



The Old Man

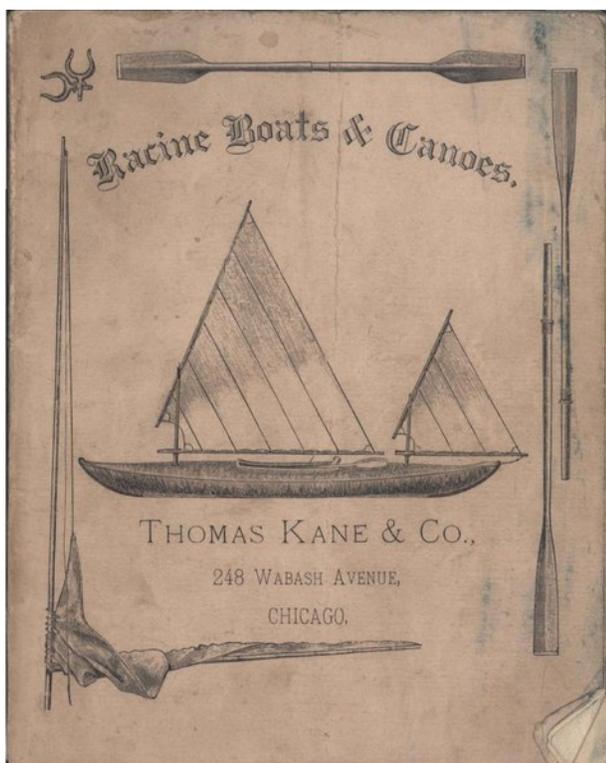
March 2021

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association



Commodore's Comments

Some MRSA skippers have been racing sailboats since being entered in youth programs many years ago. Others have been competing for decades, as crew and then as skippers, on local rivers and on the bay. I wonder if they ever consider how daunting it might be for a non-racing sailor, even one who has been day sailing and cruising for years, to enter their boat in a racing program?



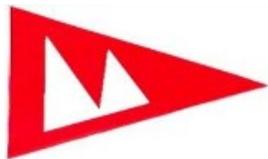
I can tell you from personal experience, very daunting. And there's not even a "one size fits all" instruction book.

There are hundreds of sailboats moored in Magothy creeks and marinas. I have to believe that many of their owners would love to have a reason to take their boats out more often. Racing weekly in an organized program is an excellent way to do this, but those who have no racing experience perhaps need a little encouragement and a relatively casual entry level racing program.

Do you know a local sailboat owner who might want to try out entry-level racing? Although MRSA does not currently offer such a program, the [Yacht Club of Cape St. Claire](#) runs one open to all interested sailboat owners, including skippers of 18-foot pocket cruisers and 40-foot cruising yachts. No racing fees, no spinnakers, just notify YCCSC Friday Night Racing Chair, Phil Ourisson, of your intention to race and then show up on Friday night as explained on the Yacht Club of Cape St. Claire website. Do not hesitate to contact Phil with any question. I believe that encouraging sailboat-owning non racers to participate in this entry-level racing is a way to grow the sport, and that some new racers will eventually join our MRSA Wednesday Night races and other programs.

Joe

Joe Berchielli, Commodore, 2021



Membership Corner

2021 Membership Campaign Update

Chris Adriance, Membership Chair

The 2021 membership drive is off to a great start! Currently the MRSA board of governors has approved 5 new members, with another 3 waiting to be voted on. At every board meeting of 2021 new ideas have been flowing about how to grow our membership base.

The Magothy River “boat-scape” is a diverse place and its time MRSA start thinking beyond the “S” in our name. Inviting a power boat to a Wednesday night race may not be the best idea, but there is no reason why they couldn’t join us on our many cruises and on shore social gatherings. If you know someone in your neighborhood or social group who might have a powerboat, don’t hesitate to tell them all about MRSA and what we have to offer. Our typical cruising destinations are just as well suited for a powerboat as they are for a sailboat.

Plenty of power boaters might also be interested in sailing and might want to crew for a Wednesday night boat. There are many positives that go along with joining MRSA beyond the sailing aspect. I encourage you to look beyond the “S” and help grow MRSA!!



Racing Corner

“God, I wish I was sailin’ again.” Jimmy Buffett

Soon enough.... As of March 21st it will only be 31 days until the first race. Hope springs eternal and that is how I feel about this time of year and getting the boat ready for the first race.

