



## 1978 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA

## Dick Clark Wins Again!

Shields Fleet #1, Western Long Island Sound, hosted the 1978 National Championship Regatta at the historic Larchmont Yacht Club. Twenty-four entrants, representing all eleven active fleets qualified for the highly competitive series. Five former National Champions—Arthur Knapp, Jr. from the host fleet, Martin Plonus, Chicago; Dick Clark, Monterey; Gordon Benjamin, Newport, and defending champion and outgoing Class President Frank Scully of Marblehead—vied for the title with numerous others who had enjoyed successful 1978 seasons. The latter group included Captain Chris Withers, USN, who has weathered elimination series throughout the country to win the all-Navy Sailing Championship; Steve Benjamin, representing Yale, had been named "Sailor of the Year" by the Intercollegiate Sailing Associates; and Bonnie Shore, the 1978 Adams Cup winner who subsequently was awarded the prestigious "Yachtswoman of the Year" title. When the four days of hotly contested racing were done, the 1975 Champion, Dick Clark, had won again, proving he can sail equally well on both coasts.

The Regatta Committee, chaired by Hoke Simpson, was organized to the last detail, including the arrangements of sailing conditions which covered the spectrum from zephyrs to a blustery blow!

Light-air wizard Frank Scully found the first race conditions to his liking and won easily, with 1976 National Champion Gordon Benjamin and co-skipper Bonnie Shore finishing second. The Committee wisely postponed the second race until the following day when Dick Clark was the morning victor and Jim Moore from Manhasset the afternoon winner. The overcast third day of racing brought frustratingly fluky conditions (for some!) in the morning, building up to a good solid blow by afternoon. Steve Benjamin showed his versatility by sweeping both races, followed in the morning by Dick Clark and in the afternoon by Dan Hadley of Newport.

The final day, with the championship very much in doubt, fittingly brought one of those lively fall northeaster's so treasured by Class-founder Corny Shields. Counting the allotted "throw-outs", Dick Clark, Steve Benjamin, Gordon Benjamin/Bonnie Shore, and Jim Moore were all tightly grouped with several others having a "possible shot" at the title.

A number of general recalls at the start reflected the eagerness of the entire fleet to get going in the glorious conditions. Frank Scully won his second race of the

series, followed by Mike Deland from the Buzzards Bay Fleet. Mike Grinnell was third, enabling him to just nose out Jim Moore for fourth overall. For the pre-race leaders it was a frustrating finale. Benjamin/Shore withdrew following a starting line infraction and Dick Clark seeing Steve Benjamin among the early leaders was forced to gamble and slipped back in the pack, opening the door for both Steve Benjamin and Moore. Neither could capitalize and Dick Clark won his second

### Race Results - Page 4

National Championship by 3/4 of a point! Steven Benjamin was second followed closely by the Gordon Benjamin/Bonnie Shore team.

The 1978 Championship could not have been more competitive or fun. Hoke Simpson and his committee and the WLIS Fleet Captained by Fred Werblow earned the congratulations of the entire class. Jay Dorling and his Race Committee are to be thanked for their considerable efforts and "Boots" LeBouillier and his highly professional Protest Committee rendered justice in a "speedy and fair" fashion. Of particular note was the organization masterpiece wrought by "Mimi" (Mrs. W.H.) James who arranged housing for nearly 100 participants.

All told yet another excellent Regatta... Time to gear up for Buzzards Bay!

### Call for News

Do you have any interesting photos or stories that involve the Shields directly or indirectly? Please share them with the rest of the class and send them to the class secretary for possible publication in a future Masthead.



Fleet Secretary Bryan McSweeney sailing in a southwest breeze on Buzzards Bay

## Buzzards Bay to Host 1979 National Regatta

Activities to begin September 15

Regatta Chairman, Joan Tiffany, has announced that the National Regatta at Beverly Yacht Club in Marion, Mass. on Buzzards Bay will begin with the opening of registration on Saturday morning, September 15. The tune-up race will be on Sunday afternoon followed by the Annual Meeting and Skippers Meeting that evening. Official racing will begin on Monday, September 17 with a harbor start at 9:00 a.m. Weather permitting, two races will be held each day until the completion of the series.

