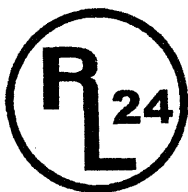


NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

RL24 - It's YOUR kind of boat

NOVEMBER 1998



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FROM THE BOSUN'S CHAIR

With the RL 24 National Championships due to be held from the 28th Dec. to 3rd Jan. next, the news from South Lake Macquarie Amateur Sailing Club Inc. is that arrangements are coming together nicely and a well organised regatta is assured. Lake Macquarie is one of the finest yacht racing venues in Australia, with plenty of space for good, true courses back-dropped by a picturesque surrounding landscape. If you haven't been to a National Championship before, Lake Macquarie is the ideal place to start (especially the southern end) as it offers virtually trauma-free sailing. Good camping, easy launching and retrieval, good water (no navigational problems, no tidal influences to fight), renowned RL 24 camaraderie and (generally) benign breezes all help to relieve the pressure that sometimes accompanies a new and unfamiliar adventure such as a Nationals regatta. Amongst the many other good reasons to come to the Titles is the fact that every RL 24 National Championship is accompanied by an Annual General Meeting. "Another yachtsmans gabbfest," I hear you cry but, no, it's actually an opportunity for every RL 24 owner to have an impact on the development of the class and to shape the way in which the class is run. There's plenty of gabbfesting too but, when all is said and done, it is the AGM that remains our most important forum for ensuring that the Association properly meets the needs of members, and so your committee urges you to support it with your attendance. If you can't make it to the Nationals but have a point to make, give Ken or Rachel a call or, better still, write to them and they will gladly ensure your issue is fully aired at the AGM. Their respective phone numbers and addresses appear on the inside of the Newsletter cover.

CANBERRA NEWS

One of the nice things about putting together a "national" newsletter, however modest, is that from time to time one gets to hear from interstate readers who take the trouble to correspond. One such is John White. He and his wife Eileen live in Canberra and sail their RL 24 *Callisto* on Lake Burley Griffin among other places. John's boat started life in the mid 1970s as *Scud* (Sail No. 35) and was put together by the Association's first Life Member, Geof Olney. John has been a long-term supporter of the Association and was present at the Nationals at Eden when our fleet was decimated by a huge southerly buster that swept through the harbour without warning. That was the occasion when someone asked Jack Lucas, the uncrowned king of Eden and owner of *Radical Lady 2* at the time, "was that a southerly buster, Jack?" "Nah," sez Jack. "A southerly buster here comes in from the east!" But back to John's letter. He writes.....

"I thought it might be timely to bring you up to date on news of the three RL 24's resident in Canberra. The three in question are Pat Keily's *Raging Lemming*, Richard Gallimore's *Daiquiri* and my own *Callisto* (ex *Scud*). Pat has just bought *Raging Lemming* from Brian March and is busy working on boat and trailer. Richard sails whenever he is able (he's a very busy man) while we race at every reasonable opportunity in races run by the Canberra Yacht Club and the Canberra Cruising Yacht Association. Three series of races are sailed throughout the year (yes, we do race in

winter!) plus a Wednesday twilight race during daylight saving. On top of this, there is an active cruising program consisting of week-end cruises at such venues as Wyangala Dam, Lake Jindabyne, The Hawkesbury River and so on. Many of the other trailer sailers participate in the Marlay Point Overnighter and in the NSW TYA races, but the RL's tend to concentrate on local racing and on cruising – we have trailed *Callisto* seven or eight times to Airlie Beach in order to explore the Whitsundays (we met RL 24 #1 there one year!) We have also cruised down the Brisbane River from Kenmore (that was exciting) and spent 2 weeks on Moreton Bay so although we find it difficult to get to our Nationals, we do our fair share of sailing and racing. We would welcome visits from other RL's – Lake Burley Griffin is quite large (25kms in circumference) and the winter sailing is usually sunny and warm – trust me.”

DEMAND FOR PRE-LOVED RL'S

There is a steady trickle of enquiries from prospective RL purchasers. If you know of any boats for sale, please contact Ken or Rachel.

DEMAND FOR A PRE-LOVED MAST.

Michael Reed, who comes from Glenrowan and sails his RL wherever he can, needs another mast. This is definitely *not* because the original has met with an unfortunate accident but rather because it was not long enough in the first place. If you should happen to have a serviceable mast you no longer require which meets RL 24 specifications and are interested in converting it to cash, give Michael a call on (03) 57 662237.

1999 VICTORIAN TITLES

There is a Notice of Race with this newsletter for the Victorian Championship in February. It will be the first time we have tried a venue so close to the city; it could be interesting. Certainly it won't be far for many of us to travel. For country owners who do not have friends or relatives to stay with, here are a couple of suggestions:

1. Camp on the RL in the car park. Lloyd Graham will be coordinating this “gypsy camp” and will have “The Sting” as the nucleus of the camping group.
2. Billet with a Melbourne owner. Ken Hacket will be coordinating billets.

