

Annual Race Carries Tradition Of Sociable Vineyard Sailing

By HILARY STOUT

The Yellow Bird carried one of the more esteemed crews in Vineyard Haven harbor waters to the starting line of the seventh annual George M. Moffett Jr. sailing race Sunday.

Two former Moffett winners piloted the banana-colored Kirby 25. Skipper Joe Low, victor the first year of the contest, and Hank Scott, winner the following year, stood together in the stern of the Yellow Bird checking a diagram of the course and plotting the afternoon tides. Neither of their other two crew members, Marc LaRhetta and Lee Hoegner, had ever raced before, but the sun was bright, the breeze was strong and Mr. Low and Mr. Scott were ready to try again.

Not necessarily for first place, they cautioned. This was to be a handicapped event. Boats of a certain sail area and size would have to concede time to other, less powerful craft. But Mr. Low and Mr. Scott were ready to sail a good race, and as Mr. Low put it, "sail for our own satisfaction."

But satisfaction was not to be had at first. Amidst the confusion of checking sails and changing jibs, the Yellow Bird crew missed the starting gun. "The rest of the fleet is a half mile in front of us," Mr. Low groaned.

And then befell a worse fate: the blustery northern breeze faltered to nothing more than a flutter. "The north wind always does this. It blows like hell in the morning, then lightens, and by noon it's diminished," Mr. Scott said with the resignation of an experienced sailor. It was to be a day of fickle winds,

"This will be the longest leg of the race," Mr. Low said, looking ahead.

For at least one crew member the competitive drive was overwhelmed by the exuberance of gliding over the open sea. "Good, the longer the better," Miss Hoegner said.

The crew sat peacefully aboard the Yellow Bird, guiding the tiller and easing the sails in and out. "Stand by to tack," came a cry, and the Yellow Bird became a rush of swinging booms, scurrying feet and flying sheets. After a serene run on the new course, orders to tack came again, and the Yellow Bird zig-zagged over the waters in search of the fullest winds.

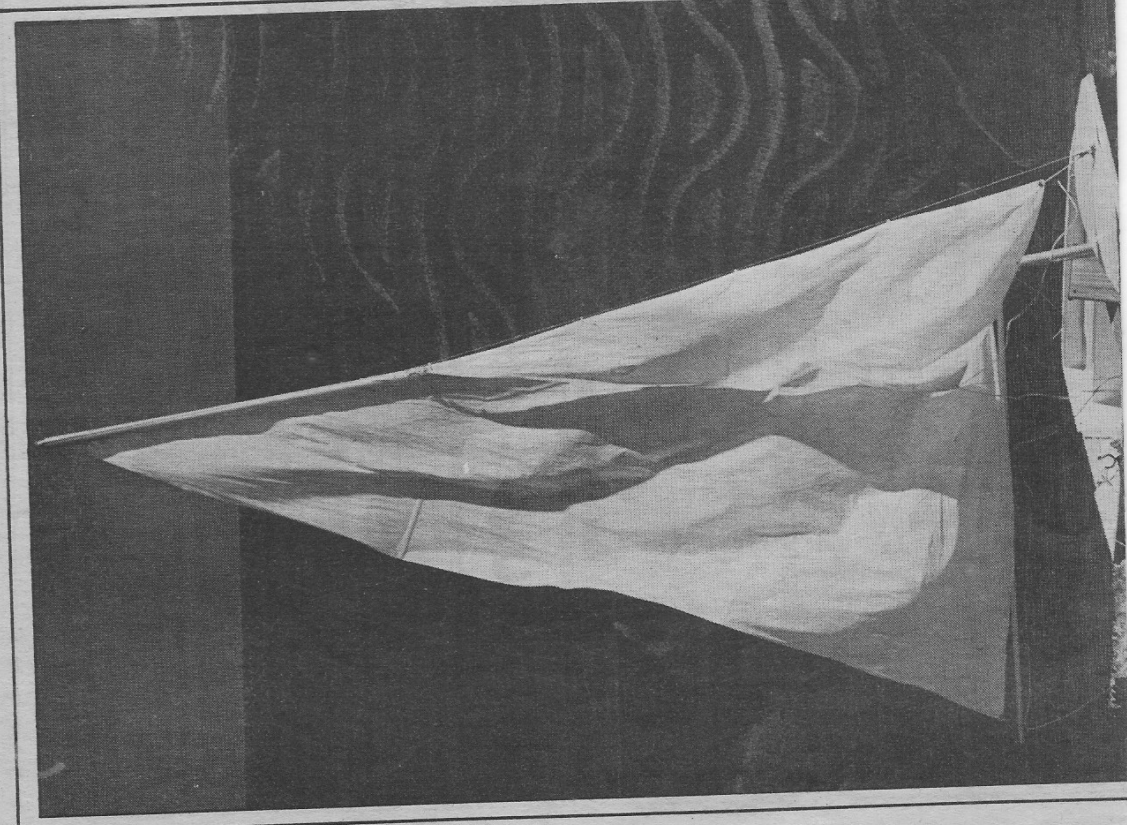
"With all the tacking and zig-zagging, we will probably cover 20, 22 miles," Mr. Scott said.

