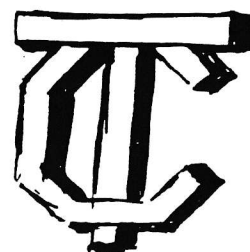




# NTCA

## NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1988

1987 marked the first season employing the revised specifications with a few exceptions. A post-season review by the specifications committee of comments, objectives, etc. resulted in slight modifications to the revised specifications summarized as follows:

1. High aspect ratio rudder disallowed.
2. Main sail headboard increase from 4 to 4½ inches.
3. Annual measurement and certification of sails.
4. "Grandfather" sail clause eliminated.

Certain items such as hull weight and centerboard weight/configuration were not enforced in 1987. Full compliance with issue 4 specifications (and addendum) will be required beginning with the 1988 racing season.

A note of gratitude for a job well done is extended to specifications committee chairman, Greg Linden.

### NTCA BY-LAWS

The National Town Class Association directors met in March 1988 to review NTCA by-laws which were last revised in 1971. It is suggested that each member contact his/her representative on the board of directors for a summary of proposed by-law changes to be voted on at the 1988 Nationals.

#### Board Members

Marblehead - John Russell  
                  Arthur O'Neil  
Nahant - Robert Wilson  
Sharon - Dick Nudd

Members not affiliated with the above fleets may contact Bob Tagliamonte or Mike Gaudette.

### 1988 NATIONALS

The Nahant Dory Club will be the setting for this year's Nationals on August 6 & 7.

Regatta chairman, Robert Wilson, and his staff will soon distribute details.

### THE 1987 NATIONAL TOWN CLASS REGATTA

#### CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

MARBLEHEAD, MA

JULY 18-19, 1987

Twenty-one boats registered for the 1987 National Town Class Regatta sponsored by the Marblehead Town Class Association and Corinthian Yacht Club on July 18 and 19th. Although planned as a 3-2/Saturday and Sunday race format, inclement weather forced the Corinthian Yacht Club race committee to cancel Sunday racing after conducting only two races on Saturday.

John and Judy Russell captured the 1987 National Town Class Championship in Weasel by sailing two superb races in difficult conditions. Ron and Jan Geddes in Rosy, defending

champion, finished second and Bill and Rene Heffernen in Sweep finished third overall.

In addition to some demanding sailing, regatta participants enjoyed socializing and debating the fate of the regatta on the Corinthian Yacht Club porch. After the traditional Town Class dinner party on Saturday evening, skippers and crew gathered early Sunday morning to wait for the weather to cooperate with the regatta schedule. The race committee motored to the "Brimbles Line" area outside Marblehead Harbor about 9:30 A.M. in twenty-two knot winds and choppy seas. Winds and whitecaps refused to subside by 11 A.M. Nevertheless, Bill and Rene Heffernen attempted to sail to the starting area and to make a report to the race committee which was communicating with the Corinthian dockhouse and Townie sailors by radiotelephone. Bill and Rene turned back to the Harbor before reaching Children's Island because of the severe conditions. Seas were heavy with winds gusting to over 25 knots. After considerable debate on the porch, regatta participants voted not to reschedule the "Nationals" and John and Judy Russell were awarded the Championship trophy and painting.

The Marblehead Town Class Association membership thanks all who participated in the National Regatta and looks forward to fine weather and the 1988 National Regatta in Nahant.

-Ron Geddes

#### MARBLEHEAD TOWN CLASS ASSOCIATION

##### 1987 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The Marblehead Town Class Association enjoyed a highly competitive, successful 1987 racing season. Twelve boats registered for season events and an average of almost five boats competed in each scheduled race. Despite erratic weather which conspired to challenge and confound experienced Townie racers, this was the highest average turnout of boats per race since 1983!

John and Judy Russell in Weasel, Bill and Rene Heffernen in Sweep, and Jane Cooke in Auf'blitzen dominated series racing. The Russell's won the combined Sudnay Series with Jane Cooke in second place and Arthur O'Neill in Frolic finishing in third place--edging Mary Ann Solstad in Lille Venn and Charme Blaisdell and Elaine Regis in Valkerie.

