



NOVEMBER 1986

## FALMOUTH CUTTER NEWSLETTER

Dear Falmouth Owners & Friends:

We all owe Paul Christensen, the past editor of the Falmouth Cutter Newsletter a hardy thanks and best wishes for the time, effort and expense he endured while keeping us informed of fellow FC owners comings, goings and ideas. Paul served us from September 1982 to March 1986.

I wrote to Sam in late October to see if anyone had stepped forward to pick up where Paul left off. Sam advised that the job was open, So I told Sam I would have a go at it for awhile to see if the FC Owners wanted the newsletter to continue. – I'm giving you early warning, I'm a poor writer and even worse speller - so - please laugh with and not at me in my communications attempts.

The mailing list Sam sent has thirty three names. Seven on the list are owners of Lyle Hess' beautiful Nor'Sea 27. I hope you Nor' Sea owners will join in making the newsletter a more interesting piece for us all. I want to encourage all of you....please keep me advised of you cruising plans and reports of accomplished voyages. These sailing yarns are the spice that keep a sailors heart pumping as well as fuel to keep long delayed and revered type cruising dreams alive and well. If any of you are like myself, 90% of our time goes to earning bread, raising kids and paying bills – ah, but the beautiful 10% plus – hopefully, is spent seeking the pleasure and freedom of sailing...to a real paradise... someday.

Sam Advised that Jim Baker (FC #10) "Bosun" recently completed a voyage from Manzanillo to Hawaii and then on to an unnamed "Northwest U.S." landfall. Sam said this

was the first ocean crossing he knew of for the FC. Jim singlehanded the entire trip! - Jim, if this newsletter reaches you, I hope you will find the time and be inspired to share some of your adventure with us. I, for one, would like to know about the self steering you used for the voyage. I have been working with various methods of "sheet to tiller" self steering encouraged by reading of John Letcher's success. Did you have a self steering vane? If so, what kind? What problems did you encounter on the voyage that might be helpful to other FC owners if they could learn from your experience? How did your FC perform? What was your average miles made good? - Yours is a great accomplishment Jim - I'm sure you'll have an eager audience if you can find the time to tell us of your voyage.

Bob Davey "Pony" FC#16 made a successful crossing of the Gulf of Mexico last year. Galveston to Florida's west coast. (I forgot Bob's port of call). Bob had a steering vane that performed well - even in some high winds and heavy seas. I remember him telling me that once he got over the shock of the noise, high seas and rough motion, he could tell his little ship was carrying on just fine. Bob advised that "Pony" sailed herself under sty'sl only during prolonged winds of 30 knots plus. With an inexperienced crew of one, Bob really single handed the trip as his unfortunate crew was seasick and holding his world together from the floor of the cabin. While the weather conditions were much worse than Bob dreamed would be his lot, he said he would do it again as "Pony" won his confidence.

It was a brief sail on "Pony" in Bob's home port of Dallas' on Lake Ray Hubbard several years ago that motivated Jeannine and I to invest in FC#23 "Seabird". It was during that sail that Bob shared with me his dream of sailing "Pony" across the Gulf of Mexico. With that significant achievement accomplished, Bob wrote a poem, "Bearing Away". The poem points to the struggle of finding the time, the place and the space to, "join the world of sailors...and believers!" - A copy of Bob's poem is enclosed.

Jerry & Gayle Smith, former owners of FC "Small World" are in California pushing Sam to finish their new BCC "Annette" as soon as possible so they can head south to LaPaz to retrace "Small World's" wake and renew the many happy times they enjoyed with their Mexican friends on the first prolonged cruise.

Welcome to Merle Weaver FC#24 in Phoenix, AZ. Merle's boat is under construction at Sam's yard. Merle, we hope you're sailing soon. Send us the details of your launching and the name you've selected for #24.

Richard and Connie Nowak are preparing their boat for extended cruising. Rich is finishing off the interior of "Simpatico" while the two of them work to store up the famous "freedom chips" that Lyn and Larry Pardey speak of so often. Connie has quit her full time job and is working part time so she can help Rich more with the boats' interior finish. She is looking very nice below as they complete more with each passing week. They are living aboard a friends boat at Southshore Marina on Clear Lake just off Galverston Bay. Their FC is in the slip adjacent to the 42 footer they are living on. I told Rich they were going to suffer space shock on their FC after living aboard the Challenger 42. Rich smiled and said, "maybe, but I'm glad I don't have to pay to service and maintain a 42 footer". Rich and Connie have the go small, go now program working for them!

On October 18-19, 86, at Dana Point, California Sam called another rendezvous for, "out favorite cutter fleet." Sam said there was only one FC that was able to show up for the race. They gave the FC 45 seconds per mile, but it wasn't enough to stay close to the mighty BCC. Sam advised that early in the race in light air, the FC stayed with several of the BCC boats. With the increase in wind, the larger cutter pulled away over the horizon.

In closing, let me leave a question with you. My boat has what I regard as a bit too

much weather helm. I've tilted the mast as far forward as I can to try and correct the problem, but to date, not much success. Is there a balance trick I need to know about? I'm sure many of you have your FC sailing smooth and easy in all conditions – lets open the door on ideas to improve performance and easy sailing. E.G. any of you using roller furling jib? If so, what kind? Do you like and recommend it?

With input from you guys and gals, the next newsletter will be an improvement. Help me out...if I don't hear from you, I'll know there is no need to keep the newsletter alive. I'm hoping to be able to send out 33 letters – low budget paper, stamps, envelopes for about \$20. The letter had no carry over funds, so I'm funding the first issue. If you want a continued effort, drop a few bucks in the mail with your new input and we'll try to keep the FC letter alive.

Great sailing and best wishes to all!

Send Info To:

Rex Johnson, 2907 Summersweet Pl., Woodlands, TX 77380

*Happy Thanksgiving & Have a Merry Christmas!*

*Jan 87*

*Sorry to be late getting the Newsletter mailed - the holidays and my "Houston Oilers" pro football playing son's marriage put me behind in everything. If you enjoy football - next season watch Lee Johnson #11. He does the kick offs and punting for the Oilers.*

*Again - my best to all!*

*Rex.*

## BEARING AWAY

(Altering course away from the wind)

There, everyday fielding the  
Constraints and contingencies  
Caused and created by a business  
Which won't believe or be believed.

Here,  
At the waters edge,  
    With the sun  
        At my back

And the waves  
    Lapping softly at my feet,

The wind writing  
    Messages on the waves  
        Only a sailor  
Can read.

Here,  
I dream old dreams of  
    Sailing all but forgotten,  
        Now.

The wind,  
    today,  
kindled the sleeping embers  
    Of hope  
And I came  
To the peaceful solitude  
    Of the beach

To ask the gulls  
    And the sea;  
        "Dare I hope?"  
And my soul was thrilled  
    With the ecstasy  
        Of believing  
As the wind whispered;  
"Yes!  
    Go!  
And join the world  
    Of sailors  
        And believers!"

But, I'm a stranger there, now.

