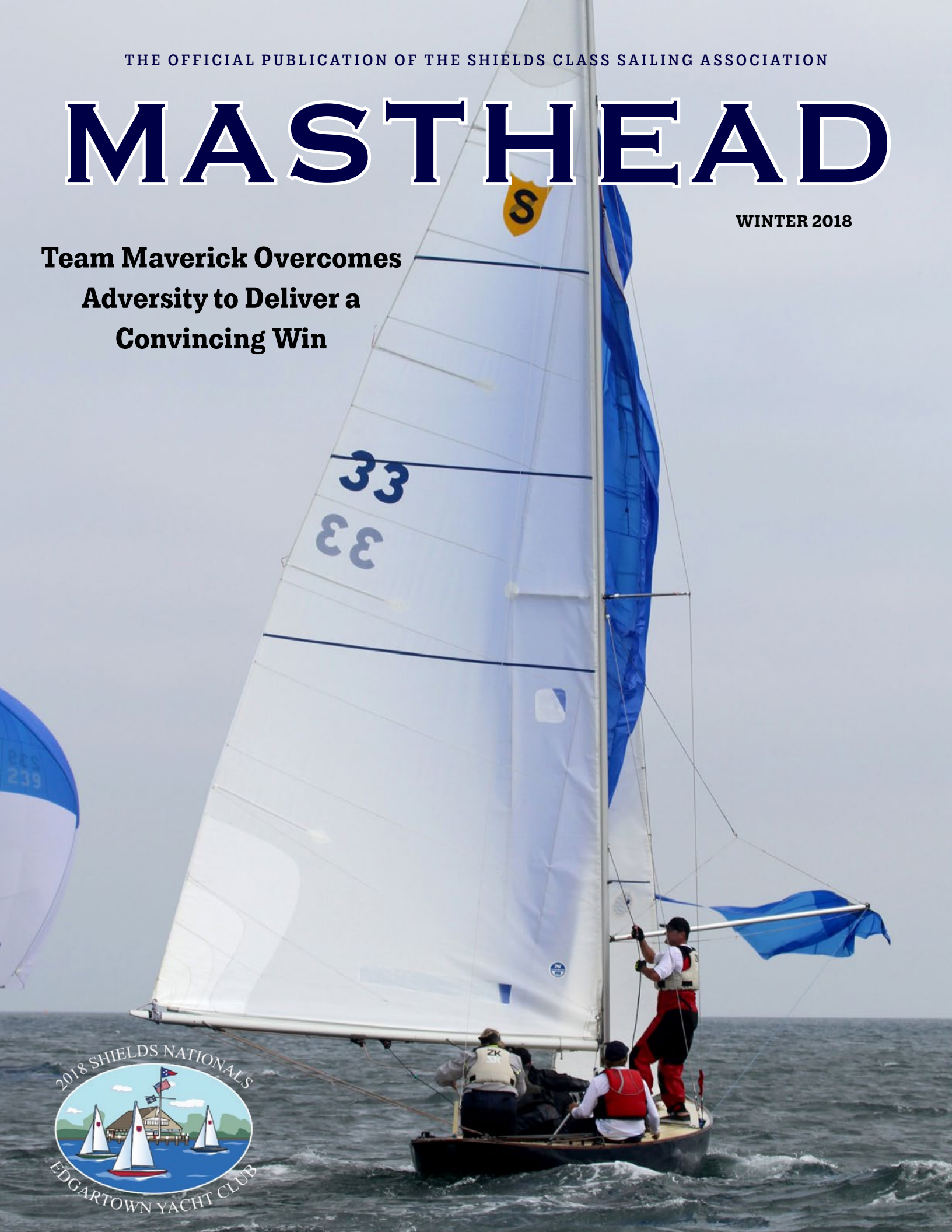


THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHIELDS CLASS SAILING ASSOCIATION

MASTHEAD

WINTER 2018

**Team Maverick Overcomes
Adversity to Deliver a
Convincing Win**



The End of Two Eras

Edgartown Shuttters its Iconic Clubhouse and The Shields Fleet Retires A Legend

"To start sailing Shields #11 fifty-five years ago was exciting and it has remained so ever since. I love being on the water, I love sailing and I love competing. Doing foredeck on Deja Vu for the last twenty-five years at EYC has combined all these and it has truly been a delight to compete and socialize with so many great people. At 77 years old I can certainly attest to sailing being a lifetime sport."

