

Sailing

The Flying Scott

Staff Report:

There is a move afoot to develop a Flying Scot fleet here in Charlotte Harbor. Martin Holland is the man leading the charge.

The Flying Scot is a 19-foot day sailer with a 6'9" beam that is sailed throughout North America. It is a quality boat. The large, deep cockpit is ideal for family sailing, providing safe, comfortable sailing for, (they claim) up to 8 people. Realistically, for local racing, a crew of two or three would find the Scot a great boat for competition. The Flying Scot is easily trailered and rigged in about 20 minutes; and can be launched in as little as 12-inches of water. The Scot's performance offers thrills to even the experienced sailor and provides for tight, competitive racing. There are more than 100 fleets racing Flying Scot's in the USA and Canada.

The Flying Scot was designed in 1957 by Gordon K. (Sandy) Douglass and new Flying Scot's have been in constant production ever since. The new Scot's are all identically constructed by Flying Scot, Inc.. Strict class rules prevent changes that could make older boats obsolete. With over 5300 boats built, used boats are usually available. In 1998, the Flying Scot was included in the American Sailing Hall of Fame.

The sail plan consists of main, jib and spin-

aker. The rigging and deck layout are deliberately simplified, which shifts the focus away from tuning and boat speed and toward the excitement of tactical racing.

The Flying Scot Sailing Association sponsors many national, district and regional events each year. In addition to the North American Championship (open to any Scot sailor who wishes to attend), there is a Wife/Husband National Championship, a Midwinters, a bi-annual Canadian National Championship along with many regional, district and local events with distinctive individual character.

The Flying Scot has been used for many of the US Sailing events including the Mallory, Adams, Sears Cup Championships and Championship of Champions. The Scot helped premier sailing to the Special Olympics World Games in 1995 as the official two athlete boat.

Racing fleets, however, only account for about one-half of the Flying Scot's sailing. The boat is an excellent gunk hole cruiser and family day sailer. There are frequent non-race events in popular cruising areas. Sailing a Flying Scot, owners say, can be like joining a large family -- the class is well known for welcoming new sailors and helping them improve, strong friendships and great social events.

Martin Holland can be reached at 286-0722



Don Gasgarth of Charlotte County Ford fame (in the colorful shorts) was one of the sailors last month, putting in a *Flying Scot* class boat at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club. The club has a new lift designed for just this kind of popular trailer sailboat.



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