

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHIELDS CLASS SAILING ASSOCIATION

# MASTHEAD

SPRING 2015



## 51<sup>st</sup> Nationals Preview



*Crossing Tacks with Fleet 9 in Newport*

Photo: Robbie Benjamin

# MASTHEAD

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHIELDS CLASS SAILING ASSOCIATION

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## MEMBERSHIP

## Shields Class Association 2015 Membership

- Registered Yacht and 1 Active Member**  
(Skipper or Regular Helmsperson)..... **\$50**
- Active Member** (each additional Skipper  
or regular Helmsperson) ..... **\$15**
- Associate Member** ..... **\$10**
- TOTAL** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*If including a check, please mail to:*

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Wendy Goodwin, Shields Class Secretary  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Sail #: \_\_\_\_\_ Area Sailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Yacht Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are payable to the Shields Class Association and are due June 1, 2015. If you are affiliated with a Shields Fleet or Yacht Club, please pay your dues through your fleet treasurer. If you are an owner/crew not affiliated with a particular fleet but are day sailing, cruising or racing PHRF, we want to hear from you and value your membership.

## CLASS SECRETARY NOTES

This year, your Governing board met monthly and the minutes are posted on the class website. We distributed 150 Shields coffee table books. The feedback was incredible and we are now sold out. Discussions continue about ways to distribute a second edition. Your officers worked together to apply, supply follow up documentation and have been approved for tax exempt status. Believe me, it was alarming to see IRS come up on my caller ID so I'm glad we are over this hurdle.

There is still much to do if we as a group are going to remain intact and contribute to the sport of sailing for another 50 years. I'm encouraged by the new Shields fleets that appeared since becoming your secretary and am delighted to see existing fleets run with the ball with such enthusiasm. It has been my pleasure to serve as your secretary and look forward to seeing you all on the racecourse in Newport!

Sincerely,  
Wendy J. Goodwin  
Shields Class Secretary



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If 2014 was a year to celebrate the history of the Shields Class, then 2015 is the season when the competition really heats up, with the season bookended by regattas on either coast. We open in California, at the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, with the Oceans Great Lakes Challenge Cup on the first weekend of May. Fleet 12 earned the right to host after Pakhtun Shah won the inaugural event in Chicago last year. They will also be hosting the 2016 Shields Nationals, so this is a chance for visiting crews to gain some valuable experience at the venue.

Then the gloves really come off in September, when Fleet 9 hosts the 51st Shields Nationals in Newport. There's a reason that Fleet 9 has won four of the last five nationals and every single Kapp Dunn since Fleet 21 first dedicated the trophy for best Fleet performance: these guys are good. Think you have what it takes to compete against some of the best sailors in the country? Meet me in Newport and let's take it to them.

As always, much has been happening behind the scenes to keep the Shields Class moving forward. Words alone cannot express my gratitude to Wendy Goodwin, Jay Dayton, and Richard Robbins, for their tireless, year-round effort to build and sustain this Class. They've spent countless hours updating the membership files/website/Class rules, writing up the Minutes of our monthly Board meetings, working on the budget and negotiating with the IRS. Thanks as well to the other members of the Board of Governors for their dedication and counsel.

This issue of the Masthead is brought to you by Fleet 9 and two-time national champ John Burnham. Thank you, John, for bringing us a little preview of what Regatta Chair Robbie Benjamin and her team are planning for the Championship Regatta in September. While the Masthead tends to focus on goings on at the National level, the strength of our Class lies with our Fleets. Thank you to our dedicated Fleet Captains for all they do to help get us out on the water week after week. Read through their Fleet updates for some great fleet building ideas.

Happy Sailing, and I look forward to seeing you on both coasts this year!

