

FireBug Build-a-Boat Newsletter #24 - Feb'08

'BugNews 24

"REAL SAILORS BUILD THEIR OWN BOATS!"



The Mogg's 'Firepower' v 'BugBez' in Queensland



Richard Stofer's 'Bug looking good in San Francisco.

And Finally - Launching Day in the Republic of Georgia..

'BugNews readers will recall Irakli Kutzia's struggle to get supplies for his 'Bug build in the Republic of Georgia and the generous but anonymous Aucklanders who shouted him a sail. The 'Allegra' got finished before the NZ sail arrived, perhaps it was lost? So Irakli's Dad (The Mentor) got going on the machine and made one up from a double layer of umbrella nylon! It looked good and worked OK but fortunately the NZ sail eventually turned up.



Amiran (the 'Mentor'), mother Marina, Irakli and Chackie the dog

Irakli writes about the launching..

"We launched our FireBug yesterday after days of preparation and adjustments.. By the evening the wind slowed to a very steady and gentle breathe, just ideal for a first sail.. So we rolled her down to the shore on the trolley (which we built in 1 day, with the help of guys from the neighboring metal shop).. Put the trolley in the water, and when boat started floating took it off the trolley and into the water.. gosh, my heart started pounding so fast.. I put on the life-jacket and stepped into the boat..

The Mentor was shouting orders from the shore, but for first few seconds I couldn't hear anything.. All seemed so messed up.. when I tried to pull in the main sheet, I was forgetting about tiller, than when I would grab the tiller, the sheet would go out of control.. The boat heeled crazily, and I was on the verge of capsizing, but than I instinctively jumped deep into the cockpit and kneeled near the centercase and tried to figure out what's going on from this position. Then I heard the mentor screaming to put the centerboard all the way down, and that's when I remembered I had a centerboard!:) I squeezed it all the way down, and boat became much more stable instantly..



On the way to the beach, heart in mouth!

Slowly I calmed down and started to figure out how this thing works.. After five minutes I was sitting back on the deck seat, pulling the sheet with all my might and tiller straight going upwind.. I was surprised to see my sail perform pretty well.. And my "fans" on the shore said it looked beautiful..



Taking sister Eka for a sail

This is truly unforgettable feeling.. Sitting on the sailboat for the first time in your life, on the boat built by yourself, and hearing that sweet sound of water washing the sides of the craft. Oh, I could go on for ours, but I just don't want to bore you:) This is all very very exciting! And tacking from one side to another and going further and further away from shore is indescribable pleasure.. I love my new boat!



Eka wants one too!

Thanks Peter for initiating me into this wonderful sport, and all your support! I hope to surprise you one day with my superior sailing skills and seamanship!!
- Irakli



FireBugBuild live with Yachting New Zealand

'BugBuild on the Yachting NZ Stand

Well, shiver me timbers, whatever next! When Yachting New Zealand wanted to liven up things up at the Schools Careers Expo at the Auckland Show Grounds they asked FireBug HQ if there was any chance of a 'BugBuild on their stand. The idea was to get building a hull, make some noise and create some interest.

Roz Wallis and the boys from Rotorua Boys High School have a FireBug building program underway and they were keen to give it a try. The school van arrived with 4 students and one almost completed boat which was rigged on day one. Another hull had been kitsetted and was put together over the next two days. Just two days to complete a hull - brilliant effort! Well done!

Michael's Cute Crew

Mike McGrath in Exeter NSW is putting the finishing touches on his boat under the eye of three cute grandchildren.. Bella, Olivia and Genevieve.



Cute crew for the McGrath boat in NSW.

FireBugs More & More..

FireBug plans/registrations have now reached into the 850s in 32 countries.

858



'Bug for the Grandchildren

Alastair McLeod from Christchurch is building for his grandchildren over in SA and it looks to be going AOK..



The McLeod bug takes shape.



Plywood on and looking good.

