



THE OLD MAN

RACE PLANNING MEETING

3-2-1 BANG! Your adrenaline surges as your racing sloop slashes across the starting line. Your competition is close behind, but in your hip pocket. You're on your way to a closing gun and victory! America's Cup? Not exactly, but closer than you might think. Whether you're the hard core racer with the new 3DL's tuning up for the big Bay regatta, the casual competitor with the fifteen year old Dacron sails cruising around the course with Buffet and a cold drink, or someone in between, you need to experience racing on the Magothy. We have it all! As usual, this season will offer competitive fleet racing in a friendly atmosphere. For sailors interested in trying racing for the first time or participating in more casual competition, there will be a Corinthian fleet again this year. The MRSA race-planning meeting

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MARCH BRUNCH

Mark March 16th on your calendar for the annual March Brunch. We will be at *Windows on the Bay*, at 11 a.m., and will have the "room with a view". The food there is very good, the MRSA company is even better, and no matter the weather, a view of the waterfront is always great. So, come one, come all to the March Brunch. Feel free to indulge your "wearing of the green", since the next day is St. Patrick's Day. At this time, the speaker is not yet decided, but the venue is still a great time to recharge for a year of sailing, whether your pleasure is racing, cruising, or learning to sail.

The cost for the brunch buffet will be \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 10 and under, including tax and tip. Bar costs will be charged individually. The brunch menu includes Eggs Benedict, French Toast, Pasta Primavera, Blackened Chicken and Mahi, Mahi, among other brunch items.

Windows on the Bay is located at 1402 Colony Road in Pasadena. By land, go east on Ft. Smallwood Road from Hog Neck Road, turn left on Colony Road (there is a blue sign indicating a turn for *Windows on the Bay*), and continue until you come to White Rocks Marina. By water, the Marina is on Rock Creek, near the mouth of the Patapsco, and free dockage is available for lunch. Please RSVP to the McNair's, 410-437-8998, or sammcnair@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

Sheryl McNair

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will be held Thursday, February 20th at Ledo's Pizza in Severna Park at 7:00 pm. Please join us to discuss details that will help shape this year's racing season or just learn about the program. Please contact me if you have any comments or questions.

Chris Lindsay- Rear Commodore

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST OLD MAN!

If you have not yet renewed your MRSA membership for 2003, this edition of the *Old Man* is your last copy. If you have just forgotten or are a procrastinator, renew your membership now, and enjoy another year of the MRSA. There's still time to get your name in the **RED BOOK**, if you rush!



Commodore Alan Kirkendall
photo by Fred Betz

2003 OFFICERS OF THE MAGOTHY RIVER SAILING ASSOCIATION

- Commodore:** Alan Kirkendall, 437-3630
Vice Commodore: Sheryl Mc Nair, 437-8998
Rear Commodore: Chris Lindsey, 439-8832
Fleet Captain Cruising: Myron and Sigrid Dorf, 255-8330
Fleet Captain Junior Training: Dave Blanch, 437-2213 and Susan Kirkendall, 437-3630
Treasurer: Jim McCutchan, 360-1163
Secretary: George Stamps, 437-5337
Race Committee: Bob Seay, 647-9395
Protest Chairman: Les Toeplitz, 360-2491
Race Gear Chairman: John Hurt, 437-6168
Race Marks Chairman: Roger Bartholomee, 255-7330
Scorer : Annette Mullarky, 439-1556
Membership Chair: Ed Poe, 296-6428 (H), 539-3400 (W). Assistant Chair: Peggy Poe.
Immediate Past Commodore: Mike Mullarky, 439-1556
Ship's Store: Lewis Neisner, 647-0694
Old Man Editor: Fred Betz, 647-3824, Assisting: Carolyn Stamps, 437-5337
Web Master: Ed Tracey, 975-0407, or sailfastmd@comcast.net.
Fleetmaster: John Aellen, 647-7782

Website: <http://mrsa.sailnet.com>
MRSA is a member of CBYRA, CBYCA, and Boat/US (Member #GA 80366 S).

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Time is flying by for me as I anxiously wait for this cold weather to break so some serious "messaging with the boat" can begin. The 2003 year is off to a great start with another great Commodores Ball, and a very successful meeting with the Grachur Club President, Mr. Fred DeBell. MRSA will be again using the Grachur Club facilities for the Junior Training and we are very thankful. With the school year running longer than usual, things will be a little more challenging, but as long as there are not too many more snow days everything is achievable. The plan right now is to begin the Jr. Training on Thursday June 19th and end it on Wednesday July 2nd. This schedule will mean that the boats will have to be moved the weekend of June 21-22, and returned to storage July 2nd.

