



# Abacourier

Newsletter of the United States Albacore Association  
November 2009

## Nationals Regatta The Crew's Perspective

*Stephen Duncan:*

I had one of the greatest times of my life at Rock Hall!

There were some interesting moments, like the time my dad started a race by crossing the fleet on port tack. Also, one time we came around the committee boat and tapped a few other boats on the side. We had our share of bad sailing when we passed the back nine boats 3 times in one race. At the end of that day my dad was elected to wear the "chicken suit". When I sailed with Daphne on Monday we sailed well, making it our best race in the whole regatta.

*Sue Zeisler:*

My memorable event was the first (non) race of the first day, Saturday. I don't normally sail in the higher winds, and I think I wasn't really aware at first how challenging it would be. After the start, Rolf had everything really cranked down on the windward leg, and I thought we were doing rather well and fairly under control. But then came the reaches!! Even remembering Solomons in 2001, I don't think I have ever gone so fast on a reach! The spray was everywhere, and I almost thought it was going to fill the sails and tip us over! We really worked to keep everything going, and just as we were completing the first round (triangle), the windward mark seemed to be a moving target, and turned out to have lost its anchor, and the race was abandoned by the RC. For better or for worse, we decided to retire back to shore at this point, but it was both an exciting and nerve-racking race experience.

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Judy and Paul Armstrong



Raheel Khan & Laura Hetherington



Rolf and Sue Zeisler



Peter and Rae-Anne Norwood



Milutin Adjdacic & Peter Trebuss



Rolf Zeisler, John Woffinden, and RHYC Commodore Lee Urbani

Champions Harris & Byron receive their trophy



David Byron, Rolf Zeisler, and Barney Harris



Greg and Rider Jordan

**U.S. NATIONALS  
Rock Hall,  
Maryland  
Oct. 10th - 12th,**

Photos by Sylvi Duncan  
and Terry Duncan



Steve and Kyle Swenson



Terry and Peter Duncan



John Woffinden & Lee Mullins



Doug and Kay Marsh

# Letter from the President

Here I am going into the third term as President of USAA together with Khin Thein as newly elected Vice President and the other Executive Committee Members, Kay and Doug Marsh, Becky Craig, and Sylvi Duncan, who have so kindly agreed to stay on. Thank you, AGM, for the trust and confidence bestowed on us. I am sure that this new & old team will function well and that together with the fleets we will again have a successful sailing season. Khin has done all the coordinating that we were able to get done by now with the result of a fine schedule in 2010 as shown elsewhere in this letter. The past week we finalized the agreement for the Mid-Atlantics venue. We have deliberately departed from the past to join a Chesapeake Sailing Club, Rock Hall Yacht Club in 2010, for one of their events to make efficient use of all the work that goes into a regatta. One highlight for next season will be our return to Rehoboth Bay for the North Americans. Many of the local sailors and our friends in Canada have already expressed how much they are looking forward to this event.

This is probably the best spot to thank everyone again for their support during the past two years which didn't coincide with my retirement as originally thought, but now it's on and I have plenty of time - at least that's what some may think. At least I hope to find a bit more time to spend sailing and, with it, to serve this organization. We need to get some of these lingering administrative and class rule related issues resolved, we hope to get an Albacore mold certified for the HAPCO production, and we must do more to sustain a viable membership. With the help of our great communicators and the media at our disposal, in print and electronically, we will not allow our Class members to drift away or to simply forget that the USAA needs active members not only to fill a race course but to be part in the preparation, conduct, and celebration of a successful event. Our recruitment of race participants, regatta chairs, race committee staff, fleet measurers, fiber glass and gel coat experts, etc., will be always heard and hopefully be successful - How are your plans for the Mid-Winters coming along? Let's not forget our very active Past President Joanna Beaver down in Florida. She certainly likes to see a lot of us down there for what I like to call Spring Break!

Now, if you please think snow so that the ones who have their boats properly winterized and packed away in a "ready" mode can enjoy the white stuff that seems to complement the sailing so adequately, I will be even more happy to greet the New Year with its next sailing season after a Merry Holiday Season. With my best wishes to you for this Season,

See you all soon,

Rolf

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# Sailor Profile

## Lars Rathjen

I started sailing with my father when I was about six years old, and lived in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Initially, we had a small 12 foot sailing dinghy, but soon moved up to an O'Day Daysailor (like the Albacore, also an Uffa Fox design).

