

CELEBRATING THE CORONADO 15

By John P. Eurich

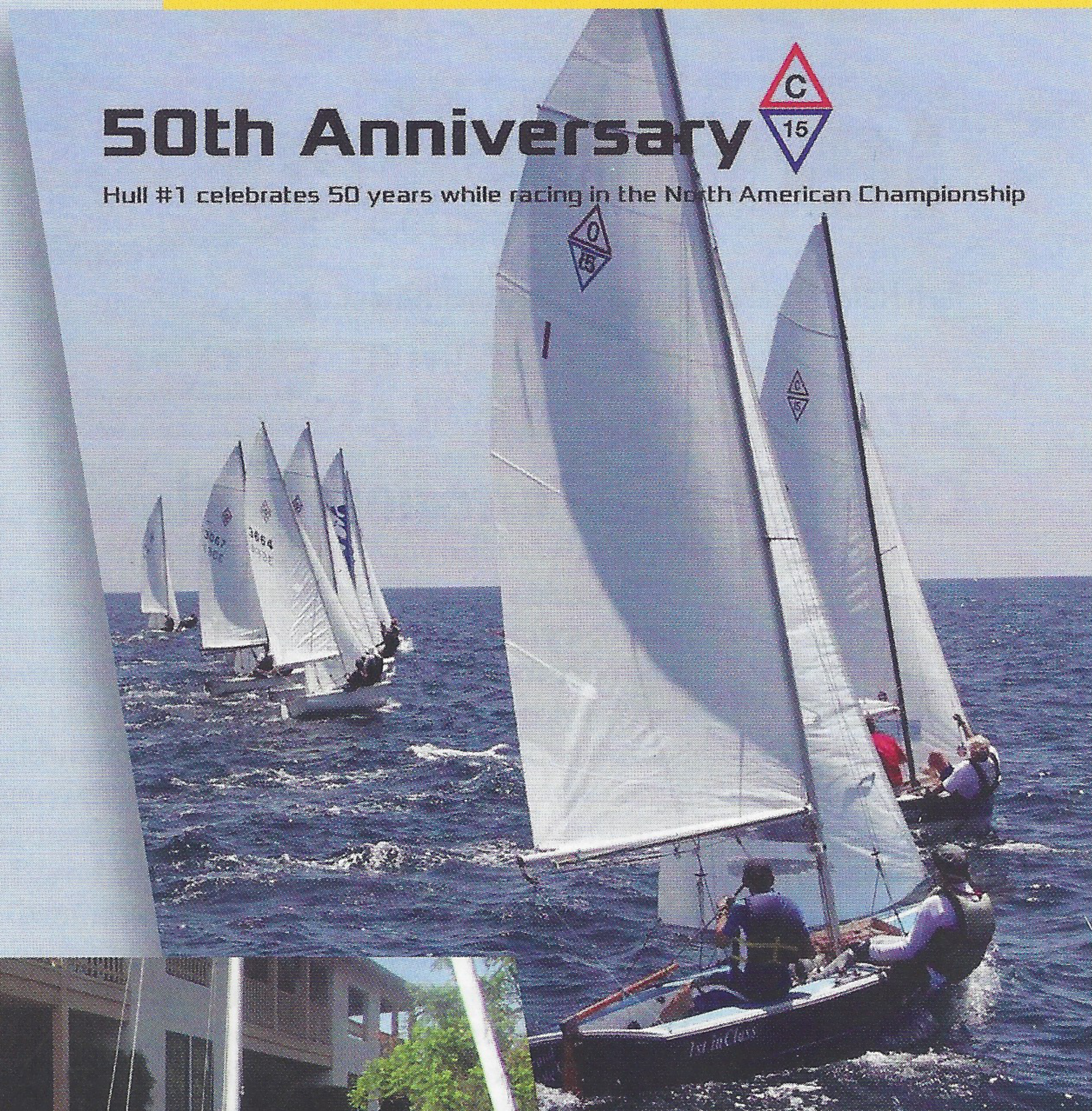
At the 2017 Coronado 15 North American Championship competitors, officials and volunteers took part in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first Coronado 15 high performance sailing dinghy. We had a celebration cake, commemorative swag such as coffee cups, caps, tee shirts, awards, etc., had a group photo taken with all the competitors standing around the first C15, hull #1, and of course enjoyed the camaraderie. But something was missing. It was the man who put in the hard work to design and manufacture this wonderful boat. It was Frank Butler, President of Catalina Yachts, who, even though he provided 50th Anniversary Tee Shirts for all the competitors and volunteers, couldn't join us.

There was no way we were going to finish off this celebration without Mr. Butler, so we decided that if he couldn't come to us, we'd go to him. It took a while to get schedules to line up, but finally in September 2018, at the Westlake Yacht Club's Frank Butler Regatta, we competed with C15s and celebrated with Mr. Butler.

Gary Hughes, Westlake Yacht Club's Rear Commodore, put the necessary logistics in motion to get the visiting C15s launched in Westlake, and made sure the visiting competitors were taken care of. Vincent Paternoster put on a gourmet BBQ for all of us. We raced our C15s in what might be called light, shifty, variable and challenging winds, with Ole Eichorn and Beverly Burr taking 1st place.

