

JOURNAL OF THE THISTLE CLASS

VOLUME XLV, NUMBER 6

ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1992



# Bagpipe®



# Have A Great Thistlin' Fall!



Fall offers some of the best Thistle sailing found anywhere! If you need help to get your boat race-ready give Ched or Greg a call. You can count on North Sails teamwork to give you the winning advantage.



With the North Sails personal service, you'll get the most from your sails. If you've got a question about sail trim, boat tuning, crew work or tactics, just ask. We're here to help.



North offers Thistlers the choice of two winning sail designs. Both are proven fast and durable. You can be confident your sails will perform race after race — with winning results. In the recent Thistle Nationals, sailors using North Sails dominated both the Championship and the President divisions. North Sails were used by the top boats in both fleets!



## 1992 Thistle Nationals

## Championship Division

## President's Division

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Don't forget our 10% Fall Discount! It's a great way to get your Thistle in shape for 1993 action.

The winning edge in one-design.

### North Sails One-Design Central

Greg Fisher

330 W. Spring Street

Columbus, OH 43215

TEL 614-221-2410

FAX 614-221-1228

### North Sails One-Design East

Ched Proctor

189 Pepe's Farm Road

Milford, CT 06460

TEL 203-877-7621

FAX 203-874-6059



## PRESIDENT

Bill MacLean  
630 W. Sylvan Lane  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
812-876-2856

## FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Charlie Krafft  
57 Willow Road  
Churchville, PA 18556  
215-322-8553

## SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT AND BAGPIPE EDITOR

Dave Valla  
204 Brentwood Drive  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
616-963-5082

## THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT OF GROWTH AND PROMOTION

Allan Gowans  
P. O. Box 568  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-345-1819

## CHIEF MEASURER

Chris Klotz  
719 1/2 52nd St. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33718  
813-323-8813

## SECRETARY-TREASURER

Honey Abramson  
1811 Cavell Avenue  
Highland Park, IL 60035  
708-831-3304

## REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

### ATLANTIC COAST

Brent Barbochen  
211 Paul Drive  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
609-722-1729

### SOUTHEASTERN

Robert M. McCormack  
4585 Graywood Trace  
Norcross, GA 30092  
404-447-1308

### GREAT LAKES

Loren Hoffman  
8850 Bellevue  
Grosse Ile, MI 48138  
313-676-5514

### PACIFIC COAST

Mike Gillum  
355 Sawtell Road  
Roseville, CA 95678  
916-784-8144

### CENTRAL SOUTHERN

Tom Glover  
2512 Summerfreed Lane #2073  
Arlington, TX 76008  
817-265-9837

### CUSTODIANS

FILM  
Jerry Hinds  
4851 Candy Lane  
Manlius, NY 13104-1617  
315-682-5630

### LIBRARY

Lincoln Baxler  
149 Silver Springs Road  
Phoenixville, PA 19460-1919  
215-935-2711

### AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE CHMN.

Bruce McCutcheon  
P. O. Box 232  
Allamuchy, NJ 07820  
201-353-1703

### COMMODORE

Downing Nighthale, Jr.  
5193 Charlemagne Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
904-388-8231

### VICE COMMODORE

Jeff Progelhof  
275 Henry Chandler Drive  
Rockwall, TX 75087  
214-771-8717

### REAR COMMODORE

Bill McGrath

### PERMANENT REAR COMMODORE

Gordon (Sandy) Douglass  
PAST PRESIDENT  
Jack Finefrock

## BAGPIPE

(USPS 901-280) is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Office of Publication and Second Class postage paid at 1811 Cavell Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035, and at an additional point of entry at Battle Creek, MI.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the **Bagpipe**, 1811 Cavell Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035.

**Editor:** Send copy to:

Dave Valla  
204 Brentwood Dr.  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
616-963-5082

**Deadlines:**

Dec/Jan — Nov. 1  
Feb/Mar — Jan. 1

## FEATURES

From the President .....	4
Growth and Promotion .....	5
Measurer's Memo .....	6
From the Editor .....	7
Annual Minutes .....	8
Governing Board Minutes .....	9
Nationals Winners .....	12
The Finish Line .....	14
Off Water Thistling .....	17
Classifieds .....	23

## TCA DUES

Family Membership .....	\$35.00
Active members .....	25.00
Unattached .....	25.00
Associate members .....	15.00
Co-owners other than the senior co-owner .....	15.00

**NOTE:** \$10.00 of each member's dues shall be the annual subscription rate for the **Bagpipe**, which is published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

**ON THE COVER:** Andy Russell of Charlotte, NC enjoys the fair weather and good competition at the 1992 Nationals. [Photo by John Duckworth]

## OFFICIAL BULLETIN BOARD

- It's not too early to start thinking about the Midwinters. Midwinters East Crew Clearing House— Contact Kathy or Jack Finefrock at (216) 562-5385
- Got some ideas for the 50th anniversary in 1995? Send them to the Bagpipe.
- Start your planning early for the 1993 Nationals in Seattle.
- Honey sends thanks to Pete Flood for locating a source of green ribbons.

