

# **LOFT LINES**

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A NEWSLETTER FROM HAARSTICK SAILMAKERS

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May 9th, 2008

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**We'll help you get the most out of your inventory.**

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## Open on Saturday's for Spring Sail Pick Up 9-12

May 10

May 17

May 24 (if need be)

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### The Western Hemisphere Championship of the Star class:

-Steve Haarstick

The 2008 Western Hemisphere Championship of the Star Class is coming to Seneca Yacht Club, in Geneva, NY on May 18<sup>th</sup> - May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is only the second time such a prestigious Star regatta has come to Upstate New York. The last "Silver" Star event was twenty years ago in September 1988 at the Ithaca Yacht Club. As that was my home club at that time, I jumped at the chance to sail after a 10 year absence from the class and bought a used Star from John MacCausland. The wind in Ithaca can be so fluky that I assumed "local knowledge" would give me a big edge. However, as is often the case, we had some "never happens here" conditions, like a 40 mph clear air squall line that hit the fleet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> race. I had just rounded the offset mark, and gybed for the leeward mark when it hit. The boat jumped onto an instant plane, and as we ran down towards the leeward mark, virtually out of control, my crew was screaming: "Don't gybe, don't gybe" all the way down the run. The carnage of broken masts and swamped Stars was everywhere. One Star even turned turtle, with its keel straight up in the air- right in front of me. I barely missed him!! That race turned out to be my best finish of the regatta- a 7<sup>th</sup>. We never got conditions like that before or since. When it came to local knowledge department, my batting average was only slightly above random chance. However, I was pleased to end up 16<sup>th</sup> out of about 60 boats entered.

Twenty years later, my expectations are, well, twenty years is a long time, and I'm not any smarter, and definitely not any stronger. Seneca Yacht Club is now my home club, and this is once again a regatta that can not be passed by. But, this time around the water will be really **COLD!** I'm thinking about the water temperature, because I got thrown out of the Star, into the drink during a heavy air gybe a couple of years ago. Hanging on to the hiking stick, I was dragged through the water as the boat rounded up from a plane. This was no fun even in the warm waters of Miami. In 45 degree water, it is downright dangerous! Thinking about the gibing at the reach mark in a pile of Stars has made me "chicken" when the wind starts pushing past 20 knots, I've also lost whatever boatspeed I had in 2004 when I won the Grand Masters in Miami, and the 12th District Championships in Hamilton, Ontario. I've given it some thought, and I think I know where the speed went: I'll start with my sails (haven't made any new ones since 2004), a twenty year old boat, and the most important speed loss: me. I haven't trailed my Star to Miami for the past two winters. Being away from the best sailors in the world (my opinion), doesn't make you better or faster. So, I'm hoping for light to moderate breezes, maybe one decent finish, and I definitely plan to stay in the boat! If it's really blowing, and I'm still out

there, a “come about” well outside the carnage at the gybe mark will be the “standing orders” for me.

-Steve Haarstick ([shaarstick@haarsticksailmakers.com](mailto:shaarstick@haarsticksailmakers.com))

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### **Quick Recap of Results so Far:**

#### **J/24 J-Daze – Canandaigua – Kiki Werner – 2<sup>nd</sup>**

(behind Mike Ingham – past runner up at J24 Worlds)

Kiki Werner took 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of the 28 boat fleet at CYC. She’s probably sick of people talking about it, but it needs to be mentioned that she is currently **8 months pregnant** with her 2<sup>nd</sup> child. Her husband Kris, Jon Faudree and Amy Deblaze were a few of the other locals that were on board. Way to go guys. Good luck at the Hospice National’s this weekend. (yes, Kiki is driving there as well)

**Ideal 18 Fools Regatta at Rochester YC** – Well it needs to be mentioned that there were certainly two fools at this year’s Fools Regatta. Those two fools were myself and Kirk Simpson (sorry Kirk). Excited to go sailing and launching the boat for the first time this year, we forgot to look up and keep the bow down when dropping her in at the Hoist. CRUNCH. We got a standing ovation as we looked up and realized that we lowered the spreader on to the top of the hoist. We cracked the spreader and spreader bar. After some taunting Skip Shumway was quick to jump in his car, yell out the window to drop the mast as quick as we could and he drove over to his shop to get new parts. It’s good to have the owner of the US Distributor for Ideal 18’s right there so you can get away with stupid mistakes like this and still make it out on the race course for the 5 races we did that day. Thanks Skip. You are a true Gentleman (after the taunting is over that is).

Top 3 All Haarstick

1<sup>st</sup> - Mark Lawless, Brian Barrett

2<sup>nd</sup> Shane Olney, Chris Dorsey

3<sup>rd</sup> Skip Shumway, Killian Corbishley

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### **Order Sails Now – for June Regatta Delivery.**

The season is upon us. Racing has begun. We are in the middle of the “J” Regatta’s in Canandaigua, the Ideal 18’s Fool Regatta is over and done with, and all the clubs in the area are gearing up for the racing season. Take a good look at your sail inventory and let us know if you

would like any quotes on new sails. The following Regatta's are coming up fast and we can still make delivery for new sails.