Then came the highlight of the event: getting a photo with Frank Butler and the very first Coronado 15 dinghy, hull #1, first launched in 1967. Charlie Quest, rescued hull #1 in 2013 and restored her in time to race in the 2014 Coronado 15 NAC, and every NAC since.

Mrs. Butler said she remembered Frank putting in many long hours, sanding and shaping the mold for its hull. Thank you, Frank!



50th Anniversary

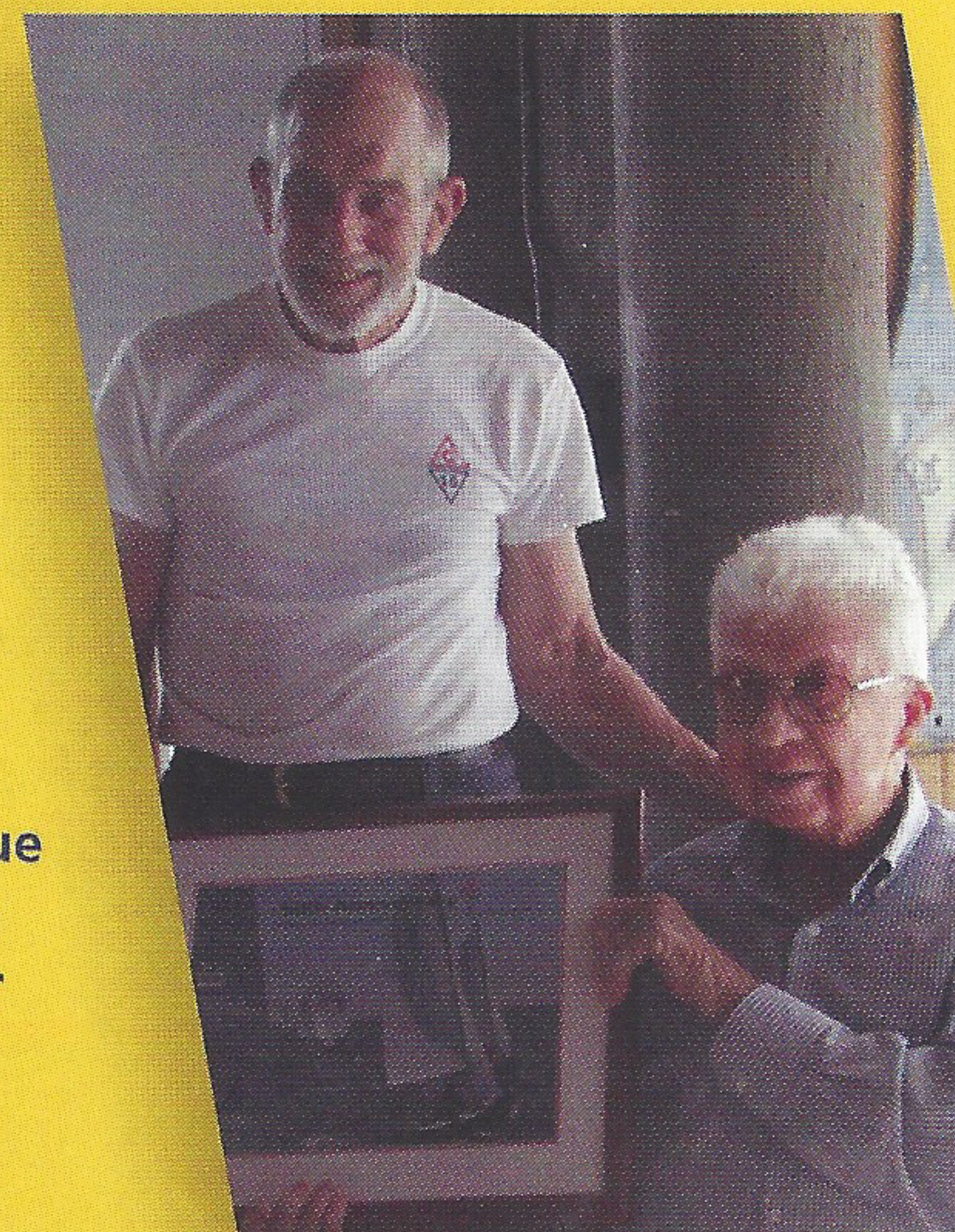


Hull #1 celebrates 50 years while racing in the North American Championship



Frank Butler and Charlie Quest with hull #1, named "Grand Ole Gal" and labeled "1st in Class"

At the awards ceremony Frank Butler, his wife Jean, and their family joined us in continuing our celebration. Charlie Quest, Half Moon Bay Yacht Club's C15 Fleet Captain, presented the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Plaque to Frank Butler, which we'd been holding for over a year.



Frank Butler (seated), with the C15 competitors. LtoR: Clemente Rocha, John Eurich, Beverly Burr, Charlie Quest, Vincent Paternoster, Frank Butler, Bruce Fleck, Ole Eichorn (Photos by Jan Eurich)

