

# 34 Stonington, Connecticut Fishers Island Sound 1965

---

## OFFICERS

Commodore	Vice Commodore	Secretary/Treasurer
Greg Lukowski	Bob Geary	Gene Fiese

1. John Macina, La CHIC — 812

2. George Bates, BONANZA — 385

3. Bob Jones, FLYING HIGH — 1048

## *1997 Season*

In 1997 the Fleet 34 racing season had 14 races plus our Annual Round-Fishers-Island Race. We have seven local yacht clubs host our races. We normally race in Fishers Island Sound and Long Island Sound. We sent three boats to the Nationals nearby in Nyack, New York: Bob Jones, George & Nancy Bates, and Ward & Louise Woodruff.

The Early Series averaged 11.2 Ensign's per race (9.2 in 96) and was won by Team Macina in La CHIC (93.4 pts) followed by Bob Jones in FLYING HIGH (91.6 pts) and the Woodruff's in NIGHTWIND (84.2 pts).

The Late Series averaged 12 boats for each race (11.4 in 96) and was won by Team Macina in La CHIC (94.4 pts) followed by George Bates in BONANZA (89.2 pts) and Robin Durrschmidt in Mr. FRISKY (87.8 pts)

Overall the fleet averaged 11.6 Ensign's per race and 23 different boats participated throughout the season. The Season Championship was won by Team Macina in La CHIC (94.4 pts) who collected two firsts and four second place finishes during the 14 race season. Second place went to George Bates in BONANZA (90.8 pts) and in third place Bob Jones in FLYING HIGH (90.6 pts). The Alice Ayers Trophy for best performance in June also went to Bob Jones in FLYING HIGH while the Bill Leuze Trophy for most improved performance went to Russ Sheets in GIZMO.

Other award/regatta winners this season were Team Horrigan in AIRBORNE for the Robert Jones Trophy Race on Memorial Day, George Bates in BONANZA for the Horton One Design Race hosted by the Watch Hill Yacht Club. Bob Cullen in BLACKOUT won the Governor's Regatta hosted by Thames Yacht Club and the Woodruff Family won the Mason's Island Invitational in NIGHTWIND. Team Macina in La CHIC won the Ram Island YC Invitational, Robin Durrschmidt in Mr. FRISKY won the Fishers Island YC Race, and Team Bates in BONANZA won the Commodores Trophy Race at Thames YC. Bob Jones and crew in FLYING HIGH won the Fleet 34 Round-the-Island Race that was initiated in 1970 by his brother Dr. Bill Jones. The Woodruff Family in NIGHTWIND won the Ensign Class in the HOS-PICE Regatta hosted by Thames Yacht Club.

Fleet 34 consists of 35 skippers and 14 associates spanning the shoreline from Niantic to Stonington, CT. Many of the members are also members of Fleet 57 at Thames Yacht Club, New London. Most (26) of the members also

belong to the ECA and 16 belong to US Sailing. In summary, a great time was had in 1997 and we look forward to an even better fog-less Ensign racing season along the shoreline of Southeastern Connecticut in 1998.



*Team Macina, (l to r) Chris, Kirsten, Old John and Michael, of La CHIC (812) proudly display their Fleet 34 Season Championship Trophy. Photo June Macina.*

Photo Gene Fiese.

### Sailing to and from the 1997 Ensign Nationals

The 1997 Ensign Nationals were held in Nyack, New York, on the Hudson River just north of the Tappan Zee Bridge from August 18th to August 22nd. This year George Bates sailed BONANZA (385) with Bob Shabunia as crew and companion over the 130-mile one-way course from Stonington on the Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound to Nyack and return. The following is his account of that 5-day experience.

For us, this was a wonderful experience! From our departure on Friday afternoon we had a beautiful sail under spinnaker from Elihu Island to the Niantic Bay Yacht Club where we were hosted by Louise and Ward Woodruff. This segment of our trip took three hours.

