



April 2005

The International 5.5 Class newsletter

Dear friends,

Sailing season is about to start here in the northern hemisphere as it ends down-under. The Class activity has been high with two world championships held in 4 months. With 27 participants, Sydney proved rightly how the 5.5 Class is entitled to its international status.



(Sailing ambiance: Sydney 05, pic.M.Pieper)

Sailing in Sydney was rewarding but complicated too, shifting winds, boat traffic and the hammering sun was a little bit of a nightmare to those crews not familiar with the bay. Nevertheless the great champions like **Schümann**, **Marazzi** and **Gullichsen** were there fighting hard to prove their talents. Older boats (and older skippers...) like *Barranjoey* (**Bill Solomons**) enhanced the fleet by their presence and showed how the 5.5 is a good investment and keeps you young & fit !



(World champ.05:Roni Pieper, Jochen Schümann and Peter van Niekerck, pic.M.Pieper)

Once the event was over, some enthusiastic 5.5 Australian sailors promised to show up more often in Europe with new boats and new ideas ! Well that was last winter, now let's look at what lies ahead of us for this season.

Obviously the major event this summer will be the European championship end of June in Austria on lake Attersee. Only 4 years ago the 5.5 fleet started growing again in this country and there we are: having a major event to support them, what a success for **Edi Bernd** (Belladonna II) !

All the other fleets will also have their championship starting with Italy in May where 20 boats have already registered !

Two new boats were built last winter at **Wilke**. One is *Maitresse* NED-35 (Hans, Franz and Eric, pic. Linda)





for our president **Hans Nadorp**, this is his 4th 5.5 ! and the other was for **Jürg Menzi** also his 5th boat named *Marie-Françoise XVII*, SUI-217.

On the day she was launched, Jürg won the first race of the season on lake Thun...

But let's not forget about all those other sailor buying second hand boat, repairing them and helping maintain the 5.5 fleet with a decent participation and representation world-wide. In Germany, **Jörg Sontag** is about to re-launch *Saphir* a world champion in need of a big restoration program. In Norway, in place called Risor, **Steffen Ousdal** has managed to bring a nice little fleet of Evolutions together triggering a renewed interest for the 5.5 in this country.



(Open air restoration for SUI-185 former *Arunga*, the next day it snowed 20 cm !, pic. Johnson)

Arunga V, a former Norwegian boat has been repaired in Switzerland by **François** and **Guillaume**, she will soon be sailing again on lake Geneva.

On the US pacific coast, since the production ceased 20 years ago, the 5.5 Columbia fleet is still active as ever. The Californians will sail their Nationals in July organized by the Alameda Yacht Club (San Francisco-Bay area). Could be a place for having a world championship ?!



(Nat'l 2004 5.5 Columbia, Alameda, California)

Last but not least ! may I remind you of our website:

Wish you all a nice sailing season !

Ambroise,

International 5.5 Information officer

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www.5point5.org

IT'S YOURS TOO !

Feel free to drop a line when something regarding the 5.5 happens. Whenever possible add a picture it's worth a 1000 words...so it saves you from writing lengthy text !!!

Coming up soon is a new page with tips & tricks, I will ask some of you to contribute.