

Wild winds made the '88 Winter Circuit  
a test of stamina . . .

## SURF'S UP CIRCUIT!

*Craig Leweck, Bob Foster, and Gonzalo Diaz contributed to this article.*

Craig Leweck and crew Tom Fisher of San Diego, CA, stayed strong throughout the 1988 Snipe Winter Circuit to capture the Zimmermann Trophy, the prestigious honor which goes to the low point leader at the end of the Circuit.

The Winter Circuit is a four-regatta event which starts in Clearwater, FL, at the class Midwinters, goes to Miami for the Don Q Rum Keg Regatta, and then to Nassau, Bahamas, for the Bacardi Cup and the Gambin Memorial.

Leweck and Fisher also won the Kelly Trophy, which honors the low point team during the Bahamian leg of the Circuit. The Concorde Trophy, awarded to the best Bahamian in the last two events, was won by Jimmy Lowe and Graham Lawrence.

The 1988 Circuit was physically the toughest one in recent years. A continuous system of cold fronts brought strong winds and below-average temperatures for the two weeks of racing. The turnout was strong this year, which might have been due to the ideal weather the '87 Circuit experienced. However, this year's Circuit proved right away to look nothing like the picture the travel agent had painted.

### The Midwinters . . .

Sixty-two boats came to Clearwater for the Midwinter Championship which dates back to the 1930s. The fleet included Olympic hopefuls, America's Cup crewmen, Snipe Class champions, 1988 Rolex Yachtsman (Ed Adams) and Yachtswoman (Susan Taylor) of the Year, the Collegiate All-Americans. Also included in the fleet were many of our class officers. Top of the list was SCIRRA Commodore Jerry Thompson, with Norwegian National Secretary Birger Jansen, District Governors Warren Wheaton and Paul Gillis and countless U.S. fleet captains in attendance.

It is important to note that despite the competitiveness of this group, the spirit and camaraderie of the sailors had not been lost. It is easily as strong as ever.

Ed and Meredith Adams took first place after finishing second several times in the past. Dave Chapin was second and Morgan Reeser was third.

The weather was warm but windy to the

point that the last four races were sailed in the Bay and less than half of the 62 boats sailed all of the races. A practice race was held in the Gulf on Saturday with winds of 10 to 15 knots and the winds increased each day during the regatta.

The first official race on Sunday was started in the Gulf with winds at 20 knots but decreasing to 15 knots as the race progressed. During the first beat the windward mark was obscured by fog and about a third of the fleet overstood on the left side of the course. Adams had the lead at the first mark followed by John Keene, Alex Smigelski, Fred Abels, and Robin Gales. By the second weather mark Chapin had moved into the lead followed by Ethan Bixby, Abels, and Adams. At the finish it was Chapin and Bixby followed by Keith Dodson, Adams, and Smigelski.

The second race was started immediately in winds that gradually diminished from 15 to 10 knots and seas of two to three feet. At the first mark Leweck was in the lead followed by Dodson, Dave Pritchard, Susan Taylor and Reeser. By the second weather mark it was Dodson, Leweck, Pritchard, Reeser, and Steve Callison. At the finish it was still Dodson, Leweck, and Pritchard, but Bixby moved into fourth followed by Reeser.

Monday morning the winds were blowing 25 knots in the Gulf from the northwest and the waves were three feet and building. The race committee decided to sail in the Bay where winds were about 20 knots. The weather leg was sheltered by a few large condominiums on the beach and some very rapid wind curls had to be dealt with. It also soon became obvious that the left side of the course had a persistent lift.

The third race was started by 50 boats with Adams leading at the first mark just ahead of Leweck, Brent McKenzie, Chapin, and Peter Commette. By the second weather mark it was Chapin, Leweck, and Adams. They held those positions to the finish followed by Smigelski and Commette.