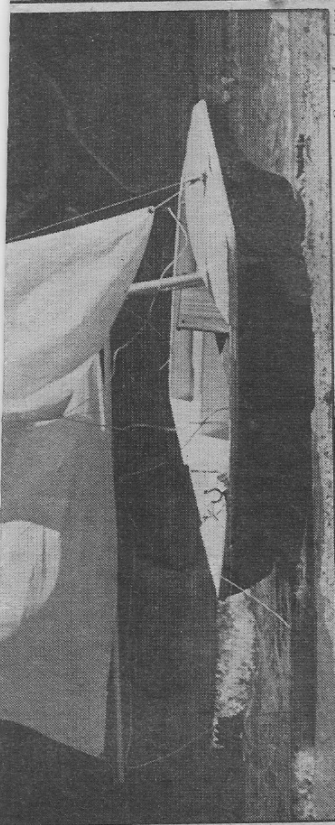
The Yellow Bird streaked smoothly toward the second course mark, but Mr. Low was already thinking ahead. "We've got to think about what needs to be done when we get around here. Flatten the jib..." he began.

"Why are all those boats steering so much higher?" he asked himself out loud, scanning the sailboats fanned out before them.

"I don't know, but I don't go for it," Mr. Scott said, and continued along his own course.

The wind died as the boat neared the third buoy. The Yellow Bird bobbed on the waves, unable to venture closer to the elusive mark. But Mr. Low was prepared. "We'd better get a jib on the other side. It looks like we've got a different wind coming."





Carol Lundeen

BEACHED AND LUFFING AT THE END OF SAILING SEASON.

Holmes Hole Sailing Association Meeting Concludes Enjoyable Summer of Racing

The annual meeting of the Holmes Hole Sailing Association was held on Sept. 8 at the hospitable home of Vice Commodore Harry and Den-mother Ginger Jones. About 25 members and wives repaired afterwards to a potluck supper. With the river wards again delivering the critical votes, Commodore West announced that the incumbents had been re-elected. The commodore's usual protestations that he was unfit for the responsibilities of the office were shouted down by the members. The officers for 1984-85 are as follows:

Commodore, Pat West; vice commodore, Harry Jones; rear commodore, Harry Duane; fleet captain, Bud Haven; first officer, Tom Mendenhall.

The commodore then announced the season's winners in Class A: First, Bird, Joe Low; third, Alise, Richard Cohen; fourth, Resolute, Alan Wilson. In Class B: First, Stormaloug, Jerry Goodale (for the fourth successive year); second, Liquid Bleach, Roger Becker; third, Sea Caper, Bud Haven; fourth, Skrap, Sam Parks; fifth, Louisa K. Fast, Tom Mendenhall; sixth, Erda, Pat West.

In reflecting on the past season, Commodore West pointed out that the racing had been interesting even if the Race Committee had been obliged to shorten two of the harbor races for lack of wind. For himself, he greatly appreciated his rivalry with Skrap and Sam Parks.

As for the future, he reported that the Race Committee (Frank and Edar Jewett) had asked to be relieved of some, if not all, of their responsibilities. All agreed that the Jewetts' time spent at the races and thought given to the handicaps

represented an irreplaceable part of the association. Negotiator par excellence, the commodore announced that the Jewetts were willing to continue to handle the rendezvous races. The matter was resolved when Harry Duane, inspired no doubt by his first for the season, announced that the Vineyard Haven Yacht Club will be able to provide both boat and committee for the harbor races.

All agreed that such friendly cooperation between Vineyard Haven Yacht Club and HHSA was both welcome and desirable and that every effort should be made to enlist more racers from the Yacht Club fleet in the association's races. Before adjourning the members plausibly expressed the hope not only that more members might be lured out for the races but also that more Vineyard boats and sailors could somehow be persuaded to join the association and enjoy its racing program.

