



# Seattle Thunderbird News

April 2009



**Pay your 2009 Thunderbird Dues**

**Application form on page 6**

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## Fleet Organization

<p><b>President 2009:</b>          Jim Frazier 206-527-3034                      Valkyrie                      #974          jimf@windwardit.com</p> <p><b>Vice President</b>          Derek Ormerod                                      Hussy II                      #953</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b>          Alyssa Farber      206-232-8165</p> <p><b>Secretary and Newsletter Editor:</b>          Tim Satre 206-331-6203                      Puffy                      #333</p> <p><b>Scorekeeper:</b>          Craig Burnell      (206) 236-4634                      Predator                      #1255          Cburnell@ci.renton.wa.us</p> <p><b>B-Fleet Captain:      Open</b></p> <p><b>Webmaster and ITCA President:</b> Water Torture                      # 20          dale@wallstreetclothiers.com  <b>Dale Dunning</b></p> <p><b>Bar:</b> Walt Purcell      (425) 788 4518                      Rubber Biscuit</p> <p><b>Fleet Measurers</b>  <b>Measurer, Hulls:</b>          Ken Lane      (206) 780 9161                      Raptor                      #1236          klane@ebdg.com</p> <p><b>Measurer, Sails:</b>          Sandy Pratt      (425)-746-4057                      Falcon                      #1177          s.r.pratt@comcast.net</p> <p><b>Fleet 2 Mailing Address: Box 1033 Mercer Island,WA 98040,USA</b></p> <p><b>ITCA Web Site= <a href="http://www.thunderbirdsailing.org">www.thunderbirdsailing.org</a></b></p> <p><b>Fleet 1 News <a href="mailto:josberger@harbornet.com">josberger@harbornet.com</a></b>  <b>Fleet 2 Web site <a href="http://thunderbirdsailing.org/fleet2">//thunderbirdsailing.org/fleet2</a></b></p>	<p><b>Newsletter Contributions are Welcome</b></p> <p>The Fleet #2 Newsletter has aspirations of being published once a month. Articles, photos, letters to the editor, poems, stories, complaints, and any other content from Tbird sailors what makes it all work. <b>Contributions are welcome in any form.</b> Send them them in at the below address.</p> <p>Tim Satre          2232 Franklin Ave E          #301          Seattle, WA 98102  <a href="mailto:technoelite@gmail.com">technoelite@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>2009 International President</b>          Dale Dunning, Mercer Island, WA                      Water Torture #20          dale@wallstreetclothiers.com</p>	



## **FROM THE HELM**

by

**James Frazier**

### **50 Years Old and Going Strong**

Nope, I'm not talking about the average Thunderbird sailor, I'm talking about the Thunderbird Fleet (Although in some instances, that statement applies as much to the sailor as it does to the Fleet). Fifty years ago the Douglas Fir Plywood Association was looking for a way to market it's new "high-tech" material (marine plywood) and came up with a crafty way to do just that: Sponsor a competition to build a 26' Racer/Cruiser using this new "exotic" material...enter Seaborn & Hoppen.

This was not just a radical departure from the commonly accepted boat building materials and methods of the time, this was a paradigm shift (yeah I know, I said it, but in this situation, it actually applies) in who would build and own boats. Suddenly, it wasn't just the Yacht Club elite commissioning their custom one-off gems that had been blessed by the Pope, but the Average Joe who was zipping around out there on the Lakes and Sounds winning regattas. You can almost picture the turmoil at the Royal Mega Yacht Club when Commodore Upton Smyth III was soundly beaten and upstaged on the race course by some upstart rabble in a plywood boat that he had built in his back yard, who was rumored to not even be a member of the Republican Party....unthinkable!

The type of radical thinking in boat design and construction that went into building a Thunderbird was impressive fifty years ago, but what is even more impressive is the fact that that same design continues to win on the race course today and send chills down the spines of all of the current day Upton Smyths that dare to cross tacks with the mighty Thunderbird. Take for example Andy Scheen (Rev # 447) and Marty Godsil (Invader # 1244) who are currently 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 100 boat fleet of CYC's Center Sound Series. These guys are up against the toughest racers (and boats) in the Northwest and holding up the Thunderbird tradition nicely...way to go

guys, I can't wait to see how you end up after the final race (Pully Point) on March 28<sup>th</sup>...good luck.