James Clark from Lower Hutt writes.. "We have finished :) apart from a couple of minor touch ups on the centerboard and tiller. Its such a great feeling to have finished it after so long, but it was well worth it!" Looks like a nice job fellas!



James Clark and Malcolm, Lower Hutt.

Bob Frame in Canterbury Writes..

"Peter, attached is a recent photo of the 'Fire Dragon' in French Farm Harbour on Banks Peninsula. Our boys Dougal and Gus love it. Many thanks to you and Ray for making it all possible - it's really been appreciated." NOTE that the jig Bob used is available to borrow, contact Ray O'Brien phone 03 388 1981.



'Fire Dragon' on French Farm Harbour

Very Cold at Elliot Lake..

Ian Craik in Canada has stopped work for the winter.. "The ice on the lakes is 2ft thick, snow 3ft deep and -28 C outside!" So Ian is heading to NZ for a holiday.



Waiting for the temperature to rise!

Tropical Bug now at Sailing Club..

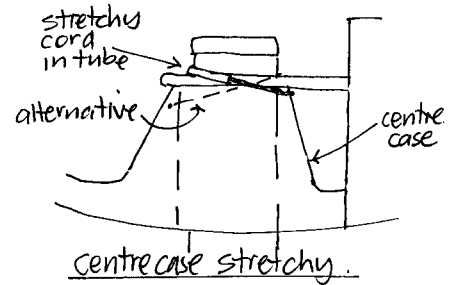
The turtle chaser 'Ranwadi 100' built by the children at the Ranwadi Christian School on Pentecost Island in the Vanuatu Islands now belongs to the Vanuatu Sailing Association after sailor/teacher Noel Christensen moved back to New Zealand. The VSA teach the Won Smol Bag Youth Club kids to sail.



Vanuatu turtle chaser

'Builders Queries and a Tuning Trick..

A common question from 'Bug builders is "How does the stretchy (bungy) cord attach around the centrecase and what does it do?" Thread the cord through the plastic tube, stretch it and tie under the 'case top. See the sketch below. This holds the centreboard in the slot and the tube prevents the soft bungy cord from jamming between the centreboard and the centrecase. The slot in the centrecase is made over-size to allow fore and aft adjustment. There is a tuning opportunity here - if you position the stretchy the otherway around (drill a hole through the back of the centrecase to take the cord) it pulls the centreboard to the back of the slot and this lightens the helm slightly. You can also lighten the helm by moving the mast to the forward hole on the mast step. Moving the mast forward makes approximately double the effect of the centreboard move. A light helm makes the boat easier to sail, possibly faster too.



Another in the USA..

Mark Tarter and son turning their 'Bug over. Mark lives in that lovely part of the USA - Portland Oregon.



Mark Tarter and son Isaac turning their 'Bug over.

'Worlds Most Used Bug' Claim

Simon Rutherford, ex Commodore of PPYC writes.. "I am now running the Canterbury Sailing School and also Kiwi Sailing School. We have plastic Opti's as our main boats but I have been buying 'Bugs to make our LTS broader based. The Bugs are very well used and I claim that the 'Namu' is the world's most used 'Bug - it has hardly been off the water in it's 10 years, and I think has sailed 50 times this year already! More from Christchurch next issue.

..and in France

Cedric Pellisier in St Hilaire de Loulay, France is progressing well and it looks like a good job!



Voici, le FireBug de Cedric

'BugNews gets better and better

Thanks to great photos and news from builders, schools and clubs: Mark Tarter, Ross Venner, James Clark, Irakli Kut-sia, Ray O'Brien, Alastair McLeod, Bob Frame, Noel Christensen, Ian Craik and the Mogg and Pellisier families. Some have been held over for the next issue.

Web - www.firebug.co.nz

Good newsletters require photos and good stories. Please send yours in now!

All Enquiries: Peter Tait FBHQ
PO Box 47 042 Ponsonby Auckland
New Zealand Ph/Fx +64 9 360 1076
email: pete@firebug.co.nz
website: www.firebug.co.nz