# The Skipper's Meeting

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



by Bill MacLean

When I think of this being my final article from this particular corner, the question comes to mind, "Where did the year go?" Especially this past summer. We were away from home virtually every weekend, sailing regattas—lots of Thistle chatter. The Nationals at North Cape was the last venture, and Jan and I will be going again this fall to some of the series that will wrap up the year.

The Nationals went well, thanks to the many Thistlers and volunteers who worked so hard to make it go. Detailed race instructions from Loren Hoffman and his national race committee were excellent. Fleet #37 and North Cape were gracious hosts. You'll get the details in the *Bagpipe* articles.

One hundred boats competed this year—that has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? Congratulations go to champion Dave Dellenbaugh for showing us that big boat success hasn't marred his dedication to Thistling. The family attendance was as strong as ever. Past President George Devlin commented that he was pleased to see the effort set forth for the care of the Thistle youngsters—supervision and entertainment for a variety of ages. Thirteen past presidents of TCA were in attendance, seven who were racing. The love of the Thistle never really goes away.

One final note regarding the Nationals—hats off for the very time-consuming work done by Past President Rod Glover as Chief Judge for protest hearings and as Wind Judge. To me, this is an example of one who cares about the Class and dedicates himself to doing a job in the proper manner. On behalf of TCA, we say, "Thank you, Rod, for all your help."

If the many regattas we attended this year—East, West, South, and Midwest—are any evidence, Thistling seems to be doing just fine. Participation numbers seemed to be up, in spite of a slow economy, and many new faces had been added to the old, familiar ones.

A new site was introduced to the Thistlers this year—the Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford, MD, host for the Atlantic Coast InterDistricts Championships. There is no local fleet there save for one Thistler, Ed Barbehenn. Ed managed to get tremendous cooperation from Tred Avon members. The local team that managed the three hoists were very friendly and helpful to the 55 boats that raced. The Commodore was on site for the entire two days, making all feel welcome. The beautiful new club house was perfect for the meals, the kids, the America's Cup seminar, and the evening socializing—and racing was great in open water with wind. Putting on an event of this importance in a new place puts tremendous pressure on the person who comes up with the idea and is willing to commit. Thanks, Ed, and to the members of Tred Avon. The regatta went beautifully. I'd surely like to come back.

It's quite obvious that Thistling on the West Coast is doing well also. Regional Vice President Mike Gillum brought eight boats to North Cape. That's good support. Tim Mortimore's invitation from Wil Anderson to Oak Harbor bodes well for another exciting Nationals next year.

Later this year, sooner than we think, fleet meetings and dues payments will click into action. District Governors, I hope, will be wrapping up the year by way of a newsletter or like communication to their District fleets. The District Governor is an important cog in the Thistle machinery, facilitating the flow of

information and input to and from the grass roots.

A reminder that I would like to pass on to you regarding us who have held an office or will hold office in the future—we need response from the members. This is your organization. Write to the officers about your concerns, or, better still, contribute your ideas in the *Bagpipe*. Nobody can do it all perfectly or satisfy everyone. There will always be differences of opinion. How about showing the officers that you care by sharing yours?

Sometime in the future we may have the opportunity to get another video by Bill McGrath and Co. In his new, larger building, he will be able to have "mast up" sailboat photos and a different format. We'll keep you posted. His first fine video is still available. If your fleet doesn't have it, you're missing a fine teaching and "selling" tool for our boat.

As of October 1, Charlie Krafft and his team of officers will officially begin their terms. I am confident that they will do well because I had the pleasure of working with most of them the past two years. What makes a good year for an officer? It's simple—I was particularly grateful for the continued support and efforts of Past President Jack Finefrock; the input from the five RVP's; the backing of Charlie Krafft and Al Gowans; the energies of *Bagpipe* editor Dave Vaila; and the dedication of Chief Measurer Chris Klotz, who spent long hours "cleaning up" the Green Book in the areas of his responsibility.