The fourth race was sailed back-to-back in the same winds. Reeser led at the first mark ahead of Adams, Smigelski, Gales, and Bryan Fishback. At the second upwind mark Adams had taken the lead followed by Smigelski and Reeser. Adams

held the lead to the finish to win his second race of the day. Reeser was second followed by Fishback, Doug Clark, and Leweck. Chapin broke a halyard in this race for his throw-out.

With two races to go and the prospect of a throw-out, less than two boats separated Adams, Chapin, Leweck, and Dodson for the lead.

Tuesday morning came with the same northwest wind but it was now up to 25 knots. Again the Bay was chosen with the number of starters now down to 34.

The fifth race was started after one general recall and Sandstrom led at the first mark followed by Adams and Reeser. The next time up the beat, Dodson had taken the lead followed by Pritchard, Reeser, Smigelski, and Adams. At the finish Adams had regained the lead with Smigelski in second, then Pritchard, Reeser, and Chapin.

The last race followed with gusts over 25 knots. Adams again led at the first mark with Allison Jolly in second, then Commette, Chapin, and Reeser. By the second upwind rounding it was Chapin, Adams and Reeser. They held those positions to the finish to give Adams his first Snipe Midwinter Championship.

The race committee headed by Carol Brown did an excellent job with good starting lines and courses considering the limitations in the Bay. There were no protests and only one general recall. The competition was very deep with the top 20 boats capable of winning most regattas.

The awards banquet was held at the Clearwater YC with trophies going to the top seven skippers and crews. Sam Moller won the Blair Masters Trophy, Bob Foster was awarded the Levinson Sportsmanship Trophy, and Paul Gillis won the Seavy Trophy for Fleet 46.

Much credit must go to Ed Huntley and Joan Levinson for organizing a record-setting regatta.

### The Don Q . . .

The next stop on the Circuit was the Don Q Rum Keg Regatta in Miami on March 18-20, giving the racers a couple of days to work their way down to hopefully warmer weather.

The temperature got a bit warmer but the winds stayed strong, only letting up some for Sunday's last race. A field of 57 boats was entered in this event, with the racing held on the challenging Biscayne Bay. Due to the strong breeze and shallow water depths a brutal chop kicked up, forcing Snipe crews to endure a drenching salt water wash while racing.

The windiest day was Saturday, where the wind velocity somehow stayed within

the 25 knot maximum for the two scheduled races. When the founding fathers of the Snipe Class were deciding upon approvable sailing conditions, they missed the part about rain squalls which the fleet cautiously tolerated on this stormy day.

Ed and Meredith Adams answered the bell to this fight best of all, giving them the win in the regatta. They did it with very little scrambling, showing confident tactics which kept them in good position early in each race. Runner-up in the regatta was the Lewick/Fisher duo, whose consistency kept them well ahead of the pack but just off the heels of the Adams family.

The last race of the series was much different than the previous four, offering a lighter (2-11 knot) and much shifter breeze. This race gave a shuffle to the remaining top five slots, with Tom Liban taking greatest advantage of the new conditions to move from fifth to third in the overall standings. Norwegian Birger Jansen sank to 28th in this race, which caused for the switching of his position with Liban.

The highlights of this regatta are generally the great race committee (the 12th consecutive year for chairman Jim Weber), a refreshing Saturday afternoon

(Continued on page 8)

#### ZIMMERMAN TROPHY Overall Winter Circuit — Clearwater, Miami, Nassau

Boat	Skipper	Fleet	Points	Finish
27107	Craig Lewick/Tom Fisher	San Diego	135.75	1
25084	Peter Commette/Tanya Davis	Boat Race	153.25	2
25977	Allison Jolly/Lyrene Jewell	Long Beach	288	3
26175	Kelth Dodson/Claudia O'Brien	San Diego	315.75	4
27009	Birger Jansen/Janan Kneeling	Norway	320	5
25460	Fred Abels/Dave Zinn	Sea Cliff	326	6
25417	M. Pritchard/R. Meyers	Nassau	344	7
25223	Robin Gales/Kurt Mayol	San Diego	353	8
20369	Jerry Thompson/Steve Sherman	Long Beach	430	9
23994	Warren & Mary Lynn Wheaton	San Francisco	446	10

