

Fleet 34 Stonington, Connecticut

Fishers Island Sound, 1965

Commodore: Eric Jones

Vice Commodore: John Brousseau

Treasurer: Ted Parker *Secretary:* Gene Fiese *Newsletter Editor:* Russ Carr

2003 Season Champions:

| | | |
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| 1st | George and Nancy Bates, BONANZA - #385 | 7.0 pts |
| 2nd | Gary, Ward and Louise Woodruff, TAILGUNNER - #496 | 93.3 pts |
| 3rd | John Macina and Family, FIREBIRD - #301 | 87.4 pts |

The 2003 Ensign Racing Season for Fleet 34 consisted of 15 races in Fishers Island Sound and Long Island Sound. These races were hosted by the seven local yacht clubs. In addition, five local boats participated in the 2003 Ensign Regional Championship for Regions II & III in Newport, RI. Two of Fleet 34 Ensigns, NIGHTWIND #458 and MARANA #1348 participated in the Ensign National Regatta on Galveston Bay in Houston, Texas. At season's end, the Hospice Regatta and the Around the Island Race for the Bill Jones Trophy were combined for the last race of the Season around Fisher's Island on September 20th.

The Fleet 34 Early Series averaged only 4.6 Ensign's per race due in part to a long cold spring. The Early Series was won by Walter Pratt and Eric Jones in TEAMWORK (88.6 pts), followed by Robin Durrschmidt in MAGIC (88.5 pts). The Late Series averaged 6.4 boats for each race and was won by The Bates Team in BONANZA (96.0 pts). Second place went to Gary Woodruff in TAILGUNNER (91.7 pts) followed by The Macina Family in FIREBIRD (87.5 pts).

Overall Fleet 34 averaged 5.5 Ensign's per race and 13 different boats participated throughout the season. The Season Championship was won by George and Nancy Bates in BONANZA (97.0 pts) followed by Gary, Ward and Louise Woodruff in TAILGUNNER (93.3pts) and The Macina Family in FIREBIRD (87.4 pts). The Bill Leuze Trophy for most improved performance over the season was awarded to Gary Woodruff in TAILGUNNER.

Other award/regatta winners this season were as follows: Robin Durrschmidt in MAGIC won the Roberts S. Jones Trophy for the Memorial Day Race, while Walter Pratt and Eric Jones won the Pine Island Regatta hosted by Shennecossett YC. The Woodruffs won the Governors Regatta in TAILGUNNER while Team Bates in BONANZA won both days of the Niantic Bay YC Jamboree, the Mason's Island YC Invitational and the Fishers Island YC Around the Island Race. The Macina Family in FIREBIRD won the Ram Island YC Invitational, again, and the Jim Anderson Family in SAM won the Thames Commodores Trophy Race hosted by Thames YC. The Ensign SAM also had the best-corrected time of the fleet in the Commodore's Race. George Bates in BONANZA won the HOSPICE Regatta/Bill Jones Round the Island Race at the end of the season.

Fleet 34 consists of 30 skippers and 19 associates spanning the shoreline from Niantic, CT, to Westerly, RI. Many of the members also belong to Fleet 57 at Thames Yacht Club, New London, and Fleet 73 at Niantic Bay Yacht Club. A majority of the members also belong to the ECA and about a dozen belong to US Sailing. In summary, we had a very busy and enjoyable sailing season in 2003 and look forward to more exciting sailing in 2004.

Roster:

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| 11 | SWOOSE | Russ Carr |
| 301 | FIREBIRD | John Macina |
| 319 | TEAMWORK | Walter & Jeanne Pratt |
| | | Eric & Lorena Jones |
| 363 | MAGIC | Robin Durrschmidt |
| 385 | BONANZA | George Bates |
| 458 | NIGHTWIND | Ward Woodruff |
| 473 | AIRBORNE | Mark Steinmetz |
| 496 | TAILGUNNER | Gary Woodruff |



Jim Anderson (left) of SAM and George Bates(right) of Bonanza share a light minute after Jim won the Thames YC Commodore's Race where George finished second. George had won this race eight times over the years, but finished second this year. The Ensign SAM also had the best PHRF corrected time for the entire fleet. Photo by Gene Fiese.

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| 549 | T.T.F.N. | Mac Cooper |
| 724 | Hibernia | Rich Foye |
| 981 | SAM | Jim & Karen Anderson |
| 1046 | WHITE CLOUD | Louis Fehrenbach |
| 1070 | INDESEAS | Gene Fiese |
| 1334 | FEARLESS JOY | Cristina Dominijanni |
| 1534 | WILLIWAU | Ted Parker |
| 1602 | SAGACIOUS | Bob Geary |

ECA Members:

Jim Anderson, George Bates, Russ Carr, Mac Cooper, Cris Dominijanni, Robin Durrschmidt, Louis Fehrenbach, Gene Fiese, Bob and Lois Geary, Tom Groark, Jr., Annette Hall, Eric Jones, Greg Lukowski, John Macina, Charles Nesbit, Ted Parker, Walter Pratt, Colin Revill, Page Rogers, Mark Steinmetz, Dick Taber, Gary Woodruff, Louise Woodruff, Ward Woodruff

ECA Associates:

Carl Anderson, Jerry Daly, Rick Diachenko, Dick Fraser, Lois Geary, Nancy Gibson, Virginia Groark, Doug Hanna, Gary Hartley, Fun Jenkins, Eric Jones, Jr., Tom Layton, Todd Little, Melissa Madaus, Phil Michalowski, Jeanne Pratt, Tracey Rapp, William Sabastyan, Ken Scott, George Wiederman