When I was 12, we moved to Melbourne, Florida, and had a house on the water. We had a family boat, a Com-Pac 23. After about a year, I got my first boat, a Cape Dory 10, which was given to me by a friend of our family. It was a bit of a fixer upper, which my father and I did together over the course of a couple months. I have lots of fond memories – sailing almost every day. I'd be able to sail my boat during the week after school, going off to explore creeks and islands, and would go off with my father on weekends on long daysails up and down the Intracoastal waterway, or on overnight trips to watch space shuttle launches.

My father never was a racer, so I got into racing on my own by starting to crew on PHRF boats during high school and continued that into my college years.

I moved to the Washington area after college, and began looking for places to sail. I met Mark Hensley at the Washington Sailing Marina one weekend while he was rigging his Albacore. We started talking, and he invited me out for a sail. I crewed for him a couple times, and then starting sailing regularly with Daphne. After about a year, I bought my own Albacore.

My worst-ever race wasn't in an Albacore. I was crewing on a 40 foot boat in a distance race off the coast of Florida. We were about 10 miles offshore, sailing upwind in 25-30 knots and confused seas. At about 2 AM, I went down below to the nav station to check our position, and stepped off the companionway ladder into water over my ankles. Unbeknownst to everyone on deck, the boat was taking on water. We spent the better part of the next hour sailing as fast as we could straight towards the coast, planning on running the boat up on the beach if we couldn't find the source of the leak. Fortunately we found, and slowed, the leak, and managed to finish the race. But the boat was trashed, with thousands of dollars worth of damage to the gear

and electronics from hundreds of gallons of saltwater sloshing around the cabin.

It's hard to identify specific best races. Every once in a while Janice and I found our way into the top 5 at a Nationals or North Americans. That was always pretty nice.

I can recall many great regattas. Our first trip to Nationals in 1996 was pretty memorable. I had just bought the boat a few months earlier, and had never been to an out-of-town regatta of any kind. We didn't have a working trailer, and we didn't have a trailer hitch. So Rich Lawson towed the boat to Rehoboth for us using Diane Goebes' trailer. I had just bought a new set of sails, but had never sailed with them. It turned out that the new jib was cut completely wrong. I think we finished in last place in a four boat B fleet. But the help we got getting the boat to and from the regatta, the tuning help we got from Peter, Barney, Daphne, and others far outweighed our poor results on the water.

Maybe my best race ever happened earlier this summer, on a Wednesday night at Washington Sailing Marina. It was probably blowing between 3 and 6, and there were only two other boats in the race. But when we finished first, my crew – my two year old daughter Morgan, turned to me and said "Daddy, I wanna do it again!!"

For the time being, our Albacore sailing is a bit limited while our kids are small. Both Morgan and Dylan will be old enough by next summer to sail Albacores on Wednesday nights when the wind is light. In time, I hope they'll start sailing with me in PRSA Sunday Series races as well.

In the mean time, we bought a bigger boat, and have been doing some daysailing and some short overnight trips. As the kids grow, I'm hoping to extend our cruises around the Chesapeake Bay and possibly beyond.

Sailing has shaped pretty much every aspect of my life. It's provided innumerable friendships, and Albacore sailing is how I met Janice. My ultimate long term goal is for my kids to get as much enjoyment from sailing as I have. So far so good!

## Janice Rathjen

I was not raised in a sailing atmosphere. I grew up with motorcycles, not sailboats (and that was in an all-female household). I must say though, that wiping out in a sailboat is a lot nicer than wiping out on a motorcycle. I've never gotten 3rd degree burns from a capsized.

I was born in North Carolina, but my parents moved back to Woodbridge, Virginia when I was knee-high to a grasshopper. My mom still owns the house in which I grew up. I managed to "break away" from Woodbridge

when I headed south (a full 3 hour drive) to Norfolk, VA, to attend Old Dominion University. When folks hear I went to ODU they say, "Wow, they have a great sailing team." Yea, I know. Too bad I was busy scuba diving.