With that pious hope the assembled fans pitched into the wealth of lucky pots provided. Sam Parks brought a half-bushel of the last corn of the season from the mainland as well as a magnificent beef stew which he claimed to have perfected in the Merchant Marine. Any association which ranges all the way from Roger Becker's one-year-old daughter to Walker Lewis, boasts such fine cooks among its wives, and enjoys such pleasurable racing must be living right.

But HHSA is also just plain lucky to have such a Race Committee as the Jewetts, such an available computer through Hugh Schwarz, such an unflappable, diligent secretary as Ginger Jones and five such dedicated officers.

T.M.

Mr. Scott said, and continued along his own course. The wind died as the boat neared the third buoy. The Yellow Bird bobbed on the waves, unable to venture closer to the elusive mark. But Mr. Low was prepared. "We'd better get a jib on the other side. It looks like we've got a different wind coming."

The Yellow Bird glided triumphantly around the mark. "Hey Eddie, thanks for waiting," Mr. Scott called to the crew of the nearby Uдина.

And the Yellow Bird streamed toward the Vineyard Haven harbor on its most successful leg of the day, gliding over the finish line as the wind died once again.

And the crew members smiled as they looked back at the array of other boats yet to cross the line.

Nineteen of 31 competitors finished this year's Moffett race. The final results are: 1, Ardent, George Delaney; 2, Andiamo, Harry Duane; 3, Taygeta, Jonathan Churchill; 4, Allise, Richard Cohen; 5, Gracil, Pamela Spearing; 6, Yellow Bird, Joe Low.

7, Lyla, Henry Jones; 8, Feather, James Weisman; 9, Undina, Ross Gannon; 10, Banzai, John Hall; 11, Brigand, Roger Feldman; 12, Sin, C. Morrison; 13, Scout, Tim Chilton; 14, Zephyros, James Rosenfeld.

15, Boston Common, Tim Guiney; 16, Veron Langille, R. Everett; 17, Stormaloug, Jerry Goodale; 18, Paniandrum, George French; 19, Liquid Bleach, Roger Becker.

Low groaned. And then befell a worse fate: the blustery northern breeze faltered to nothing more than a flutter. "The north wind always does this. It blows like hell in the morning, then lightens, and by noon it's diminished," Mr. Scott said with the resignation of an experienced sailor.

It was to be a day of fickle winds, however, and a gust of wind caught the Yellow Bird's sails and she streamed toward the Falmouth harbor on the first leg of the 16.5-mile race.

Clad in yellow slickers against the sharp wind, the two seasoned sailors sat side by side in the stern, silently guiding the boat, sifting strategies in their heads. Sitting forward, legs dangling off the side, Mr. LaRhetta and Miss Hoegner chattered happily about their first race. The ocean sparkled off the Falmouth shore, but the task of the minute was to spot the mark around which all competitors must navigate before heading back toward Edgartown on the next leg of the race.

Mr. LaRhetta, a blond and bearded college student, peered through heavy black binoculars. "I see it!" he yelled. "It's red. See, straight ahead, in front of the red roof."

"Oh yeah," cried Mr. Scott. "Beautiful! Beautiful! We're going right for it!"

"The wind's playing around with us," Mr. Low warned.

But Mr. Scott called out, "We're making a beeline for it. We'll do something in this race yet!"

Competitors in a nearby boat waved as the Yellow Bird sailed around the red buoy.