Com Crocker  
Shields Class President  
*Rascal*, #23



**Multiple overlaps at the leeward mark are normal on a Wednesday night in Fleet 9. Here No. 107 (Reed Baer/John Burnham), No. 181 (Dirk Johnson) and No. 121 (David Bush Brown) round ahead of a crowd.**



**FLEET 1: Shields *Rascal* #23**

### ON THE COVER:

**On a windy Wednesday night, Fleet 9 Shields beat upwind in Narragansett Bay's East Passage.**

## ORIGINS

### THE IDA LEWIS YACHT CLUB

by C.P.B Jefferys  
Newport Historical Society

#### For information

on **Newport**, including

**WHERE TO STAY, WHAT**

**TO EAT, WHERE TO SHOP,**

**THINGS TO DO,** and

**VISITORS RESOURCES,**

please check out

**Discover Newport**, [http://](http://www.discovernewport.org/)

[www.discovernewport.](http://www.discovernewport.org/)

[org/](http://www.discovernewport.org/).

An additional resource

is the **Newport County**

**Chamber of Commerce**

website, [http://www.](http://www.newportchamber.com/)

[newportchamber.com/](http://www.newportchamber.com/)

For more info, including

nearby airports and shuttle

services, visit the regatta

website.

## A One-Woman Lifeboat Station



**The Ida Lewis Yacht Club** derives its name from the nationally famous daughter of the keeper of the Lime Rock Light on the southern side of Newport's inner harbor.

In the 1850s the Lighthouse Service decided to place a light on the largest of the Lime Rocks, a series of ledges approximately 900 feet from shore. Soon after, the *Newport Mercury* reported, "One would suppose that there was hardly room to swing a cat on the Lime Rocks and yet a spot large enough has been found for a commodious two story brick house with ample space in front...with a walk leading to the lighthouse and the little beach where the keeper hauls his boat." This house, which has weathered several hurricanes, is now the Ida Lewis clubhouse.

Ida Lewis succeeded her father as lighthouse keeper at Lime Rock Light, and as early as 1869 was famous as a one-woman life boat station. Up to and including that year, she had made so many daring rescues from the waters of Newport Harbor that she was written up extensively in the national press. She is officially credited with saving 18 lives, and the burgee of the yacht club that bears her name has a blue lighthouse with 18 white stars representing the lives she saved.

In the mid 1920s, most of the Lime Rock was sold to the Narragansett Bay Regatta Association, a group of yachtsmen interested in preserving the historic house and creating a yacht club and landing for the excellent anchorage in Brenton Cove. In 1928, they officially organized under the name Ida Lewis Yacht Club.

*Note about the author: C. P. Beauchamp ("Cham") Jefferys, a long-time Ida Lewis member who died in 1980, was an active, well-loved, and well-respected teacher, historian, and yachtsman. His text has been abridged for this publication.*



### IDA LEWIS YACHT CLUB

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Newport, RI 02840

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# The 51st Shields National Championship

Hosted by Shields Fleet 9 & Ida Lewis Yacht Club

September 8 - 12, 2015

<http://www.shieldsclass.com/2015/>

2015 Shields Nationals  
Newport, Rhode Island

Ida Lewis Yacht Club and Shields Fleet 9 enthusiastically invite you to the 51st Shields National Championship in Newport, RI in September. Racing days will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday September 10th – 12th, ending with an awards ceremony and dinner at Ida Lewis Yacht Club.

As host club and host fleet, it is our pleasure to welcome all the participants of the Shields National Championship to Ida Lewis Yacht Club. We are honored and pleased to serve again as the hosts for this competitive, prestigious event, welcoming back old friends and looking forward to making new ones. The competition will be excellent on the water and the events onshore will be memorable. (We'll leave the results up to you.)

The Notice of Race is on the 2015 Shields Nationals website (above). Registration is online at YachtScoring.com, linked from the same page (click on Registration Instructions) or go directly to <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=1312>.

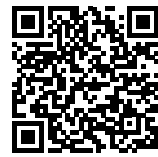
Owners are able to enter their information and their crew information. Owners must start at the Online Entry Form / Application if you have never used YachtScoring. However, once you have done that, for all future changes, adding crew lists, payment, etc., you will enter through the Owner's Corner login. Your crew will enter through the Crew's Corner login.