I've always loved being near, on, and in the water. I started taking scuba lessons in college and continued my certifications through Dive Master and Assistant Instructor. When college was done, I headed back north with a philosophy degree in my back pocket. (I started

out studying Russian, but that's a whole other story.) Like most folks with philosophy degrees, I got an office job. As my sun-drenched locks slowly darkened under the buzz of fluorescent lights, I knew I had to get back to the water.

I had often thought of taking sailing lessons. The only option I knew about at the time was paying a few hundred dollars for a weekend sailing course in Annapolis. But then what? Annapolis was about an hour away. It seemed like a dead-end.



**Morgan and Lars**

a flyer on the community board that read, "Haven't you always wanted to learn how to sail?" "Why yes, I have," I thought. So I called the phone number on the flyer and spoke with a woman named Diane Goebes. She was the Fleet Captain of the Potomac River Albacore Fleet. (Yea, okay, what about the sailing stuff?) Diane told me about PRAF's Wednesday Night series where skippers taught new crew how to sail. How much does it cost? Nothing....well, if you like it and you want to join, it costs \$10 per year. So, what's the catch? Skippers need crew and they need crew to go on out-of-town regattas. Would I be able to do that? Sure! (And what's a "regatta"?) I had no idea what an Albacore was. I didn't know one boat from another, except that sailboats had sails on them and other boats didn't.

The best race I recall was at Mid-Atlantics. We were racing upwind with a great view of Barney and Jasper (although quite a bit ahead of us) as they fought to the finish with dueling roll-tacks. It was just spectacular watching them. Lars and I were already boasting about getting a 3rd place behind the 2 fleet superstars...then the wind shifted. Barney and Jasper were still tacking their way towards the pin end. Meanwhile, Lars and I did one tack and found ourselves heading right towards the RC boat. I could hardly breathe. Jasper and Barney were just about to cross the line at the pin...they were neck-and-neck...then the RC shouted "7979". (It was us!!) Both Barney and Jasper must have gotten whip-lash as they both spun their heads towards the RC boat. I couldn't stop laughing! Who got 2nd? I dunno - who cares?

Then there was Nationals at Rehoboth. Lars was the new USAA President. I was still an unseasoned crew. It was blowin' like nutso and no one wanted to be the first

out. Lars said that we had to go out first, since he was the Prez. We did. The two things I remember is that I survived and I didn't get 3rd degree burns.

There was also Mid-Winters in Sarasota. The sky and the water were both sparkling blue. The wind was howling. We were the second boat behind Chris Gordon. We were on a scream-reach, but not exactly heading for the mark. (Sometimes Lars would get wrapped up in looking at the sails, so I would have to bring his head back out of the boat and to the marks.) I said, "Chris is way off to the left. The mark is much more over to the left." He calmly replied, "I know." Nuf said. I'm proud to say that we got 2nd overall in that regatta.

Diane Goebes was instrumental in getting me into the fleet. Knowing I knew nothing about sailing, she suggested that I go to the library and read children's books on sailing. That was just enough information to get me started. Katrina Merrigan was the first person I sailed with during one of PRAF's Wednesday night summer events. We won our first race and I didn't even know we were racing. Katrina was also PRAF's Crew Coordinator. (I've learned that every fleet needs a great Crew Coordinator!) She gave a guy named "Lars Rathjen" my phone number.

I married my skipper. Now we have a daughter named Morgan (not exactly named for Jasper and Becky's Morgan 32, but we thought of the name while we were watching the start of the Volvo race on their Morgan...) and a son named Dylan (our choices were "Lars, Jr." or "Dylan").

Diane didn't tell me that was part of the deal when I asked, "What's the catch?" oh-so-many years ago.

Occupation? Pre-kids, I was an IT contractor. Ah, that philosophy degree workin' for me again! Sometimes I still do short-term technical writing jobs from home. I'm very active (and very happy) doing "mom's club" activities.

These are my short term and long term sailing goals / ambitions:

Hmmmm, we have 5 boats, so I'll go down the list.

Tartan 28 – Continue to pleasure sail as a family.

Albacore – Continue to participate in PRAF's Wednesday Night Races. Since Morgan did these races prior to her 2nd birthday, I assume Dylan will do the same. If both kids are out in Albacores, I hope to be able to get my feet wet again (figuratively, not literally, I hope.)

