



THE OLD MAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MAGOTHY RIVER SAILING ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2003

REMINDER: APRIL MEETING

Nancy Burmeister, our own famed art historian, will be presenting “*Seascapes: Transitions Through the Centuries*”, at our April meeting, Thursday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m., at Bella Napoli Restaurant. The restaurant is located at 350 Mountain Road in Pasadena.

As mentioned in the March Old Man, Nancy is a fascinating and knowledgeable speaker. As also mentioned, \$12 will buy each member all the pizza and soft drinks they will eat/drink.

We do have to provide a head count prior to the meeting, so please call Sheryl or Wes McNair at 410-437-8998 or email Sheryl at sammcnair@yahoo.com by **April 1st**.

Sheryl McNair

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SEA CHANTEYS AND SEA STORIES

“Chantey” or “chanty”, n.: a song sung by sailors in rhythm with their work. Jane Meneely, managing editor of Chesapeake Bay Magazine, will entertain us with “*Sea Chanteys and Sea Stories of the Chesapeake Bay*”. These are stories and chanteys she has gathered from Chesapeake Bay watermen in her work with the magazine. She promises “lots of fun” for our May meeting, which will be held at Ledo’s Pizza in Severna Park. Ledo’s is located in Park Plaza, on the west side of Ritchie Highway. Our May meeting is Thursday, May 1st, at 6:30. Due to limited space in the restaurant, we will NOT dance around a maypole, however.

Dinner will be assorted pizzas, salad and sodas. Alcoholic beverages will be handled separately. The cost will be approximately \$10 per person. I do need to give Ledo’s an approximate head count, so please let me know if you will be able to make the May meeting. Call Sheryl or Wes McNair, at 410-437-8998, or email me at sammcnair@yahoo.com.

Sheryl McNair

JUNIOR TRAINING

The school year has been extended to June 20. This will affect the beginning of Junior Training. Tentatively Junior Training will begin on June 24. Please submit your applications SOON before the spaces fill up. The boats must be prepared, so watch the web site for work parties to begin in late April. The instructors are planning an exciting Junior Training. SEND IN YOUR APPLICATIONS NOW!!!

Dave Blanch and Sue Kirkendall



photo by Wayne Mullinix of Grachur Club



Commodore Alan Kirkendall

photo by Fred Betz

2003 OFFICERS OF THE MAGOTHY RIVER SAILING ASSOCIATION

Commodore: Alan Kirkendall, 437-3630

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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 U.S. (Member #GA 80366 S).

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Spring has finally arrived and the boatyards are full of activity. *Flying Low* just got her new bottom paint and hull wax and should be ready to go back in the water real soon. Several projects still remain to be completed, so it will still be a little while before I will be ready for the sailing season.

I was very pleased by the turn out at the March Brunch, with lots of new and old members. The food was again great and I thoroughly enjoyed Tim Zimmerman's presentation on the racing catamarans. The insights he provided are something that you seldom read about in the magazines and I can't wait to start reading his book "The Race". Good job Sheryl!!

Because of the weather, The Anne Arundel schools will be extended until June 20th and Sue and Dave are in the process of rearranging the Jr. Training schedule to compensate. Because of this, the dates for the long cruise may also change so please stay tuned for more information.

I am looking forward to the April General Membership meeting, which will be held on April 3, at the Bella Napoli restaurant. Nancy Burmeister will be presenting "*Seascapes Through Time*" which should prove to be very enjoyable. Other upcoming events include the beginning of Wednesday night racing on April 23rd, and the Shakedown Cruise on April 26 & 27th.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the April Membership meeting and all the MRSA events!

Al Kirkendall

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

At the March Board of Governors meeting three membership applications were approved. Everyone please welcome the following new members.

Rick and Roberta Watts reside at 410 Park Creek Rd in Pasadena and have two children Dean (8) and Darcy (6). Rick has been racing since 1996, and recently purchased a Catalina 30, *Minabelle*, that will be kept at the Gibson Island Yacht Club. They can be reached at (410) 437-2813. Rick and Roberta are interested in racing and cruising.

