

The Old Man

January 2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association



Commodore's Comments



As I write this, more snow is predicted for this week and COVID's Omicron variant fills hospitals in Maryland and across the U.S. Happily, though, we know (or think we do) that Omicron has peaked and will soon be declining as will the worst of the winter weather.

Although sailing activities await the spring thaw, the MRSA Board of Governors, Committee Chairs, and other appointed and voluntary positions are very busy preparing for this sailing season and for the future beyond. These preparations concern cruising, racing, Junior Training, MRSA By-Laws, Red Book, Spring Brunch, website enhancements, and membership growth.

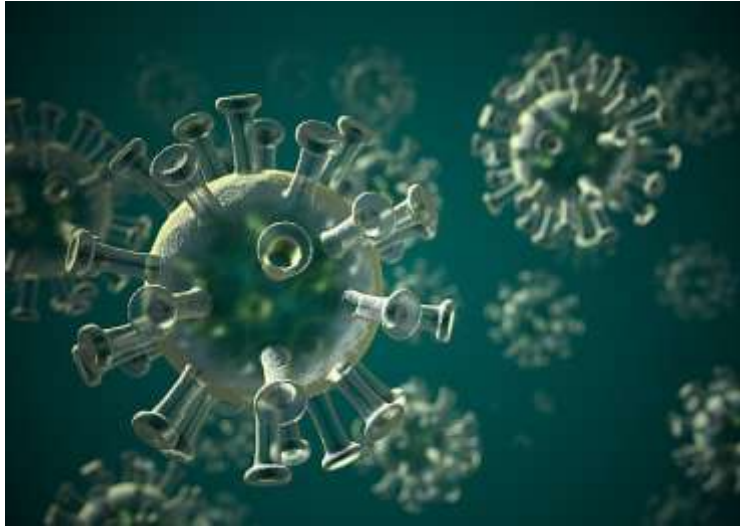
Also, remember that 20 new member/households joined MRSA over the past 12 months and you will be seeing some of them at our March Spring Brunch. Membership growth is important for the health of MRSA and its programs; please make the new folks feel welcome.

Joe

Joe Berchielli, Commodore, 2022

Racing Corner

“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.” --William Arthur Ward



Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

As I write this article, we find ourselves once again in the throes of another COVID surge. But the MRSA Racing Committee will not be deterred. Led by returning Rear Commodore Ed Tracey we have been communicating via email and Zoom to prepare for the 2022 racing season. As we did last year, we will send out a survey to get feedback from race members on what you

liked and didn't like with the 2021 racing format. We hope you can provide suggestions on how to attract more boats and new crew for the Wednesday night fleet. Please share the survey with your crew members so that we can get a broad representation of views across the racing community.

We hope that we can see everyone again at an in-person pizza and beer meeting in March, but dependent on COVID we may need to conduct this meeting via Zoom. We'll discuss the upcoming season, review results of the survey and give a short primer on race committee duties. We'll announce the date for this meeting at a later time.

In an effort to get more sailors involved in Wednesday night races, a [crew-finder link](#) was added to the racing site of the MRSA website last year. The page, managed by Racing Social Chair Alan Weiss, matches prospective crew looking for a boat with boat owners looking for crew. The effort was a great success in 2021; several boats attracted new crew members and several novice sailors were introduced to racing for the first time. If conditions permit, we hope to host an in-person “Happy Hour” sometime in April as a way to link up prospective new crew to Wednesday night skippers.



Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

MRSA Race Committee representatives took part in Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association’s annual race scheduling meeting on Saturday, January 22nd, to help coordinate the race calendar for the coming year. MRSA will be hosting the Spring Fling Regatta again this year. Scheduled for Saturday, April 30th, the race will have the same unique format as last year’s inaugural event--a 17nm course (wind dependent) on the Bay with 3 separate starting locations: Baltimore Light, Swan Point and the Patapsco River entrance. Boats start at the location of their choice anytime within a specified time slot. Each boat records their own start time and reports their finish time at the conclusion of the circuit.

MRSA again host the Wednesday Night race series in conjunction with PSA, GIYS and YCCSC. First race is scheduled for April 20th and races will take place every Wednesday thereafter through September 21st. The Hallie Rice Fall Series will be held on Sunday afternoons; Oct 9, 23, and Nov 6.

Registration for the 5-series summer session and Fall Series is \$125, or \$45 for individual series. Online entry forms will be available soon at magothysailing.org. When you register you will be required to indicate what week you will serve as race committee.

And finally, CBYRA has once again lined up a terrific list of speakers for their 2022 winter webinar series. These live webinars for CBYRA members typically take place every Wednesday evening this winter starting January 19th. They'll cover such topics as preparing your boat for the race season, understanding deck control systems and weather -related strategy. Go to cbyra.club for the schedule of webinars and details on how to register.

Get your boat ready! Only 3 short months until the first gun!

Jim

Jim Bradac, Race Committee Chair



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Magothy River Sailing Association
P.O. Box 1135 Pasadena, MD 21122

Please do your part to restore the Bay and *actively make it cleaner.*

<https://magothysailing.org/>; facebook.com/magothysailing