



The Old Man

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

September 2005

Worton Creek Cruise



While the landlubbers were sweltering ashore the 5 boats sailing to and from Worton Creek enjoyed good winds and comfortable temperatures. After rafting-up we enjoyed swimming and relaxing in the nettle-free waters of the creek. This was followed by Happy Hour and ethnic hors d' oeuvres on *Light Spray*. Before all was devoured spirited voting resulted in the following prize winners:

Best Presentation - Loura & Mike Bonham's Mexican bean dip

Most Interesting Flavor - Peggy & Jim Jarvis's Scandinavian salmon surprise

Most Creative - Sheryl and Wes McNair's Mexican guacamole

Favorite Dish - Walt Burmeister's Chesapeake crab balls

Also joining us were Loura and Mike's friends Mary Ann and Bill Emenecker and family who graciously anchored the raft on their boat *Owaso*. After comfortable sleeping with good breezes from the east we sailed home in 12-14 knot winds.

Myron and Sigrid Dorf



Commodore John Lund

Commodores Comments

John Lund

September, where has the summer Gone? By now everyone has answered the question – what is Magothy Madness? MRSA was well represented in the Governors Cup and did well very well. The Corsica River Race/Cruise was a great event as usual and a good time was had by all.

Don't despair. Just because summer is winding down doesn't mean we should put the boat on the hard. Fall sailing may be the best part of the year. The racing program still has plenty of activity left. Almost a third of the cruising schedule is still to come. There is usually a little more wind and a little less heat.

Now is also the time to start making the list of things to look at in October at the Boat Show. It would be nice to see the same picture perfect weather we had last year, but I'm not counting on it. For me, it's an exhausting week but still lots of fun.

This year, Steve and Jane Gardner are planning to put their boat in the Parade of Lights. I am told that the helpers get to ride in the parade. If you have never participated in this event, I can assure you, it has a different perspective from the water motoring down ego alley with people waving and yelling. Help out and give it a try!

Instead of "Back to School" this time of year should be "Back to Sailing"! I'm looking forward to the Labor Day Cruise to Grays Inn Creek. Hope to see you there.

2005 Officers of the Magothy River Sailing Association

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CBYCA Rep.: Stu Myers, 647-4793

Website: www.magothysailing.com

MRSA is a member of CBYRA, CBYCA, and
Boat U.S. (Member #GA 80366 S).

Classifieds

Lippincott 30', well kept, maint. logs avail. 13HP Yanmar diesel, covered wheel. LectraSan, RF, depth, wind (speed/direction), VHF. Shoal draft. Press water. New adj backstay and genoa. 4sails. Comfortable family cruiser and race winner, 6'2" headroom, sleeps 5-6. \$27,500 Days 410-265-1449 or 410-795-0654 eves/weekends or JOHUBBS@EROLS.COM for data sheet, photos

Sails for sale

West Marine Headsail bag, large. 1 yr old, cost \$170. \$100.
Genoa, Scott sail. Bi-radial, 5.1 oz., dacron, hanks. Good condition. Luff-40'6" Leech-39'3" Foot-22'. Nylon drifter, North sail, half oz. Luff-40'7" Leech-37'5" Foot-24'5". Best offers for sails. (I've gone to roller furling). Call Mike, 410-255-2639; e-mail mprucnal@erols.com

Breathe Easy

Bauer Junior II G - SCUBA Air Compressor with Honda 5.5 hp 4 stroke engine. Purchased Jan. 2001. In very good condition, used less than 40 hours. Comes with manuals and nine (9) replacement purification filters. A \$4000 value, asking price \$2500. Call Steve Gardner at 410-647-1653. Seafan35@safe-mail.net.

House for Sale

2100 sq ft, 4 br, 3 bath home, .57 acre on Milburn Circle, Pasadena. 60 second walk to the community pool, park and marina on Cornfield Creek. House has had a major refit of all systems since we bought it 2 years ago. hardwood floors. fireplace. finished basement. Corner lot w/gardens. 22' above sea level. Available end-Sept. Work and family are pulling us back to NJ. Call Peg and Jim Jarvis @ 410 439 8443.

Racing Rundown

Bob Seay

As hard as it is to believe, as you read this, we are wrapping up the 5th Wednesday Night Series and beginning the 6th and last Series of the summer. The format for the 6th Series has changed this year to three races from two and, as always, includes the "Pink Flag" class. Don't let the "female skipper" moniker fool you into thinking that this will be some laid back beer can series. These ladies can and do flat out race!