#### MIDWINTER CHAMPIONSHIP Clearwater YC, Clearwater, FL, Mar. 13-15, 1988 (Top 35 of 62 Boats)

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Fleet	Places	Points	Finish
26099	Ed & Meredith Adams	Newport	4-13-3-1-1-2	10.5	1
24702	Dave Chapin/Robert Landley	Long Beach	1-7-1-32-5-1	14.25	2
27011	Morgan Reese/Zack Orsky	Miami	15-9-10-2-4-3	24	3
25084	Alex Smigelski/Tanya Davis	Miami	5-6-4-10-2-14	27	4
26175	Kelth Dodson/Claudia O'Brien	Long Beach	3-1-62-6-6-13	28.75	5
23751	Billie Bailey/Kathy Plakos	St. Petersburg	2-4-8-20-8-7	29	6
25951	Dave Pritchard/Mike Farnack	Atlanta	7-3-28-13-3-6	32	7
27107	Craig Lewick/Tom Fisher	San Diego	8-2-2-5-24-62	41	8
25977	Allison Jolly/Lyrene Jewell	Long Beach	11-12-12-8-20-5	48	9
26108	Doug Cifer/Alex Sior	Annapolis	15-19-7-4-10-12	48	10
25781	John Kama/Ted Kama	Annapolis	10-25-13-7-11-9	50	11
26307	Bryon Finkbecker/Mary Bridger	Annapolis	36-20-11-3-12-10	56	12
26109	Peter Commette/Sam Preby	Boat Race	16-26-3-17-15-4	57	13
25732	John MacCrusland/Lisa Poulku	Cherry Hill, NJ	19-14-9-22-9-16	69	14
25949	Chris Saxe/Sherry Eldridge	Annapolis	12-15-15-9-28-32	79	15
25764	Susan Taylor/Scott Taylor	Annapolis	21-10-62-11-23-15	90	16
25412	Art & Jennifer Routhier	Wichester	23-11-14-16-27-16	80	17
25460	Fred Abels/Dave Zinn	Sea Cliff	6-16-24-28-22-25	93	18
26759	James Jacob/Nancy Lutzky	Sea Cliff	41-21-25-27-13-8	93	19
26461	Kirk Desalmon/David Well	Ana Harbor	31-22-30-14-19-11	96	20
26895	Max Skelley/Lianne Randall	Ana Harbor	20-23-17-23-21-17	98	21
25840	Brent & Sharon McKenzie	Adelphi	47-36-6-15-25-42	99	22
26110	Blk Wood/Paul Wood	Akron	29-33-16-24-18-19	106	23
24087	Sam Klatzer/Neil Gerren	Norway	14-49-31-26-14-22	107	24
27009	Birger Jansen/Janan Kneeling	Norway	18-31-50-12-7-62	118	25

## Good Things are Getting Better at SHORE SAILS

⚡ Race proven shapes

⚡ Lightest weight, lowest stretch construction available to the class

⚡ Laser cut consistency to within 1/10th of a millimeter

⚡ Nationwide network of service lofts for prompt and courteous repairs



We Make World Class Sails For  
Your Snipe

Call Brad Read at  
1-(800) 54321-GO!

Other lofts: Yarmouth, ME; Huntington, NY; Burlington, VT; Point Pleasant, NJ;  
Cleveland, OH; Seattle, WA; Miami, FL; Annapolis, MD; Traverse City, MI;  
Kenah, TX; Helsinki, Finland; Aichi-gun, Aichi, Japan.

## WINTER CIRCUIT

(Continued from page 7)

dignitary party (prepared by Hiddy Doren and the Coconut Grove SC women) and the

reliability of the bar/restaurant Monty Trainer's to show its patrons a good time. Paul Collins aided the RC and donated his boat, and Rich Raymond and many other CGSC members contributed to success of

the regatta. The Don Q is still a freebie (no entry fee), so it is certainly among the greatest values in today's Snipe scene.