The next two events are the Cruise Planning Party on February 8th and the Racing Planning Meeting. Details on both of these events are provided in this Old Man issue, and I am hoping both events are well attended. I will unfortunately be out of the country for both of these events because of work, but you can believe that I would much rather be here. I hope everyone attending these events will invite some friends, and there should be some new and prospective members there also. A good time will be had by all!

Sheryl McNair has been very busy making arrangements for the March Brunch and I am sure it will be a good one. This event is a milestone with not only a great club function, but also spring is almost here and serious "messaging with the boat" will begin soon. Wishing you great sailing in 2003!!

Al Kirkendall

MRSA SAILORS IN THE ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL

(The following article appeared in the Annapolis Capital in October 2002. The Old man's been full for the past few months, but the story is worth retelling. Reprinted with the permission of the author. ed.)

COMMUNITY EFFORT GOES LONG WAY IN WEDNESDAY SERIES

By BILL WAGNER, Staff Writer, ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL

A close-knit contingent of sailors from Long Cove captured four of six classes in the Magothy River Sailing Association Wednesday Night Series. In a series that draws competitors from communities located up and down the Magothy River, the odds of four seasonal winners coming from one cove must be astronomical.

Roger Bartholomee, who topped Spinnaker D class aboard Saga-cious, pointed out the geographic anomaly. Spinnaker A winner Dave Prucnal keeps his Antrim 27 UltraViolet at Bartholomee's dock. Spinnaker C champ Chris Lindsay has his Wavelength 24 Ghost Dancer on a

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mooring in front of Bartholomee's house.

Completing the Long Cove crew is Colin MacKenzie, who berths his C&C 35 at a lot he owns next door to Bartholomee.

"What's really remarkable is that we're the only four boats that race out of Long Cove," Bartholomee said. The Long Cove lineage begins with Bartholomee, who along with wife Earlyn has been racing on the Magothy River since 1975. For years, Mike and Maryann Prucnal have crewed for the Bartholomee's. As a result, the Prucnal's sons — Dave and Dan — learned to sail aboard Sagacious.

"It gets even more incestuous than that," Dave Prucnal explained. "Chris Lindsay started sailing with Dan and I after we bought our own boat to race." Prucnal said the Long Cove sailors all know each other well and discuss strategy and tactics. "There's a lot of information swapping after races. I think our combined experience might have something to do with why we've all been successful," he said.

MRSA conducts Wednesday Night Racing from May 1 through Sept. 4 in five series of four races each. All 20 races were contested this season with skippers allowed to throw out their three worst results.

Dave and Dan Prucnal placed first in four of five series en route to topping Spinnaker A with 22.75 points. The brothers

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always sail with their wives, Donna and Tracey. Chris Canty and Kathy Levin round out the crew of UltraViolet, which finished 19 points ahead of class runner-up Pegasus. "We didn't win the series as easily as it appears," Dave Prucnal said. "A lot of the races were very close on corrected time."

Tightest competition came in Spinnaker D where Bartholomee only beat Brad Hill (Oras, C&C 25) by six points. Mike Schmidt and Jim Vangenge also crewed on Sagacious, which is a Canadian Sailcraft of Camper-Nicholson design. "It's a very strong, seaworthy boat that's always been all we need," Bartholomee said when asked why he's stayed with the CS 27 for 27 years. The Bartholomees, who won the double-handed Newport-to-Bermuda Race twice, have seen Magothy River racing steadily improve over the years. "I think there's a growing number of boats that have been out there awhile and have gotten better with each year," Roger Bartholomee said. "I know our class has become much more competitive than it used to be.."

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Rent: Ski or Hike Summit County, Colorado - 2 BR / 2.5 BA Townhome with spectacular views of the Rocky Mountains. Close to Breckenridge, Copper, Vail and Keystone. Check out <http://vrbo.com/vrbo/3697.htm> or call 303-783-9786 for more information on 'The Big Ski Haus'.