While on the subject of exciting racing, Magothy sailors got a little more excitement than we needed when storms rolled across the race course during Wednesday, July 27th's race. Gene Gottschalk has put together some valuable "lessons learned" worth reading in this issue.

The Corsica Race and Race Back this year saw some great racing in moderate breezes on Saturday for the race over and very light wind on Sunday for the race back. The Corsica River Yacht Club runs the race over and MRSA oversees the race back. This year we had 30 entries for Sunday's race, a number of which were Magothy boats. Congratulations to Jim McCutchan and the crew of Great Escape for their 3rd Place finish in the PHRF Non-Spinnaker division.

In August we saw a dozen Magothy race boats on the line for the 2005 St. Mary's Governor's Cup. Needless to say, looking at the results it seems that Magothy skippers know a thing or two about sailboat racing. Be sure to check out John Hubbs' recap of the race in this issue.

Finally, the Gibson Island Boathouse is scheduled for the MRSA Wednesday Nights Awards Party on October 5. It's been a great season and it's not over yet. I encourage everyone to hold off winterizing and join us for our fantastic Hallie Rice Fall Series. What's not to like about a ten race series conducted in beautiful weather and brisk breezes through October and November? The entry fee for the entire series is only \$15 and the trophies are some of the nicest we award! We only run two classes, spin and non-spin, so it's a good chance to come out and compete against folks you don't normally get to race against. Two races per day are conducted Sunday afternoons beginning October 9th with the first gun at 1300 hours. The series ends on November 13th. Give it a try and I guarantee you will be hooked.

For information about any of MRSA's racing programs contact Gene Gottschalk or Bob Seay at race_committee@magothysailing.com.

Lessons Learned

Gene Gottschalk

On Wednesday, July 27, the Magothy River race course was ravaged by a sudden and fierce squall as a cold front moved through the area in excess of 40 miles per hour with wind gusts to 50 kts.. Many boats sustained damage and as many as seven boats went aground on the lee shore on Gibson Island. Mike Mullarkey hosted a discussion on the MRSA On-line Forum section of the MRSA Web Page. Please take the opportunity to read the postings. Many participants posted tales of their perils, but also took the opportunity to share lessons learned so that other might benefit. Many thanks go out to Tom Price, Andy Bassler, and Daryl Wagner for assisting grounded boats with their power boats, and Mike Mullarkey and Jamie Davis for assisting with their sailboats. I'm also sure others provided assistance that are not mentioned and thanks go out to them as well. Fortunately there were no injuries reported.

Following is a summary I have extracted from the forum postings.

Before the race:

1. Always check "The Big Picture" earlier in the week for large developing fronts.
2. Always check the weather the day of the race, at least out to the regional level.
3. If threatening weather exists monitor it on the way to the race course.
4. Make sure to keep a vigilant watch in the direction the weather will come from.
5. Don't assume everyone else is aware of the developing weather.
6. Notify the RC Boat if you are aware of a deteriorating situation.
7. Request to RC boat to call a postponement if the weather situation is degrading.
8. Request the RC boat cancel the race if the weather conditions are dangerous.

After the start sequence has begun

1. Don't hesitate to withdraw if you are not comfortable with the situation.
2. Verify the RC Boat is aware you are withdrawing and why.
3. Don't hesitate to approach the RC Boat if you can't contact them otherwise.
4. Have a plan for withdrawal to a more sheltered location.

After the storm has hit

1. Make sure your crew dons life jackets first, earlier is better. If you wait too long your focus will be on saving equipment rather than crew safety.
2. Have crew remain below unless absolutely needed for the safety of the boat.
3. Keep an anchor(s) handy and ready to deploy. After you need it is no time to dig for it in a locker and to be assembling the chain and line shackles.
4. Get your boat on an even keel so if you go aground your keel will help to keep you from going further aground.
5. Make sure your lines are all aboard before you engage your prop.
6. Keep crew members away from the mast, stanchions, and other metal parts if there is lightning in the area.
7. Get a bin board into your companionway hatch to prevent water from going below.
8. Be sure your halyards are not problematic so you can get your sails down fast.
9. If your using roller furling make sure there are enough turns around you drum so you can fully furl your headsail when the wind causes the wraps to be tighter than usual.
10. You may be better off dropping the roller furling headsail rather than trying to roll it up.
11. Your engine may not run if you are heeled over excessively and you fuel level is low as the fuel pickup may rise above the fuel level.

