

# J44 NEWSLETTER

**From the Editor** Tomorrow, Chris Cunningham is coming to Newport to spend a day with two assistants photographing the interior of IONA so we can demonstrate to the world that we've got a proper yacht belowdecks. Then the following day (Thursday, August 3), we leave Newport to catch the 5 pm East current through the Cape Cod Canal with a plan to be in Boothbay Harbor ME on Friday afternoon. Saturday and Sunday at the Boothbay Regatta, will be the first time for three or more J/44s to be on the same starting line. I'm looking forward to that, then the NYYC Cruise which goes as far East as Roque Island, the cruise back to Marblehead with Mary and the PHRF New Englands August 26 & 27. I'll be living aboard for a consecutive three and half weeks. So, look forward to cruising tips in the next edition of this newsletter. I'm trying out radar and the Chart-link.

Your editor is the J44 Class Association Secretary, Bob Johnstone. So, you don't have to wonder about the slant: It's biased, very much so. I'm in love with this boat! The era of a fast, proper, one-design yacht called J44 is definitely upon us. What a joy! Deep down inside you know no one is going to beat her on the race course. Yet, comfort and handling ease are there for cruising. My partner on #1 IONA is Nick Brown who's sailed in all sizes of craft. His comment after a five day cruise with another two couples was, "Those were the best five days of sailing in my life!" We really do have the best of both worlds.

When it comes to racing, it's like every sailor's dream. Good start in the middle of the line. Tack to port on the first shift from the left and cross all the boats on the right side. Tack back to starboard with the next shift from the right and cross the boats on the left side, rounding the weather mark first. Except with the J/44, you don't need to hit the shifts that well or even get the greatest start. Sheer boat speed compared to most of the fleet does it. Unreal!

## Racing Results

Here's a report on races we've received information on thus far. A number of these are reported on in the forthcoming September issue of Sailing World in an inside front cover ad. *The picture shows yours truly with daughter-in-law Shelly (Stu's wife) steering and Perry Harris's two girls, whom Shelly was sitting for that day of the photo shoot. Stu took the shot with a Canon AE-1 using their FD 200mm 2.8 lens. That lense is the best sailing lens of moderate cost we've found.* Here's a run down of results:

Figawi Hyannis to Nantucket and return. PHRF 15. IONA had the "unofficial" best combined score in Class A with the fastest elapsed time in fleet both ways, finishing the return leg overlapped with 12 meter, AMERICAN EAGLE after a 20 mile reach.

**New York Y. C. Spring Regatta IMS 516.**

In light air Round-the-Island, IONA was faster on elapsed time than two 80 foot maxis. It will never happen again. Then on the Olympic course, she corrected out 3rd in 25+ knots of wind behind an S&S 66 and Frers 70 to take Class A IMS honors for this two race series in extreme conditions.

**Ida Lewis Y. C. Trophy** A 16 mile beat from Newport to Block Island. IONA beat two Swan 51s and Class A IMS on elapsed and corrected time.

**STC Block Island Race Week** IONA placed 2nd in Class I IMS with (corrected due to computer input error) finishes of 1,2,7,1 The skipper was short of one other win by :36 (over the line early). And, the anchor was used twice for the 7th in a very light round the island race, which we were leading.

**Volvo Newport Regatta** Placing 2,1,1,6,1, IONA won PHRF Class A (29 boats) with a rating of 25. She was first home in the Round-the-Island race which included AMERICAN EAGLE and three other vintage 12 meters.

**Cleveland Yachting Club's Roberts Race** Hull #3, JALAPENA II (PHRF 15) was first to finish and won on corrected time by more than two hours in this 100 mile long distance race in light air.

**Audi Cleveland Race Week JALAPENA II** won PHRF overall with finishes of 2,2,4, (43), 2.

**Lake Michigan Queen's Cup Series IMS 519.** Hull #2 CHINA CLOUD missed a Class A win by aiming for the wrong finish line across Lake Michigan. But, a 2,2,3 for runnerup was impressive for openers.

**Harraseket Yacht Club's Downeast Race** is a 107 mile overnight sailed under PHRF. CAPELLA #6 broke the course record by 9 hours and won by over 1 hour on correctedtime with a rating of 15 in only 8-10 knots of wind, going downwind for 95 miles. The previous record holder was PIONEER, an IOR 50.

**Chicago-Mackinac** a 289 mile drifting match with a 8-12 knots of wind in the last 90 miles. CHINA CLOUD went from the soup to 5th in Class and 8th in an IMS fleet of 230 boats.

**Put-in-Bay Week on Lake Erie.** Word is that Rod Johnstone, sailing JALAPENA won the first race.

## One-Design

The J/44 Class Association is formed and 15 of the 30 owners met at the commissioning ceremony for IONA in Newport. One design interest is strong: 3 boats will compete for the East Coast Trophy at the Boothbay Regatta August 5-6; 4 will be on the New York Yacht Club Cruise in Maine; 10 plan to compete in the 1989 North American Championship in Newport, September 7-10; 8 at the Columbus Cup International Match Race in Baltimore October 9-14, and as many as 12 for the J44 Class Midwinters at Yachting's Key West Race Week January 1990. For Class Events the owner helmsman shall apply as will sail and hardware limitations. Rules are enclosed.