My old Laser – Once the kids can deal with mommy sailing away from the dock, and once Lars can deal with the kids crying as I leave the dock, I hope to be able to sail my Laser again.

Lars' Laser – He needs to get back into frostbite racing again. I miss those long walks into Old Town while he's Lasering.

Opti – Many thanks to the Duncans for giving us their in-progress, home-built Opti. Lars and "Uncle Barney"

# 2009 U.S. NATIONALS, ROCK HALL, MD

## Results, Presidential Fleet

Pos	Sail No	Cntry	Skipper	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Total	Net
1st	8122	USA	Barney Harris	David Byron	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	(24.0 OCS)	33	9
2nd	8088	CAN	Allan Measor	Richard Piercey	2	2	5	-8	2	3	6	3	31	23
3rd	8126	GBR	John Wolfinden	Lee Sayasithsena	3	5	3	6	-10	5	7	2	41	31
4th	6701	GBR	Judy Armstrong	Paul Armstrong	7	4	4	-12	5	6	3	4	45	33
5th	7162	CAN	Warner Monteiro	Sonja McAuley	12	12	7	1	3	1	2	(24.0 OCS)	62	38
6th	7141	CAN	Ian Brayshaw	Jeff Beitz	5	3	2	9	7	7	5	(24.0 OCS)	62	38
7th	8095	USA	Kelsey Averill	Justin Bell	11	11	-13	4	4	4	4	1	52	39
8th	7000	USA	Chris Gorton	Matthew Edwards	4	6	6	13	9	13	-15	11	77	62
9th	6434	USA	Peter Duncan	Terry Duncan	9	8	11	16	8	8	9	(24.0 OCS)	93	69
10th	8136	CAN	Milutin Ajdacic	Peter Trebuss	10	7	9	-22	13	10	16	9	96	74
11th	8083	USA	Lloyd Leonard	Matt Rhodes	6	9	12	21	-22	12	14	5	101	79
12th	8027	USA	Daphne Byron	Will Summers	14	15	15	-18	12	18	12	6	110	92
13th	8140	CAN	Jason McVeigh	Pamela Leeuwstein	18	13	16	7	15	11	-19	12	111	92
14th	7492	USA	Greg Jordan	Rider/Delaney/Steven	17	21.0 DNC	19.0 DNC	11	(25.0 DNC)	9	8	8	118	93
15th	8124	USA	Steve Swenson	Kyle Swenson	13	14	14	3	14	19	18	(24.0 OCS)	119	95
16th	8057	USA	Khin Thein	Thant Thein	8	19	8	10	6	(25.0 DNC)	25.0 DNC	24.0 DNC	125	100
17th	7945	USA	Doug Marsh	Kay Marsh	(23.0 DNC)	21.0 DNC	19.0 DNC	5	19	16	11	10	124	101
18th	7962	USA	Nathan Marsh	Sarah Evans	16	16	18	14	-23	14	13	13	127	104
19th	8021	USA	Jim Graham	Susan Graham	-20	17	19.0 DNC	15	11	20	17	7	126	106
20th	8113	CAN	Ralph Glass	Cathynn White	15	10	10	20	18	-22	21	15	131	109
21st	6900	USA	Raheel Khan	Laura Hetherington	(23.0 DNC)	21.0 DNC	19.0 DNC	17	16	15	10	16	137	114
22nd	7943	USA	Dan Miller	Jill Williamson	(21.0 DNF)	21.0 DNC	19.0 DNC	19	21	17	20	18	156	135
23rd	4126	CAN	Peter Norwood	Rae-Anne Norwood	23.0 DNS	18	17	-25	20	21	22	17	163	138
24th	7378	USA	Rolf Zeisler	Sue Zeisler	23.0 DNC	21.0 DNC	19.0 DNC	23	17	-24	23	14	164	140
25th	7964	USA	Scott Snyder	Doug Foord	19	21.0 OCS	19.0 DNC	24	24	23	(25.0 OCS)	24.0 DNC	179	154

