

1977 Ensign Class Association Yearbook

Fleet 34—Stonington, Connecticut Fishers Island Sound

Organized 1965

OFFICERS

Commodore — Nancy Gibson
Vice Commodore — William A. Budding, Jr.
Secretary & Treasurer — Fred S. Burnham
P.O. Box 349, Mystic, Conn. 06355



Jamie Gibson

SECOND woman to be elected commodore of an Ensign fleet was Nancy Gibson, skipper of *Moonakis*, 660. She took the reins of Fleet 34 at Stonington, Conn. in October, 1976. The only other female fleet commodore was Vi Crimmons, who headed Fleet 32 at Noroton, Conn. in 1967 and 1968.

ROSTER

156	<i>Nerio</i> Allen B. Smith	689	<i>Amain</i> Sidney E. Speed
177	<i>Quest</i> Robert W. Maidt, Jr.	713	<i>African Queen</i> Dr. Trent Repko
194	<i>Julie Ann</i> John W. Maisch	724	<i>Halcyon</i> John P. Murphy
286	<i>Cyrano</i> Joseph H. Hunt	823	<i>Romance</i> Gerald R. Daly
340	<i>Wiki-Wiki</i> John V. Leonard	830	<i>Mystique</i> Norbert E. Smyth
377	<i>Yankee D</i> William H. Roehl	838	<i>Dulcinea</i> Robert E. Cohn
385	<i>Bonanza</i> George P. Bates	944	<i>Quick One</i> Blunt White/Dennis Cox
496	<i>Numero Uno</i> Stearns Martin	964	<i>Windance</i> Dr. Harry Brown
563	<i>Jaws</i> Dr. Arthur P. Hotchkiss	1002	<i>The Peddler</i> John C. O'Brien/C. William Stamm
587	<i>Onrust</i> Robert B. Ziegler	1020	<i>Isis</i> Dr. Robert P. Rowe
660	<i>Moonakis</i> Mrs. J. Merrill Gibson	1021	<i>Pussy Cat</i> George Gregory

1048 *Flying High*
Robert S. Jones

1098 *Makin' Knots*
Alfred R. Wilcox

1154 *Aries*
William A. Budding, Jr.

1158 *Baldo*
Alix Stanley

1227 *Sabrina*
Dr. William N. Jones

1299 *Air-Borne*
Fred S. Burnham

1307 *Slainte*
Brian J. Gallagher

1334 *Chante*
Dr. Charles Frederick Dyer

1411 *Cliffhanger*
H. Clifford Parris

1434 *Slicker*
Emory D. Ayers

1490 *Chimera*
William T. Hegenberger

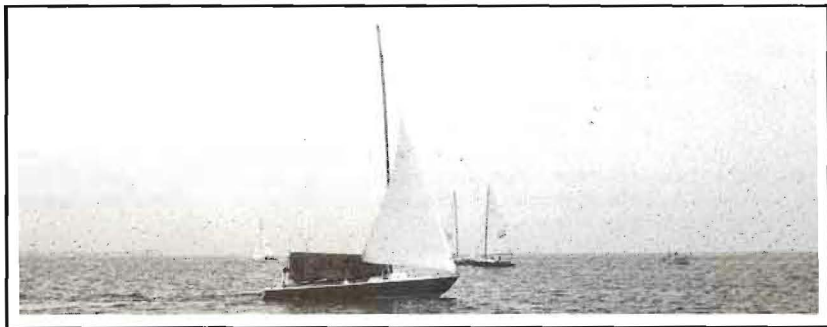
1623 *Sans Souci*
Douglas O. Wirta

Fleet 34 — Stonington, Conn.

1976 Champion — William Foye, *Huckleberry* - 502

Second — Robert S. Jones, *Flying High* - 1048

Third — Stearns Martin, *Numero Uno* - 496



Malcolm Daly

SOLUTION to keeping dry during pre-start rainstorm at the Region II Regatta on Fishers Island Sound reflects ingenuity of Sid Speed and crew aboard *Amain*, 689, from Fleet 34.

Ensigns again were by far the strongest one-design class in Fishers Island Sound. The ranks of our fleet were swelled by the regular participation of several boats from Fleet 57 at New London, one of which Bill Foye's *Huckleberry*, became our Fleet Champion. Bill won the 12-race series with a score of .8865 per cent for the eight races he sailed. At least seven races had to be entered to qualify for the championship, and any boat sailing eight or more was allowed one throwout.

Of the 35 boats in Fleet 34, 27 competed in one or more of the Championship Series races and 18 qualified for the series. The average number of starters was 17 boats.

The season opener on Memorial Day Weekend for the Bob Jones perpetual trophy went to Fleet 34 Commodore Stearns Martin in *Numero Uno*, who also took the Alice Ayres Trophy for the June Series. An unprecedented back-to-back win of the Doc "Bones" Jones perpetual trophy for the Around Fishers Island Race—sailed Sept. 25th to wind up our season—was achieved by 1975 winner Sid Speed in *Amain*.

Winners of the first half and second half of the Championship Series were *Huckleberry* and Ensign Class Commodore Bob Jones' *Flying High* respectively.

A highlight of our season was hosting the 28-boat Region II Championship, which *Flying High* won.

In addition to the various series and individual trophy races, the fleet activity included team races with Watch Hill 15s from Little Narragansett Bay (won by Ensigns), a mixed race with Fishers Island One Designs from Groton Long Point YC (Fred Burnham's *Airborne* was first in the 17-boat event) and a day of round-robin match racing that sent pairs of Ensigns around a one-and-a-half mile windward-leeward-windward course—an activity that wore out crews, thrilled spectators and saw Eric Martin sail his father Stearns' *Numero Uno* to a perfect 5-0 score.

Bob Jones was one of only two East Coast Ensign skippers to go to Houston for the Nationals, where he tied Fleet 5's Charlie Shoemaker, the only other Yankee, for seventh.

A sails-in-the-bag start managed by *Makin' Knots* skipper Al Wilcox preceded a race followed by a great picnic Sept. 5. The hosts were Alice and Emory Ayres, who sail *Slicker*. Paul Smythe sailed *Mystique* to a convincing victory.

The season finale was a team race at Newport, R.I. against a joint Fleet 4 & 5 combine. They took the first race and we won the second; winds above 30 knots washed out the third race.

Hats went off at the annual meeting Oct. 1 to Bill Budding for scorekeeping and Nancy Wilcox for typing the weekly newsletter. Nancy Gibson was elected 1977 Fleet Commodore at the meeting. She is the second woman to become commodore of an Ensign fleet, the first being Vi Crimmons who headed Fleet 32 in 1967 and 1968.

Jerry Daly