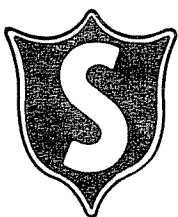


# Shields



# Masthead

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHIELDS ONE-DESIGN CLASS NATIONAL SAILING ASSOCIATION

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Volume 7, Number 1

Marion, Massachusetts

February 1980

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Note from the Editor: In the interests of getting information out to the Shields Fleet this Masthead will be a simple design. We plan to use this format from time to time, but will also use the more polished style again. To gather the information for this issue of the Masthead, I called representatives of each of the different Fleets throughout the country. If you have news, issues etc. to be included in the Masthead, please contact me at 617-267-8612 - 19 Braddock Park Boston 02116. Joan Thacher Tiffany  
Editor

Missing Boats: In the November issue of the Masthead we listed fifty missing Shields, identified only by their sail (hull) numbers. Since that time we have succeeded in accounting for all but twenty-one of them. Thanks goes in large part to those representatives of the three service academies where we had somehow "lost" seventeen boats. Pat Healy, Head of Varsity Sailing at the U.S. Naval Academy, reports having six boats under his command and has expressed interest in sending a team to the Nationals this year. Hugh McGraw, Head Sailing Coach at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, reports having a fleet of seven Shields and indicated his intention of someday competing at the regional or national level. Capt. Hill, reporting for the Maine Maritime Academy, has a fleet of four Shields which he believes to be the only ones located in that state. If any of our readers knows of the name and sail number of the Shields sunk in Long Island Sound back in 1976 approximately two weeks after the Nationals, please get in touch with Nick Baker at 285 Winter Street, Weston, Mass. 02193. It must be amongst the following list of numbers representing those boats that are still unaccounted for: 12, 31, 37, 42, 43, 56, 58, 73, 102, 109, 115, 117, 132, 152, 153, 159, 169, 172, 203, 204, 209.

Rush Creek Invitational Regatta to be April 4, 5, 6: Enjoy some Texas hospitality and good competition! One boat has been reserved for each of the Shields fleets throughout the country. To date Chicago, Marblehead and Edgartown have indicated they will attend the Regatta. Skippers are welcome to bring their own crew, but need not, as Rush Creek sailors will gladly fill in. Transportation is provided to and from the airport in Dallas. Housing is provided also. Everyone who has attended this Regatta raves about the fun and the sailing. Contact John Wright at 214-349-7016. Y'all come! -- Other news from Texas: Marshall Nelson is leading the winter series. Al Meril and Jim Berry follow in close competition. In anticipation of hosting the Nationals in 1981, the Rush Creek Fleet purchased a Shields from Chicago. This boat has not yet been sold. Twenty sailors competed in the USYRU Championship of Champions at Rush Creek this year. The competition was held in catamarans with all of the sailors having won a national championship this year. Al Meril and Bonnie Shore represented the Shields Class. Sailing a catamaran was a huge difference from the Shields - with plenty of capsizings to prove it!

Boat Show: February 23 - March 2, Commonwealth Pier in Boston. Cape Cod Ship Building Co. will have a brand new Shields on display at the Boat Show in Boston. Local Shields sailors are invited to help sell the boat by being on hand to answer questions. Bryan McSweeney has been working hard to have the Shields represented. Newt Clemson has already indicated an interest in helping. If you can help at the Boat Show contact Gordon Goodwin at 617-295-3550. This is a great opportunity to develop more interest in the Shields Class. Cape Cod Ship is also in the process of doing a new brochure on the Shields. There have been four Shields built this past year. One has been sold to Lake George, New York.

New England Dinner and Meeting to be March 14 at the Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. Among the considerations at the meeting will be: location and qualifications for the New England Championship, election of officers and the Manhasset Bay Challenge Cup Races. The Salignac Cup donated by Maidstone Liquors is the prize for the New England Championship. Slides of the National Regatta and a movie about the Sydney/Hobart Race will be shown. Save the date to get together with New England Shields sailors. The Buzzards Bay Fleet is hosting this event and the local officers - Rick Wakeman, Fleet Capt.; Ed Tiffany, Secretary; George Gardner, Measurer and Jim Bougas, Treasurer - have served as the officers for the New England Association. This is the tenth annual dinner!

National Championships on September 10 - 14 to be hosted by Martha's Vineyard Fleet at Edgartown. Brandon Harrison, a new Shields sailor, is Regatta Chairman. The exact number of boats has not yet been determined, but support is expected from other local fleets - ie.: Buzzards Bay (Marion), Narragansett Bay (Newport) and Northern Mass. Bay (Marblehead). Jim Cannon, a long time Shields sailor, is Commodore of the Edgartown Yacht Club this year, and we can expect top hospitality and sailing. Special thanks to the Martha's Vineyard Fleet for hosting the Nationals.

