

# Fleet 34 Stonington, Connecticut

Fishers Island Sound, 1965

*Commodore:* Michael Macina

*Vice Commodore:* Robin Durrschmidt

*Treasurer:* Louise Woodruff

*Secretary:* Gene Fiese

*Newsletter Editor:* Robin Durrschmidt

## *2006 Season Champions:*

|                 |  |          |
|-----------------|--|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Ward and Louise Woodruff, NIGHTWIND - #458 | 92.5 pts |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | George Bates, BONANZA - #385               | 89.5 pts |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Robin Durrschmidt, MAGIC - #363            | 84.7 pts |

The 2006 Ensign Racing Season for Fleet 34 consisted of 11 races in Fishers Island Sound and Long Island Sound and four canceled races. These races were hosted by the six local yacht clubs. In addition, twelve local boats participated in the 2006 Ensign Regional Championship hosted by Fleet 57 at Thames Yacht Club in New London, CT. Three of Fleet 34 Ensigns also participated in the Ensign National Regatta at Edgewater YC in Cleveland, OH.

The Fleet 34 Early Series averaged 7.7 Ensign's per race although two of the Early Series races consisted of the regional's held locally. The Early Series was won by Gary Woodruff in *TAILGUNNER* (90.8 pts) followed by The Macina Family in *FIREBIRD* (84.8 pts) and Rick Conley in *FRIENDLY SPIRIT* (81.6 pts). The Late Series averaged 5.7 boats for each race and was won by Ward Woodruff in *NIGHTWIND* (89.0 pts) followed closely by George Bates in *BONANZA* (86.9 pts) and Robin Durrschmidt in

*MAGIC* (84.4).

Overall Fleet 34 averaged 6.4 Ensign's per race, down from 8.0 in 2005. A total of 15 different boats participated throughout the season, down one from the previous year. The Season Championship was won by Ward and Louise Woodruff in *NIGHTWIND* (92.5 pts) followed by George Bates in *BONANZA* (89.5 pts) and third place went to Robin Durrschmidt in *MAGIC* (84.7 pts). No one qualified for the Bill Leuze Trophy or the Ayers Trophy this year. Both trophies have restrictions on repeat winners.

Other regatta winners this season were as follows. Ward Woodruff in *NIGHTWIND* won the Roberts S. Jones Trophy for the Memorial Day Race, the Mason's Island Invitational, and the Bill Jones Around the Island Race. Robin Durrschmidt in *MAGIC* won the Ram Island Regatta and Jim Anderson in *SAM* won the Governor's Cup at Thames Yacht Club. George Bates won the Hospice Regatta at Niantic while Gary Woodruff in *TAILGUNNER* won the Commodore's Trophy Race at Thames Yacht Club.

While all the Fleet 34 races are memorable, this year's Around the Island Race was spectacular as reported by Vice Commodore Robin Durrschmidt. Results of the Round the Island Race sailed in big wind and seas running 4 - 8 feet. At the start the race committee recorded wind in the 20 - 25 knot range in the lee of Groton Long Point at the mast top of a 42 foot Brewer. Much higher gusts out by N2 race Rock. Real "Captains Courageous" type conditions. All used #2s, George had a reefed mainsail. Order of finish: 1. Ward Woodruff in 458 *NIGHTWIND* - Crazy man with a blue spinnaker. Believes he hit 12 knots surfing a wave on the backside for about 15 seconds. The rudderpost made noises it has never made before. 2. George Bates in 385 *BONANZA* - Slightly less crazy with a reef. Saw his knot meter reach an all time high of 9.3 surfing a wave. 3. Robin Durrschmidt in 363 *MAGIC* - Just plain crazy. The rooster tail sometimes started at the winches. Planted the bow into the backside of a wave to the mast and level with the cabin top for what seemed like an awfully long time. Lunch cooler inside the cabin next to the mast was half full of seawater and yes the lid was on. 4. Mac Cooper in *TA TA FOR NOW* - Craziest of the bunch with only two aboard. Rounded N2 with water over the floorboards about ankle deep. His one crew bailed out the boat on the downwind leg.

In the starting area and almost sane was Bruce Skinner in *THE GREEN FLASH*. The better part of valor really was to head in to port. Sanest of all were the Macina's who, looking out at the harbor, decided that "this just doesn't make a whole lot of sense." Definitely one for the books.



Ward Woodruff (right) of *NIGHTWIND* accepts the Fleet 34 Season Championship trophy from Vice Commodore Robin Durrschmidt.  
Photo by Michael Macina.



Early Season Champion Gary Woodruff (right) of *TAILGUNNER* accepts his trophy from Vice Commodore Robin Durrschmidt.  
Photo by Michael Macina.

Fleet 34 consisted of 13 skippers this year 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 are listed in the Fleet 57 and Fleet 73 as ECA members if not listed here, and about a dozen belong to US Sailing. In summary, we had a very busy and enjoyable sailing season in 2006 and look forward to more exciting sailing in 2007.

*Roster:*

|      |            |  |
|------|------------|--|
| 11   | SWOOSE     | Russ Carr                                    |
| 301  | FIREBIRD   | John Macina                                  |
| 319  | TEAMWORK   | Walter & Jeanne Pratt<br>Eric & Lorena Jones |
| 363  | MAGIC      | Robin Durrschmidt                            |
| 385  | BONANZA    | George Bates                                 |
| 458  | NIGHTWIND  | Ward Woodruff                                |
| 496  | TAILGUNNER | Gary Woodruff                                |
| 549  | T.T.F.N.   | Mac Cooper                                   |
| 981  | SAM        | Jim & Karen Anderson                         |
| 1070 | INDESEAS   | Gene Fiese                                   |
| 1602 | SAGACIOUS  | Bob Geary                                    |
| 1731 | STRIDER    | Bob & Judy Gibbs                             |

*ECA Members:*

Roy Adamson, George Bates, Gregory Buxton, Robin & Lizette Durrschmidt, Eugene Fiese, John Macina, Michael Macina, Cliff and Prudy Parris, Richard Taber, Ward Woodruff

*ECA Associates:*

Gerald Daly, Rick Diachenko, Laura Hall, Kathleen Jenkins, Tom Layton, Chris Macina, Lisa Peringer, William Sebastyen, George Wiederman