## Results, Challenger Fleet

Pos	Sail No	Cntry	Skipper	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Total	Net
1st	7471	CAN	Almir Tavares	Christine Kelly	1	1	-2	1	1	1	1	2	10	8
2nd	8018	CAN	Liana Giovando	Tony Zakrajsek	2	2	1	2	2	-3	2	3	17	14
3rd	7960	CAN	Dominic Goodwill	Jeff Cole	3	3	3	-4	3	2	3	1	22	18
4th	7352	USA	Gene Spillane	Tom Conrad	-4	4	4.0 DNC	3	4	4.0 DNC	4.0 DNC	4.0 DNC	31	27

# Minutes of General Membership Meeting

Rock Hall, MD      October 11, 2009

## Opening

President Rolf Zeisler called the meeting of the United States Albacore Association held Sunday, October 11, 2009 to order at 7:46 PM. President Zeisler expressed his thanks to all those who organized 2009 US Nationals. He also announced possible regatta sites for 2009. Mid-Winters to be held at Sarasota; Monmouth Boat Club to host US Nationals the last weekend in August; North Americans will return to Rehoboth Bay over the Columbus Day weekend; We will be returning to Rock Hall for Mid-Atlantics.

## Financial Statement

Treasurer Becky Craig was unavailable but informally reported to the President that we are "breaking even". Mid-Atlantics was under budget. Costs for ads in sailing magazines are being split between USAA and CAA.

*Motion to accept the report made by Bob Bear; Seconded by Gene Spillane; Passed*

## IAA

IAA representative Peter Duncan was unable to make the meeting at Internationals this year but the USAA was represented by Barney Harris and David Byron.

There has been a rewrite of the class rules to put them in ISAF format as requested by the RYA. We assumed nothing would change except for the format. The draft was sent to RYA one year ago and the unofficial review by the RYA is not positive. The RYA wants the only say in how the rules are administered and wants to make the Albacore class closed which it has not been.

Michael McNamara of NAA is negotiating with the RYA.

Currently all three associations must pass rule changes to maintain unity and continuing on this path is essential.

The future may have all associations standing up to RYA or NAA staying with RYA, and CAA and USAA maintaining as yet an undefined relationship. At the IAA meeting it appeared that the three associations would like to continue working together since it has taken many years to build the current relationship.

Questions from the floor followed.

President Zeisler made the following motion:

*The USAA feels strongly about the importance of supporting and promoting the class on a global basis. We want to protect the integrity, strength and popularity of the Albacore class on an international basis. To that extent we offer our vision of a strong unified international association.*

Seconded by Bob Bear; Passed

## Nomination and election of officers

The proposed officers are:

President – Rolf Zeisler

Treasurer – Becky Craig

Specifications – Doug Marsh (appointed)

Vice President – Khin Thein

Secretary – Kay Marsh

Albacourier Editor – Sylvi Duncan

Slate of candidates accepted and approved by acclamation

Meeting adjourned 8:23 PM

Kay Marsh, Secretary

Alb 8122,  
winner of 2009  
Internationals in  
Scotland,  
and winner of  
2009 Nationals in  
Rock Hall,  
Maryland



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## 15 AND 30 YEARS AGO

Fall 1994

### US Nationals

In his second win of what would become one of the most dominant streaks in the history of the Albacore class Barney Harris (7493) with his brother crewing, won the 21 boat national championship at Rehoboth, DE. Jasper and Becky Craig (7127) took 2<sup>nd</sup> over boat builder Don Oakie (7950) with Chris Gorton crewing. Doug and Kay Marsh (7945) were 5<sup>th</sup>. Dave Wallerstein (7117) finished 8<sup>th</sup> while Bill Buck and Katrina Merrigan came in 10<sup>th</sup>, just ahead of Lloyd Leonard (7377) and Doug Foord. In the family duels, Joanna Byron (7499) and Matt Edwards finished five places ahead of her mom, Daphne Byron (7380) in 18<sup>th</sup>. John Duncan (7457) sailed to a 15<sup>th</sup> edging Peter and Sylvi Duncan (342) by one place with a three-point margin. Dave Yemc (7129) was 17<sup>th</sup> and Rolf Zeisler (7378) was 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Fall 1979

#### Albacore Juniors

Mike Brown and Tom Causin of PRSA teamed up for their third win of the Lockley-Newport trophy for best junior team (19 and under) in the Albacore class. In a tight four race series Brown and Causin came from behind to prevail over the Monmouth Boat Club team of Randy Rice and Chris Lindmark by one point. Brian and Mike Mohan of Hunterdon were 3<sup>rd</sup>. The series included big luffing matches and a 20 tack duel between Rice and Mohan on the final beat.