This should make registration easier, as crew waivers can be done online. *(Please note: You are able to register, and pay later, but registration and payment are due before August 15 to avoid the late fee.)*

SCHEDULE		
<b>Tuesday, September 8</b>		
1530-1800	Early Registration	Ida Lewis Yacht Club
<b>Wednesday, September 9</b>		
1000-1800	Registration	Ida Lewis Yacht Club
1400	First warning signal for practice starts and practice race	Narragansett Bay
1800-2100	Welcome Reception and Shields Grill Night	Ida Lewis Yacht Club
1900-1945	Shields Class Annual Meeting	Ida Lewis Yacht Club
<b>Thursday, September 10</b>		
0800-0900	Late Registration	Ida Lewis Yacht Club
0830	Rendezvous Signal	ILYC Yard Arm & VHF Channel
1030	First warning signal of the day	
1830	Casual Dinner	Ida Lewis Yacht Club
<b>Friday, September 11</b>		
0830	Rendezvous Signal	ILYC Yard Arm & VHF Channel
1030	First warning signal of the day	
After Racing	"Get together" at location to be announced. Dinner on your own.	
<b>Saturday, September 12</b>		
0830	Rendezvous Signal	ILYC Yard Arm & VHF Channel
1030	First warning signal of the day	
1400	No warning signal after this time	
1800	Dinner & Awards	Ida Lewis Yacht Club

8 - 12  
SEPT  
2015

Use YachtScoring  
for on-the water  
preliminary results



YachtScoring Main Menu



YachtScoring Scratch Sheet



YachtScoring Mobile Site



YachtScoring Cumulative Results

For those of you who know what QR codes are, use these links to YachtScoring.

If not, Google it and download a QR reader app on your mobile device —we intend to post preliminary results onto YachtScoring while on the water.

# FLEET NEWS

## ■ FLEET 1

LARCHMONT YACHT CLUB, LARCHMONT, NY

Rumors of the arrival of spring appear greatly exaggerated as another snow storm blows though, but at least the Larchmont harbor is now clear of ice and dreams of getting back on the water appear more realistic. With the responsibilities of hosting the 50th Nationals behind us, Fleet One is gearing up for a season focused on racing, on fun and on building the fleet.

The racing program this year is as busy as ever. Fleet One is excited to be sending a team to Monterey in early May to compete in the Great Lakes Challenge Cup, and the local season starts shortly afterwards with the Memorial Day Regatta on May 23rd and 24th. There are 21 days of weekend racing over the course of the year, with Larchmont Race Week, as always, a highlight of our season. If you can, come and join us this year for the two weekends of Race Week on July 11, 12, 18 and 19. This year LYC will also be hosting the Western Long Island Sound Districts which, after discussions with local fleets, is going to be combined with the first weekend of Race Week with the goal of boosting participation. We're also looking forward to the continuation of our midweek racing program under the leadership of Dual MacIntyre, with more casual races starting at 6:00pm on Wednesday evenings for those able to make it home from work in time.



As for fun and fleet building... We will be kicking off the season with a cocktail party on May 16th to warm us up for Memorial Day Regatta (let us know if you are in the area) and we are working on other activities for later in the year.

We are especially pleased to welcome new co-skippers Pete Saladino and Dan Lin to the fleet, and hope to build on the excitement generated by the 50th Nationals to get more boats on the water. With that in mind, at the Annual Awards Dinner in January we asked skippers to commit to getting their boats on the line for the first day of the season – and as the picture shows, we got a strong show of hands! We will report back on who has kept their word!

We are looking forward to the start of the season, and if you are anywhere near NYC at any point this summer, give us a shout and we'll get you out sailing with us!

Peter McWhinnie  
Fleet Captain - *Intime* #142,

## ■ FLEET 2

INDIAN HARBOR YACHT CLUB, CT

Fleet 2 is looking forward to the departure of yet another Polar Vortexed Winter, and a new season of sailing our Shields. Members have expressed interest in the upcoming Great Lakes Ocean Challenge in Monterey in May, and the full schedule of regattas on Long Island Sound this summer and in Newport in the fall.

