

TN SAILS

The monthly newsletter of Tamil Nadu Sailing Association



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Commodore Claudius Memorial Regatta 2008

On Sunday Mar 16th, the annual race for the Commodore Claudius Trophy was held near the sunken ship. Ashish Mehta, TNSA's Official Handicapper and Measurer was the race officer with Deepak assisting him and Doc Mushtaqh on the rescue launch. The winds were from East North-East and mild at about 4 to 6 knots most of the time. There was barely a ripple in the water and one had to lean in to get the boat moving.



Beating up to the start

The attendance that Sunday was rather low as it was examination time for many of the children, there were a total of 15 boats,



*Shantha sails past the committee vessel with
Shwetha's disabled boat*

7 Optis, 4 Laser 4.7s, 3 Radials and 1 Laser Standard Rig. Five races were held under the

Portsmouth Yardstick Index, the first and the last single triangles and the other three races a triangle and a loop. The sailors cast off early and the races started bang on time. Even though there were only 7 Optis the decibel level of excited cries at the start line was remarkable, especially with the low wind conditions leading to poor starts.

Barely the first race was over before calamity struck Shwetha's boat, in the form of Krish who bore straight into her and put a hole in her stern. That put paid to her hopes of doing anything in the regatta. One could see her desperately lying down on her deck with both hands over the hole trying hard to prevent water from getting in. Soon her boat was unrigged and loaded on to a rescue launch, which was quite a task. Soon after, Krish had to relinquish his boat to Shwetha, having been responsible for the collision.



Uma rides the bow of her dad's laser

As the afternoon sun beat down, winds remained low and tested the skills of the sailors. There was keen tussle among the Optis, but the lasers were spread out because of the differences in the sail sizes, hull quality as well as sailor levels. Some of the laser sailors were new to racing, but performed quite creditably. Special mention must be made of Bala in the Standard rig, the most enthusiastic of the newcomers and quite a regular on both

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Bankers' Day Out



Krish takes a banker sailing

Our friends in the banking community were back in force this March. With our system set in place the day rolled on like well-oiled machinery. Each knew what was to be done and easily slipped into their roles. A new addition to the team was Abarajitha – Abaa to friends, who took on the responsibility of the catering arrangements. A feisty bunch of young professionals turned up, with surprisingly few women participants especially considering it was Internationals Women's Day.



Deepak takes another

The day started with Treasurer Ajit Diaz welcoming the participants and then the Captain of Boats Ravikumar talking to them on the rudiments of sailing, touching upon the do's and don'ts for the day. Jijo's motor launch had been commissioned besides couple of our launches and we sallied out unmindful of the harsh sun for a tour of the harbour, with a TNSA member in each of the motor launches to point out the interesting sights. The container terminal as usual drew a lot interest and the sight of the sunken ship of course triggered a lot of questions on the

tsunami. The newly commissioned research vessel Sagar Nidhi was a snazzy affair and a lovely sight for us old hands too. The visitors had a chance to try their hand at the launch's wheel too and an hour passed without the heat being noticed.



A simple yet savoury spread

Back at the clubhouse tables bedecked with spotless white satin were laden heavy with an excellent vegetarian lunch. As everybody tucked in, we issued the customary caution to eat light so that the rolling of the motorized launch did not play hell with stomachs later in the day. Soon Ganapathy and Varsha were in the water showing off their skills sailing up and down. At a whistle from the Captain of Boats, both of them went into a synchronized capsize-right routine, it was the most perfectly timed one I've seen yet. Varsha, just a year old in sailing, keeping up with Ganapathy was indeed remarkable and the two were greeted with clamorous admiration from the watching bankers.



Post lunch lining motorized launch

Soon the rest of us cast off too - Bijoy, Bala, Deepak, Krish, Varun and I in the lasers while our lascars helmed the Enterprises. As always the group was a mix of the giddily adventurous to the exceedingly timorous. Some of them lustily jumped into the water with

unrestrained enthusiasm, while some of them had to be coaxed into dipping their hands into the water.



A dip in the harbour

But a capsizing in the laser was an experience most of them enjoyed and we have now learned to let them do most of the work so the dozen or so capsizes doesn't tire us unduly. It is easy enough to get back into a laser, but not quite so with the launch and one of the eager jumpers was a gentleman of generous proportions who gave a particularly tough time to those trying to haul him back into the launch. But a sport that he was, he was quick to admit that the experience had led him to realize the importance of losing excess weight. Some of them were quite adept at picking up the basics and were delighted when we let them helm for a while.

Later crunching into crispy *bondas* with an appetite I've noticed the ocean air always creates, everybody shared their experiences with fondness. It was evident that everybody had a good time.



Bijoy has one in his hold

The enjoyable experience of people who have participated in our day out at sea program has impressed the

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Hobie 16 National Championship 2008

The Hobie 16 Nationals has become a regular feature in Vishakhapatnam in the beginning of summer and heralds the season of nationals in various classes of boats. Committee member Nilma has now become as regular a feature in all the nationals held in the country, functioning as jury secretary. Appreciative of her meticulousness and hard work, the class associations in the country unfailingly invite her for every national event. This year, the Hobie 16 Nationals were held in the waters of the beautiful Rushikonda Bay from March 20th to 27th, by the National Hobie Cat Association. Lt Gen I . J .Koshy AVSM, President of the Association, Brig R.Suresh VSM, VP - Sailing, Mr. C.S.Pradipak IJ, VP-Technicals and Maj Utpal More, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer were all present for the event and ensured that it was run efficiently. The event was also the selection trials for the international events in which India will be participating in 2008.