For Sale: Power Boat, '88 4Winns Sundowner 225, 22.5ft, cuddy cabin, 5.0L V8, very good condition, runs great, many new items, very well maintained, enclosed head, \$5900; Mark Walker, 410-647-2468

For Sale: Brand new SIGNET knotmeter and log. Still in original box. Call Jim Quinn, 410-647-2947 or E-Mail Irishsailor@comcast.net.

For Sale: "CRUISAIR", 115-volt air conditioner with hatch hood. \$400. Unique 4 ft. by 7 ft. dinghy with folding topside for low profile storage. Built in buoyancy, oars and sailing gear. \$400. Knotmeter – EMS 0 to 10 Knots, thruhull, as new. \$75. Bow anchor roller, new, large, \$99. Other marine items available, including covers, anchors, and cushions. Call Geoff 410-255-0699

For Sale: MRSA is selling 4 boats used in our junior sailing program. These 420's are complete boats, with a good set of sails and ready to go! For those familiar with the program, they are known as "Big Red", "Killer Tomato", "Muff" and "Messenger". The club is asking \$400 for each boat. Please contact John Aellen for further details at (410) 647-7782.

For Sale: Flying Scot, 19' Daysailer, 1978, hull #3235. Great Shape, 2 suits of sails & spinnaker, also trailer. \$4000. Please call Bill Hoffman at 410-647-4421

2003 COMMODORE'S BALL

The Commodore's Ball was held on January 18th at the Gibson Island Yacht Club, and remains one of the highlights of the new sailing season. Again the Gibson Island Club provided a great atmosphere and location, as well as fine Hors d' oeuvres, dinner and dessert. We were fortunate to have Harvey Paskin as our Master of Ceremonies again this year, and he did a great job. Thank you Harvey!!

We were honored to have seven special guests in attendance. The special guests included **Fred and Nancy DeBell**, President of the Grachur Club, **Jock and Carol McClees**, Commodore of PSA, **Terry May II** Commodore of the Gibson Island Yacht Club, and **Cliff and Donna Silbiger** members of the Board of Directors from Magothy Marina.

Following dinner the old and new officers were introduced, burgees passed to the new BOG members. In recognition of the work and dedication displayed by Mike Mullarky a framed Commodores Burgee was presented and again we say "Thank You Mike!!!". Next on the agenda was the award portion of the meeting.

Trophies for the Hallie Rice Regatta were presented by Al Kirkendall. The winners of the Hallie Rice Regatta are as follows;

Spinnaker – Mike Mullarky, *Boreas*

Non-Spinnaker - Bob Seay, *Double Trouble* and Dennis Dunn, *Glory*

The Magothy Cup was presented by Cliff Silbiger and accepted by Mike Mullarky for the winners.

Spinnaker – Dave Prucnal, *Ultraviolet*

Non-Spinnaker – Colin Mackenzie, *Beagle*

The awards for the Frostbite Series were not presented because of pending protests.

The cruising awards presented by Myron Dorf and are as follows;

1st Place – John and Debra Lund, *Minvan IV* (watch out this year John!)

2nd Place – Al and Sue Kirkendall, *Flying Low*

3rd Place – Lewis Neisner and Beth Vanfossen, *Jazz*

At the completion of the meeting , Harvey Paskin turned the activities over to Dan Goldsmith from Creative DJs for serious dancing and good conversations with friends. The highlight was the instruction provided by Dan on some of the latest and different dance steps. A great time was had by all!

Al Kirkendall



2003 Commodore Alan Kirkendall receives his burgee from 2002 Commodore Mike Mullarky



Sheryl McNair receives the burgee designating the Office of Vice Commodore



Myron Dorf presents the Cruising Award to John and Debbie Lund... Again



*Master of Ceremonies Harvey Paskin
observing the proceedings*



*Past Commodore (1990) George Stamps and Carolyn Stamps with Founding Member and Past
Commodore (1977) Ham Palmer and Eva Palmer*

all photos be Fred Betz



Gibson Island Club



*Lewis Neisner and Beth Vanfossen enjoying
the music and dance floor*

JUNIOR TRAINING 2003

A meeting was held on January 18 with Fred DeBell, President of the Grachur Club, to discuss the 2003 MRSA Junior Training. The dates will be June 19 through July 2, with the hope that the weather and snow days will cooperate. MRSA Junior Training is open to all children ages 9 to 16. This program is designed to instruct beginning sailors, as well as help more experienced sailors improve their sailing skills. The Grachur Club is a beautiful facility on the Magothy River with areas for land and water instruction. The goals of the program are to encourage safety on the water and a love of sailing. Participants in Junior Training are required to pass a swim test, attend an orientation meeting prior to camp, and a parent must volunteer for one day during the two week session. The Junior Training program is available to 35 students. MRSA and Grachur Club members must register their children by May 1st. On May 10 applications for nonmembers will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The cost of Junior Training 2003 will be: \$250.00 MRSA and Grachur Club members, nonmembers, \$320.00. Questions about Junior Training can be directed to: Sue Kirkendall 410.437.3630 or Dave Blanch 410.437.2213. Applications will be available in the Red Book and on the Web, soon.

