

THE BAGPIPE

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF THISTLING

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photo by Nina Glover

JOHN FOSTER IS 1973 THISTLE NATIONAL CHAMP

THE BAGPIPE

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of the
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I don't believe it. After two years and eleven issues of *The Bagpipe*, Dottie and I are getting out of the business. This is our final issue. We knew, of course, that it wouldn't last forever, but back in the fall of 1971 there were a lot of things we didn't know. One was the amount of work required to put out an issue of *The Bagpipe*, and another was how it would become almost a way of life. What the heck are we going to do now that we won't be working on *The Bagpipe*? Darned if I know, but I'm sure we'll miss it. Wait a sec, you say. Isn't this the dude who was always griping about how much trouble the job was? Yeah, that's me. It was kind of rough when you didn't have the time to spend, and you knew that there was no substitute for time spent if you wanted to put out a reasonably good issue. But it was fun to do the job, too. It's a little like trying to grind over 'em upwind in heavy air. Hard work, but satisfying and fun.

Special thanks has to go to my wife, Dottie. No successful *Bagpipe* Editor has done without good crew. She handled a large part of the work involved, and was happy to do so.

Like any Editor, we read everything three or four times, but we sure don't write everything. Our thanks also go to all those who contributed to *The Bagpipe* during the past two years. They've all been given well deserved by-lines, and we can only hope the class appreciates their efforts as much as we did. It is the efforts of these people, and others like them, who are willing to share their sailing knowledge, that makes *The Bagpipe* and the Thistle Class what they are.

Thanks also to all of our readers who have taken the time to drop us a line, or have stopped us at regattas with a few kind words. The close contact with many Thistlers all over the country makes this job really worthwhile.

We would also like to thank our typesetter, Neotype, Inc., and our printer, Janutol Printing Co. for their efforts over the two years. They were great to deal with, and we hope our successor, Tom Richards, is as fortunate as we were.

Yes, we'll miss *The Bagpipe*. We hope we were able to perpetuate the fine standards set by our predecessors, and that *The Bagpipe* remains what she was when we took the helm — the finest class sailing journal in the nation. See you on the regatta circuit.



New Bagpipe Editor Tom Richards (2617)

Our new *Bagpipe* Editor, Tom Richards, was born and raised in Chicago and started racing Keelboats on Lake Michigan at a very early age. He acquired his first Thistle #617 in 1965 and joined the Lake Hopatcong Fleet in New Jersey. In 1967, he was transferred to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he introduced Thistles to the Grande Maumelle Sailing Club. There he organized Razorback Thistle Fleet 146 and was the prime mover in the formation of the Mid-America District becoming its first Governor. In 1971, he was a member of the National Race Committee and for the last two years has been Commodore of his sailing club. His wife, Barbara, and their three sons, Bill, 20, Dave, 18, and Mark, 15, are all avid sailors and race

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