



A crowded A-Fleet start in waves with the smart money lining up for the congested pin end. Alyssa Heyns Photo

2017 IOM Nationals (at Lake Ray Hubbard in Garland, TX) *Bob Wells Reporting*

A USA IOM Nationals event is to look forward to, and once again we were not disappointed. High level sailing is the main draw, and Garland provided epic radio sailing conditions for us. The venue is well suited for socializing because most of us stayed at the same Holiday Inn Express & Suites and then we walk a short distance to the restaurants or this amazing radio sailing venue. Not everybody was prepared to sail in A-fleet, but everybody had their A-game working on the social side. What great fun day and night!

Some make a bigger commitment to attend than others, and we were blessed with many foreign travelers joining us as is usually the case. Four Aussie skippers made the crazy long flight, with two wives that contributed significantly every day to the scoring and the measurement verification – thank you Elaine and Audree. We had two Brazilians, including Denis Astbury, a Britpop builder of note in our circles. World Champion Zvonko Jelacic returned from Croatia to defend his 2016 USA Championship. Stan Wallace came in again from the Bahamas. And then we had a large contingent of SoCal Nomads, with Ben Reeve and David Woodward long hauling their team's boat kit from San Diego while their buddies used airlines. What an excellent way to share travel costs and encourage your team to sail together at big distant venues. Well done.

Class rules require a measurement verification process for ranking events, and a Nationals has a few more stations with a wet tank verification by class rule. The hotel generously provided the large meeting room, and the fleet took over the extended lobby for last minute work on our boats – and socializing. Measurement was very well staffed and managed with everybody receiving a card with their appointment time as part of the efficiency. Baron Bremer was Sergeant at Arms blocking the measurement room door if it wasn't your time. We know not to mess with Baron. Forty boats measured in at the 7 stations in about five hours, and Stan Wallace measured in Friday morning because the airline left his sailbox in Atlanta. Fortunately, it arrived in the dark of night and everybody was ready to race Friday morning on time.

Everything is bigger in Texas, and Lake Ray Hubbard is no exception – it is big like Chuck LeMahieu's personality. The venue provided big wind for all three days. Friday and Saturday, we sailed mostly 2-rig in waves from the long 4.5-mile fetch for winds from the S to SE direction. Usually the waves were large enough to allow surfing. At the end of day-2 the waves grew to heroic scale and got the dock rocking a bit too. Your senses come alive with the crashing waves, the boats leaping to windward off waves, the noise, and the rocking dock. I haven't enjoyed an experience like that since IOMs sailed in the Dallas Blowout on nearby White Rock Lake, so thank you again Texas! Sunday the wind direction switched to the North and the wind and waves calmed to the point a few races were in 1-rig and underpowered a little in 2-rig. Overall this was an excellent test of your sailing and big fleet management skill, where speed alone is not an answer because most everybody is fast.

There were many very good sailors in the fleet, but one stands out. Zvonko Jelacic sailing his newish Kantun 2 had no problem defending his USA Championship from last year, and it was great to socialize with him again and to check out his latest design. 17 points in 17 races describes his dominance in numbers, where his worst finish was 2nd (six times). The A-fleet racing was often great theatre from the elevated on-shore lawn or the restaurant deck. For example, on the last beat in race 7, Rosco Bennett began with a small lead over Zvonko at the leeward gate, and Mark Golison had a chance in third. The end of the beat finishes with a long and fast port tack that is mostly parallel to the dock with a few short hitches out required to finish. Rosco stretched his lead midway by going farther out and Golison caught a lift inside to where he was on starboard and crossing Zvonko. Golison tacked to a close cover, but was a little slow accelerating in the lumpy water. Zvonko dipped to leeward and with momentum soon he could pinch up to cover from the front. This left Mark with no options in bad air. It became a drag race to the finish with Rosco just in the lead followed by Zvonko a little to weather and pinching. Rosco needed a short starboard tack to finish, and it looked like he could pass in front, but he was also a little slow accelerating in the waves and Zvonko crossed on port with the finish line close by. There were many close ones like that.