As I mentioned earlier this year there are some changes this year for both MRSA in general and the racing program in particular. First off, if you haven’t noticed we have switched our web page address to: www.magothysailing.org . We are in the process of updating the racing portion of the website but you are welcome to go check out some of the early layouts. Please drop the webmaster an email if you have any comments. (Email addresses for the webmaster and MRSA leadership can be found on the Contact Us page)

As part of the website roll out, we have a new on-line registration form and will be updating the on-line payment methods (checks are still welcome). Registration for Wednesday night racing is open, with one notable change. This year, you will need your preferred dates for race committee duty as part of the registration process. The RC schedule is posted online so you can see what slots are open. It is critical that we fill up the race committee slots early so your rear commodore can sleep better! Besides, the sooner you register the better your chances are for finding a Wednesday night that works for you.

It is also important to register early since we will be announcing the racing fleet splits in early April based on the boats registered at that point. Spinnaker fleet boats are strongly encouraged to register early so we can determine whether to have two fleets, and where the split will occur if we have two fleets.

Of course, racing isn't limited to Wednesday nights! The registration for MRSA's CBYRA sanctioned Spring Fling race on May 1 will be open shortly. Please come out to support the club and enjoy some early season racing with an interesting format. Weather permitting we are going to have a photo boat out so for the low cost of the \$15 registration we hope to get some great pictures of you and your crew racing! The race notice is already posted and the Sailing Instructions will be out in April.

There are a few more important dates to add to your calendar. The Spring Racing meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, March 25th**. We will discuss the winter survey results, any upcoming changes to the Sailing Instructions and a quick review of the changes to the 2021-2024 racing rules. This year we will also hold a refresher Race Committee refresher session on Tuesday, April 13th. This session will go through the RC boat process and should be helpful for both experienced and new RC boat skippers, heck I even learned a few new things after 25 years as we updated the RC instructions (I probably should have known them...). We will go over setting up the start line, picking a course, changing courses, shortening course and the other details that go into making a smooth RC experience. I hope you and your crew can attend!

Here's hoping for a warm Spring, freshly painted bottoms, and excited skippers and crew getting out on the water shortly.

Cheers,
Ed Tracy

Cruising Corner



Debbie & John Lund on Chapter III are spending the winter aboard **Chapter III** in Melbourne Harbour, FL. Loura & Mike Bonham of **Frequent Flyer** spend the winters close by in their condo in Palm Bay. Many days are spent fishing & beachcombing. Thanks to Loura Bonham for this great picture!



Introducing Our New Website!

If you recently read the **Day Mark**, you probably noticed that it wasn't because you had walked out to the mailbox and opened it up. You received it through an emailed link to the new MRSA website at <https://magothysailing.org>. MRSA has gone digital in the distribution of the **Day Mark** and **Old Man**, as well as a digital copy of the **Red Book** (minus all of your personal info).

We embraced a more modern and functional site. My approach was simple: put everything you need within 2 clicks or less. And after that make it easy to navigate so that you will want to come back. Here's the splash page, which is the starting point of your site experience. I wanted to give the site a splash of color without overdoing it. I went with red, white and blue (seemed appropriate).