- John Klein, longest serving member of Shields Fleet 8



The Crew of Deja Vu: Andy Mallegol, Bob Hall, Charlie Wittenberg, Steve Mettler and John Klein

"John is the heart and soul of Shields Fleet 8 and I believe we have never had a better participant. Let it be known that the Shields Class now recognizes him as one of its great sailors."

- Paul Mitchell, EYC Commodore and Shields Skipper

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On the Cover: Maverick #33 With Damaged Spinnaker

Cover Photo by: Louisa Gould Photography

http://www.louisagould.com/photography/category/photo/2328/1/0/Shield_Nationals_2018

Serving Up A Sensational Shields Season

2018 has been a banner year for the Shields Class. Each of our three primary regattas had a different champion from a different fleet. Congratulations to Team Maverick for their victory in Edgartown! The original Fab Five - Ted Slee, Betsy Alison, Danny Green, Anderson Reggio and Bob Geisser became the Magnificent Seven when local sailors Russ Salisbury and Joe Serpa filled in due to injury sustained during the event. Another noteworthy accomplishment was Fleet 10 dethroning Fleet 9 as the winners of the Kap-Dun Trophy, awarded annually to the top finishing fleet at the National Regatta. Congratulations to Marion's Bill Berry, Ken Deyett and Kevin Walsh for claiming this trophy.



I remain very impressed by the ongoing efforts of the class to improve communication with all our members. In addition to our outstanding class website and popular Facebook public page, we have sustained our semi-frequent MailChimp eblasts and launched the eMasthead earlier this year. Both new communication channels have been optimized for mobile devices. With no cost limitation on content, the eMasthead is a convenient way to carry more lengthy written articles with lots of photos and graphics. We have averaged 7 contributors per each eMasthead issue.

My 2018 Shields Class Tour began in Newport, continued to Edgartown and concluded at Larchmont for the Fleet One Awards Dinner. We enjoyed a fantastic home stay with William and Lowie Crisp while in Newport and we were treated to an equally enjoyable time at the original farmhouse on Martha's Vineyard, hosted by Steve and Kathi Mettler. Thanks to Ted Slee for allowing us to use #33 *Maverick* and to Tim Bryan for loaning us #223 *Aileen*, both impeccably maintained Shields boats. It was very reassuring to see such great representation of Shields skippers in the flag officer positions at both Ida Lewis and Edgartown Yacht Clubs. My last stop was the Fleet One Awards Dinner in October. It was a wonderful event – our Larchmont Fleet is in great shape as there were no seats left unclaimed. With the noblest intentions in doing his part for ocean conservation, Fleet Captain Doug Millar handed out "environmentally-friendly" aluminum multiple-use water containers. He gave me one too. Upon closer examination this water canteen was really no more than a martini shaker in disguise! Larchmont Shields Fleet: equal parts sailing champions, protectors of marine wildlife and cocktail connoisseurs...



One of our primary initiatives for 2018 was the Class Grant Programs. Ken Deyett and as his committee of Mike Schwartz, Bob Hurst, and Lee Reichart presented two innovative programs designed at improving participation at Shields Nationals with new and young skippers. We realized an immediate payback with the entries of Zachary Grover (Monterey) and Nate Burbank (Larchmont) this year. We hope to sustain the quality of competition at the National Regatta for years to come.

One frequent topic of discussion on the Vineyard were the recent sightings of white sharks in Edgartown.



Locals insisted the warming Atlantic waters were embellishing the the food supply, thereby enticing the sharks. Maybe ... perhaps it was the rum?

Finally, John Klein retiring from the same boat he sailed in 1963? You might say it was Deja Vu...

Eric Anderson #191 *Tiburon*
Shields Class President
Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club

Left: Team Tiburon- Jon Dean, Ari Rettinger, Rob Vann, Eric Anderson and Randy Shore

54th Shields National Regatta A Week of Firsts and Lasts

by John Wilson

Seventeen crews descended on the Edgartown Yacht club for the first time in 14 years for the 2018 Shields Nationals. The record will show that Ted Slee and his Rockstar crew ruled the day with a consistently dominating regatta and another national championship. However, the 2018 Shields Nationals was about so much more than Maverick's impressive performance. Edgartown said goodbye to its iconic clubhouse, we retired a lion in the Shields fleet and we showed we have what it takes to compete at the national level.