We are excited to announce the formation of Team IHYC, which will bring together the top sailors at Indian Harbor Yacht Club to race together in the upcoming regattas. This will introduce the club's championship racers to the Shields class and the terrific events we host. This is a great way to grow your fleet and increase visibility of the Shields at your clubs and sailing associations.

Looking forward to seeing fellow Shields racers on the starting line this Summer!

Rick Hendee  
Fleet Captain, #145

## ■ FLEET 3

CHICAGO YACHT CLUB, CHICAGO, IL

Shields Fleet 3 will continue its tradition of outstanding one-design racing in Chicago this year. After a several year hiatus, the fleet is resurrecting the Nutting Cup, to be awarded to the combined winner of the middle day of races across our three series of the season. The Nutting Cup dates back to 1906 when it was presented to the Chicago Yacht Club by Sir John G Nutting, Baronet of St. Helens, County Dublin, Ireland.

The Fleet 3 season begins May 16 and includes 14 series race days, going into October. In addition to the series races, the fleet looks forward to the perennial favorites, the Verve Cup and NOOD. The fleet continues to expand its ranks with a focus on long-term growth...that is, our members are expecting our seventh new baby in six years.

Chris Economos  
Fleet Captain

## ■ FLEET 4

NO. MASSACHUSETTS BAY, MA

*[Editor's note: Fleet reports are edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation and are not fact checked; this one might be hitting the corner pretty hard.]*

Fleet 4 has been hampered by having its members scattered among four harbors along 20 miles of shoreline—from Winthrop to Gloucester, Mass.—resulting in just three Shields sloops competing in our major North Shore regatta in 2014: The Crocker Memorial Race. As a result, we are now planning to offer prize money for future races, thereby emulating how horse racing is conducted at our nation's horse tracks.

# FLEET NEWS

For a start, Fleet 4 is now planning to change the prize for the winner of The Crocker Memorial Race from the traditional silver platter to a \$100,000 cash prize—and with more modest prizes for “place” and “show” (as we now refer to those finishing orders). In order to raise the required funds, we plan to introduce a system of parimutuel wagering on our Shields races (as well as for all other racing classes)—anticipating that we will probably be able to earn enough to fund a grand celebration party in addition to the funds needed for the racing prizes.

In Fleet #4 we have also started to re-name our Shields yachts to those of famous race horses such as “Man-o-War,” “Secretariat” and “Seattle Slew”. In addition to the anticipated revenues from our parimutuel endeavours, we also expect to provide our crews with oats for their lunches -- which, we hope, will produce the raw material needed for our fertilizer business.

How about a handicap system, you may wonder? Our thought is to require winning yachts to carry lead weights in their fore and aft compartments for future races.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Berger  
Fleet Captain, #118

## ■ FLEET 7 & 12

MONTEREY PENINSULA YACHT CLUB, CA

Preparations are underway for the 2015 Oceans Great Lakes Challenge in Monterey. As of March 30th, we have 5 teams registered for the second contesting of this prestigious sailing trophy since its reintroduction last year. The small field features some of the best skippers in the class with Bill Berry, Com Crocker, Pakhtun Shah, and Ashley Hobson on board along with a crew from Fleet 20 down the west coast at Long Beach State University. We look to continue to build on the organizational momentum established by Fleet 3 last summer in Chicago.



Our annual Tune-Up Race was held on February 22nd. We enjoyed great weather, consistent breeze and a challenging 7 nm course. The top finishers were 1) Jerry Stratton, *Meritage* #175, 2) Larry Smith, *Harriet* #161, and 3) Juli Alexander on *Yankee* #187. Spring Series leaders after the first 2 races were

Ashley Hobson, *Stillwater* #103 in 1st, and a three-way tie for second between Eric Anderson, *Storm* #191, Pakhtun Shah, *Rolly* #209 and Jerry Stratton, *Meritage* #175.

The fleet held its annual Shields Clinic on March 21st. This popular event offers free keelboat lessons to anyone from the local community with a heavy emphasis on Shields. We had 17 students at this year’s clinic. Now in its 6th year, this outreach campaign has developed many current crew members and attracted a good number of new members to our yacht club. A few current Monterey Shields owners were introduced to the fleet through past Shields Clinics as well.