By Saturday morning the wind had shifted to the west, so we motored to our next destination, the Noroton Yacht Club. Late in the afternoon we encountered the worst squall I have ever experienced. Fortunately, our motor was reliable, we didn't have any sails set, and the squall only lasted about 30 minutes. We heard later that the winds exceeded 50 mph. Just as it was getting dark we arrived in Noroton, where Fun Jenkins, who crews regularly for Bob Jones and who lives in Noroton, arranged a mooring and provided luxurious room and board going to and from Nyack. We were underway about 12 hours.

On Sunday we departed from Noroton about 8:00 AM and arrived at the Nyack Boat Club about 7:15 PM. The most exciting and spectacular part of the day was passing through Hell's Gate and down the East River with the current. The current caused standing waves about 5 feet high. Our peak speed over ground was 12 knots. Other highlights of the day were passing next to the landing runway at LaGuardia, passing under many great bridges (Throgs Neck, Whitestone, Brooklyn, George Washington, Tappan Zee, etc.) and all the sights as we circled Manhattan, including the Statue of Liberty. This was a trip we will never forget!

The National races ended on Thursday with the Awards Dinner on Thursday night. Due to unfavorable winds, we had to motor from Nyack to

Noroton. We departed at 4:00 AM on Friday to take advantage of the currents in the Hudson River (up to 3 knots) and the East River. Our timing was perfect, and we arrived at the Battery just as the current was turning to help us ascend the East River. We arrived in Noroton at 1:30 PM after the great satisfaction of seeing all the bridges and shore sights again from a different direction.

Finally, on Saturday, we were able to sail all the way from Noroton back to Elihu Island where we arrived about an hour after sunset. This segment of the trip took about 12 hours. We benefited from a strong westerly wind, and averaged 6 knots over the ground. We sailed with our spinnaker most of the time, although we took it down for about two hours while the wind was particularly strong. BONANZA set two records that day: 7.57 knots through the water with main and spinnaker, and 7.4 knots with only the mainsail. Our previous record was 6.92 knots. I wonder if any Ensign has ever gone faster over the ground or through the water than the maximum speeds recorded by BONANZA on this trip?

George P. Bates.

# Roster

46	GIZMO	RUSSELL SHEETS
101	GARRYVOE	DAVID L. MOTHERWAY
194	JULIE ANN	JOHN W. MAISCH
207	RESOLUTE	PATRICK HYNES
286	CYRANO	WILLIAM E. ATTWOOD
319	TEAMWORK	ERIC M. JONES
319	TEAMWORK	WALTER PRATT
363	MR. FRISKY	ROBIN DURRSCHMIDT
385	BONANZA	GEORGE P. BATES
458	NIGHT WIND	WARD WOODRUFF
473	AIR BORNE	KEVIN HARRIGAN
620	DOVE	TED PARKER
675	ORACLE	RICHARD TABER
689	AMAIN	DR.DOROTHY WINDHORST
724	HIBERNIA	RICHARD FOYE
812	LA CHIC	JOHN P MACINA
819	FREINDLY SPIRIT	RICK CONLEY
823	ROMANCE	ANTHONY MARRELLA
864	GRASSHOPPER	JOHN BROUSSEAU
1020	PENDRAGON	MORGAN ST. JOHN
1046	WHITE CLOUD	LOUIS FEHRENBACH
1048	FLYING HIGH	ROBERT S. JONES
1070	INDESEAS	EUGENE FIESE
1218	MIDNIGHT	CHRIS MCLAUGHLIN
1299	WINDFALL	ROBERT B SCHMIDT
1335	HYDRA	TOM GROARK
1411	CLIFFHANGER	H CLIFFORD PARRIS
1434	SLICKER	JON AYERS
1602	SAGACIOUS	BOB GEARY
1703	OPHIR	COLIN REVILL
1729	VIM	DR. GREG LUKOWSKI
1731	SARI	BENJAMIN CARPENTER
ASSOCIATES:		SID SPEED, DICK FRASER, ANDY STODDARD, JOHN STAINER