#### North Americans, 1979

After finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in several major championships, Bill and Eileen Ewing decided that to win at CORK (Kingston) with its reputation for strong thermals, they needed more than total crew weight, so Eileen gave up the front of the boat (#6352) to Paul Pezzutti. In the 8 race series that ensued, Bill and Paul battled Mike Glew (#6700) and Karen McRea (#6220) for top honors. Ewing racked up a 1-1-1-2 in the first half of the regatta which was sailed in 5-18 knot thermals with the "go left at Kingston" rule in full play. Bill was glad to have Paul's weight aboard for race #7 where the winds built to 30-35 kts. "Although I can recall sailing in heavier air, this was the strongest breeze in which a race was started. Our main objective was to complete the course without breakdown or capsized... 2<sup>nd</sup> at the gybe mark we filled the boat with water, but drained it in 20 sec! The next seven boats capsized. While we were concerned when a strong lighting storm passed through at the final leeward mark with increased gusts and hail, we hung on to second place with a full leg (1.75 mile) lead over the 3<sup>rd</sup> place boat to win the regatta."

#### Houseguest Award

Stevii Graves gave the "house guest of the year" award to Peter Duncan, "who looks like a clone of his father (John Duncan) and just oozes good manners...he can sleep on our floor anytime."

#### New from Skene

Skene Boats made a new hull mold from the computer shaped plug that was built by the CAA and Canadian Research Council under the guidance of Ian Meller. The official class lines were fed into a CNC milling machine producing a solid wood block plug of the Albacore hull to unprecedented accuracy. Albacores from this mould began production in 1979 (about #6800) and derivatives of this tooling are still in use today by Ontario Yachts.

#### Hapco Marine

In its first year of business, Hapco Marine (2) sold 18 new Skene Albacores and 10 used boats into the Middle Atlantic market. Fleets turned around declining membership with over 30 new members.

#### US Nationals

Celebrating its 100 anniversary, Monmouth Boat Club (Red Bank, NJ) played host to 41 Albacores in early October. Bill and Eileen Ewing (6352) won the breezy regatta sailed in winds of 10-20 kts with the final two races cancelled when "a cold front moved through with more wind on the river than we've ever seen." Jeff Cotter (5959) and Drew Wallio were 2<sup>nd</sup>. Riaz Latifullah finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Junior Champion, Mike Brown was 5<sup>th</sup> and Dave Wallerstein and Brenda Fox were 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Albacore Worlds

Twenty-three year old, Mike Holmes (6654) won the 60 boat event held at Royal Torbay YC in England. Michael McNamra (6812) was 4<sup>th</sup>. Representing the USA John Luard and Eileen Ewing (6398) were 6<sup>th</sup> and Roger and Cathy Thomas (5995) finished 55<sup>th</sup>.

## Crews' Reviews, continued from pg. 1

*Jeff Beitz:*

Warm weather, warm water, good breeze, cold beer, good friends and an opportunity to meet new friends from across the pond, a perfect way to end the 2009 sailing season!

We have always enjoyed what the Chesapeake Bay area offers and never hesitate to join in an event in this area, A must do for those who have not sailed in this part of the world before. Thank you for providing another great sailing memory.

*Susan Graham*

I can't think of any specific highlights, but for me one of the best things about going to Nationals is seeing friends from Canada, Monmouth, and West River. Over the years, it seems that many of the same people travel between the U.S. and Canada for various events, and I value those friendships very much

*Matthew Edwards:*

I have given this some thought and as the owner of a vintage wooden boat I find that I am basically just a big chicken when it comes to handling the boat aggressively because I enjoy the beauty of the boat more than the thrill of the racing. So, this year I tried a new approach.... Get a great skipper and I crew for them.... I decided both Saturday and Monday's racing was like being on a cab ride in New York City.... You are going places where the vehicle just should not fit but it is almost as if its not real... You're just watching, thinking boy, this could really get ugly fast all this spinning and turning....

Turns out, this was a great approach.... Other than being slightly nervous about the boat staying in one piece I had a great time and I think my skipper had a good time as well.