The wind and waves caused boat carnage. The most egregious was when George Pedrick's sweet blue V10 sank just off the dock near the finish line, and hasn't been recovered as I write this. Speculation is a hard collision at the leeward gate caused a hull crack or loosened a deck patch. A diver spent an hour looking the next morning. George purchased fishing gear and a grapple hook and cast into the night and the following day to no avail. The only humor in this was fisherman from nearby Bass Pro kept coming to the dock to offer

casting advice, thinking he was a really dumb fisherman. Also, a couple of homemade IOMS had their RMG winches break their mounting systems, testament to the power of this fine winch and the challenging condition. More IOM lessons learned - again.

I can't say enough good things about the organizing and race management group. Gary Boell had this cockamamie idea to host IOMs at this special venue while living 1,700 miles away. Despite the challenging logistics, Gary and the many volunteers pulled it off. This was first class all the way and their efforts showed. Fred Rocha came from San Diego to manage the racing, and Barry Fox came from Victoria in BC for measurement and scorekeeping. Special recognition to San Antonio locals John Kelsey and Ken Weeks from San Antonio (the Fiesta RC Yachts boys) who worked the whole regatta.

Regatta Summary:

Host Club: North Bay Radio Controlled Sailing Club (AMYA #38); San Francisco, CA

Venue: Lake Ray Hubbard at Bass Pro docks; Garland, TX

Entries: 41

Winds: mostly mid-upper 2-rig (some 1-rig & bottom 2-rig)

Races Completed: 17 (three heats per race).

Scoring System: 2016 HMS

Regatta Committee & Valuable Assistants:

Organizer & Registration – Jim Wondolleck; PRO – Gary Boell.

Race Director - Fred Rocha; Scorekeeper – Barry Fox; Race Officers - Audree Bennett, Elaine Brown, and John Kelsey.

Measurement Verification – Boell, Fox, Elaine and Tim Brown, Audree Bennett, John Kelsey, Ken Weeks, and Jenn Golison.

Buoy and Rescue Boat - Ken Weeks

Food – Texas Land and Cattle Steak House

Lodging – Holiday Inn Express Garland with Sponsorship by Kerri McMasters

Skipper Gifts by Pirates Lair – Jenn Golison

Trophies – Gary Hartsock Awards

Special Awards:

Corinthian Sailor Award – Ken Weeks

Master Champion – Mark Golison (Ouch, Jenn is married to an old man!)