I am somewhat at a disadvantage in writing this article as I had to leave for work after a day competing on the water in the practice race. It was truly with a heavy heart I walked away from an event that I had been looking forward to for so long, but also missing 3 more days sailing with my peeps, Paul, Bob, Cindy and Andy. Commodore Paul Mitchell pulled together a great group of sailors who also happen to be great people to be stuck with in a small cockpit or a wet and windy rail.

Maverick #33, Rascal #23 and Syrinx #239 at the weather mark
Photo: Bill Brine

Can you dominate a regatta if you only win 2 races? You can if your worst performance is a second place and you overcome calamity in the first race you won. Preparation, skill, toughness and a little bit of luck are necessary for success. Ted and his crew of Betsy Alison, Andy Green, Anderson Reggio and Bob Geisser had all of that and more. Day 1 kicked off in Cow Bay with 15-18 kt southeast breezes and relatively calm seas. Former national champion Bill Berry, of Beverly Yacht Club, took the bullet in Race 1 with *Maverick* close on their heels. In Race 2 it was Larchmont's Michael O'Connor on *Rascal* with the win. *Maverick*, who was beginning to show the consistency that would keep them atop the leaderboard, slid in to another 2nd. In the final race from Day 1 it was another boat from Buzzard's Bay, *Bit-O-Honey*, sailed by Ken Deyett, taking the top spot on the podium. Slee and *Maverick* picked up another silver to end Day 1 in the lead with 6 points followed by *Rascal* with 9 and *Syrinx* with 11. As impressive as the on water action was for the first day, what took place between Races 3 and 4 might have been even more impressive. **Bit-O-Honey**

Photo: Bill Brine

Getting things to and from an island in a quick and efficient manner is not always possible. But on the Vineyard when something needs to get done - we figure out a way to do it. Day 1 was tough on sails. Four competitors blew out spinnakers. Without a full scale repair facility on the island, getting that amount of repair work turned around in a short period of time was ambitious. Regatta sponsor Quantum Sails heroically rose to this challenge.





While sailors were sleeping, the Quantum team was tackling their mission. They promptly took all sails to Newport and repaired them overnight. Thanks to cars, ferries and some people who chose not to sleep, Quantum delivered. The chutes were waiting at the club when sailors arrived in the morning.

Left: Deja Vu, Tiburon, Grace & Bit-O-Honey
Photo: Louisa Gould Photography

Day 2 brought a sea change and a change in the sea. The breeze built and swung to the northeast which brought with it a big swell. I was told this was actually by design so our Class President would find the conditions a little bit more like his California home. Race 4 saw Bill Berry

atop the podium again, with *Team Maverick* netting their fourth 2nd of the regatta to maintain their overall lead. Race 5 was when life got a bit too interesting for Ted and his crew. Betsy Alison slipped during a mark rounding and sliced her calf wide open. Not until after finishing the race with a narrow victory did Betsy depart the race course for some badly needed medical attention. *Maverick* rounded out the day with another 2nd in Race 6. At the conclusion of Day 2 they had a comfortable 7 point lead over Bill Berry, and 10 points over John Burnham, Race 6 winner.

Day 3, now a blustery and wavy northerly, was shaping up as a race for 2nd and a race to round out the top 5. Local high school sailor Joe Serpa eagerly filled in for Betsy Alison on *Maverick* and his local knowledge helped the crew win their final race of the regatta as an insurmountable lead allowed them to bask in the glory of a short day. Bill Berry held off John Burnham to take 2nd by 2 points, but it was a pair of 3rds for Edgartown boats that were the highlights of Saturday.

Paul Mitchell and a crew that included Regatta Chairs Bob Hurst and Cindy Delotto and Sail Martha Vineyard's Program Director (the Brit) Andy Nutton sailed progressively better throughout the regatta. They concluded the regatta with a 3rd place in the last race.

"We finished overall in 5th, we're delighted with that." - EYC Commodore Paul Mitchell

"This is the third time I've sailed in the Shields Nationals in recent years and know just how tough it is to finish in the top half of this highly competitive fleet. We consistently sailed smart races, had good boat speed, and spent a lot of time hanging with the big dogs. I'm sure they were wondering, who are those guys in the red boat? A fifth place finish behind three past national champions and the reigning New England champion is something we can be proud of." - Regatta Chair, Bob Hurst

Race 7 would also bring another significant 3rd for the Edgartown fleet. *Deja Vu* #11, with John Klein on the foredeck and son Tim trimming main, took a 3rd in the first Shields ever popped out of a mold.

