

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1950 WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

by Russ Luchtenberg, "Fireball" 248

This gala event attracted interest far and wide. Many acquaintances were eagerly renewed and the hospitality of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club started the minute of arrival. Entertainment was provided continuously and if anyone did not enjoy themselves, we didn't see them.

Many boats arrived early and Tampa Bay was dotted with Lightnings brushing everywhere. Friday there was a tune-up race, won easily by Charlie Dore from Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, in his "Vixen" No. 2383.

Saturday morning saw some of the hottest skippers in the country, as well as many of us that "also-ran" for the wonderful time, 44 in all, anxiously awaiting the starting gun. Charlie Dore repeated his earlier performance by winning the first race, with Dick Krauss from Toledo, Ohio, second and E. W. Carpenter of Oneida, New York, third. After this second feat G. W. Rifley, Rear Commodore of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, decided this beau-

tiful "Vixen" should never leave Tampa Bay and bought her from Charlie right then.

On Sunday morning the wind started blowing, much to the glee of the hardy sailors. It was too much for Charlie and the "Vixen" did not fare so well. However, it was meat for Krauss and his beef trust and he brought his "Jinks" in ahead of the fleet, followed by Ogden Heldt of St. Pete in second place and S. Zorovich of Miami third.

The last race—and she was REALLY blowing—saw Dr. H. W. Virgin of Miami, who showed us how to win the President's Cup Series a few months earlier at the Internationals in similar wind, take first place with Krauss coming from behind to work into second and Vice President, Magnus Pedersen, of Nyack, New York placing third.

The final tabulation showed Dick Krauss to be the winner of the series with his second, first and second.



St. Petersburg Winter Championship Trophies and Plaques.



Bus Mabry rests in the jungle with orange juice.



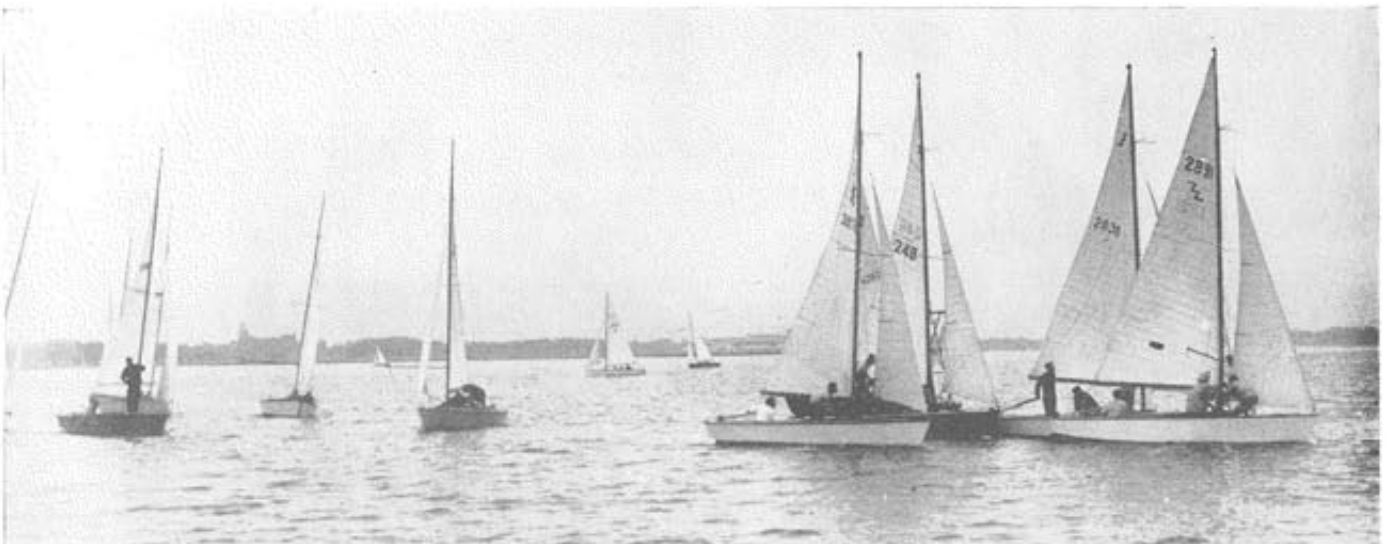
Mrs. Robert Purvis instructs Magnus Pedersen, Ed McCain, Walt Swindeman and Russ Luchtenberg in the art of Hula.

Harold Balcom of Tampa in "Sugar Foot" was second with a fifth, fourth and fifth while Charles Doll of Tampa, in "Calypso" was third with a fifteenth, fifth and fourth.

Saturday night the Yacht Club put on a party to top all parties, with instructions in how to Hula as the feature attraction. King (Doc) Jennings waved his Royal Scepter (consisting of a beer can brightly wrapped on a stick with tin foil), ordering the Lightning International Officers who were caught in their South Sea Island jungle to be properly attired. Former President and Honorary Commodore Ed McCain, Vice Commodores "Pete" Pedersen, Walt Swindeman and Russ Luchtenberg were clothed in grass skirts and ordered to dance. What a contrast this was to the graceful movements of pretty Mrs. Robert Purvis,

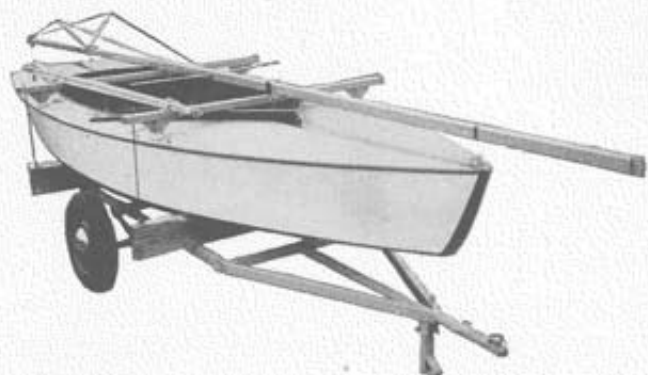
who learned her dance in Hawaii. Meanwhile, Bus Mabry, a native, was put to rest for the evening amid the thick jungle foliage in the center of the dance floor.

Sunday evening, the Regatta was climaxed with a buffet dinner (on the house) of par excellence followed by the trophy awards. The beautiful championship perpetual trophy was presented to the fleet by Wally Bishop, the famous cartoonist of Mugs and Skeeter fame and a member of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. In addition to the trophies to the winners, all competing skippers were presented with beautiful plaques. Incidentally, Krauss and his totally green crew, consisting of Walt Swindeman, twice International champ, and Bill Girkins, arrived at the presentation in their finest store clothes but this did not prevent them from being stripped and duly dunked.



Traffic jam at the Second Mark.

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