Saturday's racing should be for RL 24's only, but on the Sunday we expect to be on the water with a combined fleet from Western Trailable Yacht Club and the Trailable Yacht Club of Victoria. For Saturday evening, we have reserved the BBQ shelter adjoining the nearby Mariners Restaurant. This will be a BYO everything function, overlooking the marina. It should be an inexpensive weekend and we expect a strong fleet – there are 11 RL 24 members at the W.T.Y.C alone!

A RACE FOR NON-RACERS

Some RL24 owners are not necessarily keen on racing, or sometimes can be timid about competing with what may be perceived to be “experienced” racing types. We don’t want these owners to miss out on the fun and fellowship that is such a big part of RL24 regattas; we want everyone to join in and feel a part of the association.

Accordingly, there will be racing organised concurrent with the State Championships as a “cruising” division. This will start with the championship entrants, but will sail a shorter course and yachts will enjoy a handicap advantage if spinnakers are not used. Although this division will not be eligible for the State Championship, there will nevertheless be separate trophies awarded.

If you like the idea, please complete the entry form for the Victorian State Championships but endorse your entry ‘cruising division’.

VICTORIAN RL 24 CHAMPIONSHIP 1999 **NOTICE OF RACE**

The RL 24 Championship will be held on 27 & 28 February 1999, in conjunction with the Western Trailable Yacht Club Inc.

1 RULES.

The regatta will be governed by the 1997 – 2000 I.A.S.F. Racing Rules of Sailing, Prescriptions and Special Regulations of the A.Y.F. Cat 6, the Rules of the RL 24 Class Association and the Sailing Instructions except for the following variations.

Rule 3.23. An outboard motor, minimum 6hp. must be carried.

Rule 3.23 (e) A minimum of 9 litres of fuel must be carried at the start of each race.

2 ADVERTISING.

The regatta is classified as a Category A event in accordance with Appendix G and A.Y.F. Prescriptions.

3 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY.

The regatta is open to all skippers of RL 24 yachts whose owners are financial members of the RL 24 Owners Association of Australia and holders of a current Measurement Certificate.

4 FEES.

The regatta entry fee is \$40.

5 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.

- 27 Feb. 1999 0900 hrs to 0930 hrs.....Registration
1030 hrs.....Heat 1
1430 hrs.....Heat 2
- 28 Feb. 1999 1000 hrs.....Heat 3
Heat 4 sailed as soon as practicable after completion of Heat 3.

6 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available at registration.

7 REGATTA SITE.

Racing will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip Bay, off-shore from the St.Kilda Marina.

8 COURSES.

Courses and marks will be described in the sailing instructions. The course to be sailed may be indicated by International Code Numerals.

9 SCORING.

The low scoring system of Appendix A of the Racing Rules will apply. There will be 4 races, of which the best 3 for each yacht will be counted for total points. Where it is possible to complete less than 4 races, all will be counted.

10 ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES.

The 720° penalty (Rule 44.2 of the Racing Rules) will apply.

11 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

A yacht will not make radio/telephone transmissions while racing, nor receive communication not made to all yachts.

12 PRIZES.

Trophies may be awarded to

- (a) Drop Keel Champion
- (b) Swing Keel Champion
- (c) Heat winners based on the V.Y.C's C.B.H. corrected time system
- (d) Other trophies may be awarded depending on the number of entries received.

13 FURTHER INFORMATION.

- 13.1 Owners without a current Measurement Certificate may arrange for scrutineering by prior arrangement with Lloyd Graham (ph: 03 9870 5439) or Bruce Castles (ph: 03 5144 2639).
- 13.2 There is a large rigging area and car park adjacent to the Marina launching ramp. This area is often crowded on a good summer weekend, but there is usually adequate space before 10.00 am. Marina launch fee is \$8. Overnight storage may be arranged by contacting the St.Kilda Marina, ph: (03) 9534 0448. Fees are \$16 on the hard, \$20 for a water berth.

14 SOCIAL EVENTS.

- 27 Feb. 1998 BBQ tea from 1800 hrs at Mariners Restaurant BBQ annexe (BYO).
- 28 Feb. 1998 Afternoon tea and trophy presentation immediately after last heat on lawn area adjacent to the car park.

VICTORIAN RL 24 CHAMPIONSHIP 1999 FORM OF ENTRY

Yacht Name _____

Sail No. _____

Swing or Drop Keel _____

Skipper's Name _____

No. of people in your party likely to attend the BBQ _____

Completed entry with fee of \$40 should be forwarded by 1 February 1999 to Ken Hackett, 15 Oak Grove, Brighton Vic 3181.