



Thunderbird Sailing

February 2007

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Issue

President Wendy Loat called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM at the College Club in Seattle. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were accepted as published in the February 2006 Newsletter.

The following officers were present.

Wendy Loat—President, Fleet 10 Toronto , Looney Tunes #394
Dale Dunning—Vice President, Fleet 2 Seattle, Water Torture #20
Sandy Pratt—Secretary, Fleet 2 Seattle, Falcon #1177
Walt Purcell—Treasurer, Fleet 2 Seattle, Rubber Biscuit #1114
Vidas Stukas—International Measurement Chair, Fleet 4 Victoria B C, Owl #642

The following members were present.

Craig Bumell, Fleet 2 Seattle, Predator #1255
Duane Emnott, Fleet 13 Everett, Kalua #262
Kemp Jones, Fleet 2 Seattle, Barbaree #60
Harry Proctor, Fleets 1 & 2, Boats #3 #10 #621
Marvin Lew, Fleets 1 & 2, Boats #3 #10 #621
John Edwards, Fleet 4 Victoria B C, Cool
Breeze #1060
Jamie Storkman, Fleet 1 Tacoma, Fandango
#9
Gary Davis, Fleet 1 Tacoma, Swan #1008
-

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International Organization

President 2006:

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**ITCA Address—Thunderbird Sailing
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Newsletter Contributions are Welcome

Articles, photos, letters to the editor, from racers and cruisers are what makes it all work.

Contributions are welcome in any form. Mail them to the editor's home or email.

Sandy Pratt

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Report of the President by Wendy Loat

Let me start by saying that I am not particularly pleased with my own contributions (or should I say lack thereof) during my first year as President of ITCA.

Sandy Pratt tried his best to make me look good by managing to get three full newsletters out to the membership this past year. Thank you, Sandy, for doing such a great job as Secretary.

At last year's meeting, we approved the Victoria bid to host the Internationals in 2007. Plans have been proceeding, and we will be getting a full report from the chair, John Edwards, later in the meeting. I know first hand how difficult it is to run this event, and how much work goes into it, so I would like to thank John and his team for their efforts.

The BOG held four meetings over the past year.

We discussed a few changes to the Black Book, and one to the Constitution. None of the proposals were particularly contentious, and thus one minor addition to the Constitution has been proposed for this meeting, and one minor Black Book change. The suggestion to introduce roller furling has been put on the back burner pending some testing. We want to see if it has an impact in any way on the boat's performance. Some safety concerns were also raised, given that our boats do not have life lines.

Vidas Stukas will be stepping down next year as ITCA Measurer, and we are looking for a replacement.

Matthew Moesteller is doing a great job of running the forum. We hope that he will soon decide to join ITCA.

I'd like to thank Dale for his on-going and long-standing contributions. He has spent the past year filling in the role of VP, and got stuck with the roster production. He has redesigned the format, and we all look forward to receiving the final product.

Because Dale spent three years as ITCA President prior to taking over as VP for a year, and because he spent significant time re-designing the website before that, Dale appears to have lost all traces of sanity, as he has agreed to stay on as webmaster. Hopefully he won't come to his senses any time soon.

On behalf of all T-Bird owners, I'd like to thank Dale for the tremendous contributions he has made to ITCA over the past several years.

Finally, I'd like to thank Sandy and Letha Pratt for again agreeing to put up with me while here in Seattle. I may get to return the favor next year, as it may be decided to move the AGM east next year.

Continued on the next page

Report of the Vice President by Dale Dunning

Plans for the 2007 International Championships in Victoria B C are proceeding.

A Fleet is needed to sponsor the 2007 Pacific Northwest Regional Championships.

Vancouver B. C. is trying to start a Thunderbird Fleet..

The ITCA Roster is almost complete. It will have removable pages so each year or two a limited number of pages may be replaced in an update.

Secretary's Report by Sandy Pratt

Three newsletters were put out.. Several questions on the forum were answered. Several emails were answered. Participated in the board telephone meetings. Suggested that the class investigate authorizing Kevlar reinforced Mylar Genoas.

I want to say thanks to Dale Dunning for organizing the Pacific Northwest Regional Championships at Port Townsend Washington the first weekend in September.

Treasurer's Report from Walt Purcell

See the report on the next page.

