayne Bay was kind to me, and I won the Grand Master's trophy. Thoughts of falling overboard two years prior at the Bacardi, or the many races sailing

in the back of the fleet evaporated, and I wished that I had made plans to sail my Star in more regattas that winter.

This past fall, the loft surpassed last year's orders, and the backlog was even higher. In addition, I had promised myself that, after moving from Ithaca to Webster seven years ago, it was finally time to straighten out the house. The basement was still filled with unpacked boxes of stuff. The narrow, and completely useless room off to the side of the house was filled more of my stuff, and the addition of my son's leftovers after he moved last fall to Greenwich, CT. On top of all that the list of my boat projects had grown to three pages deep.

Faced with this mounting workload, I decided to forget the house, forget the too numerous boat projects, and take my Star to Miami for the entire winter circuit.

Starting with the "Commodores Cup" in early December, I have already sailed in three weekend regattas, and am heading down for the "Zag Masters" today. So far, I have managed to have one good race each weekend, and have quickly forgotten the rest. Even when I'm in the cheap seats, mopping up the rear, there have always been at least one or more world class sailors behind me. The list of the skippers and crews racing Stars in Miami in these winter regattas reads like the honor role of the world's elite sailors.

I started the Commodores Cup real strong with a 7th in the first race, finishing just in front of Andy Horton, and Augie Diaz, who ended up 3rd and 4th overall for the 5 race regatta. Mark Mendelblatt won the regatta, and John MacCausland finished 2nd overall. My remaining four races have faded from memory, as I finished mid fleet for 15th overall in the 29 boat fleet.

The 2005 Levin Memorial in early January had 37 boats entered, and the list of sailing greats now included Andy Beadsworth who was the British Finn representative in the last Olympics, won this regatta, his FIRST Star regatta! Other World's champ's and Olympic luminaries in this fleet included Mark Reynolds, Fredrik Loof, Eric Doyle, and many more North American Champions. District Champions, like me, were the "gun fodder" in a fleet of this caliber.

This regatta had only three races: two on Saturday, one on Sunday. Even though the courses are longer (about 8-10 miles), I like the 2 races per day format better. It is a real adrenaline rush at the start, as the first leg is critical in this fleet. If you don't get off the line clean, hold your lane long enough to tack clear, or hold left, you are DONE for the day! There is not a lot of coming back in this fleet. I didn't have any good starts in the first two races, and finished well back. However, in the 3rd race on Sunday, I got off clean, went the right way up the beat, and rounded the first mark in the top 10. Actually picked up 2 boats on the run, and held my own again upwind to round 8th. On the run, I noticed Mark Reynolds going faster and lower than anyone else around him, and moving up through the fleet. With the last leg a beat to the finish, I rounded with Mark only about 50 yards behind me. Half way up the beat, I realized he was coming hard, and I started to put a loose cover on him. At the top of the leg, I tacked on to starboard about 150 yards out and just short of the layline to the finish. Mark continued past my

transom and tacked on my hip, maybe 8 boat lengths behind and 2 up. When Todd said: “his bow is up on you”, I knew I had to tack then, not later, cross, tack back on top, and give him all the “gas” I could to the finish. I really didn’t want to sit on him, but I didn’t want to blow the chance of beating him even more.

The third regatta, the “Biscayne Trophy” was only two weeks later, and the fleet was now up to 50 boats. Andy Beadsworth was back, and Vince Brun, former World’s Champ joined the fleet. My two races on Saturday were easily forgotten in a blur of rum, but Sunday’s was sweet. We left the dock that morning with a massive cold front predicted to come through the fleet right around start time with winds building to 20 – 28 knots. With memories of my being dragged behind the boat gibing in these conditions, I headed out to the start. Having Todd Schumacher as my crew gave me a lot of confidence, but I am no longer the heavy air “warrior” I once was. Contrary to the forecast, however, this race had the best sailing of the entire winter! A great day on the water, with 12- 15 knots, Todd in the straps upwind. I got my usual mediocre to lousy start, but tacked quickly in a clear lane and held hard right with a group of boat all the way to the layline. After tacking for the mark, it was clear our group was in the lead to the pin. I rounded in about 10th, and held this for the most part, give or take, for the balance of the race, finishing 11th, just behind Augie Diaz. At the haul out when I asked, I found out Augie won this weekend, and he told me I sailed a great race! Wow! It doesn’t get much better than that!

It is the thrill of being able, even once in a while, to hang in there for an entire race with the best of the best that keeps me coming back for more. To receive such a nice compliment, makes it even sweeter!

West Marine Rochester Seminars: All except the March 12 event will take place at West Marine’s Rochester Store, 131 Pattonwood Drive, Rochester, across the street from RCR’s Rochester office. The March 12 program will be held at Genesee Yacht Club, off the foot of Thomas Avenue. All are free and open to the public.

Saturday, February 5, 10 AM - Noon, Reading a Marine Chart

Saturday, February 12, 10 AM - Noon, Plotting a Course

Saturday, February 26, 10 AM - Noon, Introduction to GPS

Saturday, March 12, 9 AM - Noon, GPS Chartplotter Navigation Using a Laptop Computer TV.

Saturday, March 19, 10 AM - Noon, What’s New in Marine Electronics

Saturday, April 9 - 10 a.m. - Noon, Getting Ready for Spring Launch

Peter Allen

Assistant Manager

West Marine Rochester

Call 585/266-0200

LOCAL UPSTATE NEWSLETTERS

If you are not already receiving their e-mail newsletters, we recommend that you sign up for these two upstate NY newsletters:

For the **RCR** Newsletters: <http://www.rcryachts.com/newsform.htm>

For the **Navy Point** Newsletter: <http://www.navypointmarine.com/subscribe.html>

That's all for this issue. If you no longer wish to receive our Newsletters please reply with "Remove" in the Subject box