



S/Y Avalon: Chef Daniel and First Mate Blair with the cannon that starts the races.



The Bone Award was shared between the crew of Palawan and Flying Goose.



Whisper



S/Y Selene: The Bomb Squad

MOTLEY CREW

BY GRACE TROFA. PHOTOS BY SUKI FINNERTY



THE USUAL BAND of rogues was not in attendance at the Newport Bucket since many of the boats were still in the Mediterranean, post America's Cup. However this year's participants rose to the occasion and the Bucket's reputation remains secure – there was enough frivolity to ensure lasting stories until April's St. Barths Bucket.

New awards were presented this year. The stuffed armadillo clutching a long necked beer bottle was presented to *Carmella* for the most notable start, or was it the most unusual start and where does Bucket organizer Hank Halsted find these things? History was made this year with the first tie for

the coveted last place position and keeper of the Newport Bone. The owners of *Palawan* and *Flying Goose* will share custody of the mounted dog bone with instructions from Halsted that the award must be passed on to the other crew by Christmas. *Jess Sea*, in her first Newport Bucket, impressed regatta attendees with her Texan hospitality at the Fleet Open House, clearly grasping the spirit of these Bucket events. As for the racing, some bottles of champagne were delivered to the Race Committee boat. Rumor has it that *Selene* may have attacked the committee boat with water balloons; however, *Selene* claimed it was *Mischievous* that did the deed. The committee promptly pacified the crews



Winners of the Bomb: Avalon



Capt. Travis of S/Y Whisper, the winner of the Cool Crew Award

with the champagne they were drinking and in the end there was peace and no penalties.

It was a perfect weekend for sailing in Newport, i.e. no fog. However, the wind gods played tricks but rewarded the fleet with dramatic cloud formations that delighted all and kept the event photographers clicking.

On Saturday, the fleet sailed into a hole until the prevailing southwest sea breeze filled in; overcoming the weak gradient northerly breeze. At one point, *White Wings* and *Palawan* were parallel at the first mark; it was a great photo opportunity, until *White Wings* shot ahead – an indication of things to come. All eyes were on the competition between *Wild Horses* and *White Wings*. The owner of these two identical 76-foot beauties, Donald Tofias, was at the helm of *Wild Horses* while *White Wings* was crewed by Newport's own; sailor extraordinaire and former Bucket winner Clive Youtlen of *Zingaro* fame called round his sailing buddies in Newport the previous night and put together a crew that included John Gower, Bob O'Brien, Tad Barrows, PK (Pat Kennedy) of the IYAC and Billy Mac. This motley group of Newport sailors, who had never before sailed on *White Wings*, succeeded in winning the coveted Newport Bucket. There was a lot of hooting and howling at the awards ceremony at IYRS as the champagne-filled Bucket made the rounds. Tofias, always the good sport, brought both teams forward and announced this win was better than winning the Opera House Cup (spirit of tradition class) in Nantucket, music to the ears of the Newport sailing community. Speaking of good sports,

Whisper won both the Churchill Corinthian Cup and the award for the coolest crew, thanks to Maggie Vale and Capt. Travis.

The Newport Bucket has always been an opportunity for boat owners, crew and guests to get together for some lighthearted sailing, with a lot of backslapping, cigar smoking camaraderie. This year it seemed especially true – perhaps the smaller fleet provided a more intimate environment. As revelers wandered off Sunday evening there was a reluctance to leave friends and the special bond of the weekend festivities. ★



The Bucket winners



RACE 1

Presented by Bank of America

- 1ST: WHITE WINGS
- 2ND: SELENE
- 3RD: MISCHIEVOUS

RACE 2

PRESENTED BY NORTHROP & JOHNSON

- 1ST: AVALON
- 2ND: SELENE
- 3RD: WHITE WINGS

NEWPORT BUCKET CUP

(Combined day 1 and 2 racing)

- 1ST: WHITE WINGS
- 2ND: SELENE
- 3RD: AVALON

CHURCHILL YACHT PARTNERS CORINTHIAN CUP:

WHISPER

SKULLDUGGERY TIE:

SELENE

COOL CREW:

WHISPER

NEWPORT BONE:

PALAWAN / FLYING GOOSE

ARMADILLO LONGNECK

TROPHY FOR MOST

NOTABLE START:

CARMELLA

THE BOMB:

AVALON