Susan Kirkendall

MERLIN'S CRUISE NORTH IN 2002 (PART ONE)

We began our 3-week "Cruise North" at noon on Sat., June 15th, 2002 and reached Chesapeake City 7 ½ hours later. As we went by Turkey Point, we saw a flock of pelicans (!) overhead. Coming into the C&D canal, we had to make room for Green Bay, a large ship passing through. It was very dark as we came into the Delaware Bay, and I'm glad that Wes had set up our course on the GPS and the Captain software. We had no problems in the upper Bay. Jay and Wes came on watch at 4 am, and although I was very tired, I had some problems sleeping, since it seemed like they were raising and lowering the sails, turning the engine on, doing a bit of shouting and carrying on. Later, I learned that we had bumped the bottom, but that was all. Once out in the ocean, we found a pod of about 10 dolphins, but they were reluctant to have their pictures taken, and skillfully avoided all Wes' attempts. They did dive under our boat to check the bottom for us, though. We made landfall at 1300 at Gardiner's Basin Marina, in Atlantic City. We had been advised to stop there, so that we could pay \$1.25/foot vs. \$4.00/foot. Although they had no shower facilities, we could manage with our facilities on the boat, and they did have a nice museum, free to marina guests, and a restaurant on the premises. We weren't much into the gambling scene,

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and were disappointed with the beach/boardwalk scene. Although there is a boardwalk, it does not have all the small shops, etc. like Ocean City—no Thrasher's fries, or Ponzetti's pizza. Because of high wind and waves, they weren't allowing people in the water that day, either! So, we enjoyed the go-karts on the Steel Pier, and watched the crazies trying the "Bungee Rocket".

After a full night's rest, we left the next morning, and proceeded north and east. We spotted a sea turtle or two, and Wes thought he may have seen a whale, but the rest of us saw no trace. Jay found another pod of dolphins for us, frolicking off our bow. Again, no pictures though. We also saw lots of storm petrels, and various terns and gulls. Wes and Jay had some difficulty raising the spinnaker—among other things, the spinnaker halyard slipped off. We sailed along nicely with the spinnaker from about 1600 to 1900. Then, thunderstorms were predicted, we saw lightening and a very strange cloud formation, and decided we'd better douse the spinnaker. We had decided not to aim for Block Island as our first stop, since we would be arriving in the midst of Race Week, and wanted to avoid the crowd. We had also figured that Watch Hill was approximately the same distance from Montauk Point at Block Island, so we headed there, and arrived at 13:40. This gave us plenty of time to explore this wonderful place. There is a long, curving sand spit, called Napatree Beach, around the anchorage that is a wildlife reserve. Lots of beach, dunes, least terns and piping plovers, along with various beach plants. In town, you could pay \$6 pp for the town beach—complete with cabanas and other facilities, but which had a fenced beach, so it wasn't very big. Just up the road, though, you could go out to the Coast Guard house and light, and from there head over the rocks to 17 miles of sandy beach. No facilities here, but in spite of that lack, the earliness of the summer, and the weekday, there were lots of people out enjoying the beach besides us.

The next day, we hit the beach again to make sure we'd seen all the wildlife possible, before heading back to Mystic, Connecticut. Despite a 45-minute delay, caught between two bridge openings, it only took 2 ½ hours to get there. We anchored off the museum, and spent a very pleasant evening. The next morning, before we could enter the museum, we were informed that we were not allowed to anchor there, and must go over to a slip, which would be provided free with entrance to the museum. Since John and Jay were counted as adults for admission prices, it was actually cheaper to get a year's membership than to pay for 4 adults for the day, so we did. We learned how ropes were made, and what a rope walk was (a long, preferably enclosed area to hold the pieces of rope as they were twisted together to make ropes long enough for the whaling work), saw a film clip from Moby Dick, learned about the whaling life from pictures in the museum, sea chanteys, and the docents' stories, went aboard whaling ships, saw an interesting presentation at the planetarium of the night sky, and still missed several of the other presen-