We've all seen Fleets come and go over the years and it's quite impressive that the Thunderbird Fleet has endured and grown while others have perished. It seems that the design criteria of building a solid boat that is within the financial reach of the regular guy (or girl) is every bit as valid today as it was fifty years ago. And as a matter of fact, Fleet 2 has the privilege of welcoming a few new members this year, so please keep an eye out for, and extend a welcome to: Eric Dormaier (Kintra # 1175 ), Paul Beidler (Intrepid), Casey Dougherty (Euphoric) & Nic Wayand (Zoe).

Whether you're an old timer or new to the Fleet, we are all part of the Northwest maritime history and the current stewards of an iconic design. Apparently, Sperry-Topsider feels that way too and has asked to do a photo shoot with the Fleet to promote their products. They seem to feel that aligning themselves with an entity that: stands the test of time, is affordable, performs well in all conditions and is instantly recognized as a classic isn't a bad way to go...no wonder.

For more information about this year's Fleet activities, please take a look at the calendar posted on the Fleet 2 web page accessed through the main ITCA site: [www.Thunderbirdsailing.org](http://www.Thunderbirdsailing.org). The bulk of the race schedule is posted there, but also keep your eyes peeled for a few more family oriented cruising events this year that will be posted on the Forum.

Here's wishing everyone a great 51<sup>st</sup> year.

Fair winds,

Jim

James Frazier

Fleet 2 President

Valkyrie # 974

## Mast Tune

By Sandy Pratt

Setting up your mast is really important to get the best performance. Go to the ITCA web site and click on articles. Then go to the bottom of the page and click on North Tune Up. This gives a really good starting point. These were written for Raptor #1236 in 1993 so they may need to be corrected for newer North mainsails. Make a note of how to set mast rake using only a measuring tape. Here I would suggest that you haul the main halyard up short of double blocking to get a more accurate reading. Also before setting your mast for vertical side to side check that the topsides measure the same on each side. My Booth boat is  $\frac{1}{2}$  higher on one side than the other. This was pointed out to me when my boat was hauled out. At that time I set my mast to align with my keel and later checked my topsides. An alternative way is to ballast your boat side to side, move at least 20 feet away and line up mast forestay and backstay. Holding a carpenter's level vertical while lining up these points it is easy to tell which way the mast tips.

Mast tune is unique to mainsails. Usually mainsails from one manufacturer require the same mast tune. If you have newer sails get all the information from your sail maker that he will supply. Get advice from some one in the fleet that uses the same mainsail manufacturer that you use. Keep track of your settings so that if a cotter pin comes out you can return to the standard setting.

My objective is to get an average setting that will work from 5 to 35 knots of wind. I use Quantum sails with the following settings, measured with a small Loos guage:

