

YCC NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2025

THURSDAY PRACTICE

The Thursday practice takes place every Thursday at 6pm, in Port Choiseul. Since its start mid April, this event has been extremely popular, with up to 100 participants. A couple of times, a few persons had to be left grounded despite all efforts to accommodate all sailors, including borrowing private boats from members... The Thursday practice is also a unique social event where sailors share food and drinks after the outing in the friendly atmosphere of the CNV buvette.

Registration:

- Registration is mandatory, [online on the Thursday Practice webpage](#).
- Registration closes at 6pm on Wednesday.
- Please read [guidelines](#) before joining 1st time.



CNV table is not long enough to accommodate all of us.

SEMAINE DU SOIR DE VERSOIX

The [SdS de Versoix](#) is a highlight event in YCC's calendar. Together with the CNV, we'll be organising a regatta each night of the week with catamarans, dinghies and keelboats all taking part.

Come to Port Choiseul to soak up the atmosphere, enjoy the live music and taste different culinary specialities each evening. [This year's event will run from Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July.](#)

D & Y PRACTICE

Dinghy and Yngling weekly practice will start when all courses are over, likely the 2nd week of July. [Dinghy practice will be on Tuesdays and Yngling on Wednesdays, both starting at 6pm in Port Choiseul](#). They will be organized by Paul Smith (for D) and by Daniele Butti (for Y).

REGATTA TRAINING

This year saw the launch of a brand-new series of regatta training sessions designed to sharpen sailors' skills and deepen their tactical knowledge. Between May and June, 3 Dinghy training sessions, led by Florine and Stefan, and one Keelboat session, organized by Nathalie, brought together enthusiastic sailors for a well-rounded program. The training combined onshore theory with racing experience on water, including a review of general rules and racing strategy, practice starts, and real regattas. Each session ended with a collaborative debrief, where participants discussed specific situations and shared insights.

The energy and engagement were high throughout.

The season's first internal regatta, the CERN Cup, took place on Sunday 22 June with a turnout of 18 boats. The iconic trophy was claimed by Marc Trinquart, congratulations!



Next up is our second internal regatta on Sunday 13 July: a day-long match racing event featuring the dynamic Melges 15s. In this head-to-head format, two identical boats face off in short, tactical races, fast, fun, and full of action. The event will be followed by a BBQ open to all YCC members, so we count on you to participate to the race and BBQ.

Don't forget to check the calendar and stay updated on all next exciting events!



CATAMARAN RULE

An inflatable mast float is now available in the Catapult catamaran box. Please use the mast float systematically on Thursday practice outings with Catapult to avoid the risk of full inversion in a capsized. After inflating the float, pass the main halyard through the eye of the mast float, and then

attach the halyard to the ring at the top of the sail before hoisting the sail.

It is possible to use the mast float also for private outings.

MISS R NEIGHBOUR

You may have noticed that Miss R has a brand new boat as neighbour on its port side :-). Therefore maximum care should be put in properly attaching the fenders and entering and exiting the mooring place. Thank you in advance.

CNV VESTIAIRE

The YCC has signed an agreement with the CNV concerning the use of the area of our key distribution system. The agreement specifically forbids YCC members to use the changing room showers. In addition, our members are recommended to keep the area as clean as possible and to avoid using the changing room, especially when occupied by CNV members.

YNGLING TEST

From this year, Yngling test candidates need to fill in the Y test preparation card, available at:

https://yachting.web.cern.ch/courses/ynghing_test.html where the new procedure is described.

BOAT RESCUE COURSE

A boat rescue training took place on Friday 20 June, organized by Michel, with an external trainer Patrick Huguenin.

14 club members participated to the rescue exercise. In addition, Paolo Moroni and Raul Chauhan on Melges 15 and Diego Barrientos and Luigi Esposito on SL16 Catamaran were involved in a special exercise of capsized and recovery.

Our 2 motor boats were used (Q-Boat, Mother Duck) as well as a Zeppelin borrowed from CNV.

The training was acknowledged as very instructive. Some videos of the event:

<https://youtu.be/C0SAKLHNZck>

<https://youtu.be/w5RszkLtlRs>

<https://youtu.be/MeQHlkrEk38>

<https://youtu.be/nf-lguuUhhJc>

<https://youtu.be/ncvMnhfbVJc>



SWISS SAILING LEAGUE

The SSL season is well underway!

Over the last two months, 6 different YCC teams participated in all 4 SSL leagues, and in the SSL Master Cup too. For some YCC teams this was their first time in SSL and they are keen to do more!



2K Team: Sebastian, Anne-Laure, Mariarosaria, Martin

Master Cup Team: Ole, Enrico, Francois, Michel



Promotion League Team: Eino, Adelaide, Leslie, Simon

Womens's Challenge League Team: Helen, Milica, Fiona, Katie

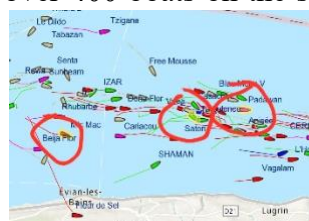


Super League Team: Michal, Simon, Ole, Emmet

BOL D' OR DU LEMAN



On 14-15 June, 4 YCC teams participated in the 86th edition of the Bol d'Or du Lemman which saw over 400 boats on the start line! We were able to



follow Mic Mac, Mamma Mia, Padawan and Miss R live on suiviregate.ch. Our

teams experienced hot sunshine and light, patchy winds throughout the race, though like many similar sized boats, they were unable to cross the finish line before the closing time, which the race organisers brought forward to 14h00 in anticipation of a storm.