We would like to offer a Monterey welcome to *Helen of Troy* # 257, arriving in early March from Seawanhaka. This brings our total to 14, all of which are actively racing. We look forward to seeing many of you out here in May and again next fall for the 2016 National Regatta.

Eric Anderson  
Fleet 12 Captain, #191

## ■ FLEET 8

EDGARTOWN YACHT CLUB, MA

Fleet 8 on Martha’s Vineyard is hoping to welcome spring very shortly. See our current condition as we are iced into the harbor and the ferry is stuck in the channel to Chappaquiddick. We hope to clear the ice before our Edgartown regatta so the Buzzards Bay / Marion Shields sailors can get to their guest quarters for some extracurricular activities and some occasional rest. We welcome all sailors from all parts of the country to come visit our regatta in July.

The fleet has been in touch this winter via email, and we hope to have 10 of the 13 boats on the racecourse for the first race in early July. I am sad to report we have lost two boats to remote areas. Shields #242 has gone to Newport, and #109 has gone to the lakes in Canada. Both sailors and boats will be sorely missed in Edgartown waters. We still have a few boats in dry dock that we hope to get in the water again soon.

Chappaquiddick Island has taken new shape this winter. The breach that flooded Edgartown Harbor a decade ago is nearing its completion of closing up. That affects our tidal flow pressure as well as direction while sailing in Edgartown. The feelings are mixed as many boaters would like to see the closure complete, and shellfish enthusiasts and harvesters would like to see the fresh currents flush the harbor regularly. Mother nature continues to work on this breach that makes Chappaquiddick an island, as it has cycled throughout history.

May Spring be with you,  
Tim Bryan,  
Fleet Treasurer, *Aileen* #223



continued on Page 8

# FLEET NEWS

continued from Page 7



## 2015 Shields Nationals Newport, Rhode Island

### ■ FLEET 9

NEWPORT, RI

Fleet 9 is preparing for the 2015 season and the 2015 Nationals! As we go to press, the opening meeting/party is scheduled for 29 April, with racing to start 13 May. Scheduled are spring/ summer/fall Wednesday night series and Aloha Cup racing on three Fridays. Team race guru Joel Hanneman will again present a racing rules summary at the opening meeting. This year we are emphasizing recorded measurement compliance for all boats.

New this year is an opportunity to register for the non-spinnaker, family-friendly, Aloha series only. We hope this will encourage boats that may not be ready to compete in both the Aloha and Wednesday series schedule. Including Fleet 17 sailors, registration is expected to stay around 34 boats, as we welcome two new boats to our fleet.

As in past years, Fleet 9 is indebted to the Ida Lewis Yacht Club and its Race Committee. Race Committee Chair John Horton and PROs Robin Wallace, Bill Kirkpatrick and Bill O'Hanley continue to up the quality of the racing each year.

At our Annual Awards Dinner in November 2014, we congratulated John Burnham and Reed Baer and the crew of #107; and Tim Dawson and Tom Hirsch and the crew of #254 for their respective 2nd and 3rd place finishes in the 2014 Nationals. The Overall Wednesday Night series was awarded to Peter Denton and the crew of #226.

There is no change to the membership of the Fleet 9 executive committee and boat and sail measurers.....just a little more work for all getting ready for the Nationals. We thank Robbie Benjamin, 2015 Nationals Regatta Chair and John Burnham, MASTHEAD editor for the 2015 season.

Fleet 9 is looking forward to hosting the 2015 Nationals (September 10-12). To all, sail well this summer, and we'll see you in September!