The Annual General Meeting Report is continued on page 6

2006 ITCA Income and Expense Statement			
Beginning Balance			\$6,697.22
Income			
Plans 6		\$296.81	
Dues		\$600.00	
Interest		\$14.83	
Total Income		\$911.64	
Expenses			
Phone-conference		\$26.57	
Newsletters		\$688.65	
Postage		\$230.66	
Kinko		\$163.20	
Internet		\$480.00	
Bank Fees		\$4.36	
Shipping		\$170.44	
Misc.		\$70.25	
Advertising--Sailing World		\$540.00	
Total Expenses		\$2,374.13	
Total Income/Loss			(\$1,462.49)
Cash on Hand		\$24.00	
Ending Balance 12-31-06			\$5,234.73
Balance 01-26-07			\$5,926.58
Plans sold---6			

ITCA Measurer's 2007 Report by Vidas Stukas

The Victoria Fleet will be hosting the 2007 Internationals, the first with the new spinnaker. The change to the spinnaker size and an increase in pole length was approved at the last AGM, and went into effect Jan 1, 2006 in the northern hemisphere. The obvious note here is that particular attention will be paid to the measurement of the new spinnaker in Victoria, so be prepared! This includes the use of a used spinnaker from a J-24. Note that some of these do not quite meet the simpler rule put in effect for the T'Bird. For the Internationals and other ITCA sanctioned events, spinnakers must measure in to the new rule. This may require minor surgery for the J 24 chutes that went pear shaped in order to beat their measurement points. Who would have thought that mimicking the rule of another class would cause such problems?

So how did this experiment work out? And, how does this stack up in PHRF? My assessment of several happy reports is that this has been a successful implementation. Use of the new, larger spinnaker is not universal yet, but this year's Internationals should help solidify the changes. The boat definitely balances better, and the sail looks more in keeping with the proportions of the T'Birds big main.

The BOG put forward a nice resolution that would recognize the fact that some owners keep their boats for a very long time, but end up being hampered by the purchase rule of only one extra set of sails during the ownership of a boat. The obvious way out of that is to continually buy 'new' boats. The proposed change addresses this nicely.

The most exciting prospect this year was the showing of a T'Bird with an open cockpit and transom removed. The Lithuanian flag in the background completely threw me off! What sensible artistic people!! (Stukas is Lithuanian for those who did not guess). While the cockpit volume appears to have been exceeded over the original plans, it certainly looked as if it would drain much better – as long as the sill height in the companionway was not exceeded. Mind you, this is an issue for virtually all T'Birds; and, I would like to see this addressed in the near future, be it with a lock-in hatch board or a bridge deck of some sort. Comments?

I look forward to the discussion and resolution of this issue. It still is one of my fundamental aims as the Measurer to keep on improving the performance of the Thunderbird by various, relatively affordable and easy changes.

Continued on the next page

Tacoma Fleet 1 Report—50th Thunderbird Anniversary Plan-

Here is the status of planning for the Thunderbird 50th Anniversary:

1. Planning meetings are held in Gig Harbor Civic Center every other month in 2007.
2. Gig Harbor has agreed to provide free moorage at the city pier south side.
3. Date is August 1, 2 & 3 2008 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).
4. Friday welcoming party is at the Gig Harbor Museum with drinks and hors de d'oeuvres (you will be surprised at what the museum has). Thunderbird #1 will be on display there.
5. Saturday skippers meeting for boating event. Several options include parade of boats through the harbor, race in clear air in Colvos Passage or Quartermaster Harbor or maybe wild water balloon fights. Input is requested from AGM regarding preference of events.
6. Saturday night a gala dinner and awards ceremony at the Gig Harbor Yacht Club. Our boats will be available for public viewing at the city pier and maybe a band will be provided at the head of the city pier (city park).
7. We are trying to get a banner at the main intersection in Gig Harbor to be displayed during the weekend.
8. Sunday skippers meeting for last boating event. Several options include a send off parade of boats through the harbor, race for beer cans on docks in harbor or maybe wild water balloon fights.
9. We are finalizing the logo for mugs, T-shirts and hats. John McMillan submitted four artistic logos for consideration and I brought them to show to the AGM. Start-up funds are requested from the ITCA. An itemized list will be provided for funding request.
10. We intend to get the Tbird web site updated for announcing the 50th anniversary (we need both Ed Josberger and Dale Dunning for this). We are looking into articles in local magazines and publications to gain more attention. We are seeking volunteers that might have skills to accomplish this (Laureen Lund is a facilitator for the city of Gig Harbor and will help get the articles published).
11. Eddon Boat Works where Ed Hoppen and Ben Seaborn built the original Thunderbird is a work in progress, and is visible from the roads edge not far from the city park. Residents of Gig Harbor voted for this to be annexed as a future park.
12. This is going to be a fun event, so mark your calendar. Gig Harbor is a quaint little village with lots of shops, restaurants and a nice waterfront. (Continued on the next page)