Photos Links: Jerry Brower (Free) : <http://www.ibextrax.com/RC2017/1020USN/>

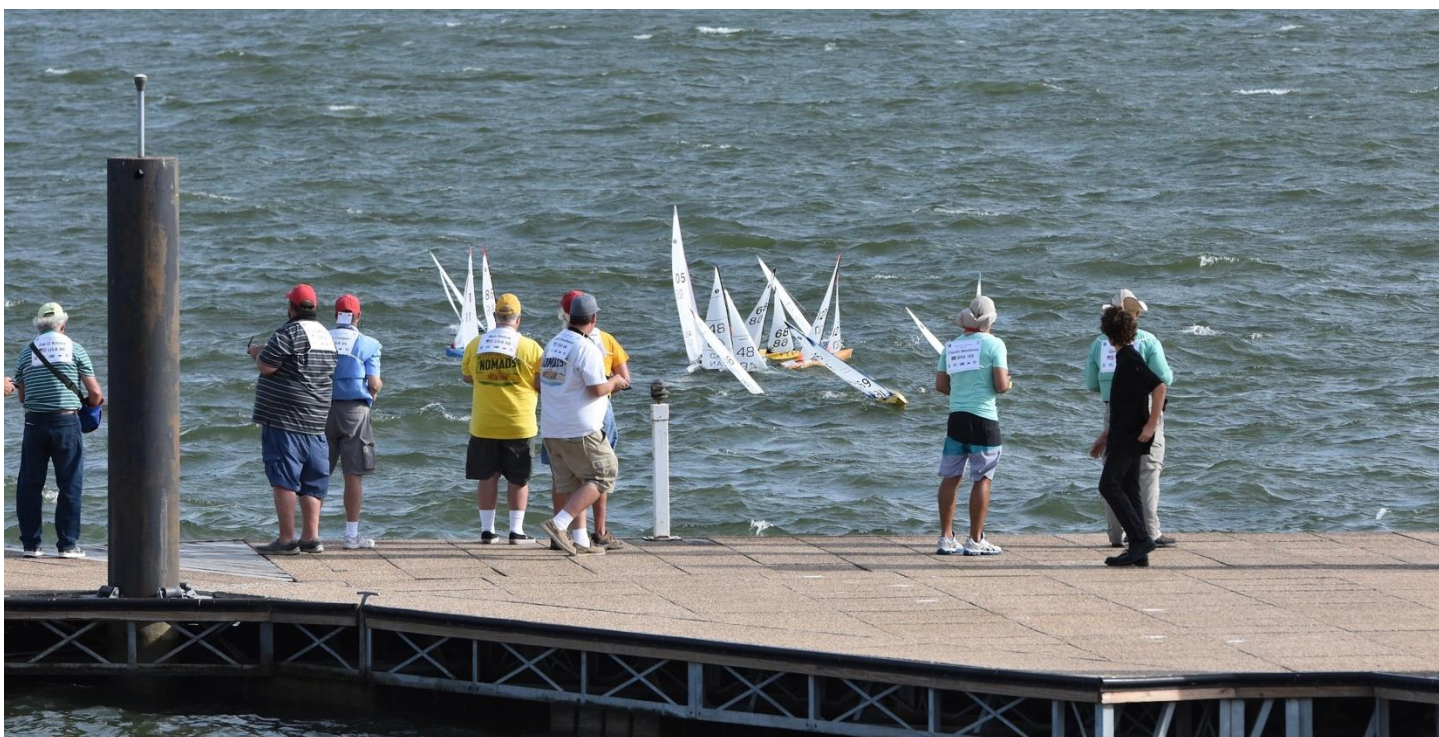
Alyssa Hynes (\$99.00): https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fo/e8cbdd1j3anm0l4a9fvzq/AACJAOGC9SFAnCB5_07sRsXBa?dl=0&oref=e&r=AAfF8YRSiyZ0R-t23s7EmcpeezRYgiiHKgFjimd0UUNeb-r1kWhkPDpE8JrLqgMQQ7jr8UJkzeYjdB-J2Kd1enHIKLVVMx9PRhz3wOp-qQYTsCPE9noEPiL6rAYLLsD5yQjkkjZoEHyhx0ulmhmiTOL76ziKNH1mD-Hq5Xh_cks5pnLz3hJiefTwmcgPNWjzvtUUX9nftMT9iy7nZ3BtUX&sm=1

Full Results:

Position	Skipper	Sail #	Club/City	Hull	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Zvonko Jelacic	35	Split, CRO	Kantun 2	17.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
2	Mark Golison	55	Long Beach, CA	V9	49.0	2.0	1.0	8.0	10.0	2.0	8.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	6.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	9.0
3	Sean Wallis	771	Southern River, WA, AUS	V10	51.0	7.0	7.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	12.0	1.0	2.0	10.0
4	Ross Bennett	39	WA, AUS	V10	61.0	2.0	5.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	9.0	7.0	2.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	8.0	4.0	2.0
5	Steve Landeau	21	Pooler, GA	BritPop!	69.0	1.0	11.0	16.0	7.0	8.0	5.0	10.0	1.0	3.0	12.0	5.0	3.0	5.0	7.0	3.0	7.0	4.0
6	Denis Astbury	111	Rio de Janeiro, BRA	BritPop!	89.3	3.0	9.0	2.0	2.0	4.3	19.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	9.0	7.0	10.0	15.0	13.0	5.0	6.0	14.0
7	Glenn Dawson	76	WA, AUS	V9	96.0	1.0	17.0	10.0	9.0	4.0	3.0	6.0	19.0	6.0	11.0	4.0	13.0	6.0	17.0	25.0	3.0	3.0
8	Craig Mackey	29	Oceanside, CA	BritPop!	120.0	5.0	31.0	5.0	6.0	3.0	19.0	20.0	19.0	12.0	4.0	16.0	7.0	18.0	4.0	7.0	8.0	6.0
9	Ted Flack	45	West Bloomfield, MI	BritPop!	145.8	2.0	4.0	15.0	11.0	7.0	4.0	12.0	8.8	13.0	20.0	20.0	15.0	24.0	9.0	12.0	13.0	22.0
10	Konrad Witt	113	San Diego, CA	V9	160.0	3.0	8.0	9.0	14.0	29.0	25.0	15.0	27.0	14.0	14.0	9.0	12.0	11.0	16.0	13.0	10.0	12.0
11	Stan Wallace	69	Bahamas	BritPop!	164.6	8.0	6.0	4.0	18.0	13.0	13.0	19.0	20.0	19.0	19.0	10.0	11.0	9.0	3.0	12.6	20.0	24.0
12	Gary Boell	71	Richmond, CA	BritPop!	169.0	5.0	24.0	7.0	15.0	19.0	31.0	19.0	21.0	9.0	5.0	15.0	8.0	16.0	28.0	10.0	5.0	15.0
13	Morgan Dewees	98	Portland, OR	MMX	173.0	4.0	13.0	23.0	17.0	20.0	21.0	25.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	17.0	8.0	10.0	16.0	22.0	11.0
14	Dennis Rogers	43	San Diego, CA	BritPop!	183.0	6.0	3.0	14.0	5.0	5.0	7.0	9.0	16.0	19.0	15.0	21.0	24.0	31.0	23.0	24.0	19.0	21.0
15	Mike French	10	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	BritPop!	196.0	10.0	23.0	31.0	22.0	12.0	6.0	11.0	12.0	10.0	6.0	17.0	16.0	20.0	25.0	21.0	16.0	17.0
16	Baron Bremer	81	Orange Park, FL	TARA	204.0	4.0	16.0	20.0	21.0	30.0	20.0	22.0	8.0	11.0	16.0	24.0	29.0	12.0	11.0	14.0	29.0	5.0
17	Michel Roure	18	Parsippany, NJ	BritPop!	210.0	6.0	14.0	25.0	13.0	16.0	15.0	31.0	10.0	15.0	25.0	14.0	20.0	18.0	22.0	11.0	17.0	19.0
18	Bob Wells	12	Mercer Island, WA	Kantun 2	216.0	11.0	15.0	19.0	28.0	22.0	11.0	4.0	5.0	17.0	21.0	13.0	19.0	17.0	15.0	27.0	31.0	31.0
19	Bobby Flack	96	West Bloomfield, MI	BritPop!	217.0	4.0	12.0	18.0	26.0	15.0	23.0	16.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	11.0	9.0	14.0	29.0	6.0	18.0	16.0
21	Stephan Cohen	28	Los Angeles, CA	BritPop!	218.0	8.0	25.0	24.0	19.0	28.0	12.0	13.0	22.0	21.0	24.0	23.0	14.0	7.0	8.0	19.0	21.0	7.0