Northern Mass. Bay reports a testimonial dinner was held in the fall honoring Eugene Connolly. Mr. Connolly now in his eighties was presented with a silver tray honoring his contributions to the Shields fleet and to sailing. He began racing 60 plus years ago and over the years has owned three different Shields. He is an excellent competitor! Up until three years ago "Gene" continued to race actively and that year finished third overall for the season. The Northern Mass. Bay Fleet made Mr. Connolly Honorary Fleet Capt. Shields #11 is for sale. The present owner is John A. Perkins of 30 Tupelo Road, Swampscott, Mass. 01907. The asking price is \$8,500. Newt Clemson continues as Fleet Capt. with Bob Nutt Fleet Secretary. The Marblehead Assessors have recently assessed Shields at \$9,300 to \$12,500 - the Fleet is appealing!

Chicago: Martin Plonus has been elected Fleet Capt. and Nancy Hostak, Fleet Secretary. The Fleet sail purchase is for mainsails from Shore Sails.

Narraganset Bay: Gordon Benjamin, Dan Hadley and Chuck Roberts have been elected to the Board of Directors. Each Director serves for three years and is elected on a rotating basis. Dan Hadley is the most recently elected. The Board selects the Fleet Officers. Gary Lash, Tim Dwyer, Bob Berglund and Steve Crowley have purchased #169 from Nantucket making a total of 21 boats in the Narraganset Fleet.

Manhasset Bay Fleet: The Fleet sail purchase this year is for yarn tempered jibs made by North. New Fleet Officers are: Tom Callan, Fleet Capt.; Dick Jordan, Fleet Secretary, and Bob Howard, Treasurer. Several boats have been restored and painted during the winter including #49 painted "fighting lady yellow" to be called "Hawk" and another painted orange to be called "Juice." #38 belonging to Cecil Akre has been chartered to Jerry Bushey and Bill Thomas.

Martha's Vineyard: Jim Cannon reports an error in his article in the last Masthead. Leonard Green and Philip Smith won the August series and as a result qualified for the Nationals. Because they were unable to attend runner-up Walter Eberstadt competed in their place.

Photos of National Regatta available from the following photographers:

Norman Fortier  
242 Elm Street  
South Dartmouth, Mass. 02748 617-993-3658

Natalie Dickinson  
142 Neshobe Road  
Waban, Mass. 02168 617-527-2708

Gail Sleeman  
165 Elm Street  
South Dartmouth, Mass. 02748 617-997-1633

Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club: For the second time a team of sailors from the Seawanhaka Corinthian Shields Fleet went to England to compete for "The Islands Sailing Trophy." This team race was held at Cowes this summer just before the start of the Fastnet Race. The racing is done in a 5.5 one design boat called "Darings." Although the Americans technically won the series, it was determined a tie with the last race thrown out because of the number of breakdowns. It blew very hard! Mimi Neff, Perry Neff, Nick Gumprecht, John Sheffield and Richard Coons were the Skippers from the U.S. The competition was originally done at the invitation of Prince Charles in 1975. Over the years everyone has become great friends. The next race will be in 1981 in the United States.

Death of Ralph Thacher: It is with great sadness, but also with tremendous pride in a wonderful life that I report the sudden death of my father on December 11. He was long involved with the Shields Class having been General Manager of Cape Cod Ship Building when the first Shields were constructed. Most recently he served as Vice President and General Manager of Burr Bros. Boats in Marion. He was a leader in the boating industry, having served on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, as advisor to the American Boat and Yacht Council and as a director of the American Boat Builders and Repairers Association. Last year, Dad received the Chapman Award given by the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers as their highest award for contributions to the sport of boating. Over the years when not racing himself he was always at hand to provide assistance. Those who came to the National Regatta in Marion last year will remember his active involvement whether setting marks, hauling boats, providing rescue or a tow. More than one racer was amazed upon breaking their boom to have him come alongside with another in time for the next race! Better yet, he was a patient and willing teacher, crew and companion to me and to my brother, Brett.

Address Changes: All recipients of the SHIELDS MASTHEAD are urged to check their address on the mailing label bearing this latest piece of communication. Please make note of any additions, deletions, or changes requested and forward them to Nick Baker, 285 Winter St., Weston, MA 02193. Furthermore, fleet secretaries should send in their roster of officers for the 1980 season, directing them to the aforementioned address.