Seattle Fleet 2 Report by Craig Burnell and Sandy Pratt

Seattle Fleet Thunderbird Predator took first over all 100 + boats in the March three race Long Distance Series sponsored by The Corinthian Yacht Club. Invader #1244, Barbaree #60 and Valkyrie #974 were second, third and fourth Thunderbirds. We had Three weekend series, one on Puget Sound and two on Lake Washington with five boats participating in the April Puget Sound Series and four boats participating in each of the two Saturday Lake Series. The Seattle Fleet had 95 races that includes 65 evening races, 7 Regional races and 8 Center for Wooden Boats Regatta races plus the above weekend series.

We had a Skipper Swap evening competition with eight Thunderbirds participating. Dale Dunning won skippering Aozora, second was Craig Burnell skippering Barbaree and Third was Kemp Jones skippering Predator. This event is set up with the results of the first Wednesday evening scores. The first place boat's skipper gets to skipper the last place boat in that series and the last place skipper gets to skipper the first place boat in that series. The second place skipper gets to skipper the second to last place boat and the second to last place skipper gets to skipper the second place boat and so on. The idea here is that the winning skipper will help the crew which has not done to well and also that a winning crew can help a skipper who has not seen much of the front of the fleet.

The Center for Wooden Boats Thunderbird Rendezvous and Regatta the first week in August was a highlight of the summer. Kemp Jones and Suzy Bruzell from Barbaree #60 organized this great event which included 16 starters in the racing class and 6 starters in the cruising class. Races were held Saturday and Sunday with a dinner Saturday night. Trophies were awarded Sunday after racing. In the racing class first went to Craig Burnell in #1255 Predator, second to Jamie Storkman in #9 Fandango and third to Marty Godsil in #1244 Invader.

The Seattle Fleet hosted the Pacific North West Regional Championships in Port Townsend, Washington 40 water miles from Seattle. Dale Dunning organized this event with help from Jim Konigsfeld and Alyssa Farber putting on shore activities and Kemp Jones providing the trophies. Fifteen boats participated in this light air seven race regatta September 2 & 3. Marty Godsil in #1244 Invader was first, Sandy Pratt in #1177 Falcon was second, Gerry Roloson in #447 Rev was third, Craig Burnell in #1255 Predator was fourth and Ken Lane in #1236 Raptor was fifth.

Dale Dunning put on a great December Christmas party where we shared white elephant gifts, d'oeuvres, drinks and conversation. The newly elected fleet officers are Kemp Jones, president, Alyssa Farber vice president, Jim Konigsfeld secretary, Dale Dunning treasurer and Sandy Pratt newsletter editor.

Continued on the next page

Fleet 4 Victoria B C Report by John Edwards

Three Thunderbirds participated in the winter series. Five Thunderbirds plus participated in the spring, summer and fall series where one design starts were provided. Only Cool Breeze #1060 from fleet 4 participated in the Regional Championships in Port Townsend. Active Fleet four members are busy in planning for the International Championships June 30 through July 6 in Victoria. See page of this newsletter for the 2007 International Regatta Preview.

Boston Fleet 5 Report by Don Kavanagh

For Fleet 5 the 2006 racing season got underway in June with the Savin Hill Yacht Club Twilight Series. The first race of the year was abandoned as the wind died with the fleet in the vicinity of the final mark off Thompson's Island. That turned out to be an omen for the Twilight Series as only eight out of 13 races were finished.