The Regatta Committee has plans well underway for first-rate racing, as well as hospitality that will include housing, transportation to and from the airport, spectator boats, and good food and drink!

Marion is a small, historic seaport town located on Buzzards Bay in southeastern Massachusetts. The town, first settled in the 1600's, was originally called Sippican, and throughout its history has always been bound closely to the sea for its livelihood. The Indians fished here, the early settlers set up saltworks, and later the town with its protected harbor was a center for the coasting and whaling trades.

(continued on page 4)

# Shields Masthead

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Cornelius Shields

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**THANKS TO SCULLY,  
CANNON AND CONNOLLY**

The Shields Class owes a 21-gun salute to Frank Scully, Jim Cannon, and Gene Connolly for taking over as interim Class President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Measurer respectively during the past year. They succeeded in bringing the class through a difficult time and getting us back on a nice steady course. We all thank them and hope they will continue in the future to show the interest and enthusiasm in the Shields Class that they have demonstrated in the past. Without these three concerned people, the Shields Class nationally and in New England would not be as strong and healthy as it is now. Bravo and many thanks.

**Class Blue Book**

Jim Cannon has updated the class specifications and by-laws. The new pages for your Blue Book will be mailed to you. For a complete Blue Book send a check for \$10 to: Bryan J. McSweeney, Shields Class National Secretary, 3 Main Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738.

**Annual Dues Notice**

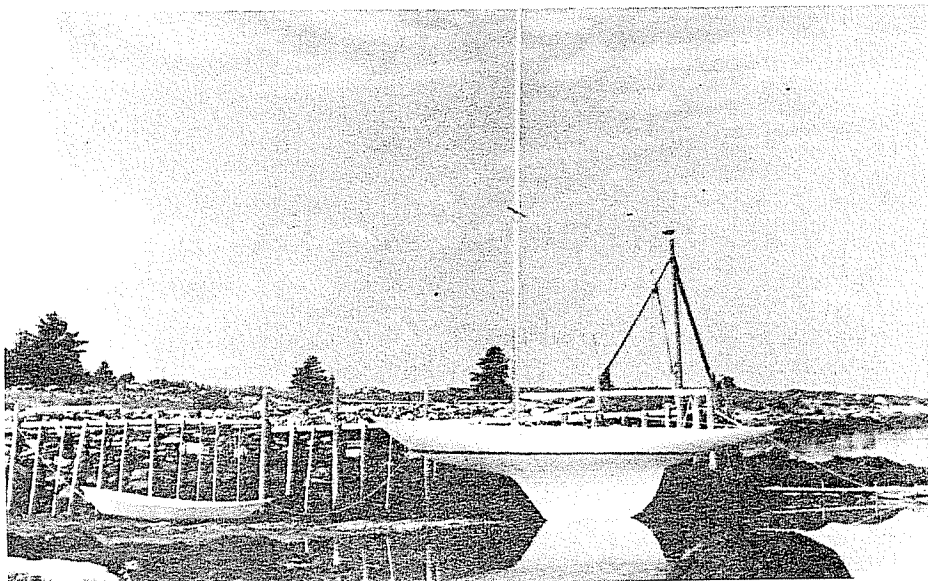
All Fleet Treasurers are hereby reminded to send in their dues for the current year as follows:

Active members ..... \$20.00  
Associate members ..... \$15.00  
Sponsoring members ..... \$50.00

Please make checks payable to:  
NATIONAL SHIELDS CLASS

SAILING ASSOCIATION

and send to: Nicholas J. Baker, 285 Winter Street, Weston, Ma 02193.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"The barometer is high, the air is light and dry and I can't help but feel exhilarated..." writes Corny Shields about his beloved northeast breeze. That was the scene, Long Island Sound dancing and glistening in a northeast breeze and September sun as the competitors and organizers of the 1978 Nationals gathered on the lawn of the Larchmont Yacht Club for the awarding of prizes. Corny spoke eloquently about the Shields Class and sparked an exhilaration, shared I'm sure by all present, for the potential of the Class.