info@magothysailing.org f t i

Magothy River Sailing Association 

HOME ABOUT JUNIOR TRAINING RACING CRUISING CALENDAR CONTACT MY MRSA

Magothy River Sailing Association

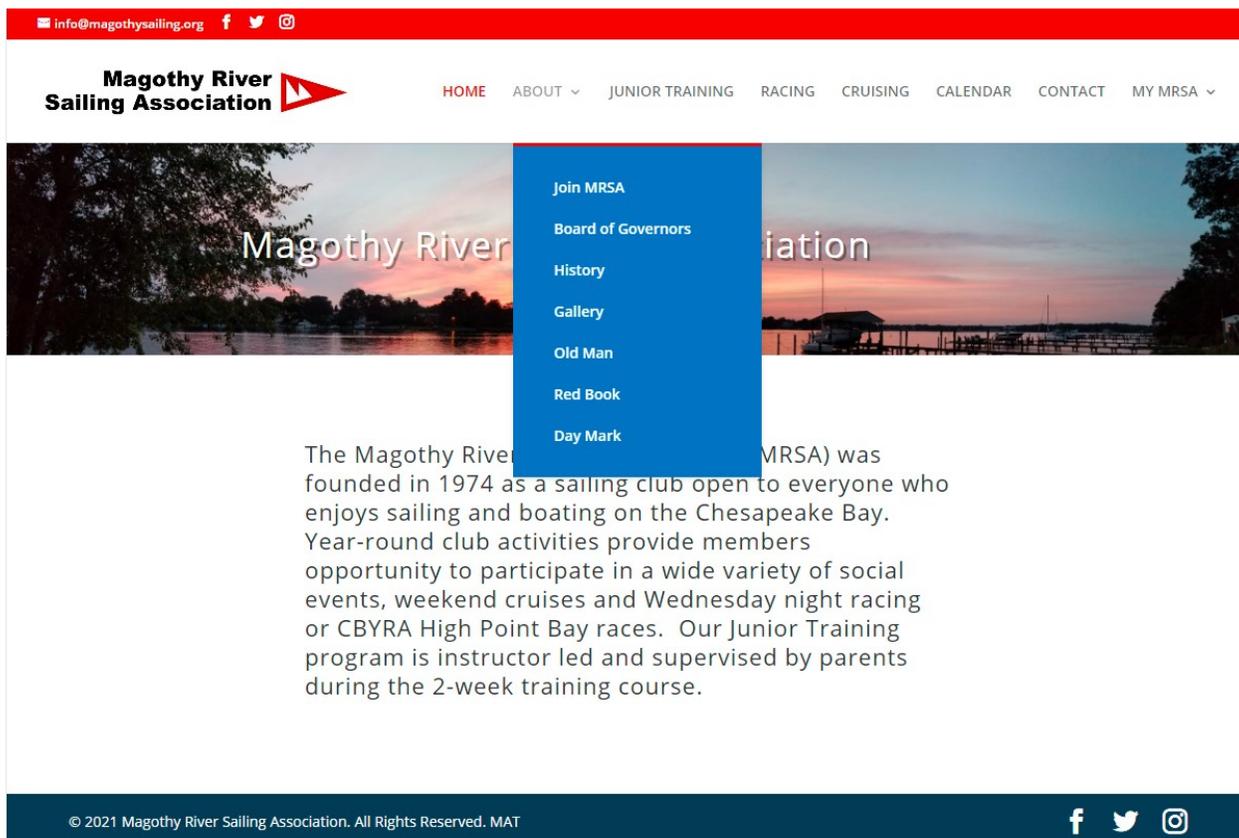
The Magothy River Sailing Association (MRSA) was founded in 1974 as a sailing club open to everyone who enjoys sailing and boating on the Chesapeake Bay. Year-round club activities provide members opportunity to participate in a wide variety of social events, weekend cruises and Wednesday night racing or CBYRA High Point Bay races. Our Junior Training program is instructor led and supervised by parents during the 2-week training course.

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Across the very top in red there's a series of links that allow you to connect with our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and even drop me a note using the email link in the top left. As always, I love to hear feedback from site visitors whether positive (yes please) or a simple recommendation, spelling error or broken links. These submissions will only continue to make the site better and more appealing.

Next you will see the title and burgee next to the top-level menu (Home, About etc...). From these menus you can make your way around the site and it will always be at the top of each page so that you can easily get back to where you started or where you want to go next.

Now let's take a look at what MRSA is all "About." The blue box in the image appears when you "mouse-over" the ABOUT menu. You can then select whichever page you'd like and see what is there. For example, the "Join MRSA" link will pop up the form in your browser to fill out and submit. We don't have the payment process finalized just yet, but the goal is to have it live for Racing Registration. The **Old Man, Red Book** and **Day Mark** all use a feature called dFlip Books, which let you flip the pages as you read through it. I borrowed this idea from the monthly **SpinSheet** publication.



Junior Training, Cruising and Racing are all setup for their respective areas with more content being added daily, including countdown to Wednesday Night Racing.

The calendar will be an easy-to-use place to stay up to date with all of the happenings and goings on, not to mention the Board of Governor's meetings and on and off water activities. The contact page can be used to reach one of our BoG members or a Committee Chair.

Lastly, there's your "MY MRSA" page. After logging in, you can view your profile page, membership account and membership billing information.

I hope you enjoy YOUR site, and look forward to your comments.

Jeff Thompson
Past Commodore, Webmaster

Tips and Tricks

If you don't have a marine grade white polyurethane on board (by Loctite or 3M) you are like a sailor who hasn't run aground....about to need it. The trouble with this amazing adhesive sealant is that it can harden on the shelf or within weeks of opening it. Fear not the loss of your sealant for your freezer is your friend. Put it in the freezer from the day you buy (still unopened) to the last bit you squeeze out of the tube. If you are on a cruise keep it in your ice chest. (Submitted by Alan Weiss, *Endless Summer*).

Help Needed!

Guess how much it costs to mail the Red Book? **\$10.00!!** Who knew? If you'd like to help deliver the **Red Book**, please reach out to Dave and Denise Boyer, the editors, to help deliver copies to your neighbors. They can be reached at boyscouts1@verizon.net.

FACEBOOK

You have heard a lot about our Facebook effort but have you done your part? Please take a moment today and go to facebook.com/magothysailing and “like” each article and each photo. You could click the link right now and then come back to the riveting articles in the Old Man! Put it on your calendar to do all the time! Help us spread the word about MRSA to attract new members!



The Old Man

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