John Flanigan and Karen Girg reside at 4 Longwood Road in Baltimore, MD 21210, and two children Eileen (15) and Greg (11). John and Karen are life long sailors with extensive cruising experience having completed a circumnavigation in '96-'99. They own a J36, *Shooting Star*, that is moored on Cornfield Creek. Their telephone number is (410) 323-7688. John and Karen are interested in both cruising and racing.

Timothy and Katherine Dougan and their sons James (11) and

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"Welcome "continued from bottom of page 2

Graham, Kyle and Matthew (6 year old triplets) reside at 421 Edgewater Road, Pasadena, MD 21122. Tim and Katherine extensive sailing experience and presently own 30' Cruisers Yacht, *Alchemy*, moored at their home on Grays Creek. James will be participating in Jr. Sailing this summer, and we look forward to seeing them on the water and at other MRSA events.

Please welcome these new members into MRSA and be sure to include them in your summer sailing plans.

Al Kirkendall

NEW MEMBER CRUISE

Mark your calendar now for the New Member Cruise May 10th and 11th. Destination will be Eagles Cove, Magothy River. More info will follow in the May issue of *The Old Man*.

Andy Basseler

AMERICA'S CUP RACE

Also occurring on the week-end of the Sockburner/Shake-down Cruise will be racing by Courageous and Freedom, former winners of the America's Cup race, here for the Baltimore Waterfront Festival. There will be an exhibition race Saturday, April 26th, from 12-3 p.m. in the Inner Harbor, and a formal race on Sunday, with a start time of noon, in the Patapso River.

Sheryl McNair

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

For Sale: 2- 12 volt gelcel East Penn batteries- size: 4D. \$150 ea. & 1- 12 volt gelcel East Penn battery- size: 27. \$95. Call Phil Haskell 301-490-9762.

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, \$6900; Mark Walker, 410-647-2468

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

Boat 'Yard Sale': Anchor Shade Umbrella, \$100. White, a 6' x 6' cockpit umbrella, water-repellent, mildew- and fade-resistant polyester fabric top, nylon straps at the four corners that adjust between 3' and 8' with a center-support pole that adjusts between 4' and 8'. Includes carrying case. It has only been used 2 or 3 times and is in very good condition. The West Marine catalog lists this at \$199.99. www.westmarine.com.

Achilles 2-3 Person Dingy, \$250. Red, two wood seats (one removable), two removable wooden floorboards, no rips, tears or repairs and is in good shape. Has two air chambers, attachable motor mount (we have used a 2 1/2 hp Johnson), canvas carrying case, foot pump and hoses, and 2 two-part locking oars. Go to: http://www.inflatableboats.net/achsspecs_html/lt2.htm for specs on the LT-2, which is a slightly smaller version of this dingy. Defender is listing the LT-2 at \$706 regular price and \$663 at the Miami boat show. **Bimini.** Full cockpit bimini, Sunscreen, Pacific Blue. Has zipper for backstay and a center view window with cloth cover for seeing the mast, four straps, cover. No frame. Four years old and good condition. Not a generic mail order but cut for a Sabre 34. Should fit most boats of similar size and design. \$150. **Please contact Jeff Fones:** Email: jkfones@earthlink.net *Day: 703-926-0242 Night: 301-831-1148*

For Sale: Mooring Whips — Premium Rocker Arm Base Whips. PMW 1600 For sailboats, and heavier or high-profile boats (new @ BoatUS \$554) yours for \$425. Call Rob (410)684-6531 Day or (410)421-9222 Evening.

MERLIN'S CRUISE NORTH IN 2002 (PART TWO)

We left Noank at 7:30 the next morning (6/21) and arrived in Newport at 13:50. The winds were out of the south at about 15 knots, so we sailed with only the genoa. Upon arrival, we anchored near Little Ida Yacht Club, and departed quickly for the nearby Laundromat. We weren't early enough to make the "in by 11, out by 4" for \$0.75/lb., so John stayed and read while I went for a run, and then helped fold and pack everything back up for the trip back to the boat. Meanwhile, Jay and Wes were busy with preventative measures—to ensure we had pleasant weather the entire trip, they were buying him foulies since he managed to leave his newly purchased jacket at home. After dinner at the Brick Alley Pub (which we highly recommend), we headed for the grocery store, and discovered that the store where we had reprovisioned on our delivery trip the year before was out of business!