Betsy Yale  
Fleet Captain, #203

*P.S. Bruce Wellington and Wendy Goodwin deserve praise for the wonderful 50th-anniversary class history, The Shields One-Design Class. Until a second edition is produced, I'd like to correct a Fleet 9 misattribution (page 38). The photo and commentary were submitted not by me but by John Horton (current Ida Lewis YC race committee chair); the "Betsy" mentioned sailing with Dr. Toland was also John. - Betsy*

### ■ FLEET 10

BEVERLY YACHT CLUB, MARION, MA

Fleet 10 will kick off the 2015 summer season on May 27. As of this writing, the fleet is still trying to find out if our boats are still under the mounds of snow where we parked the trailers last fall. But the thoughts of launching are keeping us motivated in the beginning of the cold spring. We will keep on with our normal racing schedule and sail Thursday nights and Saturdays through September 5th.



We are continuing to have some turnover in the fleet as younger members are cycling in while some seasoned veterans are moving on. Fleet stalwart and treasurer Dick Gamache has his boat on the market. Fleet 10 owes Dick a tremendous amount of thanks for all of his efforts over the years in support of the fleet! He is always welcome as a celebrity guest crew on any boat in the fleet.

Multiple-time national champion Bill Berry and crew are looking forward to scouting the 2016 National Championship venue at the Great Lakes Challenge in Monterey in May. We suspect Fleet 10 would even have interest in a second spot if it was available!

As always, we will be sending a big armada of 5-plus boats over to Edgartown for their annual regatta. It's one of the highlights of the summer, and we highly recommend making the trip out if you have not done this event. Additionally we will have a strong 5-plus boat showing planned for Newport in September for the 51st Nationals.

Shane Wells  
Fleet Treasurer

### ■ FLEET 17

COASTER'S HARBOR NAVY YACHT CLUB,  
NEWPORT, RI

Fleet 17 members have crawled out from under all the snow in Rhode Island and are preparing our six boats to race with Fleet 9 this season. While routine work on five of the boats has moved along, special attention has been placed on making #158 *Glory*, a recent donation to the Navy fleet, ready for her first campaign, as it has been quite a few years since she has touched the water. Wednesday racing begins May 13th, and with snowfall scheduled even for April (at the time of this writing), it is likely to be a chilly start to the season.



# FLEET NEWS



Fleet 17's annual George Winslow Regatta is scheduled for Saturday, July 25th, and we hope to have a strong turnout from both Fleet 17 and Fleet 9 for this event. At the Shields Nationals in September, we hope that several Fleet 17 boats will participate. During the 2014 season the top boat in Fleet 17 during Wednesday racing with Fleet 9 was *Icea*.

During Coasters Harbor's George Winslow Memorial Regatta in July, Peter Denton in *Ultimate Pressure* #226 dominated the event with three bullets, while *Icea* #15 got a big assist from George Winslow III and won a tight three-boat race for second. It had been quite a while since a Fleet 17 boat took home a trophy in this event.

We welcome all active-duty military personnel who race in the Newport area to get involved, as our fleet of boats was donated by Cornelius Shields and John Nicholas Brown in the 1960s with this purpose in mind.

Ron Oard  
Fleet Captain, *Icea* #15

## ■ FLEET 19

MASONS ISLAND YACHT CLUB, MYSTIC, CT

After a long cold and snowy winter, the Fleet 19 members are looking forward to another great season of sailing on Fishers Island Sound. Last year, our fleet grew to seven after a couple years of real concern about the numbers of active members. With a small fleet, we need 100% participation and last season we had just that, with seven boats on the line for all our Thursday evening series. We expect to again have all seven on the line each Thursday evening. A new challenge is to find a new race committee head. Michael Cavanaugh, who has very capably run the races for the last many years, is stepping down. We have to get Masons Island Yacht Club members out on the committee boat so they

can learn how enjoyable it is to start the race and then follow the fleet.

On the weekend we will race our Sunday series as well as The Horton Race at the Watch Hill Yacht Club, the Mudhead Benefit Regatta, the Masons Island Yacht Club Regatta and the Ram Island Yacht Club Regatta. In September, a few Fleet 19 members plan to travel to Newport for the Nationals.

Fleet 19 members and the members of Masons Island Yacht Club are excited about being accepted by the Shields National board as host of the 2017 Shields National Regatta.

If any of you are in Southeastern CT this season, please join us to sail on beautiful Fishers Island Sound.