After the storm getting off a grounding

1. Use a combination of lines to your mast head and on your hull to heel your boat as you're pulled off or use with anchors if you kedge off.
2. You can use a life jacket to swim an anchor out to kedge off.

Magothy Racers Bring Home Gov's Cup Trophies

John Hubbs

Despite the slow start, horrendous lightning, and low winds, many Magothy River racers finished well in the 32nd annual Governor's Cup from Annapolis to St. Mary's College. August 5 was a typical Chesapeake summer day with high temperatures and humidity, but little wind. By 1800 the eight classes were barely able to get away from the starting line. As storms crossed ahead of us, the winds freshened nicely and 152 boats were racing down the Bay. At dusk everyone could see lightning flashes striking the water as the fleet sailed under the collision of two storm cells. My weather mate at home told us there were no other storms visible in the Delmarva vicinity as we sailed into the maelstrom.

For several hours we all experienced one of the most spectacular natural light shows of our lives. Several boats were struck, but no injuries were reported. The rain was warm, so no one minded too much until the chills started to set in and the crew went below in shifts to towel off and don dry gear. During the night the breezes rose and fell every 20 to 30 minutes from over 20 knots to near calm and back again. By sunrise little wind was available for sailing. At 0800 Saturday morning, even the fastest boats had not rounded Point Lookout at the mouth of the Potomac River. Only 70 of the original 152 starters were able to finish within the 21-hour time limit. Many of us motored in to not miss one of the finest parties on the Bay.

Magothy racers cleaned up the A2 fleet of 15 finishers. Our Rear Commodore, Bob Seay, took second place aboard *Gusto*, an Olson 30. Two places behind him were the Jacksons aboard *Pressure Drop*, a Soverel 33-2. And in sixth place were Tom Price and his crew on their newly restored Hobie 33, *Chaos*, in its first major race. Congratulations to all!

In the B1 fleet Ralph Reitan steered *Wabbit* to an eighth place finish of 16 starters and nine finishers. Only seven boats of 21 entries managed to finish in the B2 class because of the light winds. John Daly commanding *Daily Grind* and John Hubbs aboard *Seneca* realized they could not finish in the allotted time and motored to the party.

MRSA racers in the combined PHRF CD class prevailed through the storm to finish well. Ex-Commodore, Bill Paul, and mates aboard *Rebecca* brought home third place. Four minutes later (on corrected time) was Mike Mullarky and company on *Boreas*. Gene and Cyndi Gottschalk aboard *Miranda* also started, but did not finish.

When you see any of these intrepid sailors at the dock or at MRSA functions, ask them about the Governor's Cup. Everyone has a great story to tell about a stormy night on the Chesapeake. My apologies to anyone I may have missed or for incorrectly stating your decisions.

Corsica River Cruise/Race 2005

Marianne and Dick Kammann

Old racers never die; they just become cruisers and organize cruising races. And so we did. Seven boats hit the line at Baltimore Light, some later than others; *SPARTREK*, *JAZZ*, *BETELGEUX*, *LIGHT SPRAY*, *FREQUENT FLYER*, *MIN VAN IV*, and *FLYING LOW*. We had breeze in July. We had excitement. We on *SPARTREK* had our hands full with *JAZZ* as usual. And, most of all, we had a ball!

Handicaps were irrelevant. In a dying breeze the fleet spread out enough so that where you finished was where you placed. On *SPARTREK* we enjoyed secret weapons by the names of Rich and Toni Hughes. The racing cruisers finished in the order listed above.

There were 43 MRSA cruisers at the picnic and several more who raced the sanctioned CBYRA event. What a venue! An idyllic anchorage, a pavilion, a blue grass band, a delicious chicken and corn-on-the-cob barbecue, dinghy racing, big boat racing, dancing and the usual MRSA camaraderie all together, on one day, in one place.

The Brails brought some of their Catalina 34 Club friends, and some people came by land yacht including Lewis Neisner who is recovering nicely from his recent surgery.

Once again, those who participated in this event raved about it. It's just a great party with great food! We especially thank the Corsica River Yacht Club for being such gracious hosts. Put this event on your calendar for next year; it's one you shouldn't miss.

Twice as many opportunities to get together in October!