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 tations/exhibits. However, we were hungry for lobster, and headed off for Abbott's Restaurant in Noank. Had to find a drug store, first, though, so John and I walked from the museum through town while Jay and Wes brought Merlin down through the bridges. Our errand successfully concluded, we arrived at the town dock just as Merlin was approaching the bridge, and shot a picture. We anchored in Noank, and dinghied over to Abbott's. Wes walked to the liquor store for a six-pack while John, Jay and I waited for our dinners, watched the sea gulls trying to get through the maze of wires overtop, and enjoyed the evening. The lobster was great, and Jay and John were impressed with the speed and effectiveness with which the cooks cracked the lobsters.

To Be Continued, if there is interest...

Sheryl McNair



John, (or Jay), Sheryl, and Jay, (or John), on Napatree Beach, near Watch Hill



Jay and Wes McMair guiding "Merlin" approaching the Mystic River Highway Bridge in Connecticut

photos this page by Sheryl McNair and Wes McNair

SUMMER CRUISE TO NEW ENGLAND

On Sunday, January 19 the first planning meeting for the Summer 2003 long cruise north was held at George and Carolyn Stamps' home. The agenda was to determine the extent of interest and to explore itineraries, time periods, etc.. Attending were Beth Vanfossen and Lewis Neisner, George and Gail Braun, Phillippe and Shirley Masiee, Wes and Sheryl McNair, and Jim Quinn for Jeff and Susan Lewis. Among those present were veterans of this trip, who provided helpful insights.

It was apparent that based on personal time and schedule constraints and preferences, a staggered departure and rendezvous along the way will probably be necessary, and seemingly workable. At this point, planned/preferred departure dates include June 16, 21 and July 5, with cruising time from 3 to 5 or 6 weeks. Thus, the cruise might include several contingents on somewhat different schedules, but converging at specific destinations. The cruising grounds discussed include the New Jersey coast (transit), New York City and Long Island Sound, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and possibly Buzzard's Bay to Cape Cod. In the meantime, an abundance of navigation, safety, provisioning and other relevant information will be developed and disseminated. Because of the expected crowds at some ports of call, slip/mooring reservations are advisable and will need to be made soon.

All MRSA'ers are invited to join the cruise, so those who might be interested should contact Beth Vanfossen (410-647-0694) or George and Carolyn Stamps (410-437-5337) as soon as possible.

George Stamps

THE FEBRUARY 2003 CALENDAR, PLUS AND MINUS

2/8 Winter Planning Party, Belvedere Yacht Club, 6:30 PM

2/20 Race Planning Meeting, Ledo's Pizza, 7:00 PM

2/23 Deadline for March 2003 Old Man

3/3 BOG Meeting at Kirkendall's

3/16 March Brunch, Windows on the Bay, 11:00 AM

If you want your name and personal information in the 2003 MRSA Red Book, your renewal must be received as soon as possible!! If you plan to renew, do it now... don't delay! After the Red Book goes to press, it will be too late!!

WINTER PLANNING PARTY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2003

We're having a party! Come one, come all! Racers & Cruisers alike are invited!

Summer's on the way and all those who might want to try cruising and longtime cruisers are invited to come to the Winter Planning Party. It will be held on Sat., Feb. 8 at the Belvedere Yacht Club. The festivities will begin at 6:30 with the Happy Hour and will be followed by the traditional Pot Luck dinner. Following dinner a short business meeting will take place during which the calendar for MRSA cruises will be presented and volunteers for cruise captains will be solicited. MRSA will provide the beer, wine, soft drinks and dessert. For those with last names beginning with the letters A-M please bring a salad or side dish and for those from N-Z please bring an entrée. This party is always a lot of fun, so we hope to see you there.

Directions to Belvedere Yacht Club: From Route 2, Ritchie Hwy., turn onto College Pkwy. Turn left on Jones Station Road and left again on Alameda Pkwy. Continue to the end of Alameda and the club is on your right.

Myron Dorf

THE OLD MAN

Magothy River Sailing Association
P. O. Box 1135
Pasadena, MD 21122
<http://mrsa.sailnet.com>



photo by Bill Paul