20	Chris Sullivan	62	Albany, CA	BritPop!	218.0	6.0	18.0	27.0	35.0	11.0	9.0	14.0	24.0	27.0	22.0	25.0	25.0	19.0	6.0	9.0	12.0	18.0
22	Jerry Brower	42	Lake Stevens, WA	V9	236.0	7.0	31.0	28.0	36.0	19.0	22.0	24.0	28.0	31.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	10.0	19.0	23.0	14.0	20.0
23	Tim Brown	07	Elam Heights, AUS	AKA	241.1	10.0	21.0	12.0	4.0	9.0	16.0	19.0	25.0	15.1	18.0	28.0	31.0	32.0	14.0	22.0	28.0	28.0
24	Terence Haynes	44	Imperial Beach, CA	TNT	256.0	12.0	42.0	37.0	31.0	34.0	32.0	8.0	11.0	16.0	13.0	19.0	26.0	21.0	24.0	15.0	15.0	13.0
25	Bruce Anderson	16	Boise, ID	BritPop!	257.0	5.0	19.0	22.0	16.0	24.0	26.0	31.0	14.0	23.0	28.0	22.0	23.0	25.0	33.0	19.0	11.0	8.0
26	Barry Donaher	127	Kamas, UT	Shuffle	296.4	8.0	26.0	11.0	12.0	14.0	24.0	17.4	26.0	24.0	31.0	29.0	34.0	22.0	21.0	31.0	42.0	42.0
27	Chris Macaluso	112	Houston, TX	BritPop!	297.0	3.0	10.0	17.0	30.0	39.0	31.0	21.0	31.0	25.0	27.0	18.0	22.0	13.0	20.0	29.0	34.0	33.0
28	Charles LeMahieu	20	Richardson, TX	Malteaser	332.0	15.0	28.0	33.0	24.0	23.0	29.0	23.0	13.0	20.0	26.0	26.0	18.0	23.0	31.0	42.0	42.0	42.0
29	Steve Toschi	94	Grover Beach, CA	ME6	335.0	9.0	27.0	21.0	27.0	33.0	28.0	26.0	15.0	26.0	17.0	27.0	27.0	34.0	38.0	26.0	30.0	29.0
30	Gene Harris	57	Pt. Richmond, CA	Vp	357.0	10.0	33.0	31.0	23.0	25.0	33.0	34.0	31.0	22.0	23.0	30.0	21.0	26.0	32.0	34.0	23.0	27.0
31	Mark Cooper	05	Houston, TX	Arrival	365.0	12.0	36.0	32.0	25.0	21.0	14.0	31.0	40.0	38.0	31.0	38.0	37.0	39.0	19.0	20.0	24.0	25.0
32	Joe D'Amico	86	Sequim, WA	V9	381.0	9.0	20.0	29.0	42.0	36.0	27.0	32.0	23.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	35.0	28.0	31.0	33.0	25.0	31.0
33	Christian Pavey	48	Toronto, ON	Goth XP	413.0	11.0	34.0	26.0	32.0	26.0	39.0	37.0	34.0	36.0	32.0	33.0	31.0	37.0	34.0	35.0	26.0	23.0
34	Bruce Huckaba	11	Houston, TX	BritPop!	421.0	13.0	31.0	39.0	29.0	31.0	37.0	33.0	32.0	35.0	34.0	32.0	32.0	27.0	36.0	31.0	27.0	34.0
35	George Pedrick	50	Pt. Richmond, CA	V10	433.0	7.0	22.0	13.0	20.0	27.0	19.0	31.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0
36	Ben Reeve	68	El Cajon, CA	BritPop!	436.0	9.0	32.0	36.0	38.0	35.0	40.0	36.0	35.0	34.0	37.0	39.0	33.0	33.0	26.0	28.0	36.0	26.0
37	Gino Arrue	148	Katy, TX	Kantun S	454.0	15.0	35.0	34.0	33.0	38.0	35.0	39.0	33.0	39.0	35.0	34.0	28.0	31.0	35.0	36.0	35.0	35.0
38	Claudio Mendonca	169	Rio de Janeiro, BRA	BritPop!	457.0	11.0	37.0	38.0	34.0	37.0	36.0	41.0	37.0	33.0	33.0	36.0	38.0	36.0	27.0	32.0	32.0	36.0
39	David Woodward	66	Imperial, CA	Malteaser	481.0	15.0	38.0	40.0	39.0	32.0	34.0	35.0	36.0	37.0	31.0	35.0	36.0	35.0	39.0	39.0	42.0	42.0
40	Fernando Campoverde	91	Houston, TX	Marlot	481.0	13.0	40.0	35.0	37.0	41.0	38.0	38.0	38.0	32.0	36.0	37.0	39.0	38.0	37.0	37.0	33.0	32.0
41	Ken Weeks	74	San Antonio, TX	Kantun SMX	553.0	15.0	39.0	42.0	40.0	40.0	41.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0