Five different boats scored at least one victory in the series which was not decided until the final three races sailed on a Saturday afternoon in September. *Chikanery* skippered by Sean Kane won the first two that day to clinch the series for the second year in a row. Steve Kavanagh's *Mysterious Ways* placed second overall and *Thunderation*, with Don Kavanagh at the helm, sailed to three straight seconds to overtake "the new boat," Geoff Youngman's *Atomic Salsa*, for third overall.

Next up for Fleet 5 was Quincy Bay Race Week. The QB Race Committee generously setup a racecourse just for T-Birds three weeks before the regatta was scheduled because of a conflict in our schedule.

In first place, winning both races convincingly was *Flying Gull*. *Chikanery* earned second and *Atomic Salsa* was third.

Two weeks later the fleet returned to Quincy Bay with six boats for the Lipton Cup Regatta. *Chikanery* edged *Flying Gull* in the first race but was DQ'd for being over the starting line early. It was the only mistake *Chikanery* would make in the eight-race series as Sean Kane and crew dominated with seven straight wins – most of them not close. *Mysterious Ways* took second with *Flying Gull* third for the series.

In early August, four Thunderbirds competed at the Make-A-Wish Regatta hosted by Cottage Park YC. The regatta doubled as the Thunderbird Class Atlantic District Championship.

Although this regatta was the smallest in terms of T-Birds entered – the competition was the most exciting of the season featuring lots of lead changes and tight finishes. Case in point, in the fifth race of six in the series, *Atomic Salsa* (which won the fourth race and would go on to win the sixth race) led comfortably at the final mark with just a short beat back to the finish line while *Chikanery* rounded the mark in fourth place. If the boats held their positions to the finish – *Salsa* would move into a first place tie for the series. And by virtue of winning the last race would win the series.

Continued on the next page

Boston Fleet 5 Report (Continued)

However, *Chikanery* made a quick tack onto starboard while the other boats kept going on port. Soon *Flying Gull* and *Mysterious Ways* tacked to starboard while *Atomic Salsa* sailed on. With a big lead and such a short leg it seemed like the race was a cinch but the starboard boats got a spectacular lift. *Chikanery* received the most benefit and incredibly got the gun and more incredibly *Atomic Salsa* fell to fourth.

With a throw-out to be figured into the scoring, it came down to the final race between *Chikanery* and *Flying Gull* with the *Gull* placing second to clinch the series championship. *Atomic Salsa* placed third for the series.

Later, in August Savin Hill YC hosted the Boston Light PHRF Race. Seven boats (including three T-Birds) started in heavy winds. *Thunderation* got away clean at the start and never looked back. *Mysterious Ways* and Peter Gilson's *Amr'a* followed as T-Birds swept the top three spots.

In September Savin Hill YC hosted the Hosea White PHRF Race. This race was also raced in very heavy winds with five boats (two Birds) braving the starting line. *Mysterious Ways* won on corrected time.

Savin Hill Thunderbirds took the top five places in Fleet 1 Class D. *Atomic Salsa* was 30th overall; *Mysterious Ways* 22nd. The third place trophy was won by Jonathan Lee in *Draco* (20th overall); *Thunderation* was second (19th overall) and *Chikanery* first (seventh overall).

Additionally, Don Kavanagh won the Master's Award for being first among skipper's age 65 and older.

Chikanery had Diane Kane on the helm and ended up with a "boatload" of trophies including first Female Skipper, First Thunderbird, First Class D. *Chikanery* was also the top finisher in the Modern Classic category for boats built more than 25 years ago.

Following the race, sailors went ashore to George's Island for beer & barbecue supplied by sponsors Harpoon and Redbone's.

Fleet 5 celebrated the 2006 at the annual Award's Dinner in January. Sean Kane took home the Mass Bay Sailing Assoc. Championship trophy for winning the season-long competition comprised of Quincy Bay Race Week, Lipton Cup, second day of Atlantic Districts and the Spirit Series.

Steve Kavanagh was awarded the Fleet 5 Championship trophy for finishing on top of the season-long competition comprised of Lipton Cup, Spirit Series and first day of the Atlantic Districts.

Everyone enjoyed the excellent food at Alba Bar & Grill, the video slide show presented by Ethan Gilson and the entertainment provided by sailor/pianist's Arthur Johnson, Reed Cournoyer and John Reilly.

Toronto Fleet 10 Report by John Morris President 1228 Rockit

The 2006 Season was a fine one for Fleet 10. The Fleet's prominence and profile has grown, partially due to the changing landscape around us.

