



## FLEET #34, FISHERS ISLAND SOUND — CONNECTICUT & RHODE ISLAND

Fleet Champion for 1972 — Bob Jones

Second place skipper — George Bates

Third place skipper — Bill Boatwright

Under the enthusiastic leadership of our Commodore, Dr. Bill Jones, whose boat "Sabrina" hasn't missed a race in the last three years, Ensign Fleet 34 completed its most successful season yet. All in all, our fleet had 21 races scheduled during the summer of 1972, and several of our skippers sailed in over thirty races, including the ECYRA Regatta and the Nationals.

Our season began in May with the Memorial Day invitational race which was won by Jerry Daly in "Romance", Ensign #823. This was followed by the June series, for a special cup put up by Jim Babcock, and won this year by "Bonanza", skippered by George Bates, Ensign #385.

The fleet championship series started on the last weekend of June and continued for 13 races through the summer. The sailing conditions were unusually fine this year and the championship extremely hotly contested. Four boats took turns leading the scoring during the season, commencing with Jerry Daly, followed by Bill Boatwright, then George Bates, and was finally won in the last race on Labor Day weekend, in a strong 25 knotter around Fishers Island, by Bob Jones in "Flying High", Ensign #1048.

Our fleet is particularly proud of one noteworthy event that happened during 1972. Fleet #34 made application and was accepted as a fully accredited yacht club in the Eastern Connecticut Yacht Racing Association, the regional arm of NAYRU, and consisting of approximately 27 yacht clubs in Eastern Long Island Sound. The ECYRA Regatta in mid-summer is one of the leading yachting events in our part of the sailing world and was held this year at the Madison Beach Yacht Club in Madison, Connecticut. As usual, the Ensign class was by far the largest class of one-design sailboats involved (except for Blue Jays and other classes of very small boats). The three day series was sailed in light airs, with an average of over 20 Ensigns from four fleets taking part (Sachems Head - Fleet #6, Duck Island - Fleet #36, Thomas Yacht Club - Fleet #57, and our own Fishers Island Sound - Fleet #34). Our fleet made an excellent showing. Bob Jones sailed to first place in "Flying High", followed by Joe Hunt in second place in "Cyrano", Ensign #286.

The season concluded with our annual race circumnavigating Fishers Island, which was won again this year by George Bates and his family in "Bonanza" on the last Saturday in September. After the race, which finished at the upper end of Stonington Harbor, the

fleet had a get-together, with a picnic supper party featuring a Dixieland band.

With at least two new Ensigns joining our fleet for the first time this year from Fishers Island, Ensign Fleet #34 is looking forward with great anticipation to another exciting season in 1973.