Amusing #251 was Amazing
Photo: Bill Brine



"In 1963 I was on the sailing team at Kings Point when Corny Shields donated 6 Shields to the Academy, including #11. We gave up sailing the S Boats in favor of the new class. On the final day of this year's Nationals we rounded the last weather mark in second and had a great downwind duel with Grace #107. They would catch a wave and surf a little ahead and then we would catch the next one a little better and surge ahead. A real duel to the bitter end when we just got edged out, ending up third. A great race and we were very pleased to be battling it out with the reigning National Champion." - John Klein



Left: Deja Vu Delivered to USMMA in 1963 by Corny Shields

Right: Klein circa 2001

John will be missed out on the water. He was rarely ever seen at the helm, usually deftly working the foredeck, never missing a beat and always game to go sailing. He provided countless opportunities for sailors, or wanna-be sailors, on *Deja Vu*, taking an endless amount of pride in the joy and accomplishments of those he introduced to the class. His enthusiasm, encouragement and demeanor on the water will be missed by the fleet.

An event like this does not happen without the support and hard work of lots of people. Club Manager Bill Roman gets special mention. In addition to making sure the club and its staff were ready to go after a long summer, he was in the final stages of moving everything out of the club due to our major renovation. The club is being lifted up two feet to stay ahead of the rising sea. A tight timeline was made even tighter by the event, but watching Bill effortlessly navigate all his disparate responsibilities you would have no idea of the stressful nature of the time. Bob Hurst and Cindy Delotto led a team of volunteers who are too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say there are folks in town who are just getting over the fear of answering their phones in case it was Bob or Cindy calling.

Special thanks to Win and Marilyn Minot, cocktail party hosts at their beautiful MV home and to our sponsors Quantum Sails, Vineyard Vines, MacDougall's Boat Yard, Burr Brothers Boat Yard and Washashore Beer Company.





maverick

mav·er·ick | \mav-rik

NOUN

an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party

ADJECTIVE

dissident, nonconformist, heretical
out-there, unorthodox

USED IN A SENTENCE

Let him find his inner maverick.

Edgartown or Bust by Team Maverick

The “bust” has nothing to do with female anatomy. It has everything to do with the “risk everything and go for broke” inference of the word.

Our journey to the 2018 Shields Nationals started the day the 2017 Nationals was cancelled. It was during the downtime while

awaiting the decision to launch at Mystic. “It was then,” according to Ted, “we noticed our boat wasn’t as pretty as the others at the marina.” Fast forward through the winter where Ted found himself doing an overhaul of the boat, so that we could be ready for the 2018 season. All the hard work and sore muscles were worth it, as *Maverick #33* shot out of the gate on the first day of racing in May on Narragansett Bay.

The journey from Falmouth to Edgartown would be a bit of an omen for the week. “I’m glad we didn’t Take-A-Bow for our exit strategy from the shipyard, fending off the neighboring boats as we found ourselves sideways in a channel as wide as a Shields is long,” mused Ted. A foreshadow of the thrills, spills, and chills yet to come. “We were welcomed by an amazing team of volunteers and sailors at the Edgartown YC.”

Consistency wins championships and we knew going into the Nationals that anyone who could finish in the top four every race was likely going to win. We were treated to a different wind direction each day and the swirling currents off Edgartown made picking the correct direction a challenge. But we were well practiced as a team and knew that we had good speed on our side. Tunes were blasting from the speaker on the way to the race course each morning and the tequila was at the ready to help provide a little moral support. “You never can be too prepared mentally for a championship event and we all took the time to be ready when the gun went off,” noted Anderson, our main trimmer, navi-guessor, and on-board entertainer!

Maverick Fetching the Mark Photo: Bill Brine

It was an event riddled with difficulties, starting Day 1 with some less than stellar starts. This meant we were playing catch up throughout. Add a busted outhaul and the shredding of a spinnaker mid-race, we knew we had to be on our toes keeping an eye out for Murphy – who seemed to have a fondness for us this particular regatta. Fortunately each race has a different winner and we clawed our way back to take a pair of 2nd places.

