

# May 2010



## Frank's Place

With April's races approaching and mild temps prevailing we all looked forward to a fun day on American Lake on the 24th. The question was... would there be any breeze to speak of? Well... Saturday morning arrived and mother nature provided us with good wind and more to come. There still was a potential for scattered showers so we all brought raingear and extra dry stuff. I'd hoped to get a couple of sailors to do a little painting on the Cap'n Cook but nixed that idea under those weather conditions. (And go figure... less sailors came to our races even though the wind was up!) Hmmm! Anyway, maybe we can start the new paint job in May.

As it turned out the wind was blowing over 15mph with gusts to 20mph. So... I reefed my main as did Rodney in *Missfit* and the two keel boats used only one sail. Our sole dinghy with Layne and James on *Firefly* used main and jib and actually did a good job



Shortly after the start of the first race

(1st overall) and dodged the huge rain and its wind blast at the end of race #2 by finishing just ahead of that big black cloud and all it had in store for us. Our races course were the same for #'s 1 and 2. (Head South and around Silcox Island.) Since there was so much wind I figured we'd have no trouble with the lee of the island. That proved to be the case. While the wind built and chop developed we all had some very fast moments as well as dicey ones. And as I said near the end of the 2nd race that black cloud bore down on us and boom it hit. Everyone managed to finish (Except *Bye-Gone*) and got a good dose of rain to boot. I still had too much sail for sailing single handed and bore away to the North eventually dousing both sails and motoring back to the Cap'n Cook. By then the white caps were breaking up on the crests and water was splashing over the bow and back into the cockpit (and on me). So... we all had that adrenaline rush we crave and eventually all got back to enjoy snacks and especially Layne's Rhubarb/Strawberry pie. Lessons learned: Same-o-Same-o. If you're not on the lake you miss a good time. And... having crew is a must under more windy conditions... And wear those life jackets. (We all did.)



*Bye-gone* motoring back to Cap'n Cook during the storm

And here comes May's event. Scheduled for the 29th. Same time as usual. Preparations are under way already for *Bye-Gone's* new look and cockpit floorboard. Hope I get it all done in time.



The new club burgees are complete. The initial estimate was for 16 @ \$42.00 each. Wow! Crazy high price. I bought the fabric @ the wholesaler and had them sewn for \$10.00 each with the same amount of fabric in the original bid. I got twenty-six made. If you want one they'll cost you \$15.00 (covers parts/labor). Buy one for all your boats or to hang on the wall. They are the same size as the original ones and sewn with UV resistant thread and fabric.

See you on the water.

Frank

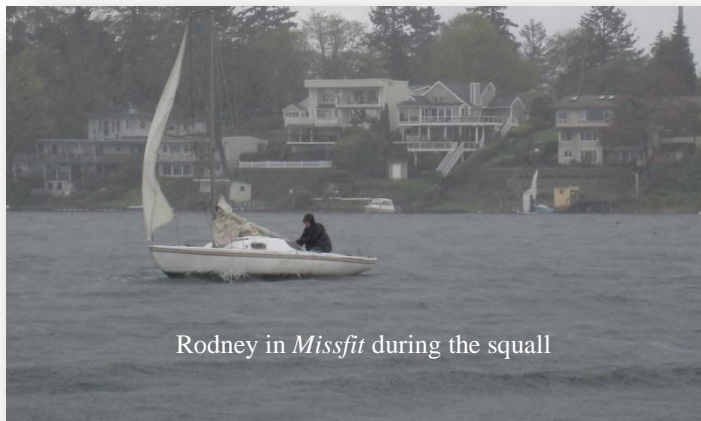
## From the Editor

Wet and wild is how I would describe April's races...well at least the last race of the day. When James and I arrived at Cap'n Cook most of the boats were reefing their main sails. Unfortunately on *Firefly* there are no reef points so we were sailing with a full rig. At least I had crew, James, today for the extra ballast. You see *Firefly* being a dinghy doesn't have a weighted centerboard and relies on her crew's weight to keep her up. In past races, especially on light winds days, I've offered up my crew to other to keep the weight down on the boat. In April's races all that weight would be needed to keep the boat flat.

Actually the winds weren't that bad for the first race. I would say blowing around 15 mph with some higher gusts but it still out of my comfort range and we defiantly were not putting up the spinnaker. I was just glad that Scott in *Wild Juan* wasn't there because he would have forced us to fly the spinnaker. I don't really recall much about the races that day because I was in survival mode most of the time. The only thing about the first race that I remember is that the course went through the lee side of Silcox Island. I thought that we were sailing far enough out to remain in the wind; however, we still hit a dead spot and were worried for awhile that *Missfit* and *Bye-Gone* would overtake us. We made through the lee with our lead intact and *Firefly* ended up taking first race.

The second race started out and progressed pretty much like the first one. *Firefly* had just made it through the lee side doldrums and was headed towards the finish line when we noticed the big black cloud coming down the lake. I knew that the winds would be picking up with that squall blowing through. At that point we decided to reduce sail by furling *Firefly's* jib and sailing on the main only. Shortly after furling the jib the front part of the squall hit. Lucky for us we were only about 100 yards from the finish line with the wind shift we were able cross without tacking. After crossing the finishing line *Firefly* headed quickly back to the safety of Cap'n Cook before the full force of the wind hit. We watched the rest of the fleet and I was glad that I wasn't out there fighting the storm.