Departed at 8:30 on 6/22, headed for Cuttyhunk. It was sunny, clear, and we had southwest winds approx. 18 kt. John was rudely awakened when we hit some wave action, and the supposedly closed hatch let seawater into the fo'c'sle. Since it was Saturday, the autopilot decided to take a break, and shut down. Arrived Cuttyhunk Pond at approximately 12:55, on a sunny, very windy day, and

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proceeded to plumb the depths of the pond, dodging various boats and the occasional seaplane or two. The plot of our route on the computer looked like a snarled tangle of long line! At approximately 15:15, Wes determined the anchor was set well enough to leave the boat. By then, it had clouded over, was still windy, and I no longer wanted to go to the beach for a swim. There are approximately 40 year-round residents in Cuttyhunk, and their numbers swell to approximately 300 in the summer. There are, at most, 3-4 roads on the island. I was amazed at the public library's hours—13:30-15:00 on Thursdays. (And that's all, folks!)



A View of Cuttyhunk Harbor

Wes was pretty well fed-up with Cuttyhunk, so we left 7 a.m. on Sunday, 6/23. It was cloudy, damp, and drizzly, although it cleared up around 10 a.m. or so. The weather forecast on the VHF mentioned right whales, and their possible locations! We didn't see any (we weren't near any of the locations), but I did watch the sky continuously to ensure they wouldn't rain down on us. We arrived at Woods Hole at 9:30, and anchored off a yacht club there. We were planning to meet my cousin and his wife, who were driving down by car from Worcester, Ma. Discovered that it was harder to find a parking place for the car than the boat, so we left the boat and piled in the car for a trip to Hyannisport and then to a nice beach, Nauset, on Cape Cod. By then, although the day was pleasant, it was partly cloudy with 10-15 knots, water temperature of 55 degrees, so none of us was brave enough to try the water. While walking along the beach, I commented on the rock or lobster pot bobbing in the water. John noted that rocks don't usually duck under the surface and swim away. Sure enough, we were watching a harbor seal! It surfaced again, and I had the binoculars out, and could see its face (including whiskers and nostrils), so we added another animal to our trip list. We had a picnic lunch on the beach, with a huge basket of lobster fritters, clam fritters and the best onion rings. Far too much for us to eat, though, so the seagulls had a feast also. The wind and waves had really picked up by the time we got back to *Merlin*, and our relatives had a wet ride home, after braving the dinghy ride to tour *Merlin*. One of the weird sights of Woods Hole was the teeny floating cabins dotting the harbor.

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We had a fabulous sail to Nantucket on Monday, 6/24. We left Woods Hole at 8:40 a.m., and 29 knots later, arrived in Nantucket at 14:30.



Approaching Nantucket

It was sunny, and warm, and we had a broad reach. Meanwhile, since it was a workday, Wes was able to reach Raytheon, and get the autopilot working. We have had no further problems with it since. The only disconcerting event on this leg was the constant monitoring of Channel 16 on the VHF. A boat had been reported missing, and there was a minute-by-minute chronicling of everything being done to find the boat. Sadly, we never heard whether there was a happy ending to the story. The high-speed ferry passed us, rapidly, and several very large power yachts, approaching Nantucket. We stopped at Nantucket Boat Basin, for fuel, water and guides to Nantucket, before going to our mooring. Although the launch service was included in our mooring fee, and appeared easy to use and fre-