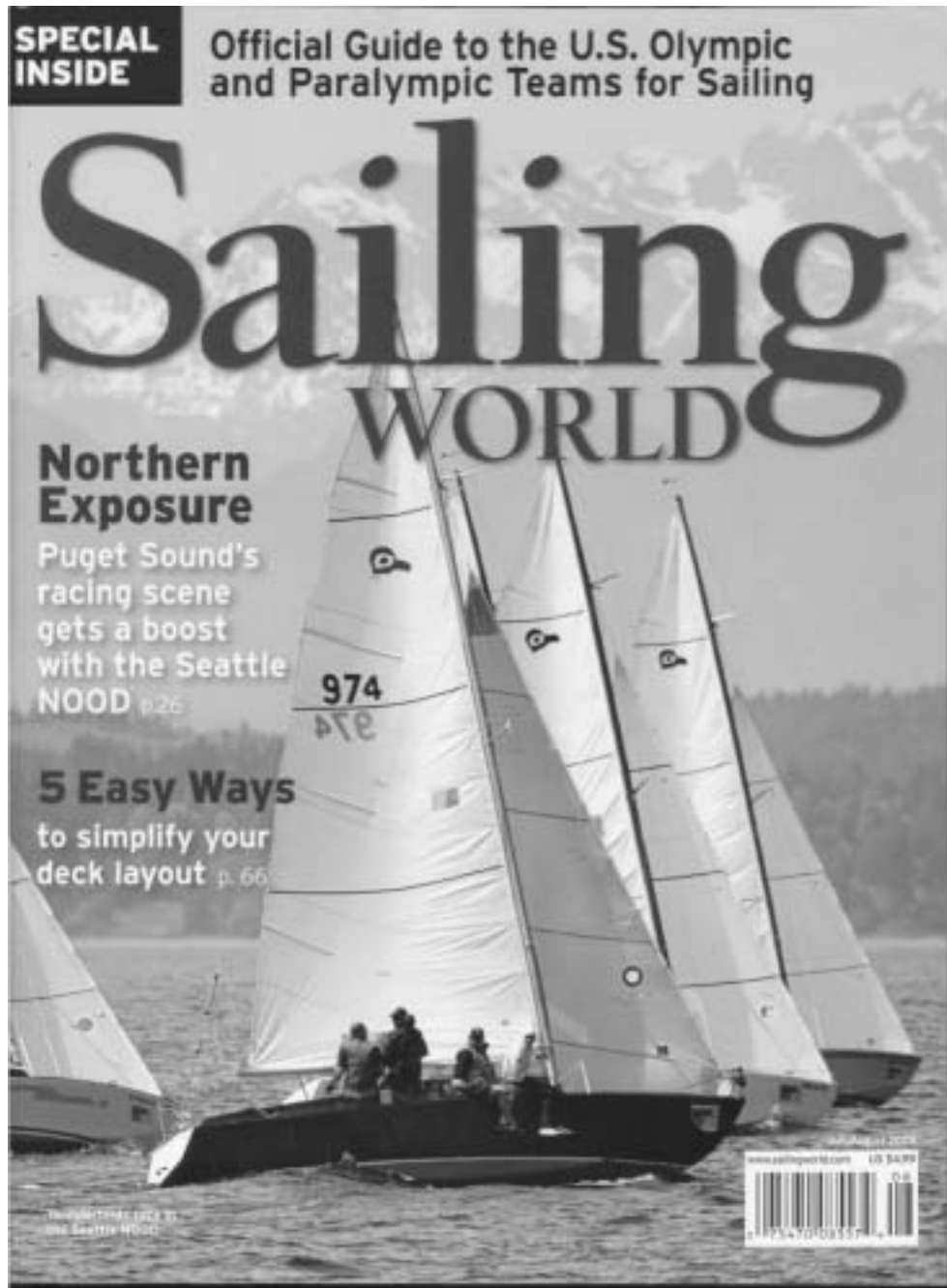
Jumpers-----8

Uppers-----35

Lowers-----30

Prebend-----1/2 inch

After setting the rake and vertical sideways I slack all halyards the lowers and put a ladder on the fore deck up to the jumper wires. After slacking the main sheet and back stay I climb the ladder and set the jumpers. After coming down I sight the mast to be certain it is straight sideways. Next I tighten the uppers and lowers and put split rings in to retain the turnbuckles. Some times one lower is just a little tighter than the other to keep the mast straight. I may use a little less jumper and lower tension this year because I have a light crew.



**NOODs Return to Seattle****by Alyssa Farber**

After a hugely successful inaugural Seattle NOODs in 2008, Sailing World is coming back to the Pacific NW. Mark your calendars for May 15- 17, 2009 at Shilshole.

Last year the Thunderbirds came out in full force with 13 boats on the line for the 3-day regatta – and made the cover of Sailing World Magazine. Overall, NOODs attracted over 231 boats. This year, the goal is 250+. CYC reports that there early commitments from a several new classes this year, Flying Tigers, Etchells 22, J-80's, foiling Moths and Laser Radials.

The decision was made at the last executive committee meeting to not include NOODs in the Top Bird trophy or Sound Series run. Instead, we will create a special recognition for NOODs racing that will be awarded to the top place T-bird regardless of Fleet. In this way, we hope to encourage participants from around the Sound and maybe even beyond. The award will be presented at our summer BBQ (date and time to follow in subsequent newsletters.)

Additional reported changes from last year include:

1. The tent festivities and prize-giving will be at Shilshole in the tent in front of CYC all 3 days this year.
2. The Melges 24's will move to the Div B (middle) circle in 2009 rather than the North course, and the 6-Meters will move up to the Div A (north) circle.
3. Dinghies will again race only on Sat and Sunday on the Div C (south) course; these sailors are also a good source of fill-in crew for Friday.