Rodney in *Missfit* during the squall

According to wunderground.com, as the squall passed, the wind speed picked up to 23 mph with gusts at 31 mph. The rain was even being blown sideways by the strong winds. Hats off to those sailors who were still on the race course and ended up fighting the storm. Rodney on *Missfit* and Clifford on *Oasis* even finished the race in the difficult conditions. After finishing the race Rodney struggled to get the main sail down almost made back to Cap'n Cook sailing on the jib alone. He didn't quite make it and headed towards the lee side of the island where he took his sails down and waited for a tow from *Bye-Gone*. Rod in *Elvia* seemed to enjoy the day...when Frank and I went by to offer a tow in he was kicked back eating a sandwich and just sailing along declining the tow.

## April Race Results

			Race 1	Race 2		Race Day Totals	
<i>Skipper's/Crew's Name</i>	<i>Boat's Name</i>	<i>HCP</i>	<i>Corrected Time/Position</i>	<i>Corrected Time/Position</i>	<i>Over all Score</i>	<i>Over all Position</i>	<i>Monthly Score</i>
Layne /James	Firefly	96.1	19.83 / 1	17.95 / 1	2	1	100
Rodney	Missfit	99.4	21.90 / 2	20.82 / 2	4	2	90
Clifford	Oasis	95.6	22.94 / 4	21.61 / 3	7	3/4	75
Rod	Elvira	99.8	DNS / 5	DNS / 5	10	5	60
Frank	Bye-Gone	101.6	22.72 / 3	DNF / 4	7	3/4	75

After everyone made it back to Cap'n Cook we enjoyed some snacks and regaled in our stories of storm survival. While eating some strawberry/rhubarb pie another squall passed through quickly then the sun came out and the winds calmed a little and everyone decided to head for home while the weather was cooperating.

In all it was a fun day despite the storm. You know any day sailing is going to be a fun day. So now that we are entering into our summer season, I can almost smell the burgers on the grill. I hope that we are past stormy and windy race days...I'm ready to ditch the wetsuit and rain gear and break out the shorts and t-shirts. Our next race is on May 29<sup>th</sup> ...that is Memorial Day weekend...we'll see you then.



## Dwaine Blogs

My first Star experience was a good one. The Budd Inlet Star Fleet hosted their annual 'Black Star' regatta on April 23-25th. Having my first Star sailing experience during a multi day regatta didn't seem wise so I volunteered to crew for BISF regular Steve Worcester.

Over the course of the regatta I learned a lot about the Star and how it is sailed. Steve was patient as I 'learned the ropes' of being Star crew. We survived Saturday's big wind with some gear failures. I learned how narrow the Star bow is when the white caps are up and I had some repair work to do out on the bow. Sunday's moderate wind and sunshine were a welcome change. With less wind we were able to concentrate on the finer points of Star racing. By midday Sunday I felt confident enough in my duties as crew to start experimenting with the array of adjustments available on the Star.

More has been written about my adventures learning to sail A Star on my blog at <a href="http://www.raceonedesign.com/blog/Dwaine">RaceOneDesign</a>.

# April's Pictures



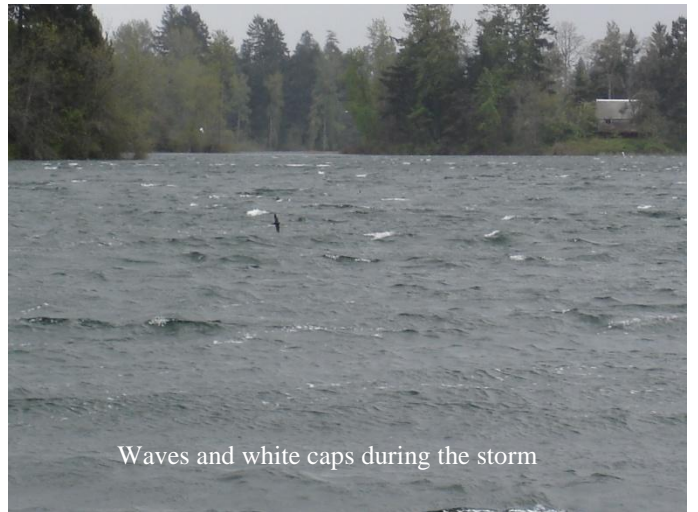
Pre-start of first race



*Elvira* playing in the wind



*Missfit* and *Bye-Gone*



Waves and white caps during the storm



## ALSC Information

Commodore  
Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor

Dave Burnett (253) 926-5366  
Frank Abrams (253) 843-1882  
Layne Snodgrass (253) 639-7706 [lgsnodgrass@msn.com](mailto:lgsnodgrass@msn.com)

*Any articles, pictures, or ideas of any sailing activities you are involved in that you would like to contribute to the newsletter are welcome.*

Website <http://www.sailnut.com/ALSC/index.php>



**Next Race May 29<sup>th</sup>**