Like in many other areas, racing in general is encountering declining numbers. While Thunderbirds have always been a small but active fleet in the area, our participation has held or even improved marginally while other one design and handicap fleets are suffering the ravages of reduced time availability, aging boomers and golf. In this context, which is unfortunate for sailing in general, the T-Bird Fleet is a beacon for all. As it should be.

In any case, the 2006 Season held some very enjoyable highlights. Thursday nights' Upper Canada Series racing was very hotly contested with as many as a dozen boats showing up on the ABYC start line. The competition was close and most every Bird had its night to shine.

The summer weekend series was not particularly well attended except for the 2006 NE Districts held in conjunction with the ABYC Open Regatta

Off the water, the Fleet created the T-Bird Museum to celebrate the nearly 50 years of Thunderbirding. Under the banner "Providing memories for those who can barely remember", sailors in the fleet contributed sweatshirts, newsletters, bottles of Thunderbeer, photos and other relics of past campaigns to create a vivid history of the 'Birding. Curator Roger Renaud, recently returned to fleet activity from a prolonged nap, contributed his own 'Fauvette in a bottle' hand crafted by his uncle. The Fleet's goal is to augment the collection and document it as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

A hearty Awards night was hosted by Toronto Hydroplane & Sailing Club who laid on extensive hospitality for the fleet. Former Fleet president Drew Robertson and the crew of Full On accepted the bulk of the prizes including the Fleet Championship

For 2007, Fleet 10 has accepted an invitation to participate in LYRA, Lake Ontario's long held premier Regatta and will shortly confirm a summer schedule, likely similar to last year's successful one.

Continued on the next page

Fleet 13 Report (Everett Wash.) by Duane Emnott

The Fleet 13 International Cruise had six boats in 2006. This year the Fleet 13 sponsored cruise will be to South Puget Sound after the Center for Wooden Boats Regatta the first week in August.

Kalua #262 won the Fleet Championships.

Duane is building a new wooden Thunderbird.

Mark Hoffman has Cloud Dancing #333 for sale. The Hoffman's are expecting their first child.

Fleet 24, Nanaimo B C, Report by Ken Lott Fleet President

For 2006 the T'bird flame is burning rather low in Nanaimo. Meeting attendance has reached the lowest level in my 10 years of involvement, to the point where the next meeting will be scheduled when someone else calls me. No Christmas Party was held and no social activities are planned.

Two boats have remained active racing in local NYC fall series, winter series and the new single hand second Saturday event.

Boreas is the only Fleet 24 boat to have a new spinnaker pole and old J24 spinnaker. None of the other boats have expressed any interest in adopting the new class spinnaker making it pointless for Boreas to do so either.

Nahanni and Boreas were pleased to see Owl show up for the Cowichan Bay Regatta last August. They were the only other T'bird we saw at the mid island racing events.

Nahanni won their division in the Sin Regatta and placed ahead of Boreas in Gyro Cup Regatta to claim honors as Fleet Champion.

(continued on the next page)

Fleet 24, Nanaimo B C, Report continued from prior page

Alacrity definitely covered the most water cruising and was joined by Boreas for a week long trip to Princess Louisa Inlet.

Hopefully 2007 will finish on a brighter note than it's starting.

Fleet 27, Perth, Western Australia Report by John Wager, Pres.

- jgwager@bigpond.net.au

Fleet 27 continues to operate from the Swan River marina of the Royal Perth Yacht Club of Western Australia, with access also to the RPYC ocean marina down-river at the port city of Fremantle.

Thunderbirds compete in the RPYC Saturday club river racing for Division 3, regular starters being Vamoose 854, Blue Thunder 511, Falcon 973, Thunderstruck 929, Thunderation 1197 and Metala 891. Thunderbirds are also competing in the RPYC Wednesday-afternoon racing, a mid-week sail for both retired gentlemen and working skippers who can arrange their commitments to suit.

Over our southern summer months, the Club also operates a Thursday-evening twilight sail, with an appropriately-short course, followed by a barbeque and carvery under lights on the club lawns, providing another welcome bonding opportunity for Thunderbirders.

We look forward to our State Championships, scheduled for March, and the relaxed Rottneest island weekend following the summer racing season..

