

FireBug Build-a-Boat Newsletter #22 - Dec '06

'BugNews 22

"REAL SAILORS BUILD THEIR OWN BOATS!"



'AllBug' looking nice!



Irakli Kutsia's model.



Richard Brown, National Programmes Director for Yachting New Zealand.

Yachting NZ offer support to FBHQ

At the invite of YNZ, FBHQ is now a financial member with the intention to move towards formal affiliation of the class. This prepares the way for Yachting NZ programs to include FireBug sailors with Learn to Sail and coaching etc. Previously the 'Bugs were mostly excluded from these activities to the detriment of the class.

Also more help for 'Bugs in Schools

Over the last few years more than 30 schools have enthusiastically built boats in the classroom. This has benefitted all involved but in some cases getting the boats out on the water has been a problem due to lack of expertise and facilities. Now Yachting NZ will be able to help with Learn to Sail Programs, Instructor Courses etc.

YNZ will also be assisting with promoting 'Bug building in schools and with administration in the classroom where students receive credits towards Boating Industry National Qualifications. They can also offer career options in sailing and include 'Bugs in NCEA Sailing Subjects. For some time the Ministry of Education 'Star Funding Program' has provided funding for the construction of the boats.

A Boost for Amateur Boat Building

All the above is a major breakthrough for the FireBug as a DIY class and the 'FireBug Project' ie promoting amateur boat building skills and getting people, especially children out sailing at low cost. It's timely to give a big thanks to some of the helpers - standout names are: Ray O'Brien, Steve Ashley, Roger Hall, Rod McCulloch, Gordon Caley, and Chris Spooner. Thanks also to the supportive companies whose logos appear below and overleaf - your support has helped to produce enormous amounts of fun and excitement in families, clubs and schools, new skills too and it'll get better yet!



Rigged for the first launch day!

Big 'Bug fleet afloat in WA.

Dampier Camp School/Karrutha High School have the first five of its twenty boat FireBug fleet afloat. From all reports it's going really well with plenty of 'excitement in the air on launch day.'



All ready to go in WA - "No, you get in first!"

On to bigger things..

Richard Whitney has the boat building bug - since the FireBug he has completed two kayaks and now a larger cruising dinghy complete with outboard power. The 6m hull is certainly stable compared with a 'Bug!



'Richard's big cruiser at PCSC

FireBugs More & More..

FireBug plans/registrations have now reached into the 760s in 32 countries.



McBug and White Dwarf (Go Nicola!) at CRSC

Concord Ryde Sailing Club, Sydney

The FireBugs 'White Dwarf', 'Stink Bug' and 'McBug' have all joined the fray at Concord Ryde Sailing Club.

Ross Venner reports that "Most of the committee (and a lot of juniors) have had a sail in the boats with good response." They like the way that after a capsize it comes up dry and continues sailing, unlike other classes which often need a rescue boat. As a training boat the FireBug can accommodate an adult and a child but without the physical demands of the larger boats allowing more concentration on learning."

A building programme is under consideration during the club's winter layoff (May to August). If you are interested in joining in, please contact Ross Venner on 0418 457 020. You can also visit the club web site at: -<http://www.concordrydesailing.org/classessailed.htm>



Irakli with the scale model.

'Bug building in Georgia

Irakli Kutsia in the Republic of Georgia has built a scale model as a practice run for the real thing. Materials are a problem though - Irakli says "I am now searching for the waterproof ply. It is quite difficult to find, you can't even imagine. It seems that nobody here has ever done boat building before.. Sol may have look for it in the sea ports or even Turkey.. I don't care, I'm determined to do this!"





Nice rigging area and sailing water at TSC.

Taikata Sailing Club in Auckland

The TSC is running Learn to Sail programs with 8 'Bugs' now based there and more turning up all the time - Harry Ziegler and Don Topliss have both launched brand new boats there in the last few weeks. From all reports its a fun family club with a full racing and social sailing program as well as a 50 Year Club Anniversary Regatta coming up this year. Lockers for boats too! If you'd like to join in contact gocliff@xtra.co.nz or pete@firebug.co.nz, ph 09 360 1076



Arthur's 'AliBug' on Lake Cromwell.

Aluminium 'Bug' turns heads..

Arthur Watt from Cromwell an experienced aluminium boat builder launched 'AliBug' on a windy day early in the season - *"Pete, I'm not an expert on small sailing dinghies but think it's a bloody great wee boat!"*



Not so much mess with aluminium!

'Bugs at Titahi Bay in Wellington.

Two 'Bugs' are now sailing at the Titahi Bay Boating Club in Wellington and interested parties are encouraged to come and have a sail - the more, the merrier. Some TBBC members are keen to start a building scheme, perhaps with sponsorship, and welcome any interest. Contact Hugh: 021 396 417.



Cold conditions at PPYC in Christchurch for the South Island 'Bug' Championships.

Ross Venner launches in Sydney

Ross in Sydney has 'White Dwarf' afloat and thinks it's a great little boat! Ross is a member at the Concord Ryde Sailing Club and would like to see a fleet sailing at the club - see overleaf.



A happy Ross - "Yes - it floats!"

Puzzle over Mystery Alphabet..

The email below turned out to be Russian and was soon translated on the net - an enquiry for more info.

Хотелось бы узнать стоимость комплекта документации с пересылкой в Россию

С уважением Сергей

Mark Rugendyke afloat in Dubbo

Mark couldn't wait for a nice sailing day.. *"It was blowing quite strongly and I did notice the only other boat out, a cat, headed for shelter. Perhaps I should have taken that as a warning, but I was having too much fun. It actually coped with the condition really well, I just need to get more experience."*



Mark on fresh water near Dubbo NSW.

Canterbury Champs

The Canterbury Championships were held at PPYC in November in very chilly weather. The races were sailed late in the afternoon and only 7 sailors braved the conditions - even the photos look chilly against the NW skies. Tom Arthur won overall and the Senior Cup, Richard Kennedy in Pink Flamingo the Junior Cup and Hannes Hille got the Novice Trophy. Well done all!



'Pink Flamingo' against the NW sky.

Sea Biscuit nearly finished..

The Corbett family in Christchurch are getting on with it and nearing completion..



"A trusty helper and salty old sea dog".

'BugNews gets better and better

- thanks to great photos and news from builders, schools and clubs: Pete Collett, Ross Venner, Cliff Elliott, James Clarke, Irakli Kutsia, Mark Rugendyke, Arthur Watts, Anna Kennedy, John Lally and the kids. Some have been held for the next issue.

Website Too.. a new look and now a top rating site - www.firebug.co.nz

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

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