**Scotch Bonnet Light House Race**

**Lake Erie Interclub Cruise / Race**

**Challenge Cup**

**Ensign Region I Regatta (Long Island)**

**Thistle Regatta's in June (there's a few)**

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**Service Calls - On the Water Sail Evaluation and Trimming Advise**

This is a service that most Sailmakers offer when asked by their customers. Some Sailmakers reserve this service for current customers but at Haarstick it is available to anyone at no charge. We won't come out to give you the "used car salesman" routine either. We will come out and give you a fair and honest evaluation of your sails and also help with some tips on how to get the most out of the sails you have. From Oneida Lake in Syracuse, through the Finger Lakes, along Lake Ontario and Lake Erie to Erie, PA, we are only a phone call away towards setting up a time to go out sailing with you.

We have about 5 Service Personnel on hand so setting up a time that is convenient for everyone should be obtainable. Most race nights and weekends fill up quickly, but most of the time sail evaluations and trimming tips are best accomplished when not racing. So if you have time during a weekday that can also be arranged.

Give me a call or drop an e-mail and I'll arrange to have a service representative go out for a sail.

Doug Burtner

Sales/Service

Haarstick Sailmakers

[sales@haarsticksailmakers.com](mailto:sales@haarsticksailmakers.com)

585.342.5200

800.342.5033

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**Buffalo-Final Sail Drop Off:**

Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> 12noon @ RCR Skyway

Please give me a call or send an e-mail to confirm

Eric Christensen

Haarstick Sailmakers

WNY Sales/Service

1-800-342-5033

[buffalo@haarsticksailmakers.com](mailto:buffalo@haarsticksailmakers.com)

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**Team Building – (Part I – [Click Here for March Loft Lines](#))**

**Part II: Practice**

-Eric Christensen

This is a subject that has been beaten to death and wrote about in depth in numerous published articles (so I'll keep it short), but it is something that is often overlooked.

Having organized the crew for my dad's boat for many years it can be really tough to coordinate the schedules of ten people and try to get them to all show up on a non-race night, but the benefits are huge. Particularly in the beginning of the season when everyone is rusty from the winter and trying to ease themselves back into the sport.

I would always try to get out on the water a couple of times in the evening before the first weeknight race and then for a full day during the weekend to go through all the drills, rig tuning, sail combinations and what ever else that we felt we needed to work on after we had a few races under our belt.

Once we settled on a date/time that worked for everyone, it was time to make an outline of what I thought we needed to work on so that we could get the most out of the time that we had to go sailing

Before we left the dock we had a crew discussion on what they felt needed improvement and how much time we wanted to devote to each individual task. For an example, spinnaker work was always a common suggestion, particularly flying the spinnaker without the pole and dropping the sail to windward. As this maneuver allowed us to keep the sail up for an extra boat length or two when approaching the leeward mark and eliminated having to get the bowman off the rail on the beat to re-run the spinnaker gear. The crew always felt positive about these exercises and appreciated the opportunity to be able to try new techniques and work on sail trim in a non-race situation without the usual pressures associated while racing.

As the old saying goes, practice makes perfect and though we were far from perfect the confidence that it instilled in both the crew and the skipper knowing that we could approach most race situations with fluid sailing mechanics gave us both a physical and mental edge over the competition.

So as I am off to go sail J/22's this weekend for the first time of the season and not having taken any of my own advice, all I can think is I hope its not too windy this weekend and I don't go for an accidental swim. Now that your boats are in the water or just about to go in, get in touch with your crew, take a look at you boat see what needs to be worked on before the season officially kicks off and get out there and go sailing. The first weeknights races are just a few weeks away (or here already) so get moving.

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### **2008 Winter Seminars at Haarstick – Big Hit**

We averaged around 40 people at the loft for each of the four seminars we offered this year. Jon Faudree is back in town and was the speaker for all of the seminars. Jon covered everything from the theory of sail shape to tactics and rules.

Jon has also agreed to help out with a few service calls this summer for us. For those that don't know Jon here is a link to one of our early newsletters with his bio:

<http://www.haarsticksailmakers.com/Newsletter/Dec07.html> (scroll to bottom)

Everyone at Haarstick wants to express our thanks to Jon for coming in and putting on these talks. He is a great speaker and really goes out of his way to make it interesting for the pro's out there and still make it understandable for the newer sailors in the room.

THANKS JON. We hope we get you back in here next winter.

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**J24 Triradial Pentex Genoa – Slightly Used – 30% Off (or a \$500 savings)**

Kiki and Kris Werner used this sail at the 2008 Midwinter's and this past weekend at J-Daze (2<sup>nd</sup> place as per above results). After the Midwinter's Kris had this to say:

“The genoa really looks sharp, and I cannot think of much, if anything I would do to make it look better...For almost the entire regatta I found us to have exceptional speed/point upwind with the genoa, and on top of that we were sailing 30-40lbs light”

This was in the midst of a very competitive fleet that were all vying for a birth for the 2009 Worlds.

Please call or e-mail if you have any interest in this sail.

Thanks,

Doug Burtner

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