Upwind the first two days we were fast on port (with waves almost parallel to our course) and slow on starboard (pounding directly into them). Nail biting finishes were mostly parallel and close to the dock such as in this image. Alyssa Heyns Photo



Another weather mark cluster, which is what happens if you trying to cut it too close in steep waves. Alyssa Heyns Photo



Three Aussies leading the fleet on the first upwind leg in lumpy water, and they were often at the front of the fleet. The Aussies mix in easily and raise the level of socializing and alcohol consumption. I count eight boats in this image that I can read Nationality, and only two are USA. Of those Michel Roure is born and raised in France and has dual passports. I love this “international” aspect of the class. Alyssa Heyns Photo



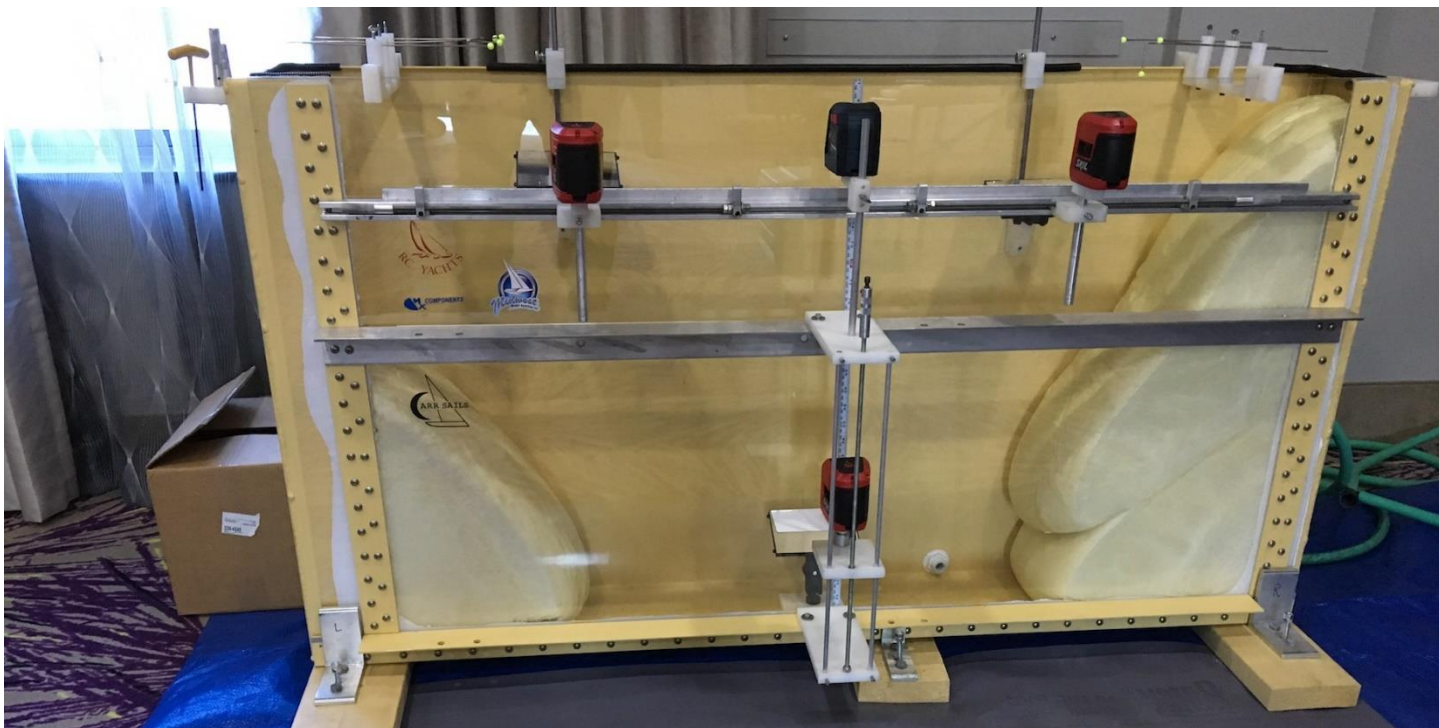
Downwind in waves after the off-set mark. We enjoyed prime radio sailing surfing conditions often. Alyssa Heyns Photo



Bobby Flack's Britpop (front) surfing a wave while Chris Macaluso's BP is working to catch one again. Alyssa Heyns Photo



The excellent staging and elevated viewing area helps make this a very special venue. The restaurant provided great lunches, our restroom, shade, and it was only a short walk from our hotel. The Texas flag showed wind direction and suggested the strength. We had a lively and tasty Saturday night dinner at Texas Land and Cattle too. Alyssa Heyns Photo



Ken Weeks and John Kelsey of Fiesta RC Yachts brought their versatile and amazing laser guided float tank from San Antonio that they use for his 10Rs. This great tool adjusts to measure IOMs too. Their custom enclosed boat trailer brought this and their many 10Rs, Marbleheads, and IOMs for display too.



Aussies and Honorary Aussies at closing ceremonies in their green shirts (from L): Rosco and Audree Bennett, Tim Brown, Sean Wallis, Fred Rocha, Gary Boell, Elaine Brown, Steve Landeau, and Glenn Dawson. (Glenn lost his shirt to an apparently shy George Pedrick.)