Windward leg and the colorful sails

The AGM of NHCA was held on the 25th of March and TNSA was represented by Nilma. Back in Chennai, looking tanned and happy, Nilma recounts the beauty of the white sands of Rushiekonda and the crystal clear blue water. In her own words, "I always look forward to attending this regatta for several reasons; one: fond memories of my first sailing experience here; secondly for being part of Mr. Pradipak's team and the lovely location on this beach. And my gratitude goes to Maj Utpal More for receiving me and hosting me with so much warmth".



Hobies as the gun goes off

Fourteen teams from six clubs across the country participated as also a team from the Royal Suva Yacht Club, Fiji with the veteran sailor Graham Southwick as skipper, a regular in these championships. The winds were south westerly averaging between 15 to 25 knots except for a couple of days of low winds in between and the sea was choppy with heavy tides. But the muscular men from the Armed Forces reveled in such conditions and there was keen competition between the defending champions N K Yadav/Bibhuti Barik, Indian Navy Watermanship Training Centre, Mumbai and the current favourites K Yakobu/Sanjeev Kumar, Artillery Water Sports Association, Hyderabad.

Twelve races were held with two discards and the Principal Race Officer was Mr.Girish Rao. The Protest Committee chaired as always by indomitable Arjuna Awardee Mr.C S Pradipak, IJ, consisted of Lt Col M P Jaggi, Lt Col Gautama Dutta, Cdr R Mahesh, Nilma V Shah and Maj Utpal More. They had their work cut out with several protests and counter protests during the races, one of which was on infraction of minimum body weight! At the end of it all, K Yakobu/Sanjeev Kumar of AWSA emerged as the undisputed champions and the title defenders N K Yadav/Bibhuti Barik had to be content with the Silver while Kamlesh Patel/Kanwar Vinod of Army Yachting Node finished third.

...Bankers' Day Out

management of Cognizant Technology who have drawn up an Memorandum of Understanding with the TNSA wherein TNSA will provide one program a month to their employees at a fee. While this development is important in that it brings in much wanted funds into the kitty, the strain of running the events, would have to be shared by a larger body of members. Who knows, there might be others who want to join in a program of this sort and our weekends could see us having a number of people passing through our portals to have a good time. They will not only be our brand ambassadors but will also ensure that we can simultaneously exploit these budding opportunities to develop the sport and through that, the Association.

If TNSA has grown so fast it is because we have found new ways of including more people in the project while helping people who want to sail. We have brought in boats - more than quadrupled our fleet, developed a group of sailors which has grown and our lascars have been a committed bunch of workers who have ensured that such laymen sailing programs are not marred by unseemly breakdown of equipment. However, much more needs to be done. To improve our level of coaching, and to back up our logistics TNSA needs a RIB, stacks to store boats and more staff to look after the needs of our growing numbers.

All this and more is well within our reach, if we make a concerted bid to offer support the well thought out activities at the association.

...Commodore Claudius Memorial Regatta 2008

Saturdays and Sundays except when he is traveling. He came second in one of the races, though he is just a couple of months old in laser sailing. Bijoy, a committee member is another who has started regularly sailing the laser of late and participated in the races.



Pankaj sheets in on the Bay

Pankaj from the Indian Navy too was a visitor this day and took over Bijoy's boat to sail the last race and finish second. A good sailor, he has sailed in the Coastal Nationals 2005 in Chennai and now posted in Arakkonam, immediately made a beeline to TNSA to get a piece of action. But unfortunately TNSA is strangled by a severe shortage of Laser hulls. The club owns just 6 hulls, four of which were donated by the Navy 6 years back when TNSA was born! These are in lamentable condition, not fit for racing, not that it stopped us, thankfully there are also 6 other privately owned boats and plans are afoot to import a few more.

But yes, TNSA sailors still race with all enthusiasm, no matter what the condition of the hull/sail/rigging. And more sailors are waiting in the wings to join the laser fleet as soon as we can get more boats. Well, to get back to the Commodore Claudius Regatta, Shantha finished first overall and claimed the Commodore Claudius Trophy.

Bonne Bouche _____



A gift to mom

Four brothers left home for college, and they became successful doctors and lawyers and prospered. Some years later, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said, "I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said, "I had a hundred thousand dollar theater built in the house."

The third said "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her."

The fourth said, "You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took twenty preachers 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for twenty years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it."

The other brothers were impressed. After the holidays Mom sent out her thank you notes. "She wrote: "Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway."

"Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home, I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks."

"Michael, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound, it could hold 50 people, but all my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same."

"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you."

Don't ask, just shoot!

A man with a gun goes into a bank and demands their money. Once he is given the money, he turns to a customer and asks, 'Did you see me rob this bank?' the man replied, 'Yes sir, I did.' The robber then shot him in the temple, killing him instantly. He then turned to a couple standing next and asked the man, 'Did you see me rob this bank?' The man replied, 'No sir, I didn't, but my wife did.'

Intelligent Design?

A little girl asked her mother: How did the human race appear?

The mother answered: God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made.

Two days later she asks her father the same question. The father answered:

Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race was developed.

The confused girl returns to her mother and says: Mom how is it possible that you told me that the human race was created by God and Papa says they were developed from monkeys.

The mother answers: Well dear, it is very simple. I told you about the origin of my side of the family, while your father told you about his side...