Diane Jackins

MRSA sailors will have twice as many opportunities to get together in October! Our first meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6 at the Bella Napoli restaurant, located at 350 Mountain Road. Our speaker, Tillie Egge from the Oyster Recovery Partnership, will discuss what's being done around the Bay to bring back the Chesapeake's succulent treasure. Pizza, salad and soft drinks will be the menu fare at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 10. *Please call or e-mail me by September 23 to let me know you are coming so I can let the restaurant know how many to expect. After September 23, the cost rises to \$20.*

In lieu of a separate November meeting, we will combine forces with MRSA cruisers for a meeting at the Cheshire Crab on Saturday, October 29. Our speaker will be from the Maryland Ghost Hunters Association. Should be a haunting good time.

Dessert Cruise is Back !

Stu and Vicky Timerman

After a year's hiatus to trim down our waste lines, the Dessert Cruise to Baltimore is back, and set for 17/18 September. We have a block of 8 slips reserved at the Inner Harbor East Marina, but we need to provide them with our boat specifics (length, beam, draft, and power requirements) ASAP. Please call Stu or Vicky Timerman at (410) 647-0498 or e-mail them at timmermans@comcast.net no later than September 10th. To prime ourselves for the delicious desserts at Vaccaro's pastry shop in Little Italy, we will gather at the marina for hors d'oeuvres at 1700 (that's 5 pm for you lubbers). Don't worry about the calories from the dessert, anything ingested while on a sailboat is instantly converted to energy which will be burned off during the walk back to the marina.

Labor Day Cruise

Beth Vanfossen

To all Napoleons and Neophytes and Members of the Carlton Club: Starting to Make Plans for Labor Day Weekend? Consider the MRSA Cruise!

The cruise to take place Labor Day Weekend, 9/3 – 9/5. We will sail to Gray's Inn Creek off the Chester River in the predicted beautiful 12 knot winds from the south, about a 5-to-6-hour sail (depending on boat size). The concept for the cruise is similar to last year's – a leisurely sail to a beautiful spot, then relax in the company of friends and new acquaintances for a day before returning. For those of you who have not visited Gray's Inn Creek, it is a beautiful creek, sparsely populated along its shores, and loaded with wading and flying birds, and jumping fish. Try to arrive and anchor by 5 pm on Saturday to share in hors d'oeuvres.

On Sunday, the layover day, we will relax as we see fit. Sponsored activities start with a shared breakfast for those who feel like it, water and other games in the afternoon, and a trip to a local restaurant for dinner Sunday night. Then Monday, we return home, again in beautiful weather with a beam reach across to the Magothy. Last year, we found this schedule to be particularly relaxing and enjoyable, and a very appropriate way to abstain from labor.



Directions: Sail across the Chesapeake Bay to Love Point, and then into the Chester River, honoring all green marks. After rounding G11, head NW about 2 miles past nun "14." Start the approach into the creek at can "1." Set a course of 330 magnetic to miss the two shoals at the entrance to the creek. Proceed up the creek to an approximate position of 39 06.632N and 76 13.312W. Look for other MRSA boats (with MRSA burgees), and raft up or anchor nearby.

For more details, call Beth Vanfossen, 410-647-0694. Please also notify her ASAP after August 29th of your intentions to join us, so that we can make plans and reservations. New members especially are welcomed, let her know.

MRSA is Back in the Parade of Lights

We're going to have an MRSA boat in the Annapolis Parade of Lights again! The catamaran "*Sea Fan*" is back from the Caribbean and we'd love to take her into the Parade. We and the Mullarky's have volunteered to organize, plan and sheppard the process. We're planning a new display but will use the MRSA Burgee and "Merry Christmas" from previous displays. Like before, we'll put the light display together at our house and mount it at our dock. This time we'll mount it when there isn't any rain! It's going to be easier to install (we hope) and we're sure it will win a prize. So get involved!!!!

All we need is some help to plan it, put the light display together, mount it and then PARADE it. It's not a trivial job so we'll start in September just be sure we get everything planned and done on time. We're already going to garage sales to pick up "cheap" lights that work. We know we're going to need one or two generators and something to play music LOUDLY so if you've got these we can use, let us know.

If you'd like to help, give us or the Mullarky's a call. Everybody who works on getting the boat ready is invited to ride on board during the parade. It's a blast; the cheers from the MRSA room at the Marriott are a real boost and the trip down Ego Alley with the crowd cheering is something to remember.

In the past, this was a wonderful way to get to know other members, and we extend a special invitation to our newer members to join us for this project - it's more an on-going party than real work.

We need your help- call and join the fun!

Steve & Jane Gardner - 410-647-1653

Mike & Annette Mullarky -410-439-1556

THE OLD MAN

Magothy River Sailing Association

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photo by Bill Paul