

## RACECOURSE ■

# Sea Scouts on the way back

ONCE UPON a time in America, the Sea Scouts were the greatest outreach and recruiting tool in the sport of sailing. SAIL knows of one prominent California yacht club with two staff commodores and a Star world champion crew who joined the sport through the Scouts. But while the Sea Scouts never went away, their “presence” faded.

They’re back. Sea Scouts saw a 17 percent increase in enrollment in 2001, with nearly 7,000 youngsters aged 14 to 21 participating in coed programs across the U.S. In August, the ninetieth anniversary of Sea Scouting in America was celebrated with an inaugural international championship.

Against a fleet of 16 Vanguard 15s rac-



Sea Scouts racing on Lake Michigan

ing on Lake Michigan, including entries from the U.K. and New Zealand, Tom Hartman and Trevor Gurley won five of eight races to become the first William I. Koch International Cup winners on behalf of Sea Scout Ship 711 of Newport Beach, California. They also won the U.S. national championship, the first one sailed in 14 years.

Columbia Yacht Club, Chicago, hosted the combined event. The 16 teams in the championship round arrived there by way of regional qualifiers and a pre-regatta that sorted half the hopefuls to move on to the championship fleet.

Hartman, approaching the end of his eligibility to sail in youth events, has been a varsity sailor at Orange Coast College—yes, he came to sailing through the Scouts—and he transferred this fall to UCLA. He was considerably impressed by the trophy donated by 1992 America’s Cup defender Koch—“35 pounds of sterling silver” made by Garrard’s of London, the same company that created the America’s Cup. K.L.

## FALL REGATTAS

### OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 1

**Isla Navidad Race (start):** Long Beach YC/Newport Harbor YC, CA; Camille Daniels, 562-493-2498, [www.lbyc.org](http://www.lbyc.org)

### OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 2

**Rolex Osprey Cup (Sonar, women):** St. Petersburg YC, FL; Pat Seidenspinner, 727-522-0723, [www.spyc.org](http://www.spyc.org)

### NOVEMBER 2–3

**Mid-Atlantic IMS Championship:** Storm Trysail Club, Annapolis, MD; Bill Kardash, 410-268-8881, [www.stormtrysail.org](http://www.stormtrysail.org)

### NOVEMBER 8–10

**U.S. Team Race Championship (Vanguard 15):** Southern YC, New Orleans, LA; tel. 504-288-4221, [www.southernyachtclub.org](http://www.southernyachtclub.org)