

Nautical Notes



By Jack Wyatt

Yachting Opener

It's showdown time. The "my boat is faster" boasting is over. Yacht racing begins this weekend off Honolulu. With all the pomp and circumstance that's traditional, yachting starts Saturday morning with a parade off Waikiki followed by cruising and class races Saturday and Sunday. More than 100 yachts from a half dozen Oahu clubs are expected to take part.

It's a season where Cy Gillette takes on last year's Class A winner Jay Moore in identical 41-footers; where Class B, the mid-range yachts, is expected to provide the keen competition with a host of new models, and Class C, the smallest boats of all, shows strength for the first time.

A season where the new International Offshore Rule replaces the outdated Cruising Club handicap system; a designers' year where the performance of new models will relate directly to the success or failure of Hawaii's many dealers. Olympic classes Soling, Star and Tornado will be on hand while some older designs have all but disappeared.

To enter the joint Hawaii and Waikiki YC opening, entries must be received at sponsoring clubs no later than 6 p.m. today. Skippers will meet at 12 noon Saturday at WYC.

No Wind, No Sail

Our seafaring philosopher says "he who hurries yachting season finds no wind in sail." So discovered Hawaii's multihull enthusiasts recently. Three weeks ago 30 Oahu catamaran sailors in an effort to hurry the season a little drifted about windless Kaneohe Bay in their pre-season opener. And last Sunday, in another attempt to rush things (windward yachting starts next month), the cool cats found much the same frustration—little or no wind.

However, 32 cats in four divisions managed to breeze through one four-mile race plus an abbreviated two-mile heat for their second regatta of the year. But it was a long day for spritely cats which usually spring to life when wet.

Leading the 12-boat Hobie-14s was Leith Anderson (2-1) Outrigger CC; the four-boat Hobie-16s, Rick Naish (1-1), Kailua Beach; the 11-boat Pacifics, John Waidelich (1-2), Kaneohe YC; and the five-boat Tornados, Dave Carey (1-1), KYC.