The venue was exceptional, I forgot just how nice an area Rock Hall was to sail at.

*Sonja McAuley*

Challenging breezes combined with good weather made for a great regatta. That being said, I did gain a new appreciation for my dry suit on the last chilly day.

## Janice Rathjen, continued from pg. 5

will hopefully finish it before Morgan turns 4. I would love to start an Opti fleet at the kids' school. (Soccer is way over-rated.)

In the 13 years I've been sailing, I've bonded with more people than I have time to mention. This fleet is truly an extension of my family.



**MORE  
Great Photos from  
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at the  
AGM Dinner**



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- 2007 US Nationals 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, Canadians 5<sup>th</sup> -
- 2007 Mid-Atlantics, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, places
- 2006 US Nationals, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> places
- 2005 North Americans 2<sup>nd</sup>

*For information and pricing in USA contact:  
Peter Duncan, USA Sobstad Representative,  
410-431-5480, sailfaster@aol.com  
Sobstad was a proud sponsor of 2007 Internationals*

## 2009 Tuna Bowl Monmouth Boat Club Sept. 19, 2009

Five boats turned out for the event, although Raheel Kahn's jib halliard tail managed to disappear into his mast just before raising sails. After attempting to fish it out, he eventually had to take the mast down and remove the foot. But he and his wife of two months, Shiza, did get out for race three, which they won by more than 10 boat lengths. Shiza has only been in a sailboat once before – two weeks earlier – so this finish is a great way for her to get started! Needless to say, she was all smiles. Then they had to miss race four due to previous commitment at home.

Bernie Friel, one of the top MBC Flying Scot sailors, borrowed John Lawser's glass boat to try his hand in a vessel that actually tacks fast, points, and planes (he regularly complains about how Albacores are pointing machines during MBC handicap bridge races). He picked up Wendy Thrower as his crew, so he had a very experienced Albacore crew on board.

Three of us managed to pick up large clumps of weeds. Someone had done major cutting up river, and the high tide washed them into the river where the outgoing tide drug them through our course. Dale Barney picked up his in race one, Bernie in race two, and Doug Marsh in race three.

For the first three races, the winds were between zero and 10 mph, varying from NW to NE. This, of course, made life miserable for the RC, but we spent about equal time on both tacks, so they succeeded about as well as possible. After a lunch break, we went out for one more race. Things got very light – probably never over 4 mph with a lot of dead spots. Amazingly, Doug, Dale, and Bernie managed to round the final mark in that order with only a few feet of separation, and on the final leg, Bernie got a tiny puff, pulled away and won by 20 boat lengths.

### Tuna Bowl Results. PRO Les Hathaway APRO Keith Johnson

Pos	Sail No	Skipper	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Points
1	7945	Doug Marsh	Kay Marsh	1	1	2	2	6
2	7355	Bernard Friel	Wendy Thrower	2	4	3	1	10
3	6896	Dale Barney	Skyler Berney	3	2	4	3	12
4	7352	Gene Spillane	Gary Piatick	4	3	5	4	16
5	6900	Raheel Kahn	Shiza Kahn	DNS	DNS	1	DNS	19

## Schoene and Mattera win Albacore Junior Title

### August 23, 2009- Galesville, MD

Matt Schoene and Gina Mattera held off a strong challenge from top Annapolis 420 sailors John and Katie Andrill to win the 2009 US Albacore Junior Championship. In a very competitive fleet of 14 teams, Schoene and Mattera sailed a 2-1-2-1-3, two points better than the Andrill team. Alex Ramos and Alicija Bulota, Broadneck High School teammates of Schoene were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the regatta.

Schoene and Mattera, who had not previously raced Albacores, quickly translated their 420 and Laser skills into the new class to win the Lockley-Newport trophy. Severn School sailors, Amanda Salvesen with Ian Duncan crewing, were 4<sup>th</sup> overall and won the Byron Family Trophy for the top woman helm in the regatta.

Alex Jacob and Ben Buhl of Fishing Bay Yacht Club took 5<sup>th</sup> overall and won 16 & under division. West River sailors RJ Bay and Katie Scheidt edged Terry Duncan and Lydi Whiteford in a tie-breaker for third place.