RACE RESULTS

1984

SEVENTH ANNUAL GEORGE MOFFETT RACE
 SEPTEMBER 15, 1984

SCRATCH SHEET/RACE RESULTS
 N 15-10, NW 10-0
 WIND N 10-17
 CURRENT E to 16:30
 COURSE 16.9 mi SEA Chop
 START 1200

OWNER	TYPE/COLOR	LOA	SAIL NO.	YACHT NAME	ST	FLIPPED TIME	ALLOWANCE	11.1 NM	CORRECTED	PLACE
ROUWELIOTES, T	Ywl/white	52	---	LEGEND			0	0		
CHURCHILL, J.	Slp/white	50	10	TAYGETA	✓	205.64	0	0	205.64	3
HALL, J. D.	G/Slp/black	43	NY 15	BANZAI	✓	286.10	6	4	280.10	10
STACKPOLE, M.	Sch/white	50	---	MYA			10	6		
SPEARING, P.	Slp/white	45	010	GRACIL	✓	244.76	10	7	234.76	5
LA FRANCE, P.	Slp/black	45	---	CHRISTMAS			10	7		
CROFT, F.C.	Slp/white	43	6905	NIX	✓	DNE	10	7		
MEYER, E.	Ywl/white	40	---	MATINICUS			12	8		
LITTLE, E.	G/Cut/white	45	tanbark	LARK			12	8		
GANNON, R.	Slp/white	45	---	UNDINA	✓	289.16	14	9	275.16	9
FELDMAN, R.	Yawl/white	46	K 2499	SEA BRIGAND	✓	298.33	16	11	282.33	11
DELANEY, G.	Slp/blue	33'1"	33524	ARDENT	✓	218.00	23	15	195.00	1
COTÉ, S.	Slp/blue	27	US 20	IMPATIENCE			23	15		
DUANE, H.	Slp/red	26.7	US 510	ANDIAMO	✓	225.94	23	15	202.94	2
MORRISON, C.	Slp/white	24.3	US 2	FIN	✓	308.75	23	15	285.75	12
WILSON, A.	Slp/blue	24	2311	RESOLUTE			28	19		
GUINEY, T.	Slp/ivory	23	81	BOSTON COMMON	✓	314.01	28	19	295.01	15
LOW, J.	Slp/yellow	24	22699	YELLOW BIRD	✓	281.23	28	19	253.23	6
FRENCH, G.	Slp/blue	34.5	483	PANJANDRUM	✓	337.10	29	20	308.10	18
COHEN, R.	Slp/yellow	27	3	ALLISE	✓	255.08	30	20	225.08	4
WEISMAN, J.	Slp/red	24	22	FEATHER	✓	295.20	30	20	266.20	8
EDEY, M.	Slp/white	24.5	E	ELF			31	21		
FRANKLIN, T.	Slp/white	33.3	MS	ISABEL			31	21		
EVERETT, R.	Sch/black	34	---	V. LANGILLE	✓	328.54	31	21	297.54	16
GERVAIS, T.	Slp/blue	22	---	MOCKING BIRD			33	22		

Wind Popped

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GERVAIS, T.	Slp/blue	22	---	MOCKING BIRD		33	22		
ROSENFIELD, J.	Slp/white	28.5	330	ZEPHYROS	✓	35	24	290.90	14
JONES, H.	Slp/blue	33	---	LYLA	✓	38	26	261.90	7
THOMAS, E.	Slp/blue	33	1496	ESCAPADE	✓	38	26		
SLATER, A.	Ktch/bright	28	---	CERCERELLE		38	26		
WILLIAMS, R.	Slp/cream	28	18	DRUID	✓	38	26	DNF	
GREW, T.	G/ktch/whit	45	---	AYUTHIA	✓	42	30	DNF?	
DEBLOIS, J.	Ktch/bright	28	---	NO NAME		42	30		
GADD, F.	Ktch/green	28.4	3424	QUEEN ANNE IV	✓	42	30	DNF	
THORNS-WAYLAND	Ktch/ivory	28	15	DOG STAR		42	30		
REED, R.	Slp/white	28	---	WEST WIND		43	29		
TAYLOR, J.	G/Slp/white	25	---	SALLY MAY	✓	45	30	DNF	
BECKER, R.	Slp/white	21	---	LIQUID BLEACH	✓	45	30	35320	19
ARUNDAIE, D.	Cut/black	24	---	INCORRIGIBLE		48	32		
CLARK, J.	G/Slp/black	38	---	IRENE		49	34		
MOFFETT, L.	G/Slp/white	34.5	---	LUCIA	✓	49	34	DNF	
KONTJE, J.	Cutter/white	36	---	LADY ANNE	✓	51	34	DNF	
COOGAN, E.	G/Slp/white	30	---	WELWYN	✓	51	34	DNF	
SANBORN, R.	Slp/black	30	---	PATIENCE	✓	51	34	DNF	
GOODAIE, J.	Slp/white	22	S 22	STORMALONG	✓	51	34	35253	17
HALUSZKA, S.	Slp/white	23	472	SUNDANCE	✓	51	34	DNF	
BROWN, T.	Slp/white	22	222	PUKA	✓	51	34	DNF	
COY, P.	Cut/off wht	26	---	MAMMY	✓	53	36	DNF	
FRANKEL, B.	Slp/white	21	VH 38	DERVISH		58	39		
HUNTER, A.	Slp/black	22	88	SILVER GIRL	✓	58	39	DNF?	
MENDENHALL, T.	Slp/green	24	---	L.K. FAST III	✓	73	49		
WEST, F. JR.	G/Slp/white	22.5	---	ERDA		78	52	DNF	
PARKS, S.T.	G/Slp/white	15.7	---	SKRAP	✓	78	52	DNF	
GIFFORD, C. & I.	Cat/white	21	1	CUMBRAE	✓	83	56		
Ghilston, T.			32	Scout	✓	50		340.58	13