

# 1976 Ensign Class Association Yearbook

## **Fleet 34 — Stonington, Connecticut**

**Fishers Island Sound**

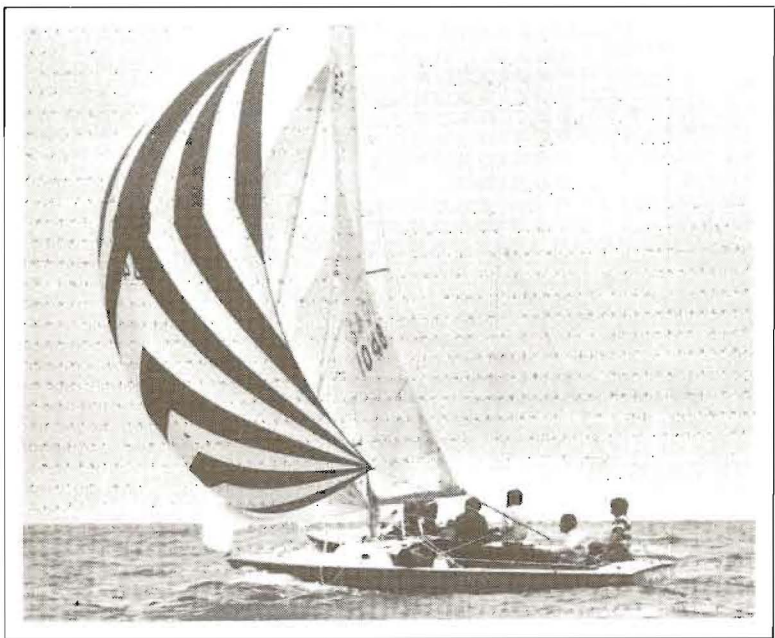
**Organized 1965**

### **OFFICERS**

COMMODORE - Stearns Martin  
VICE COMMODORE - Nancy Gibson  
TREASURER - George Bates  
SECRETARY - Allen B. Smith  
P.O. Box 349, Mystic, Conn. 06355

### **ROSTER**

- 156 NERIO — Allen B. Smith
- 177 QUEST — Robert W. Maidt, Jr.
- 194 JULIE ANN — John W. Maisch
- 286 CYRANO — Joseph H. Hunt
- 340 WIKI-WIKI — John V. Leonard
- 377 YANKEE D — William H. Roehl
- 385 BONANZA — George P. Bates
- 496 NUMERO UNO — Stearns Martin
- 563 JAWS — Dr. Arthur P. Hotchkiss
- 587 ONRUST — Robert B. Ziegler
- 660 MOONAKIS — Mrs. J. Merrill Gibson
- 689 AMAIN — Sidney E. Speed
- 713 AFRICAN QUEEN — Dr. Trent Repko
- 823 ROMANCE — Gerald R. Daly
- 830 MYSTIQUE — Norbert E. Smyth
- 838 DULCINEA — Robert E. Cohn
- 944 QUICK ONE — Blunt White - Dennis Cox
- 964 WINDANCE — Dr. Harry Brown
- 1002 THE PEDDLER — John C. O'Brien - C. William Stamm
- 1021 PUSSY CAT — George Gregory
- 1048 FLYING HIGH — Robert S. Jones
- 1098 MAKIN KNOTS — Alfred R. Wilcox
- 1154 ARIES — William A. Budding, Jr.
- 1227 SABRINA — Dr. William N. Jones
- 1299 AIR-BORNE — Fred S. Burnham
- 1334 CHANTE — Dr. Charles Frederick Dyer
- 1411 CLIFFHANGER — H. Clifford Parris
- 1434 SLICKER — Emory D. Ayers
- 1490 CHIMERA — William T. Hegenberger



Paul Levin

*BAD luck struck Ensign Class Commodore and defending National Champion Bob Jones in FLYING HIGH at the Nationals. His mast broke while he was leading in the fourth race, during the final leg.*

**FLEET 34 — STONINGTON, CONN.**

**1975 Champion — Bob Jones, FLYING HIGH - 1048**

**Second — George Bates, BONANZA - 385**

**Third — Stearns Martin, NUMERO UNO - 496**

Fleet 34 comprises more than 30 Ensigns sailing from some 10 clubs or ports around the seven-mile-long Fishers Island Sound which joins the waters of Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York. Ensign Class Commodore Bob Jones, 1974 National Champion, overwhelmed the 12-

race competition for the season championship. Sailing in nine races, he took four firsts, a second, three fourths and a sixth in racing that saw between 18 and 24 Ensigns on the starting line for most races. He won both halves of the split-season series to lock the victory. Bob has an uncanny ability to work his way up through the fleet, has excellent boat speed both on and off the wind and makes few tactical mistakes, despite the strong, tricky tidal currents in the Sound.

The season opener for the Memorial Day Race trophy was taken by Bill Jones (Bob's brother) in SABRINA. Al Smith sailed his NERIO to victory in the five-race June series to take the Alice Ayers Perpetual Trophy. Al admits to being over 65, but won't say how much. He looks and acts 20 years younger than that.

Sid Speed sailed AMAIN through an 18-mile fog-bound race around Fishers Island to win the season wind-up in late September, receiving for his troubles the Doc Bones Jones perpetual trophy. The race was run by the 1974 winner, Al Wilcox, who, with his family, threw a terrific post-race party at the Ram Island Yacht Club.

A group of six boats from Fleet 34 competed in the Region II Championships at Bristol, R.I., with Bob Jones placing second and George Bates taking fifth. Shortly thereafter, four skippers from the fleet, George Bates, Nancy Gibson, John Hayes and Bob Jones, went to the Nationals on Lake Michigan—with all but Bates trailing their boats. John Hayes sailed his PRECIOUS-713 into a second, nipping out Merle Hallett for the spot with whom he was tied on points. Defending National Champion Bob Jones had more than his share of bad luck, including breaking his mast when in the lead on the final beat of the heavy-weather fourth race.

At the Fleet 34 annual post-season Awards Night, hosted by outgoing Commodore George Bates and his wife/crew (crew/wife?) Nancy, Al Smith showed outstanding color slides he had arranged to be taken of Ensign racing that made it obvious why the boats are so great.

The fleet looks forward to hosting the 1976 Region II Championships and to another great season of racing. Enrollment may be down somewhat due to the fact that several boats from nearby Fleet 57 in New London, Conn. that had raced with us may do more racing in their home fleet, which is seeing a resurgence of interest.

Jerry Daly