Day 2 arrived with breezy conditions. We again placed 2nd in the first race of the day. Andy Green chimes in: “The second day was a bit topsy-turvy. Most prominently in my mind is that in the 2nd race of the day, while going around the leeward mark in 2nd, Betsy Alison managed to catch her leg on the tiller extension bracket, and it gashed a 2x2 inch wound in her leg. It was a nasty injury, but Betsy, tough as ever, got out a new regatta t-shirt (thanks Ted) wrapped it around her leg and wound it up with the ever-trusty duct tape.” We carried on in the race with Betsy



saying to us: "Just sail the boat. I'll tell you when we should drop out of the race (or not)." We nipped our opponent at the line for the win.

The Hoist

Photo: Bill Brine

While Betsy was whisked off to the hospital, the scramble began to find a replacement for the final race of the day. Fortunately, Ross, a veteran MV Shields sailor, jumped aboard from a nearby mark boat to help us add another 2nd, all the while sharing some excellent stories about the great and the good of Edgartown. "Ross was less than enthusiastic about my suggestion to increase revenue for youth sailing on the Vineyard through the creation of a new proposed adult nightclub, The Chappy Lappy," quipped Andy.



Post-racing on Friday, we got word that Betsy with 40 fresh stitches, was benched from further racing by the doc so we quickly went on a search for a substitute crew for the final day. Who knew that there were so many weddings and other social events that weekend? Luckily, a local Martha's Vineyard High School sailor – Joe Serpa – came along for the final day. With the forecast ever-changing and wind that started at 8-knots and gusting over 20 by the finish, we were fortunate enough to win the first race which involved some serious gear changing. At that point our lead was insurmountable allowing us to skip the last race and start the celebration early. Joe said in a quote from the local newspaper, "I've never sailed a Shields before, so it was great having these guys who knew what they were doing show me the ropes and I won a national championship, too."

The win is a testament to the collective effort of the team as a whole. Each person knows their role and works hard to do it well. There is a trust across the boat that everyone can and will do their job while supporting one another whenever a mistake is made. That approach kept this team well focused on what was important each race and, ultimately, what led to victory. Much of that is a tribute to the depth of our local Fleet 9 and the great racing we have every Wednesday night. The weekly races provide a platform to improve and hone our skills so in the big events, we feel well prepared to get the job done – whether coming from behind, or in the heat of a tactical battle.

Despite repeated visits from Murphy and his law, anything that can go wrong, will go wrong, the team kept it's cool as we rocked our way to the Vineyard, sipped some tequila and emerged victorious through all the other fun tests the weekend had to offer. Our team has been sailing so long together that we're more family now than friends. Thanks to the Maverick family for making sailing so much fun and to the other competitors for pushing us to be better.



THANK YOU Edgartown Yacht Club, for an amazing event! **The Champs minus Betsy**

Youth is Served at Shields National Regatta

Zachary Grover and Nate Burbank are the Innaugural 20-Something Grantees



Photos by
Bill Brine

Taking a Bow... Perhaps right behind the Shields Championship Trophy, no other award within the class is as coveted as the Take-A-Bow Trophy. It is held in such high regard that it is only bestowed by a select committee of past "Bowmen". Winning the Bow usually involves property damage, physical, but not mortal injury, poor decision-making, shoddy seamanship or some other type of dubious activity. This year's finalists continued this tradition. Ted Slee tried for an unprecedented monopoly of the Class's two prized awards. He was nominated for his sketchy departure strategy in Falmouth. While successful in the winning the regatta, Ted's audition for Bowman status shall remain on his Bucket List. Honorable Mention goes to Michael O'Connor, the impressive young skipper of #23. Mike was enjoying a great regatta, when tragedy visited and his main halyard went entirely up the mast... without the mainsail. During the halyard retrieval, O'Connor is shown "Smooching the Mermaid" which is what any good Irishman should do when no Blarney Stone is to be found. 2018 winner, is none other than Jeff Randall, skipper of the aptly named Shields #219, **Trouble**. Yep, Jeff has fulfilled all the criteria needed for enshinement into one of Sailing's most elite circles. Shown is the hull of *Trouble* after it floated away from its mooring. Please notice the rather obvious midnight epoxy job just above the waterline. Congratulations Jeff!!



Left: Honorable Mention O'Connor Mermaid
Above: #219 Trouble
Right: Lake Macatawa Yacht Club

****Late Breaking**** New Shields Fleet in Michigan

After 13 years of inactivity, Shields Fleet 18 of Lake Macatawa YC, MI is reforming. Racing will commence in 2019.