### On to Nassau...

For many sailors it was now time to pack up their boat and begin the northbound drive toward the chilly homeland. For others it was time to get to Nassau for the second half of the Circuit.

The racing doesn't start until Wednesday, but many take a Monday flight to get some touring in before the next race begins. The Royal Nassau Sailing Club plays host for the Bacardi Cup and the Gambelin Memorial.

The fierce competitive spirit of the fleets seems to moderate upon their arrival in Nassau. Somewhere between the beautiful waters, clean air and potent Yellow Bird cocktails it is tempered toward a more relaxed state.

The race schedule calls for a 10:00 a.m. start and a 3:00 p.m. start. After the first race the sailors come in to the sailing club for lunch and poolside conversation. The amount of time between races is always a problem. More time and the racers would be ready to leave their lounge chairs for the afternoon race. Less time and the racers would never get the chance to relax and get comfortable. As it is, the RC's harbor gun might as well be a bomb blast. It is as unwelcome as the tax man.

Temperatures had climbed a little higher than in Miami, but still were well below normal. The wind, however, gave little impression of doing anything other than hooting hard. In fact, the conditions were probably the toughest yet. The spectator boats quickly found out that the reach mark was the 50 yard line of yacht racing. For them it was like sitting at the car races and waiting for the next crash. And there were plenty of them.

The Bacardi Cup was won by Leweck/Fisher, demonstrating good speed and control during the tough three-race regatta. Jeff Lenhart and crew Tom Devlin rebounded from a poor showing in Miami to get second.

The conditions for the Gambelin Memorial had somewhat moderated, and the five race series was won by Peter Commette and crew Turusa Davis with Lenhart in second.

The social calendar was as full as usual, with RNSC bartender Peter Fox filling in the voids with his righteous collection of cocktails. The Waterloo nightspot was again the place for the young and want-to-look-at-the-young to hang out. With college spring break in full swing, it was amazing that everyone always (Rob Lindley was saved one morning by a postpone-

(Continued on page 10)

### DON Q REGATTA Coconut Grove Sailing Club, Miami, FL, Mar. 18-20, 1988 (Top 29 of 57 Boats)

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Fleet	Placed	Points	Finish
26099	Ed & Meredith Adams	Newport	1-1-1-1-7	10	1
27107	Craig Leweck/Tom Fisher	San Diego	3-2-3-5-3	17	2
26795	Tom Lohan/Kim Logan	Pt. Lauderdale	11-8-6-7-5	37	3
25084	Peter Commette/Turusa Davis	Boca Raton	5-10-13-3-12	43	4
27009	Bjorn Jensen/Knut Krefling	Bergen, Norway	2-6-12-2-23	30	5
26307	Bryan Fishback/Mary Brighton	Annapolis	13-17-7-5-20	62	6
26759	James Jacob/Nancy Lundy	Annapolis	23-5-4-8-26	70	7
25781	John Keane/Ted Keenan	Cambridge, MA	26-1-4-22-16	71	8
26461	Kirk Donaldson/David Weil	Ann Arbor	30-11-14-16-2	73	9
25751	Edna Nisky/Dave Hopkins	St. Petersburg	4-4-4-4-19	74	10
25223	Robin Gates/Kurt Mayol	San Diego	12-27-2-11-23	74	11
27092	Steve Callison/Jana Faust	Columbus	20-29-16-10-1	75	12
27011	Brad Benlik/Kevin Burdman	Newport	6-12-17-36-6	77	13
25994	Warren & Mary Lynn Whelan	San Francisco	8-16-10-13-35	82	14
25764	Susan & Scott Taylor	Annapolis	9-20-23-23-9	84	15
26360	Jeff Lenhart/Tom Devlin	San Diego	18-25-27-9-10	89	16
26109	Greg Fisher/Rob Prockette	Columbus	35-9-15-12-18	89	17
26108	Doug Clark/Alex Stout	Annapolis	7-19-5-46-13	90	18
26369	Jerry Thompson/Steve Sherman	Long Beach	19-7-22-18-25	91	19
26110	Rick & Paul Wood	Albany	22-24-18-14-32	110	20
25412	Art & Jennifer Roussaniers	Winchester	10-26-19-31-14	110	21
25172	Charles & Michele Buchanan	Boca Raton	28-14-26-19-29	112	22
25732	John McCausland/Lisa Foulke	Cherry Hill, NJ	14-56-11-24-17	122	23
25949	Chris Snow/Sherry Edridge	Annapolis	17-13-20-44-30	126	24
25977	Allison Jolly/Lyone Jewell	Long Beach	31-21-33-20-24	129	25