Jim and Helen Baker, of Blue Thunder, are planning to make it 'up north' to the 2007 Thunderbirds International in Victoria in July, and will carry greetings to ITCA from Fleet 27. We send warm greetings to all who share the joy of sailing this versatile and loveable boat.

Business Reports**Constitution Changes**

The change to Section 6.2 to allow voting by electronic means may be arranged at the discretion of the Board of Governors for a decision by the members was passed at the meeting.

The change to Section 8.4 to allow an additional sail of each type may be purchased after each 10 years of owning the boat did not pass.

International Dues Change There was a motion passed to increase these dues to \$15.00 in 2008. This will be voted upon at the next International Meeting.

Business Reports continued**2007 Thunderbird International Championships Preview** by John Edwards

The event schedule is as follows:

Saturday June 30 Registration & Measurement

Sunday July 1 Registration, Measurement & Practice Race

Monday July 2 Racing

Tuesday July 3 Racing

Wed. July 4 Lay Day- Racing if needed

Thursday July 5 Racing

Friday July 6 Racing & Awards Banquet

See the ITCA web site www.thunderbirdsailing.org and Victoria 2007 Official Web site for detailed information.

Racing will start each day at 1 PM to take advantage of the building Westerly. There will be an out of bounds area around the rocks in Oak Bay.

Each competitor is requested to send a digital photo of his or her boat to johnedwards@shaw.ca. These will be posted on the web site.

Mylar Genoas

A number of people have been unhappy about their Mylar Genoas. Some have fallen apart from being dragged across the rig while tacking. All Mylar Genoas shrink faster than Dacron. Some believe that the Mylar Genoas retain their shape better than Dacron. Wendy Loat, Vidas Stukas and Marty Godsil have all gone to Dacron Genoas.

A discussion was had about using Kevlar reinforced Mylar Genoas which are not now allowed. Several sail makers said that they would cost one 10% more than existing Mylar Genoas. President Wendy Loat requested Vidas Stukas to look into this for the class.

Thunderbird 50th Anniversary at Gig Harbor August 1-3, 2008

Balloon flights, Free moorage, and a light air regatta plus other activities are planned. See the Tacoma Fleet 1 report on page 7 of this newsletter.

Vice President Elected

Sean Kane from Boston Fleet 5 was unanimously elected Vice President to replace Dale Dunning.

Vice President Elected

Sean Kane from Boston Fleet 5 was unanimously elected Vice President to replace Dale Dunning. Although Sean was unable to attend this year's meeting he sends the following.

Greetings International Thunderbird Sailors,

I would like to thank Wendy for her encouragement to step in to the role as VP. I have had the pleasure of establishing great friendships throughout the Thunderbird class both locally and internationally.

I was born in Boston, MA in April of 1973. I think I started sailing a month or two later. I married Diane in 2003 and we just celebrated our first son's first birthday a week ago.

I bought Chikanery #154 in 1995. I had been a member at the Savin Hill YC in Boston since I was a junior member. Savin Hill is known as Thunderbird Hub in Boston Harbor. Currently there are 12 of the 15 local boats sailing out of Savin Hill. Having graduated College in the Spring of 1995, I returned to Boston and as I was walking out the door one Wednesday night at the YC, Don Kavanagh offered me a ride on Thunderation. From that twilight race I was hooked. Crewing was fun, but I wanted my own boat. Luckily for me #154 was sitting there in the dub yard ready for a new owner. I looked past the most grotesque blue color that I had ever seen and bought my first boat.

Since then I have had the pleasure/pain of keeping the lowest numbered boat in the fleet on the race course every year. I laughed when Wendy wrote in the latest newsletter that these boats are "meant to be sailed". While not the prettiest boat cosmetically, Chikanery lives by the June 1st motto. All work stops and it is time to go sailing.

Over the years I have been lucky enough to travel to Seattle in 1997, Victoria in 1999, and Toronto in 2001. Everywhere I have visited has been a great experience meeting other Thunderbird Sailors. I would not trade this boat or this class for any other. I look forward to promoting the Thunderbird anyway that I can as Vice President.

Fair Winds,
Sean Kane
tbrd154@verizon.net



Photo provided by Steve Kavanagh of Pete Gilson's A'mra and part of the Boston Fleet



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