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quent, we were close enough to use our dinghy most of the time. We went for a walk/run on Jetties Beach, which we had seen on the approach to Nantucket (noted by the colorful beach umbrellas). The walk included a trip on a long sandy spit across a small bay, with lots of clam diggers, and other revelers. We also passed a basket shop, and I investigated possible baskets to fit in a nook on *Merlin*. Was flabbergasted at the price of Nantucket baskets—I was looking for something about \$5-\$10! After pina colodas and appetizers on *Merlin*, we went to the Atlantic Café for dinner. Everything was very good, and reasonably priced. Toured the shops after dinner, and bought tee shirts. Tuesday, 6/24, we went to Young's to rent bikes, and took off for Wauwinet. The Polpis bike trail was lovely. It was a nice, paved trail, but through the woods, and secluded. We had to head back to the road, though, for the approach to Wauwinet. We were trying to get to a beach that required 4-wheel drive access through a closed community. The result was that they made us park the bikes, and leave them at a check stand. We then walked through very hot, and soft, sand through the community. That was tough and painful, but we were delighted to see several northern harriers (male and female) flying low in and out of the dunes, once we cleared the houses. When we reached the beach, Wes spotted a pair of brightly colored oyster catchers walking and flying low over the beach. There were lots of lovely rocks on the beach, and John and Jay enjoyed skipping them in the water, and we all enjoyed soaking our hot feet in the lovely cool, clear water. We cut through someone's yard for a slightly easier return trip, then back to the bikes, and a hungry, thirsty ride to 'Sconset, for lunch. From there, we rode to Surfside Beach, which was supposed to have concessions, restrooms, and medium heavy surf. The surf was light, but the rest was there, and we enjoyed swimming and napping and ice creams. It was a short ride back to Young's, so we were able to make our 5:30 p.m. deadline, but those cobblestones are deadly on bikers! Based on a reread of our guides, we missed Madaket Beach, which sounded very nice.

Our stop in Nantucket was too short, but we had to make tracks, so this story will continue later (space and interest provided) for the trip to Martha's Vineyard.

Sheryl McNair



John and Wes at the Beach in Nantucket

all photos by Sheryl McNair



Tim Zimmerman, Speaker at the March Brunch, and Author of "The Race" had the interest of the MRSA members

photos by Fred Betz

"Sockburner" continued from page 8, column 2

For those who aren't yet ready to "shakedown", you may come by land. Go east on Route 100 towards Gibson Island, until it merges with Mountain Road, Route 177. Turn right on North Shore, (past the fire station on the left and elementary school on right) and stay straight on Eagle Hill where North Shore bends to the left. Immediately after reaching the top of the hill, look for the first chance to turn left. There will be a placard posted with MRSA on it. If you are coming this way, drive a car that can handle rough roads, or you may wish to park before you come down through the woods, and walk down.

Please call Sheryl or Wes McNair at 410-437-8998 or email sammcnair@yahoo.com or mcnair4@earthlink.net for further information.

Sheryl McNair

ANNUAL MARCH BRUNCH

"I guess our J-42 is just a baby next to those boats..." , Peggy Poe commented after viewing the video extracted from The Race. Personally, I thought the spectator boats portrayed on the video looked like new-fangled racing marks next to those 110 foot boats. And what about that large cloud sitting on the water? That's an iceberg?! Needless to say, Tim Zimmerman, author of The Race, did an excellent job presenting an overview of The Race to MRSA sailors at the March Brunch. He was willing and able to answer any and all questions, and I hope attendees didn't mind getting the rest of their questions answered after the meeting. He also autographed copies of his book for those who brought their own copy, or purchased one from him. If you haven't read the book yet, I highly recommend it. He does an excellent job presenting an overview of the history of ocean racing leading up to The Race, and then of chronicling events preceding and during The Race, including various personalities and odd bits of trivia, such as the requirement for earplugs when down below on these boats.



Hungry MRSA Members Enjoying the Excellent Brunch Buffet at the Beautiful "Windows on the Bay" Restaurant

Despite the lovely day (wouldn't you rather be sailing), we had 65 attendees at the brunch, and we were well-fed. The food was excellent, as usual at Windows, and we all enjoyed sitting out on the deck and drooling over the boats and the water. We had several new members and prospective members attend the brunch, including John and Marlene Clark, Cathy Dougan, the Flanigan/Girg family, Andrea Gillespie, Jane Heiser, Pam Murdoch, and Rick and Roberta Watts. Let us continue to welcome them and encourage attendance at the next events. Thanks to Peggy Poe for getting the Red Books done on time, and having enough to hand out to all members present.

Sheryl McNair

OUR OLD BOATS FIND NEW HOMES

That fateful day finally arrived ahead of schedule on March 8, 2003. For the past month and a half, two or three emails popped up each week requesting information and photos of our International 420's for sale. One inquiry came from the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia and they wanted all four boats! Ah, yes, but how to get them there... Perhaps a small bribe of aged island rum would do? Not this time!