The Twilight Series, raced this year only on Thursday evenings, proved the most popular racing event of the season.



John and Judy Russell won the first Twilight Series followed by Jane Cooke with Blaisdell/Regis finishing a strong third. Jane Cooke won the second Twilight Series with John and Judy Russell in second place and Bill and Rene Heffernan in third place.

Bill and Rene Heffernan, welcome newcomers to the Marblehead Town Class Association this year, enjoyed more than beginner's luck as they sailed to the overall Season's Championship. Strong performances in the Saturday Marblehead Racing Association Series and a first place finish in both Marblehead Race Week and the New England Championship enabled Bill and Rene to narrowly defeat John and Judy Russell and Jane Cooke for the season's top honors.

Jane Cooke was named the "Most Improved" Townie sailor for the 1987 season and also won the "Best Attendance" award.

Arthur O'Neill stepped down after two outstanding years as President of the Association. Arthur continues to be one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Town Class. Association members thank Arthur for his contribution to Townie sailing in Marblehead.

Finally, the Marblehead Town Class Association welcomes inquiries about crew opportunities during the upcoming season. Please call Charmé Blaisdell at 631-4555 if you would like your name placed on a list of available crew. In addition, there are several opportunities for interested skippers to sail a Saturday afternoon Marblehead Racing Association race this season. Please call John Russell at 631-9229 if you are interested.

The Marblehead Town Class Association extends its best wishes for the 1988 season to all Town Class enthusiasts!

-Ron Geddes

NAHANT TOWNIE RACING  
IN THE SUMMER OF 1987

Rex Antrim and Company took the season's First Place Overall. It could have been his new Wilson & Silsby sails or that he left them on the boat, flaked on the boom and covered, or it could have been that his old boat took on water more efficiently than ours. Whatever it was, it gave him the Sunday Series as well. Bob Wilson displayed a commendable consistency. First in the Fall Series, second in the overall,

second in the Sunday series, and third in the Saturday series, giving fair warning that he will be a serious contender this season. Of course, if you have one you'll have another. Bob Tagliamonte and son Dana won the July 4th and the Labor Day Cup Races as well as coming in first in the Saturday series and will probably move his boat better with a new set of sails. Al Badger with a third in overall and a third in the Fall Series appears to be getting the hang of John Cort's former boat. Mark Pillsberry will be getting acquainted with Al's old boat, having just joined the fleet. Rene Michaud scored a third in the Sunday Series while his daughter Susan Kay leisurely took first in the Crew's race.

The rest of the oddly named boats were merely astonished spectators muttering to ourselves, "Why don't our boats go faster? We've read the rules, fine tuned our boats, concentrated diligently and yet find ourselves fighting to stay out of last place. It must be the new specs." So we weighed the boats and measured the sails, checked the chainplates and mast step and found out that most of us were illegal and still couldn't win the damn races. So it must be an intangible that decides who wins races. Otherwise we'd have to credit it to seamanship and it's generally understood that we're all equal on that score. Perhaps this season one of us underdogs will forget the rationale that we're only out there to have fun. Complaining, swearing at the crew, screaming insults at one another, grumbling over the confusion of rules, praying for the weather to turn strange, wearing ourselves out and generally have a jolly good time. Maybe one of us will become a supernova and master that elusive intangible and restore hope and courage to the rest of us by winning a series. Well the moorings are in the water, the boats are painted and polished, the skippers primed and crews prepared for abuse. An ancient Mariner reportedly said, "The feast is set. The Guests are met. Soon we'll hear the merry din."

-Tom McGrath

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In order to be a member of the NTCA one must own or be part owner of a Town Class sloop. Members are entitled to a set of specifications, by-laws and eligibility to compete in local fleet and Nationals racing.

If you are not a member but wish to become one or you are interested in buying or selling a Townie, contact an association officer.

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