Alan Burnett  
Fleet Captain

## ■ FLEET 20

CSULB SAILING ASSOCIATION, LONG BEACH, CA

Yes, Fleet 20 is here! Despite being off the radar for many years, the CSU Long Beach Sailing Association has been actively sailing our Shields in Southern California for nearly 50 years. Fleet 20 currently has five boats (three active, two undergoing restoration), which we use to instruct CSULB students and alumni.

Our focus for 2014-15 has been threefold: first, to continue introducing more CSULB students to Shields sailing; second, to restore Shields #131; and third, to build the racing experience of our veteran membership. All three of these objectives have been successful thus far:

**Cruising.** Our weekly sailing events introduce students to the Shields and many of our beginner sailors move up to become Shields skippers. In early April, three of our Shields completed the 55-mile round-trip sail to Catalina Island for our club's annual spring break trip, with 18 sailors participating.

*Josephine* (#131), one of two original boats gifted to the university in 1967 by Cornelius Shields, is nearing the end of a full restoration. Her mast was just installed in March, which means she will be ready for summer racing.

**Racing.** In the last 12 months, Fleet 20 has ramped up our racing program by entering several local regattas, and we are happy to announce we will send a team to compete in May's Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup in Monterey—our first ever Shields Class regatta.





# Cape Cod Shipbuilding Co.<sup>®</sup> Est. 1899

*Builders of Fine Sailboats for Over 100 Years*

## FROM THE BUILDER

# “Getting to the Bottom of It”

As memories of the snowiest winter on record begin to melt away it's finally time to contemplate spring maintenance. Nothing is more daunting than tackling the condition of your boat below the waterline. Here are a few tips from the pros:



**Hull, fiberglass deadwood (white), lead keel and rudder (separated)**

The Shields bottom consists of 4 major components: the lead keel, fiberglass deadwood, fiberglass hull and the rudder (photo #1). The keel bolts keep the hull, deadwood and keel together. The bottom of the rudder is held in place by a bronze heel casting at the aft end of the keel.

When new, the bottom surfaces were sanded smooth and seams were filled with underwater body filler. If you can see a seam, chances are the filler has failed and needs to be routed out and new filler applied. The filler fails over time due to temperature change. The more extreme the thermometer swing, the more likely the filler will flake off. (photo #2)



**Seam filler applied at deadwood seams.**

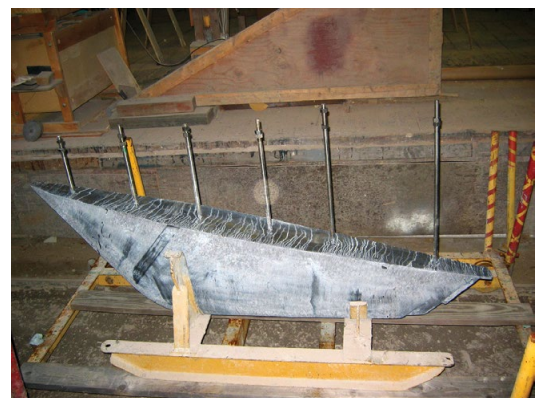
On newer Shields, the hull-to-deadwood seam is ground and fiberglassed so eventually, when that filler fails, you will see two cracks, not one. You can always upgrade your older Shields by grinding & fiberglassing the hull to deadwood seam, which will cut down on yearly bottom maintenance.

Study the wear on the rudder shaft while the boat is still high and dry. You can take up some of the wiggle by replacing the bronze heel casting. If you notice a crack on the forward seam of the rudder that is deep enough to allow for water to penetrate, it's time to replace the rudder. (photo #3) Replacing the rudder, shaft, and the heel casting will improve performance as you have better control of the helm.



**A crack in the forward edge of the rudder.**

**Lead keel and six keelbolts**



When building a new Shields, the keel bolts are positioned in the keel mold and the lead is poured similar to the stick positioning when making a lollypop. (photo #4) When repairing existing Shields, it's a good idea before applying new underwater

Fleet 20 may have been on the sidelines during the first half-century of the Shields class, but we are excited to be a part of the West Coast Shields "renaissance" and to make an impact in year 51 and beyond. We hope to meet many of you next month in Monterey (and in 2016).