The first meeting with PSA's junior sailing representatives from across Blackhole Creek on March 1st went well, but after they added up the additional costs for repairs, replacing the standing rigs, it was just more work than they wanted to take on. So, the next weekend, another group, but this time, all individuals came to McNair's public boat launch for a look-see. MRSA's welcoming committee consisted of Wes, Jay and John McNair, Bob Seay, Mike Mullarky and myself. The boats

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Killer Tomato at Home in New Jersey

photo by new owner, Jeff Wells



Junior Training Snowfleet, Boats for Sale at the MacNair's

photo by John Aellen

continued from previous column

were still somewhat buried in a snow bank, and it was time to dig them out!

One gentleman, coming up from Florida (prematurely because he has a house in Annapolis) arrived first at 9:15 am. He wanted to buy a boat for his granddaughter living in Maine with his daughter and son-in-law. I had met him about 20 years ago sailing AYC's Wednesday Night series, and we had a little fun catching up on old times. His first pick was *Muff*, red tanks and white hull and was an easy choice. So as luck would have it, *Muff* is now on her way to Maine!

The second gentleman came with his granddaughter, a student at Severna Park High who sails with the school's sailing team. She was interested in a boat to practice with in the off season and seemed pleased with the opportunity to have a boat of her own! After digging out a set of sails and rudder, they were ready to go! *Messenger* will have a new home in Arnold, MD.

And then a third man arrived with his daughter after driving two and a half hours from the coast of New Jersey. Here again, they were looking for a practice boat to have in the family for a few years, and then thought they would donate *Killer Tomato* to their sailing club. They liked the lighter International 420 and were convinced it was going to scream past the newer Club 420's they would sail against later this summer.

So all the old boats are gone, MRSA is \$1200 richer and the McNairs have a little more grass to cut. But the funniest part of the day was watching *Muff* atop a Mazda 626 going up the dirt lane to Eagle Hill Road. I'm only sorry I didn't bring a camera!

John Aellen

(A Big THANKS ! to John Aellen for his efforts !!)

THE APRIL/MAY 2003 CALENDAR, PLUS AND MINUS

- 4/3 *General Membership Meeting,
Bella Napoli Restaurant 6:30 PM*
- 4/7 *BOG Meeting at Kirkendall's*
- 4/21 *Deadline for the April Old Man*
- 4/23 *First Wednesday Night Race !!*
- 4/26 & 4/27 *Shakedown Cruise,
Broad Creek, Magothy River, led
by the McNair's*
- 4/26 & 4/27 *America's Cup Boats
Race, Baltimore Waterfront
Festival*
- 5/1 *General Membership Meeting,
Ledo's Pizza, "Sea Chanteys"*
- 5/10 & 5/11 *New Members Cruise,
Eagle Cove, Magothy River, led
by the Basseler's*

Please contact the editor at
febetz@toad.net when your
classified ad is no longer needed.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

It's spring, and that means that summer isn't far behind. Believe it or not, I think the snow is finally gone, and we can safely shed our socks at the annual Shakedown/Sockburning Cruise. Luckily, our traditions are less radical than Eastport Yacht Club, and we can, if we want, keep our socks on until April 26th-27th. This is the first MRSA cruise of the year, and you may come by boat or land, bring guests, your socks, an hors d'oeuvres to share, and your own drinks. "Makings" for S'mores will be provided, but you have to gather your own sticks to roast the marshmallows.

"Raft-up" will be on Looper's beach, at Broad Creek, at 4:30 p.m. To help you recognize the location, and to burn the socks, there will be a bonfire on the Looper Beach, located on the western shore of Broad Creek, past the numerous piers. If you can't see the bonfire, note the MRSA cruising flag on the pier, and the small, roofed pavilion on the beach, just prior to an uninhabited area. In the past, some boaters have not paid strict attention to their charts, and have run aground by the "Glass House", or on the shoal that protrudes from the western shore. According to the cruising schedule, you have the opportunity to practice Light-house watching/gathering by traveling via the lighthouse near Dobbins Island.

"Sockburner" continued on page 6, column 1

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photo by Bill Paul