Happily, the initial agenda of your new officers will be to consolidate recent gains and to further organize and formalize the governing principles of the Class. That is possible thanks to the dedicated efforts of our predecessors, Frank Scully, President; Jim Cannon, Secretary; and Gene Connolly, Measurer and guiding legal guru. They unselfishly provided leadership and continuity during a difficult transition period. The divisive debate over "yarn-tempered" sails was resolved at the annual meeting—a decision substantiated by the winning performance of "soft" sails in the Nationals. Our financial condition is sound, Cape Cod Shipbuilding Co. is building new Shields... Our previous officers have earned the gratitude of us all.

There is, nonetheless, much of an organizational nature to be done and several of those projects are well under way. A computerized mailing list of the Class has been developed and Jim Cannon has chaired a committee to update the "Bluebook" so that the by-laws are clearly stated and readily available to all. I am working with the Regional Vice Presidents to name a Technical Committee with a charter to insure that potential technical improvements are carefully analyzed and adopted only when demonstrated to be unquestionable advancements to the uni-

que craft which we now have. The plans for the 1979 National Championships in Marion on Buzzards Bay are now in full swing.

One unhappy occurrence which must be noted is that Gene Connolly, due to a bothersome back, has sold his boat. Gene, 87 years young, has been a mainstay of the Class, highly competitive on the racecourse and donor of countless shore-based hours to the Class. He will be missed at the helm but we will continue to call on his wise counsel. (The contributions of this fine yachtsman and gentleman will be enumerated in more detail in a future issue.)

As your new President, I view my prime mandate to work with the other officers and each of you to preserve and further solidify the one-design integrity of the Shields Class—for it is that concept which most markedly distinguishes our lovely boat from others. We alone among comparable classes have a boat which truly tests skippers' and crews' abilities on the racecourse. Success is not contingent upon dollars spent ashore on fancy gear or sails for every condition, but rather on the touch on the helm easing to weather in a blow or the hand on the spinnaker sheet in a dying breeze.

The Shields has brought great pleasure to each of us, has given countless young sailors the privilege on "big boat" training, has served as the natural choice for numerous national events. It has earned a loyal and growing group of supporters. I look forward to working with each of you, to receiving your advice and assistance in preserving and building upon the Class strengths. The Shields, when properly trimmed, "sails herself." So too, when given a chance, does it "sell itself." Our job is to bring sensible guidance and balance to the Class, thereby insuring its continued success.

-- Michael R. Deland

# Fleet Waves

## John Wright Wins Rush Creek Regatta

March 22-23, 1979

In the final results of the three races sailed for the Regatta, the Rush Creek Yacht Club placed ahead of all the visiting boats: John Wright with crew of Manning Grinnan, Jane and Ben Garrett and Al Crozier won the Regatta. Marshall Nelson placed second and Herb Swafford third. Buzzards Bay placed sixth leading the three Chicago boats. All courses were Olympic triangles with the finish to windward.

The Rush Creek Yacht Club Invitational Regatta is a wonderful event that we heartily recommend others to enjoy. Jurgen Ringer, Regatta Chairman, with his committee planned for good racing and provided gracious hospitality. This year nine boats competed: five from Rush Creek, three from Chicago and one from Buzzards Bay. Including one tune-up, seven races were planned, but unfortunately, we were able to race only the one tune-up and three regatta races in the four days due to extreme winds gusting to 50+ knots. Under these trying conditions the Race Committee chaired by Jim Anderson did an excellent job in not only running the races but also in making decisions about the races we did not race.

The Rush Creek Yacht Club is established for sailboat racing and in its six-year history has hosted outstanding racing for National and Olympic qualifying and championship events. While we were there Flying Dutchman sailors and boats were arriving to practice for upcoming Olympic qualifying races to take place the following week. This past winter three club members won the Junior Lightning World Championship held in Peru.

Boats at Rush Creek—on Lake Ray Hubbard (5 x 20 miles)—are either dry sailed or kept at slips behind a breakwater. In addition to the Shields fleet, there are J-24s, San Juan 24s, Lightnings, C-Scows etc.

The drawing for boats was held as we arrived at the Yacht Club on Thursday. The first regatta race was held on Saturday morning with the wind blowing from the North gusting to 25 knots, temperature about 65. Following the race everyone went ashore for lunch and racing was postponed until 12:30 p.m. at which time we all went out to sail and with winds at 35+ everyone was sent in again and racing was called off for the afternoon.