### BACARDI CUP Royal Nassau Sailing Club, Nassau, Bahamas, Mar. 23-26, 1988 (Top 18 of 25 Boats)

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Fleet	Placed	Points	Finish
27107	Craig Leweck/Tom Fisher	San Diego	1-1-1	2.25	1
26560	Jeff Lenhart/Tom Devlin	San Diego	6-2-3	11	2
27009	Bjorn Jensen/Knut Krefling	Norway	2-5-8	15	3
25460	Fred Abels/Dave Zinn	Sea Cliff	3-3-9	15	4
25084	Peter Commette/Turusa Davis	Boca Raton	10-7-2	19	5
26369	Jerry Thompson/Steve Sherman	Long Beach	4-4-18	26	6
26395	G. Diaz/G. Diaz	Miami	8-13-2	26	7
25223	Robin Gates/Kurt Mayol	San Diego	15-6-6	27	8
26175	Kelvin Dodson/Charles O'Brien	San Diego	7-9-11	27	9
25417	M. Friedman/R. Meyers	Nassau	14-12-4	30	10

### BUDLEY GAMBELIN MEMORIAL TROPHY Royal Nassau Sailing Club, Nassau, Bahamas, Mar. 23-26, 1988 (Top 15 of 25 Boats)

Boat	Skipper	Fleet	Placed	Points	Finish
25084	Peter Commette/Turusa Davis	Boca Raton	2-1-1-4-1	8.25	1
27107	Craig Leweck/Tom Fisher	San Diego	4-7-3-1-2	13.5	2
26360	Jeff Lenhart/Tom Devlin	San Diego	4-4-2-2-3	15	3
26175	Kelvin Dodson/Charles O'Brien	San Diego	3-2-6-3-7	21	4
26395	G. Diaz/G. Diaz	Miami	7-5-13-5-6	36	5
25460	Fred Abels/Dave Zinn	Sea Cliff	8-16-5-6-4	39	6
25223	Robin Gates/Kurt Mayol	San Diego	5-6-4-10-18	43	7
25235	Jimmy Lowe/Graham Lawrence	Nassau	11-8-8-7-11	45	8
26369	Jerry Thompson/Steve Sherman	Long Beach	17-3-16-11-9	52	9
25417	M. Friedman/R. Meyers	Nassau	9-10-9-11-10	56	10

### KELLY TROPHY Royal Nassau Sailing Club, Nassau, Bahamas, Mar. 23-26, 1988 (Top 10 of 24 Boats)

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Points	Finish
27107	Craig Leweck/Tom Fisher	15.75	1
26560	Jeff Lenhart/Tom Devlin	26	2
25084	Peter Commette/Turusa Davis	22.25	3
26175	Kelvin Dodson/Charles O'Brien	48	4
25460	Fred Abels/Dave Zinn	34	5

### SWISS COOLER (CONCORDE) TROPHY Royal Nassau Sailing Club, Nassau, Bahamas, Mar. 23-26, 1988

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Points	Finish
25235	Jimmy Lowe/Graham Lawrence	79	1
25417	M. Friedman/R. Meyers	86	2
24805	R. Dunkley/R. Lindley	104	3
24813	G. McKinney/Carroll Dunkley	111	4
24687	J. Dunkley/P. Hall	152	5