In the 13 & under fleet where there was no restriction on the age of the crew, Stephen Duncan (with dad crewing) squeaked out a one point win over Andrew Yemc (with his dad crewing). Bryan Bay and Chris Scheidt were 3<sup>rd</sup> and West River sailors Sean Walker and Haley White were 4<sup>th</sup>.

Event organizer, Peter Duncan, commented, "It was great to have so many juniors borrow boats and try the Albacore class. It offers much of the tactical excitement that the kids have learned in the junior boats, but gives them a path to grow into a class that they can race beyond their teen years. We are already laying plans for an even bigger event in 2010 and hope to see all of these excellent junior sailors back next year for more fun."

## 2009 Nationals Awards

**Roger Thomas Senior Trophy** - Top boat with combined age > 110 years: *Milutin Ajdecic and Peter Trebuss*

**Bill Shore Award** - Top woman helm: *Judy Armstrong*

**Endurance Award** - Lowest placing boat that starts every race in the President's Fleet: *Peter & Rae-Anne Norwood*

**Most Improved Award** - For the greatest improvement in overall position from the US 2008 Nationals:

*Ralph Glass and Cathyann White*

**Against All Odds Award** - For top placing boat using personal handicap system: *Allan Measor & Richard Piercey*



Terry Duncan & Lydi Whiteford



Bryan Bay & Christian Scheidt



John & Katie Andrill



Sean Walker & Haley White



RJ Bay & Katie Scheidt



Greg Jordan and Daphne Byron



Jordan Minot & Charlotte Andreasen

**JUNIOR NATIONALS**  
**Galesville,**  
**Maryland**  
**August 23rd**  
  
Photos by Marty Minot  
and Sue Zeisler



Stephen & Peter Duncan



Matt Schoene & Gina Mattera



Andrew & Dave Yemc



Amanda Salvesen & Ian Duncan



Sunday's recipient  
Peter Duncan

# USAA News

2009 USAA Nationals at Rock Hall, MD  
The Dumb Cluck Award: given to those who distinguish themselves from the fleet through "unusual" manoeuvring.



Monday's recipient  
Barney Harris



Two more snapshots of the lively Nationals weekend.



**Welcome New Members!**  
Stephen Bartlet,  
Santa Barbara, CA

Don't Forget to renew your MEMBERSHIP?!?!  
Fill out the enclosed form, or visit online renewal:  
[www.albacore.org/USA/membership/](http://www.albacore.org/USA/membership/)  
or see insert.

## 2010 U.S. Albacore Association Schedule

Mar 19-21	Mid-Winters	Sarasota Sailing Squadron	Sarasota, FL
May 29-30	PRSA Spring	Potomac River SA	Washington, DC
TBD	Spring Fling	Monmouth Boat Club	Red Bank, NJ
*June 5-6	Dave Irey Regatta	West River SC	Galesville, MD
June 12-13	Mid-Atlantics	Rock Hall YC	Rock Hall, MD
June 19-20	Nepean 1-Design	Nepean SC	Ottawa, ON
June 19-20	Fun Daze	Kerr Dam	Kerr Dam, NC
TBD	Ontarios	TBD	Canada
*July 10-11	Cambridge	Cambridge YC	Cambridge, MD
Aug 7-8	VA Gov. Cup	Ware River YC	Gloucester, VA
Aug 14-15	Fishing Bay	Fishing Bay YC	Deltaville, VA
*Aug 21-22	Eastern Canadian	Shelburne YC	Shelburne, NS
Aug 21-22	Junior Nationals	West River SC	Galesville, MD
Aug 28-29	US Nationals	Monmouth Boat Club	Red Bank, NJ
Sept 3	Long Distance	West River SC	Galesville, MD
Sept 4-5	Labor Day Regatta	West River SC	Galesville, MD
Sept 11-12	Pres/Leukemia Cup	Potomac River SA	Washington, DC
*Sept 17-19	Canadians	TBD	TBD
TBD	Tuna Bowl	Monmouth Boat Club	Red Bank, NJ
Oct 9-11	North Americans	*Rehoboth Bay Sailing Assoc	Rehoboth, DE

See website for schedule updates: [albacore.org/USA/schedule.asp](http://albacore.org/USA/schedule.asp)

\* = tentative