Fleet News

Fleet 1 - Larchmont Yacht Club

submitted by Douglas Millar



Fleet One held 32 races this year, with 9 Shields qualifying for the season and 14 boats total in the water. The racing was highly competitive with all 9 qualifiers winning a race. Larchmont Race Week was held in July with excellent sailing conditions. Mike O'Connor and his team on *Rascal* #23 put in a strong performance to win the 10-race series. Takata/Campbell/Wertheim, *Katherine* #176 was 2nd with Carr/Azzaretti, *Cornelia* #221 finishing 3rd. The Overall Season Winner had a similar theme with O'Connor's *Rascal* #23 coming out on top with *Katherine* #176 2nd and

Cornelia #221 3rd for the Season. Mike O'Connor and his crew have already committed for the Ocean Great Lakes Challenge in Monterey in April! We look forward to 2019 with Fred Werblow back on the water with his titanium hip and Com Crocker back at the helm of *Rascal* #23 with his bionic knee. The fleet has big plans for 2019 including Wednesday Racing with Indian Harbor and a Junior Boat to compete against us old folks.

Above: Lure #182

Photo: Bill Brine

Fleet 3 - Chicago Yacht Club

submitted by Mike Schwartz

Chicago Yacht Club is planning to host a National Regatta to rock the sailing world! We're predicting ideal weather, great cuisine and a real city adventure for everyone planning to attend. More to come on that soon.

This year, Chicago has survived one of its toughest sailing seasons in recent memory. We've had several skippers initiated as new Dads & Grandads during the season and more than our share of cancelled races. The usual dynamic duo of 'too much' or 'too little' wind really hit our racing this year, reducing our scheduled maximum of 33 races down to a fraction of that. As always, it was competitive right to the last racing date.

Right: Season Champs



Left: CYC Belmont Station



Top performing boats for Season Championship - 1st Place Mike Schwartz, *Sundance* #130; 2nd Place Gary Ropski, *Insidious* #196 and 3rd Place Kristian and Nikki Martincic, *Peanut* #88.

Grease up those trailers and watch for some special incentives designed to get you to the big city in 2019!

Fleet 4 - Northern Massachusetts

submitted by Rick Gibson

Nothing to report from Fleet 4; we had one boat out for our annual Mano-a-mano-a-mano. You will recall that we're a geriatric fleet spread out over three harbors; getting to and from racing logistics can be a challenge for the geezer community.

With no other Shields out, the one boat sailing gave the crew a beach day and singlehanded the light air pursuit format race against the usual family oriented racer/cruisers. Like shooting fish in a barrel. Better luck next year, I hope.

Fleets 7 and 12 - Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club*submitted by Eric Anderson*

The Monterey Shields Fleets concluded another successful year on the water. Our season began in February and wrapped up in early November. Our Wednesday Sunset Series saw an average of 9 boats competing and our weekend One Design Races featured 9-10 Shields for most races with a high of 12. We had 8 different winners during our Sunset Series this season, which we believe is a record. Winners of 2018 awards were *Rolly #209* for Fleet Champion, Season Champion and Luke's Regatta and *Yankee #187* Konigshofer Regatta and Sunset Series. Our weather was accommodating this year. We sailed all 8 scheduled weekend series events and only cancelled a single Sunset Series race.

Below: Garth Hobson, Michael Polkaba and Eric Anderson

We enthusiastically welcome Chris Hardy as our newest Shields skipper. Chris will campaign *Stardust #46* in 2019, bringing our Shields fleet to 15 registered boats for the upcoming season. The fleet will host its annual Konigshofer Regatta in Stillwater Cove in Pebble Beach next August.

Monterey was well represented at away regattas in 2018, with *Tiburon #191* competing in Newport at the Ocean – Great Lakes Challenge and with *Stillwater #103*, *Meritage #175* and *Tiburon* attending the Nationals in Edgartown. While it is no easy task to regularly travel crews to away events, we very much appreciate the continued cooperation from the class and from local fleets to provide our entrants with borrowed boats, which have consistently been in outstanding condition.

**Fleet 9 - Ida Lewis Yacht Club***submitted by Ted Slee*

We had some really competitive racing between our two series held with the help of Ida Lewis YC's Race Committee. We are indebted to our PRO's Dr. Robin Wallace and Bill O'Hanley plus their volunteers who provide some of the best racing out there.

Fleet registration numbers have ticked up this year. We gained new owners Simon and Hilary Davidson and their beautiful Shields *Hope #201* as well as several owners who returned after taking a few years off. The fleet officers remain committed to growing our numbers.