No year of Thistling would be complete without a heartfelt thanks to Honey Abramson for her efficiency, her wealth of information, her dedication to the preservation of Class standards, and her Thistle spirit. Many of you will be happy that the Executive Committee has approved a computer for the Class office, and Honey's considerable data bank will be transferred in the near future.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife Jan for her support, particularly in these last two Thistling years. When a Thistler has a gal who is as dedicated to the Class as he is, it says one thing—he's a lucky guy.

Keep on sailing in your Thistle and we'll meet on the circuit.

## GROWTH AND PROMOTION



by Allan Gowans

This is my last article as Growth and Promotion Third Vice President. It has been interesting! There have been many high points and, as might be expected, a few low points.

## Associate Member Expresses Concerns

Dear Mr. Gowans,

I have been a member of the Thistle Class Association for a number of years and have raced continually since 1973. It is with great distress that I find myself having to write this letter.

I have lived in this area since 1985. Since that time I have been actively involved in the Fleet and District activities, including the 1990 Thistle Nationals. This way I have sailed in only one regatta and participated in one Fleet activity.

I cannot fathom the lack of camaraderie on this Fleet towards one who is an Associate member of the Thistle Class Association. It took approximately three months for me to receive my membership card for the TCA in addition to not receiving any Fleet or District newsletters. We always speak at meetings of growth and promotion, along with the local fleets supporting those members that we have. However, in this particular Fleet I have seen only those who are owners being supported, and the crews and associate members being left by the

If the 3rd VP was paid a bonus or salary based on results, he'd have been fired a long time ago!!! The results are not good. During the past three years, we have lost over 100 boats; that is not too swift, to say the least. This year out of 17 districts, 14 lost boats, 69 to be exact.

Now for a high point! Southern California gained nine boats (Fleet #68 had + 6). Michiana gained a total of 10 boats equally distributed. Lake Michigan and DG Peter Dickinson were the BIG winners with 21 new R&D boats (Fleet #116 had + 11). It can be done!! Dickinson was awarded the G&P trophies; with this comes the responsibility to write the article on how he did it. For all three positive districts, great work! Our net loss ended up for 1992 at 29 boats.

G&P low point: See the letter from a TCA Associate member regarding "Local" fleet activities—not too good!

NOTES: Last year's G&P winner Dave Hudson (#212) to be loudly commended for his rescue at sea of a fellow Thistler during the wild and lumpy (?) last race of this year's Nationals. I like to

wayside. It has always been a philosophy of the TCA to promote OUR boat as one a whole family can enjoy, not just a select few. I realize that the owners spend a lot of time, money, and energy in order to race, but the winning should not be the end-all. It is important to build teamwork and a strong sense of belonging for ALL those involved in the sport.

I am not sure that anything can be done to change the way this Fleet promotes and includes people, but the Class as a whole needs to be aware when a person who has been a member for so long is feeling put out. How many potential members have we shunned just to always be the "winners"?

My father and mother have always told me how much fun the TCA and the Thistle itself have been, but here lately that feeling is definitely waning. I hope that in the future the TCA can get back to the basics the Class was formed on. Particularly a family boat that **EVERY-ONE** can enjoy sailing and racing. We must not let those people who are so self-centered and set on winning be the

win and do well as does almost everyone else, but Dave's actions on the race course are what it is all about!

New 3rd VP is Mike DeLorenzo from Gainesville, FL. Excellent choice; he should bring in some new ideas. Give Mike some help getting started as you did for me—articles, phone calls, etc.

I've been fortunate to have sailed many regattas this year; it has been great to see so many familiar faces and meet some new people. I have also enjoyed working with such a great group of class officers, a real quality bunch of people. I have also learned to appreciate the lonely position of Chief Measurer. Chris Klotz has put many hours of hard work into this position that sometimes goes unnoticed. He gets more grief than the rest of us!

Over the last three years many of you have sent me letters, newspaper articles, district newsletters, phone calls, etc., etc. I sincerely appreciate your efforts. I love to sail and compete. I love the Thistle. I love the Thistle family. Thanks to all of you.

downfall of one of the most wonderful boats and associations in the sailing world. Let's live up to that reputation of being one of the friendliest groups around and draw those people back that we have let fall by the wayside by our unthinking actions.

Name Withheld by Request

### Used Boat Clearinghouse

To help current and prospective Thistlers obtain used boats, the Class operates the Used Boat Clearinghouse, a service located at the Class office, 1811 Cavell Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035. Those wishing to list a Thistle for sale should submit brief but specific information, including price. The office must be notified when the boat is sold. The Used Boat Clearinghouse is intended to supplement the *Bagpipe's* classified ads with current information for both buyers and sellers.