Thunderbirds will sail the South course again this year.

Registration is now open on the Seattle NOOD website at:

[http://www.sailingworld.com/nood\\_regatta.jsp?location=2637](http://www.sailingworld.com/nood_regatta.jsp?location=2637).

Registration includes free moorage at Shilshole for the weekend of the event.

## Fleet 2 Celebrates Opening Day

### May 1-3

Back by overwhelming popular demand, Fleet 2 will be holding it's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Opening Day BBQ/Dock Party this May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5PM.

The dock party is the first event in a full weekend of activities. If you were there last year, you know the program, but for newcomers, here's how it looks, and don't forget...this is all **free**:

1) Gather in Portage Bay any time during the day on Friday May 1<sup>th</sup> and tie up at the Timmerman Marina on the north side of the bay (it's the old gas dock). We have three Tbirds moored there on a regular basis(Valkyrie, Zoe & Cloud Dancing), but we will have free moorage available for all Tbirds over the weekend. I think that we had 10 or 11 Tbirds last year, but I expect that we'll have a few more this time around.

2) **BBQ** on the dock starting at 5PM on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year we had a keg, but this year it will be a BYOB affair. We'll have tents and tables set up if it's raining, but that could never happen in Seattle. Burgers, Brats, Chicken and Salad will be provided, but please do RSVP to me so I can provision accordingly.

3) **Participate in the SYC Opening Day Parade** through the Montlake Cut as a Fleet on Saturday morning. We will go through as a group designated as "Classic Sail", but more on that later. After we clear the cut, we'll go for a casual group sail up to Juanita Bay and back, waiting for the crowds to clear out and the cut to re-open for vessel traffic west bound. Re-group at the Timmerman dock post parade at your leisure...no events planned for Saturday night. CYC Members do have reciprocal rights at SYC for the weekend only, so please feel free to attend their parties and events at your discretion.

4) **Race in the Mark Mayer** race off of Webster Point on Sunday morning. This is a not too serious and relatively short race, and we'll likely have a Tbird start again this year. Meet at SYC post race to collect our trophies and finish off the weekend over a beer at SYC.

That's about it. Do make a point of going over to SYC and showing them a copy of your CYC membership card when you pick up your parade packets. They will take an impression of your credit card (if you want), and give you a temporary SYC card. You will now have free reign of the place for the weekend, after which we'll again be

This is a theme event (Wild West) and many people will be dressing themselves and their boats accordingly. You are not required to dress up, but are more than welcome to do so if you wish, I think Sperry is coming out with a new Cowboy-deck boot for the occasion.

**So what do you need to do?**

- 1) Register on-line for the Parade (more below)
- 2) RSVP to me for the BBQ
- 3) Register on-line for the Mark Mayer

**How to register:**

- 1) For Opening Day, go to: <http://seattleyachtclub.org/>

Click on the "Opening Day" folder on your left

Click on the Opening Day registration button

Choose "Single Boat"

Choose "Classic Sail"

Print the page and you're done

- 2) For the Mark Mayer Race, go to: <http://seattleyachtclub.org/>

Click on the "Sailboat" folder on your left

Click on "2009 race information & scheduling"

Click on "Register on-line"

(cont'd on next page)

Click on “Register on-line”

Fill out the form, and when it gets to the part where they ask for a credit card or member account, just write in “Free” and the form will accept that answer, because it is.

If anyone has questions, please feel free to shoot me a note at: [JimF@WindwardIT.com](mailto:JimF@WindwardIT.com), or call me directly on my cell: 206.419.8296

I'll see you on the water,

Jim

Valkyrie # 974

P.S. If enough people bring sailing dinghies, we may have a little race off the dock too.



Invader at Opening Day 2008

## February 28<sup>th</sup> Awards Party a great success

A great time was had by all of the 38 fleet members and guests who attended the February 28<sup>th</sup> awards banquet. The fleet welcomed new boat owners Eric Dormaier with 1175 Kintra, Bob Christen with 303 Varuna, Paul Beidler and Sue Butler with 621 Intrepid, and Ed and Judy Dougherty who purchased 1058 Euphoric at the end of last season.

