



Mistral Owners' Association

The Mistral Tiller Xmas Edition

Issue 24: December 2015

Hi Mistrallers,

At the risk of repeating myself – it's been (another) weird season so far – a slow start, and the wind has been with us right through the early part of the season and well into December. It's been great for the heavy weights amongst us (although I've been at the physio since the Ron Norton) but I've been particularly impressed with the young and light weight crews out there including the Stones and Blakeys popping kites in testing conditions (dad just has to stack harder). Good to see Matt O'Maigh venturing down from Whangarei – this time with new Glendowie Opti sailor Fred Burrage and immediately on pace.

Message from the President

Hi Mistrallers,

Christmas is almost on us, the summer's almost taken hold and the wind is rattling in the rigging. We set sail at the start of the season, farewelling our old friend Ross Burtenshaw, a committed Mistral Owner's Association Life Member, and Mistral supporter right up to the end. Thanks for those who joined the Mistral family gather to support Eleanor and Scott, and honour Ross's life. I still miss Ross when I rig up at Tamaki. It's not the same without him on the yard yarning and helping with the boats. The launch of the season, though, has been true to the timeless spirit of Mistralling. An enthusiastic MOA Executive meeting has been followed up by keen family racing at Tamaki, Glendowie, and Kerikeri. Boats have changed hands with new Mistral sailors joining local clubs, and others returning to the class. It was really good to see new skippers and family crews on the water and around the BBQ at Tamaki on Saturday at the Mistral Owners Association Inter Club Open Day. Welcome Daryl Senn and family, (Mistral # 79) *Shamal*, Richard Beauchamp and family, (Mistral #107) *Plumb Crazy* and Jonathan Edwards (Mistral #54) *Adios*. It is also good to know that Tim Butt will be getting the family boat (Mistral #33) *Blue Cloud* back racing after Christmas.

It's good to know that Mistrals have been on the water in Kerikeri at the Spring regatta, and at Glendowie, including the up the river race, and also at Tamaki in fresh conditions with six boats contesting in a particularly fiercely fought Don Grayson Early Summer Series and Winkelmann Series and Ron Norton Trophy. Hamilton are warming up to go with some good youth sailors getting ready to step into the Mistrals. Robbie Moyes is about to start another round of Mistral restorations in his new workshop in Whitianga. It's also good to hear of youth skippers such as Jarrod Horgan, Arne Larsen (Tamaki) and Matt Connelly (Glendowie), already competing with considerable skill. Some of the very young crews such as the Stones and the Blakeys are already showing skill way beyond their age.

I look forward to seeing lots of you at the next Mistral Association interclub weekend at Mahurangi Traditional Boats Regatta and Family Picnic Saturday 30th January and Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta at Tamaki Yacht Club 1st February.

Have a wonderful Christmas. Stay safe on the water and the roads through the holidays.

Warm regards
Rob Mason

Class Racing News

Mark Foy races often produce some great finishes and this year's **Ron Norton Trophy** was no different as the fleet gradually closed up over the hour long course in a good 15+ knot testing breeze. The handicapper got it pretty right especially with #101 (the Blacks), #60 (Matt and Fred) , #76 (the Stones) and #108 (the Blakeys) scrapping it out for third however we all couldn't haul in Jarrod Horgan and Seb Jones (#25) and or Rob Mason (with last minute ring in crew Tim Butt, #77). A fitting win for class stalwart Rob Mason. Frank Davis was there to present Rob and Tim with the trophy and it was impressive to hear how Frank, Ron and a few other Mistrallers circumnavigated Stewart Island (presumably not in a Mistral!).

The Weekend also wrapped up the Tamaki's **Winkelmann Series** and the **Grayson Early Summer Series** - #101 taking both out from #76 and #108. Don Grayson was there to present the trophy and show off his new bionic knee – he assures us he will be back on the water by February.

Next Events

As outlined in Rob's message we are aiming for a good turnout at **Mahurangi** as part of the classic regatta on the Saturday 30 January and then at **Anniversary Day** at TYC. Mahurangi is a lovely spot for the whole family (except the dog – not allowed as regional park) – bring a picnic enjoy the Regattas sack, egg and spoon, and swimming races, not to mention the fantastic array of classic boats in the harbour from about 10am on. Racing around the island and in the harbour will be about 1:30pm and will as always be eventful! Up for grabs is the beautifully carved Waitangi Trophy. I will be sending through an email reminder with a few more details closer to time but also let us know if you are keen.

Well that's all for now (I must do some Xmas shopping). Have a great break – don't eat too many Xmas mince pies (the wind will no doubt settle down for summer – only to return for the Nationals – you now know what I've asked Santa for) and we will see you all back on the water mid-January and hopefully up at Mahurangi at the end of January.

Brett