Congrats to Peter Siegl and the crew of *Hawk #245* for winning the overall Aloha (non-spin) weekend series. We have come up with some ideas to grow this series, including making it more of a social event at the club afterwards, working with the Junior Sailing programs to get younger sailors on board and "bring-a-friend" where the series regulars try to get another boat out on the course. Shields sailors from around the area are encouraged to join us next year if they want to sail with a local team. It's another great way to enjoy the Shields on Narragansett Bay.

Wednesday nights remain our biggest draw. Congrats to Tim Dawson and the crew of *Aeolus #254* on winning the Wednesday Night Overall Trophy. 2nd -*Grace #107* & 3rd -*John Dory #217*.

This year we hosted the 2018 OGLC during the last weekend in June. Many thanks to the owners who loaned their boats and to Ida Lewis YC for running the event in very difficult conditions. We couldn't have done it without their help. Congrats to Eric Anderson and crew from *Tiburon #191* for winning the event and who now have the great honor of hosting it. The event is scheduled to happen before our season starts and we'll be looking to find a team to represent Fleet 9. Ron Oard has already claimed a spot for Fleet 17.



Many thanks to John Burnham and Reed Baer & team for their efforts at the Shields New England Championships finishing in second. Newport will be hosting this event next year during the Sail Newport – Newport Regatta July 6 & 7. **Left: 2018 OGLC in Newport- Ron Oard Glory #158, John Shanahan Old Paint #71, Tom McManus Circe #207, Bob Banas Pearl #64 & Ted Slee Maverick #33 Downwind Photo: Bill Shea**

Fleet 9 News - (Continued from page 11)

Hawk #245, Grace #107 & Maverick #33 headed to Nationals this year on Martha's Vineyard. The Edgartown fleet did an amazing job with this regatta. I don't think there is a better place to travel for a Nationals. Our teams had great fun this year and only wish we could have won the Kap Dunn Trophy, but look forward to Chicago where we'll try to bring it back to Newport.

Fleet 10 - Beverly Yacht Club

submitted by Ken Deyett

How sweet it is...We all know how sweet it is to race a Shields, to race at your home waters. In Marion I feel the sweetness is just a little sweeter.

The sweetness of Marion brings skippers and crew to drive the short distance from Providence, or a serious trip down from Boston or a few hour drive from NH, ME or CT. Why? You know.... On the dock on a Thursday evening at 5 racing at 6. The Marion fleet brings the talent of National Champions, to second and third-generation Shields sailors, to first season racers and everything in between. In Marion you never wonder if you will have wind because you always do. Last season we sailed the majority of races in 12-15 kts. How sweet is that? We race on Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons. We have two races each day, approximately 4 starts per week, 16 mark roundings, hundreds of wind shifts and current play, thousands of opportunities and tons of fun.



Left: Nuts #244 (Bill Brine Photo)

Right: Jay Dayton #73 Black Pearl & Ed Cassidy #98 Intrepid

Fleet 21- Tred Avon Yacht Club

submitted by Harry Seamans

Eight Shields filled the bracket for the inaugural Thompson Cup Match Racing Cup, including *Merlin #149* – once Jim Thompson's boat, now sailed by his good friend and former crew member, John Christ. Spirited jousting in the "best 2 of 3 matches" elimination rounds last spring proved to be a fun-filled learning experience for skippers, crews and race officials alike.

After a frustrating season weather-wise, the final weekend of TAYC's 2018 racing season delivered a picture perfect, 50-degree day with steady and moderate breezes for the Thompson Cup finals pitting Jim Alpi's *Seagull #180* against Ed Cassidy's *Intrepid #98*.

An interesting backdrop to the championship pairing is Alpi and Cassidy's close personal friendship – including several seasons in the cockpit together campaigning *Seagull* at home in Oxford and at Shields Nationals in Larchmont and Newport. These guys know each other's tendencies so well that it was no surprise when neither gained a commanding lead during the final races. A hard won, come-from-behind victory in the opening match put *Seagull* just one win away from capturing the Cup. Then, with no more margin for error, the determined team aboard *Intrepid* dug its way out of a hole after the start of the second race to even the score and force a final, decisive match which it went on to claim by the narrowest of margins.

**The Shields Class
2019
Premier Regattas**



**Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge
NE Shields Championship
Shields National Regatta**

**Monterey
Newport
Chicago**

**Apr 26-28
Jul 6-7
Sep 19-22**