On Sunday the high had finally blown through and with a start from the dock at about 8:00 a.m., wind 5 knots from the South (prevailing), temperature 70. We raced two races with the wind coming up to about 10 knots.

Everyone would have liked to have raced six races had the winds cooperated, and we hope the home team would have had more competition with more races. There was no limitation on the number of

crew—in heavy air, boats could carry five people and in light air could go as low as two. Also there was no limitation on sail usage except measurement. As a result, within one race a reaching spinnaker and a downwind spinnaker could both be used. Everyone was most cordial about loaning sails and providing crew.

The prizes selected by Barbara and Al Meril were antique ship hardware and worth the competition! Each had appropriate plaques indicating the regatta and finishing place. All participants received a commemorative coffee mug with Rush Creek club flag and 1979 Invitational Regatta indicated.

1. John Wright #30, Rush Creek
2. Marshall Nelson #200, Rush Creek
3. Herb Swafford #105, Rush Creek
4. Al Meril #28, Rush Creek
5. Mark Pistorius #51, Rush Creek
6. Joan Tiffany #4, Buzzard's Bay
7. Mark Wurtzebark #59, Chicago
8. Dennis Klepper #126, Chicago
9. George Graziano, Chicago

Attention Fleet Secretaries: Please send the results of your early racing season and, if known, the name of who will represent your Fleet in the National Regatta.

EVERYONE'S INVITED

## New England Championships Start August 3rd

The New England Championship Event for Shields will be held as part of the Buzzards Bay Regatta at Marion, Mass. and is scheduled for Friday, August 3rd through Sunday, August 5th. This is the second year that the Salignac Cup will be awarded to the winner of this event. As all participants of last year's Championship can attest, the trophies and cocktail party sponsored by the Calignac Cognac people were fine indeed.

We expect a big turnout from the members of the New England Shields Fleets and would welcome inquiries from anyone outside of our area who would like to take part in this event. It will be a fine warm-up for the Nationals. There is a possibility that a few boats may be available for charter for the Regatta. Also, some skippers may be in need of crew. So, if you're interested in seeing Buzzards Bay before September, contact the class National Secretary in Marion.

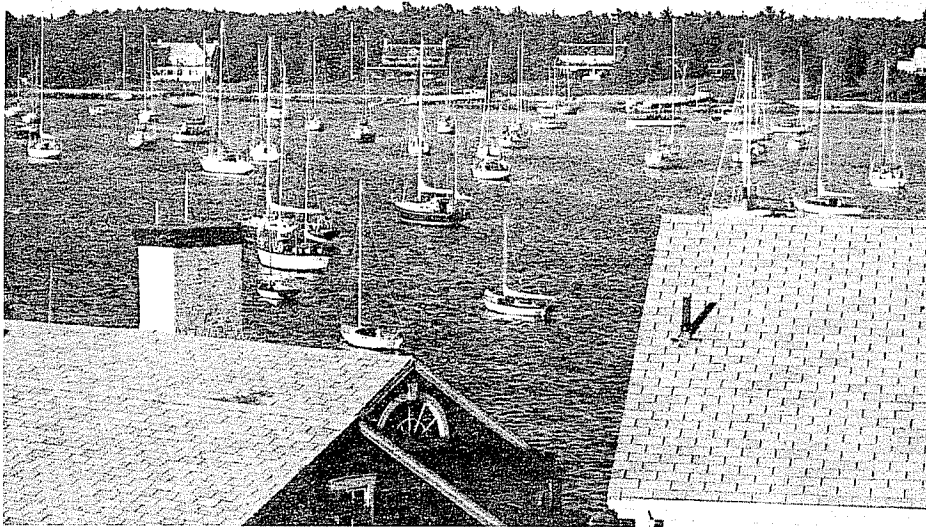


### BUMPER STICKERS ORDERED

Your class officers have ordered several hundred handsome long-lasting vinyl bumper stickers with a white silhouette of the Shields on a blue background and the following saying: "SAVE GAS WITH CLASS - SAIL A SHIELDS." These should be distributed shortly. Additional bumper stickers may be obtained by sending \$2.00 (payable to the NATIONAL SHIELDS CLASS SAILING ASSOC.) c/o Nicholas J. Baker, 285 Winter Street, Weston, MA 02193.



