



COBRA TALES NEWSLETTER

**JUNE
2007**



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Its been a while but the drought has finally been broken and a Victorian has won the Cobra Nationals. Rick Nixon has tried long and hard and this year he was finally been able to achieve what seemed the impossible. Congratulations to Rick and Rob and for those of you who have raced against him this year you will know just how much work he has put into his boat and the speed he has been able to achieve. The advantage of this to the rest of the Victorian Cobra's is that we have all improved this year seeing some of the most highly contested racing with on most occasions less than 10 minutes covering the whole fleet at the finish line.

This year we have had several new boats on the water and thanks must go to Laurie for the hard work he puts into finding boats and whether using them through the continued success of the lease

boat program or finding good homes his efforts see the Cobra fleets with strong numbers. In saying this the traveller series was a little disappointing with numbers certainly down on the previous year. The only exception was Safety Beach where approx 12 boats turned up but unfortunately it was blown out but a good day was had by all with a BBQ at Wes's place. The traveller series was introduced to try and keep the growing success of Cobra's going by exposing the class to a broader base and also to increase our own skills on different waters and conditions. We will attempt to lock the traveller series dates and venues in a little earlier this year to try and increase the attendance.

A few boats have played with spinnakers this year. Whilst we are still trying different setups and learning to use them properly everybody who has used them rarely come off the water without a big smile on their face. The Cobra's with spinnakers have been invited to join the F16 class racing to be held as part the racing at the Sauna Sail to be held in the Latrobe Valley over the Queens birthday weekend

Hope you all have the 2006/7 Nationals pencilled in. This will be held at Speers Point at the Northern end of Lake Macquarie near Newcastle from 28th Dec till 4th Jan. For those of you that have not been there before camping is around the yacht club, the pub is straight across the road and there is plenty on water for sailing on. We are trying to keep the costs down as much as possible so please try and make the event a success by being there. If you have never been to a Nationals before dont be scared away, this is a great opportunity to improve your sailing skills in a great social environment.

Remember the VCCA AGM and presentation lunch to be held on June 24th at 1200 at Parkdale Yacht club and for those interested we will follow it up with a couple of games of bowling at the Mentone Ten Pin Bowling centre. We are aiming to keep it a simple fair with \$7.00 per head for Chicken, chips and salad. Hope to see you all there.

David



From The Skipper Of Venom Comes The Poisoned Pen



POOR STAN

At the recent Parkdale presentation day I reminded people of how at the state titles, Stan had a little bad luck(x3). The first he was aware of was to be coming first by a mile in the first race and then after a wind shift or two to find himself dead last, even with David the Super crew aboard.

Disheartened but still smiling (well we like to think so) he gets back to the beach to find that his tent has burnt down. It seems that the hose from the gas bottle to the fridge had developed a leak and the flame from the pilot had ignited the gas. Replacement clothes bedding, etc were loaned but still it was a pretty horrible experience. They say bad luck comes in threes and this time the they-sayers were right. Whilst attempting to raise the level of the water in the lake, the next evening, Daniel (Tonks) spied something unusual in the water. It could have been anyone's trailer but no it had to be Stan's!

The moral of the story? Don't be a nice mild mannered friendly type of a guy;- all of this could never happen to a bastard.

Now what has happened to the poisoned pen you must be asking? Where are the usual sarcastic character assassinations and cynical observations? The problem I have is that, people are becoming too careful around me and keeping all the juicy stuff under wraps.

Now this behaviour must stop! It seems I will have to do deals by offering immunity to my spies and the only way you will know who they are is if people who normally appear in these pages are curiously absent.

Anyway back to the task at hand. John Bolton has been doing a fantastic job at promoting harmonious relations between windsurfers and Cobras by sailing both of them and we know that the windsurfer is the natural enemy of the Cobra. We congratulate him for his efforts and it does confirm what is fast becoming common knowledge that he likes it both ways!

It seems that Cath's normal great sense of humour(well she does sail with Daniel), is rather diminished at 7.10am each morning as "Morning has broken" and other Cat Stevens songs are played loudly by someone whose name escapes me at the moment.

Speaking of Daniel, its amazing what some people will do to get attention paid to their boats great paint job and business name. Just go out after the race when the lake is almost deserted turn turtle and have the rescue boat come out to get you back up. Well I can't think of any other reason why he would have gone over in those conditions! Unless he was really needing his crew.

Have you heard that Robbie's new laser will be sponsored by a well known hamburger chain?

Allegedly, the issue of who will be the skipper on Nick and Kim's boat has been sorted out by Nick paying for it and therefore gaining helming rights. I've been married before and I don't believe it. And besides, you've heard of back seat drivers, there's also pointy end skippers!

Rumour has it that Peter is replacing everything (apart from the skipper and crew) on his boat above Deck level. If anyone wants to make a lot of money, just

buy the yellow mast from him and wait a couple of races until he pleads to buy it back- it seems to be the only one that can handle the stress.

In the last issue I commented on how Lisa P should pay attention to their boat name. I think the photo says it all! (Photo courtesy of someone who must remain nameless)

Now if you've found this issue a little dull get out there and do something really stupid or outrageous so we can all have a laugh!

Colin



A DAY OF SAFETY

The traveler series at safety beach was a great day out with spectacular turn up of thirteen boats after a leisurely drive of forty minutes, we all arrived bright eyed and ready to make our mark on the day every boat with crews and skipper poised for victory with a great expectation of seventeen not winds which gradually increased to a some what unconfirmed twenty five knots due to the safety beach's yacht clubs state of the art wind measuring thingy the club was very accommodating friendly and put on pies, pasties and coffee for us unwilling land lubbers. I'm sure if we'd been willing to take on the unexpected element they would have indulged us. The commodore of safety beach has invited us back, and I'm sure will all be there, next season, gaining points for the traveler series. Though there was quite a competitive tussle for a position in the car park of the yacht club and it showed just how popular the traveler series can be. A big thanks to Wes who organized the day and hosted our ever-successful BBQ.

"THANKS WES"

Kim

COBRA WORKSHOP

A proposal has been put to run a workshop over one or more days to make repairs to Derek's and any body else's boats. Any body else interested in participating in this event please contact the president, David via email president@cobracat.com.au

The location and time yet to be advised.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

We're going to make it easy, Pay Pal is being considered for the future payment of national states and VCCA .

In time to come please consider new year at the Nationals. Mal would love your input, He will present a few options at the VCCA presentation. Please be positive it's not easy to please everyone.

SO WHO HAS A SPINACRE ?

Wes

Brian

David

Colin

Daniel

John

**??????can Rick get it up ?????
the rest is TBA .**

COBRA & STINGRAY

CATAMARAN

NATIONAL TITLES 2007-08



SPEERS POINT

29TH DEC '07 – 4TH JAN '08

ILS: www.cobracat.com

OR

PHONE: Mal Winder 0412 362 032

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE \$\$\$\$



COBRA CLASSIFIEDS:

(If you have that unwanted something, that old boat, a wetsuit that fit really well last season, or want that go fast gadget or something then place your ad' here in the Cobra Classifieds!)

NO AD'S AGAIN AND IT'S FREE

don't forget the bargains in the classifieds above