

Fleet 34 — Stonington, Connecticut
Fishers Island Sound

Organized 1965

OFFICERS

Commodore — William A. Budding, Jr.

Vice Commodore — Fred S. Burnham

Secretary & Treasurer — Paul Smyth

166 Shore Ave., Groton Long Point, Conn. 06340

ROSTER

156	<i>Nerio</i> Allen B. Smith	340	<i>Wiki-Wiki</i> John V. Leonard
177	<i>Quest</i> Robert W. Mardt, Jr.	377	<i>Yankee D</i> William H. Roehl
194	<i>Julie Ann</i> John W. Maisch	385	<i>Bonanza</i> George P. Bates
262	<i>Blue Point</i> Benjamin Carpenter, Jr.	496	<i>Numero Uno</i> Stearns Martin
286	<i>Cyrano</i> Joseph H. Hunt	563	<i>Jaws</i> Dr. Arthur P. Hotchkiss

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|------|---|------|--|
| 568 | —————
Brad Sikora | 1021 | <i>Pussy Cat</i>
George Gregory |
| 587 | —————
Edward Gillman | 1048 | <i>Flying High</i>
Robert S. Jones |
| 660 | <i>Moonakis</i>
Mrs. J. Merrill Gibson, Jr. | 1098 | <i>Makin Knots</i>
Alfred R. Wilcox |
| 680 | <i>Dream Singer</i>
Duncan Potter/Marlene Morgan | 1154 | <i>Aries</i>
William A. Budding, Jr. |
| 689 | <i>Amain</i>
Sidney E. Speed | 1158 | <i>Baloo</i>
Alix Stanley |
| 713 | <i>African Queen</i>
Trent J. Repko, Jr. | 1227 | <i>Sabrina</i>
Dr. Wm. Jones |
| 724 | <i>Halcyon</i>
John Murphy | 1299 | <i>Air-Borne</i>
Fred S. Burnham |
| 823 | <i>Romance</i>
Gerald R. Daly | 1307 | <i>Slainte</i>
Brian Gallagher |
| 830 | <i>Mystique</i>
Norbert E. Smyth | 1411 | <i>Cliffhanger</i>
H. Clifford Parris |
| 944 | <i>Quick One</i>
Blunt White | 1434 | <i>Slicker</i>
Emory D. Ayers |
| 1002 | <i>Gotcha!</i>
Maxwell Holstein | 1490 | <i>Chimera</i>
William T. Hegenberger |
| 1020 | <i>Isis</i>
Robert P. Rowe | 1623 | <i>Sans Souci</i>
Douglas O. Wirta |

Fleet 34 — Stonington, Conn.

1977 Champion — Paul Smyth, *Mystique* - 830

Second — George Bates, *Bonanza* - 385

Third — Bob Jones, *Flying High* - 1048

Paul Smyth won the 10-race season championship of Fleet 34 by consistency. His card for the nine races in which he skippered *Mystique* was 1-2-5-10-3-2-2-1-2 for a .9116 score. Despite this record, the competition was so close that going into the final day of two races Aug. 28th, Bob Jones had a slim lead over Paul with George Bates just behind in third. But Smyth had a 1-2 day, while Bates was 11-3 and Jones 6-16. (Most of the races this season saw more than 20 boats at the starting line.)

Jim Anderson sailed *Sam*, 981 to victory in the season opener for the Bob Jones Memorial Day Trophy. Smyth won the Alice Ayres Cup for the June Series, and he also won the Late Series (second five championship races). Bates had won the Early Season trophy for the first five.

We got wiped out on our Sept. 18th team race on Fishers Island Sound against a combine from Fleets 4 and 5, with the visitors taking the first two heats in the best-of-three event.

The season finale Sept. 24th was the "Survival" version of the annual competition for the Doc Bones Jones Trophy, which normally takes the fleet on a 17-mile trip around Fishers Island. Sniffing 30-knot winds gusting to 40, 1976 winner (and hence 1977 race chairman) Sid Speed sent the 12 boats that turned out in stormy rain on a much shorter course inside the Sound. The first three finished within eight seconds after almost two hours of racing, with George Bates snatching the victory in the last hundred yards.

A zany day was staged by Commodore Nancy Gibson Sept. 3rd when she organized a "Crazy Mixed Up Race" that drew a dozen entries. Al Smith, who admits to being over 39 years old, steered his *Nerio*, 186, more craftily than anyone else through the maze of screwy instructions, arbitrarily ordered mid-race penalties and last-minute crew exchanges imposed by the race committee. He won the prize, which was reportedly both upside down and inside out.

At least another dozen invitational races during the summer saw Ensigns racing on the Sound. And what many believe to be one of the Ensign's greatest assets—its superb qualities for day sailing—got demonstrated over and over again as the boats were taken out for picnics and swimming, evenings and just lazy sailing.

Jerry Daly