Rush Creek Yacht Club on Lake Ray Hubbard near Dallas, Texas



View of Marion Harbor, location of Beverly Yacht Club, host of New England Championship Regatta in August and 1979 National Regatta in September

## REGATTA 1979

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Marion is located about one hour from Boston and Providence. The greatest of the old whaling ports, New Bedford, is 10 miles west of Marion. With the restoration of its historic waterfront area well under way and the famous whaling museum open year round, a visit is recommended. Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket are all nearby also.

Over the years the Beverly Yacht Club has hosted many national and international sailing events. To the sailor, the winds and waves of Buzzards Bay are what recommend this place most strongly. The geographical shape of the bay, which allows for a maximum thermal effect, produces steady and often strong fair weather winds throughout the year. The shallowness of the bay when combined with the wind, the Cape Cod Canal, and the many rivers which drain into the Bay produces some interesting tides and currents.

### Measurer's Comments -

Edward Brainard, the National Measurer, has advised the Masthead that he plans to enforce the class specification and measurement by-laws firmly to assure that the one-design nature of our class remains true. Sails that do not measure in (at room temperature) will not be allowed in the Nationals and will have to be recut at the owners' expense if they wish to compete.

All questions regarding specifications and measurements should be referred to Mr. Edward Brainard, 312 Delano Road, Marion, Massachusetts 02738.

### Shields Class Ties -

It has been decided, after reviewing materials from several manufacturers, that William Chelsea, Ltd. of Scarsdale, New York will be the supplier of our Shields Class tie and silk scarf. We are in the preliminary design stages now, and if all goes according to schedule, the ties and scarves will be ready for the National Meeting in Marion in September.

## How They Finished at Larchmont

1. **Richard Clark**, Monterey Bay  
7-1-5-6-2-17 20¾
2. **Stephen Benjamin**, Manhasset Bay  
10-3-13-1-1-7 21½
3. **Gordon Benjamin, Jr.**,  
**Bonnie Shore**, Narragansett Bay  
2-6-4-9-4-WD 25
4. **Michael Grinnell**, Manhasset Bay  
4-14-9-3-10-3 29
5. **James Moore, Jr.**, Manhasset Bay  
5-7-1-17-7-10 29¾
6. **Francis Scully**, Marblehead  
1-9-12-12-WD-1 34½
7. **Allen Merit**,  
Cecil Akre, Dallas  
18-15-2-7-8-9 41
8. **Richard Wakeman**, Buzzards Bay  
22-16-14-4-3-5 42
9. **Arthur Knapp, Jr.**, WLIS  
9-5-18-5-18-6 43
10. **Michael Deland**, Buzzards Bay  
WD-10-7-21-5-2 45
10. **Daniel Hadley**, Narragansett Bay  
15-4-DQ-2-12-12 45
12. **Chris Withers**, Narragansett Bay  
16-2-11-8-11-18 48
13. **Martin Plonas**, Chicago  
8-DQ-3-14-DQ-4 55
14. **Mark & Susan Wurtzebach**, Chicago  
11-12-6-20-6-DQ 55
15. **Frederick Clemson, Jr.**,  
**James Porath**, Marblehead  
6-11-19-15-15-13 60
16. **James Cannon**, Martha's Vineyard  
12-13-20-11-9-16 61
17. **Dennis Kleper**  
Dominic Gatto, Chicago  
3-21-17-24-13-19 73
18. **Thomas Walsh**, Monterey Bay  
DQ-8-8-10-DQ-WD 77
19. **John Read**, Marblehead  
20-18-16-19-16-8 77
20. **Cecil Akre**  
**John Bennett**, Manhasset Bay  
17-WD-10-23-14-15 79
21. **Frederick Werblow**, WLIS  
14-20-15-16-17-WD 82
22. **Hoke Simpson**, WLIS  
13-19-23-22-20-11 85
23. **Robin Montgomerie**, Narragansett Bay  
21-17-22-18-19-14 89
24. **Mark Pistorius**, Dallas  
19-DQ-21-13-21-20 94

**Shields Masthead**

Bryan J. McSweeney, Class Secretary  
Three Main Street  
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