Fair winds,  
Mike Fratantoro

## ■ FLEET 21

TRED AVON YACHT CLUB, OXFORD, MD

It seems as though spring will never get here! March has not been the greatest for readying boats for spring racing, but we have until April 26th which is our scheduled first day of racing. We can only hope the weather will improve. We are trying a new directive this year by starting most of our racing on Sunday afternoons. There have been so many times in the past that we have started out earlier in the day only to have the wind drop out after getting off two races and while waiting for the wind to fill in it never seems to happen until we are on our way back in and are tied up at the dock! As soon as we are all settled and at the bar, the wind comes up! So this

year, we will hopefully trick the wind Gods and get off some great afternoon racing!

We had a cocktail party mid-March just to get together and put ourselves in the proper state of mind to think about this year's sailing and to talk about the great times we had sailing last year. We invited the PROs and volunteers who have been so helpful each year and showed them our appreciation by giving them all gift certificates to one of our fine restaurants in the area. You can't thank the club volunteers enough for their service each year. Anyway, fun was had by all and the food that was laid out was great!

We are waiting for warmer weather and have 12 weekends scheduled for this season. There will possibly be five boats from Fleet 21 participating in the Shields Nationals in Newport—we're looking forward to that!

Unfortunately, we have two Shields that will not be sailing this year, the boats are for sale, so hopefully we will find new homes for them and they will be back in the fleet.

Always Looking Forward  
Harry Seemans  
Fleet Captain

# FLEET NEWS

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## Getting to the Bottom of It...

*continued from page 10*

body filler to re-torque your keel bolts first. Remember to release the pressure before torquing. Over-torquing can damage the bilge floor, the deadwood, and in the worst case it can dislodge a keel bolt within the keel itself.

The rudder fairing strips on older boats were copper and today, we replace them with fiberglass battens as they won't scallop. The primer and paint also get better adhesion to fiberglass as opposed to copper.

From time to time, we experiment with new technology antifouling paints, keeping within the Class rules. Choice of paint really depends on the conditions in your harbor, whether you dry sail and how often you want to pay your diver. The most popular bottom paints for Shields are VC Offshore and Baltoplate. (photo #5)

Wendy J. Goodwin, President  
Cape Cod Shipbuilding Co.  
Wareham, MA



**Fresh antifouling paint applied,  
ready to race.**

# TEN REASONS YOU CAN'T MISS THE NATIONALS IN NEWPORT



2015 Shields Nationals  
Newport, Rhode Island

- 10** The Bay froze last winter, but by September it will be warm!
- 9** Sail in a good seabreeze one day and a shifty northwesterly the next.
- 8** Race offshore one day in waves on Rhode Island Sound's classic America's Cup course.
- 7** Prove yourself on Narragansett Bay's flat water and slippery current the next day.
- 6** Off the water, Newport has mansions, museums, beaches, and more for your shore crew.
- 5** Plus great restaurants and bars: Zelda's, IYAC, Black Pearl, Clarke Cook House/Candy Store, Salvation Café, Perro Salado
- 4** This is your best chance to make 8 past national champs cry – they surely won't all make the top 10...
- 3** If other awards are escaping you, Ida Lewis has lots of slippery lime rock and 200 feet of dock, which makes the *Take a Bow* rather easy to win.
- 2** Making everyone a winner, Ida Lewis YC bar has the best dark and stormy this side of the Gulf Stream.
- 1** You'll never forget the amazing view from the Newport Bridge as you drive into town...and when you finally say goodbye.

SHIELDS CLASS  
SAILING ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 152  
Wareham, MA 02571-0152  
[www.shieldsclass.com](http://www.shieldsclass.com)



On a light Wednesday night on Narragansett Bay, No. 74 (Bill Shore) and No. 203 (Betsy Yale) work the low road after a crowded Fleet 9 weather mark rounding.

[www.shieldsclass.com](http://www.shieldsclass.com)