After socializing and enjoying wine and beer from the Water Street Brewing in Port Townsend, the guests settled in to pizza from North Lake Tavern while they listened to a presentation by Gary Stuntz who owns and runs the Whidbey Island Race Week. Gary guaranteed lots of fun and tons of sailing if the Thunderbirds would participate in the week long regatta that is held every year in July. There is talk of possibly holding a future regionals or internationals event at the venue.

Incoming President Jim Frazier was the emcee for the evening. The awards were fairly well dispersed throughout the fleet this year with The Top Bird award going to the legendary and ornery Marty Godsil on Invader. Invader crew member Tim Carey, following the footsteps of his mentor Marty, won the Fleet Championship along with his brother Kevin Carey on that same Invader boat. Craig Burnell took top honors in the Lake Overall and Lake Evening Champion trophy and Dale Dunning on Water Torture took the Lake Long Distance trophy.

Other award winners included the Varuna Handicap trophy to Kwadwo Copeland for being thrown up on twice on the same beat, Suzanne Diess for outstanding crew, and Jim Frazier won both the NW Passage and Anchor Watch trophies for practically living on his boat with his family all summer.

A special thanks goes out to outgoing president Alyssa Farber for leading the flock through the last year, Jim Konigsfeld for supplying the beer for the banquet, and Kemp Jones for making keeper trophies until his carving machine broke.

### 2008 Trophy Winners

- 1) Woody Baldwin (Sound LD) Marty Godsil    2) Puget Sound Overall Marty Godsil
- 3) Sultana (Lake OA) Craig Burnell                      4) Top Bird Marty Godsil
- 5) Regional Champion Marty Godsil

**New/Renewed Membership Seattle Thunderbird Fleet**

**Application**

New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewed Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Data**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Interest (please mark applicable category)

Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Crew \_\_\_\_\_ Former Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Building \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other T'Bird Fleet Memberships: Fleet No. \_\_\_\_ Fleet Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/other \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Bus) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Yacht Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Moorage Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat Description**

T'Bird Hull Number \_\_\_\_\_ Sail Number \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

(please check applicable boat configuration description)

Hull Material: Wood \_\_\_\_\_ Fiberglass \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Deck Material: Wood \_\_\_\_\_ Fiberglass \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Deck Design: Original \_\_\_\_\_ Cruising \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Mast Material: Wood \_\_\_\_\_ Metal \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues:**

Please check applicable membership and dues category and mail completed form with check payable to: **Seattle Thunderbird Fleet 2, P.O. Box 1033, Mercer Island, WA 98040.**

Owners & Co-Owners: \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 = Full fleet Member(\$25) + ITCA member(\$15)

Non-Owners & Crew: \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 = Associate Fleet (\$15) + ITCA member (\$15)



**Lake Washington Racing**



Lake Washington Racing

 <p><b>QUANTUM™</b> SAIL DESIGN GROUP</p> <p><b>BOB PISTAY</b> owner</p> <p>Quantum Seattle 1900 No. Northlake Way #211 Seattle, WA 98103 T: 206.634.0636 F: 206.547.1226 E: <a href="mailto:bpistay@quantumsails.com">bpistay@quantumsails.com</a></p>	 <p><i>boat canvas upholstery banners pennants soft luggage</i></p> <p><b>JULIE GANTT</b> <i>Custom sewing and canvas work</i></p> <p><b>206 617-4646</b> <i>julie_sews@hotmail.com</i></p>
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# DADDY O'S PROPOSED SOCIAL AND CRUISING CALENDAR!!

May 22/23: Kirkland overnight cruise, contact: [dereko44@hotmail.com](mailto:dereko44@hotmail.com)  
June (tbd): Port Madison Yacht Club overnight family cruise, contact: [jefrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:jefrazier@hotmail.com)

July (tbd): Blake Island overnight cruise (kid-friendly!), contact: [mfmurph@comcast.net](mailto:mfmurph@comcast.net)

Aug (tbd): South Sound with Fleet 1 (?)

Sept (tbd): ?

(Suggestions and additions welcome!)

Fleet Summer BBQ:

Coming in June at Derek's house in W. Seattle. Some Friday night, exact date tbd.

Second Wednesday of every month meetup at a bar tbd to talk sailing with other T-birders.

Any other parties I'm missing?

Derek Ormerod

[derek44@hotmail.com](mailto:derek44@hotmail.com)

**Seattle Thunderbird Fleet**  
**PO Box 1033**  
**Mercer Island, WA .98040**