Congratulations to YCC members Emmet Ryan and Hans-Peter Bichelmeier, who finished an impressive 4th in the entire fleet racing on a Melges24 (not a YCC boat).



Preparation of Miss R



Padawan's crew: Hermann, Ana, Florine, Stefan



Ursula Vogel and Pablo Velasco on Padawan finished 3rd in the double-handed category,

The race was won by Hans-Peter Bichelmeier and Kate Robertson on a Melges 24 (not a YCC boat).



Congratulations to both teams on excellent results!

SLAWOSZ IN SPACE

Our fellow YCC member, Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski, as an astronaut of the European Space Agency (ESA), is participating in the Ignis / Axiom-4 space mission. As part of this mission, he will spend about two weeks on the International Space Station (ISS).

The mission launched on Wednesday, June 25 at 8:31 AM and docking with the International Space Station took place at 12:30 Geneva time.

The launch of this mission has been postponed several times due to weather and technical reasons (related to the Falcon 9 rocket and the ISS itself).



Slawosz with his ESA team in 2025



2 YCC members, Ursula and Anne in red and blue, crossing the finish line on Sunday



Mamma Mia right after the race start

Not a Surprise, Benoit Deutsch, our friend responsible for the CNV school, made a significant achievement by winning the Surprise class which comprised 73 boats. Congratulations on this amazing result!

SOLI-DOUBLE RACE

Two YCC teams finished on the podium this weekend in the Soli-Double regatta. The race started at the SNG at 11am Saturday and involved racing up Celigny and laps back to Versoix, eventually returning to SNG.



Slawosz on a YCC Laser in 2022

Sebastian and Michał set up a webcast in CERN Restaurant 1 to follow online Slawosz's launch, also available on [ESA's YouTube channel](#).

[Go Slawosz!](#)

[Go Ignis!](#)

[Go Axiom-4!](#)

50 YEARS OF Y-KNOT

This article has been sent by Mario Campanelli who by chance met Hugo Strubbe, one of the first YCC members sailing a *Y-KNOT* Yngling.



Mario and Hugo

Following text from Hugo Strubbe:

Why not celebrate 50 years of Y-KNOT?

May 1972, Port Choiseul, at the buvette, 10am.
Cold, windy and showers. Hardly anybody around.

A guy looking like a certified sailing instructor appears, searching for his students. As I am standing there in my foul weather gear, he asks me if I am waiting for his Yngling training class. As the Yngling Z18 is a brand new boat for YCC, the

committee had decided that everybody should attend 3 practice sessions before getting access to her. I had arrived at CERN only a few weeks earlier and had been told that there was a long waiting list for these sessions, which I found very disappointing. However, as only 3 of the 4 registered students turned up that morning due to the bad weather, the instructor took me on for that session. The same thing happened for the 1pm session and the 3pm session, and by the end of the day I was one of the few Yngling-approved captains. And I used that privilege to the fullest. I sailed her whenever I could, including in a Moque d'Or. Many club members got their first taste of sailing during these trips.



An exciting afternoon sail in 1972. Aboard: Hugo Strubbe at the helm with unidentified crew.

Excitement peaked when we learned the Yngling World Cup 1973 would take place in Geneva. As Ynglings were very new, that competition was open for anybody who wanted. Z18 baptised as Y-KNOT (pronounced locally as icknot) was entered and I was chosen as skipper.



Z18 under spinnaker in the Geneva World Cup, 1973.
7th race, in which we placed 15th out of 51.

The very dark spi in the middle is us; you can just make out the number 18 in its centre. Aboard: Hugo Strubbe as skipper, Penny Estabrook, Jørgen Høyer.

To compensate for the low number of female members, the next year YCC allowed non-CERN employees to join the club. We had an influx of employees of other international organisations. One of them was Sandra from WCC, whom I married in 1976 at the Mairie de Versoix. As that building is situated on the lake, we could literally sail off into the sunset after tying the knot. We got 2 children (Linda and David), who both are physicists and sailors! :-)



Leaving the Mairie de Versoix.

Left to right: Pat, Me and my bride Sandra, Angie, Ann and Roger (owner of the boat)

YCC had a learn-to-sail program. Beginners went out on a Caravelle (which could accommodate several people, including an instructor) and later on Vauriens and 420s. More advanced people could use the two 485s. I taught many people the art of trapezing on them. That was great fun. Getting the dinghies from the hard where they were parked to the harbor mouth was often very challenging as there was minimal space to tack.

YCC sometimes organised its own regattas. Winners got a medal with the name of the club on it. Unfortunately, one year the person in charge of producing them misspelled it as YATCHING CLUB CERN. Quite a few of these were made before the error was detected. Did you ever see this collectible?

About 6 years later I left CERN, YCC and Y-KNOT behind. But I continued sailing on a variety of boats. A few years ago, I reverted back to keelboat sailing on a J/22, which is in fact very similar to an Yngling and hence reminded me of my Y-KNOT years.



Little Dipper on the Hudson River, NY. 2021.

But I was not thinking about her during my recent safari in Kruger Park, ZA. To my surprise I discovered during a bus ride that another participant was a physicist at CERN, an active member of YCC and familiar with the good old Y-KNOT. Here we are both thousands of kilometres away from our respective homes with an old Yngling as common interest. I was amazed to hear she is still in use. Club boats typically do not live that long. Kudos to the careful sailors and great maintenance workers!

Mario Campanelli urged me to write down some memories related to her 50 years of service. She definitely deserves to be celebrated with a toast at the buvette (if that still exists)!

Wishing you a good sailing season. Hugo Strubbe

Newsletter edited by Marine.