



The Old Man

March 2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association



Commodore's Comments



Well, spring has sprung, and it's about time, dammit. There's lots to do, lots to plan, and so much to look forward to. Let's see how my checklist is going:

- Remove the outboard and schlep it over to the shop for annual maintenance. (Check)
- Arrange my schedule around the race meeting Saturday (Cape St. Claire), the MRSA Spring Brunch Sunday, and the MRSA Race meeting Wednesday. (Check)
- Call marine electrician and try again to get the depth finder fixed. (Check)

- Contact last year's **Allu** Crew and see who's up this year for another try for the elusive brass ring. (Check)
- Schedule the annual **Allu** shake-down/practice sail. (Check)
- Buy lotsa beer (sail boat fuel) for crew. (Check)
- Prepare excuse to offer to wife as to why I don't have time this week to transplant the rose bush, trim the bushes, or mow the damn lawn. (Check)
- Order flowers and a small gift. (Check)
- Transplant the rose bush, trim the hedges, mow the lawn. (Check).
- Prepare excuse to offer clients as to why I'm running a little late on the report/site visit/drawings. (Check)

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I'd write some more, but I gotta go work on my boat.

Joe

Joe Berchielli, Commodore, 2021

Junior Training



Registration is open for in MRSA's Junior Training Program which will be held at the Grachur Club Monday, July 11 through Friday, July 22. This outstanding program, under direction of

Program Director Grace O'Brien, offers sailboat training for youngsters from ages 9 to 17, including beginners and more experienced sailors. If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to check it out. Details can be found on our website, www.magothysailing.org or call Commodore Joe Berchielli at 443-603-4586.

Racing Corner

MRSA will hold the annual Spring Race Meeting at Ledo's Pizza (552 Governor Richie Hwy, Severna Park) on March 30th. We'll discuss the Winter survey results, 2022 sailing changes, race committee observations from 2021, scoring alternatives and racing rules.

The first race of the Wednesday night series is scheduled for April 20th. Cost to register for the 5-series summer session and Fall Series is \$125, or \$45 for individual series. Online entry forms are available at www.magothysailing.org. When you register you will be required to indicate what week you will serve as race committee.

The Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA) held their spring meeting on Saturday, March 12th, at the Maryland Yacht club to recognize the 2021 High Point Award winners in PHRF classes for Regions 1-4. They also recently published their annual Green Book, containing information on all 2022 regattas and races series in the Chesapeake Bay. The Greenbook can be found at www.cbyra.club.

The Chesapeake Racer Cruiser Association (CRCA) also held their spring organizational meeting at Maryland Yacht Club on March 12th, where they handed out trophies to 2021 series champions and discussed the upcoming racing season. Several MRSA members received awards. Shep Drain (**Heyday**) received awards for First Place Performance Cruiser and 4th overall for North of the Bridge (NOTB) Series. Ed Tracey and Tim Polk (Incommunicado) received awards for First Place Racer Cruiser and First Place overall for NOTB Series. Races for each 2022 regional series were announced. The NOTB Series will consist 8 races. You must be a CRCA member, have an ORR-Ez certification and compete in at least 4 of the 8 races to qualify for the series' awards.

CRCA 2022 North of the Bridge Race Series

Date	Race	Sponsor
April 30	Spring Fling	Magothy River Sailing Association
May 21	Five Forts Race	Rock Creek Racing Association
June 4	Moonlight Race	Potapskut Sailing Association

June 11	Northern Bay Regatta	Glenmar Sailing Association
July 16	Race to Baltimore	Baltimore City Yacht Association
Oct 1	Race to Rock Hall	Potapskut Sailing Association
Oct 15	Baltimore Harbor Cup	Baltimore City Yacht Association
Oct 16	Francis Scott Key Classic	Rock Creek Racing Association

You may have noticed that different organizations are requiring different handicap certifications for their race series. MRSA Wed night races have always used PHRF. CBYRA High Point uses PHRF as well. CRCA uses ORA (ORR-Ez) and AYC recently announced they would be using ORC for many of their sponsored races.

If you're relatively new to sailboat racing like me you'll wonder why so many handicapping systems and how do they differ. There's lots of information on the internet that can bring you up to speed but I'll give you a condensed and simplified version. If you want to race your boat but there is no "one-design" class for your particular boat you will need a handicap certification. There are four main rating rules: Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF), International Racing Congress (IRC), Offshore Racing Rule (ORR) and Offshore Racing Congress (ORC).

The most widely used handicap system over the years in the Chesapeake has been PHRF. PHRF handicapping is an empiric rating system. A PHRF rating takes into consideration the type of yacht, an assumed sail plan and the performance of that type of yacht in races on the Chesapeake Bay over the years. The three other rating systems are a bit more complicated. These rules use formulas to assign a rating to each yacht based on the yacht's dimensions, construction, and design features.

Measurement handicapping systems based on Velocity Prediction Programs (VPP) are gaining ground in the Chesapeake because sailors believe they more fairly handicap the boats. VPP-based handicapping takes into account that some boats sail better in light wind, heavy wind, or the direction of the wind over the race course based on the configuration of the boat. So VPP-based handicap systems will assign multiple handicaps for the wind speed and race course configuration. This makes scoring a bit more difficult as you'll need to factor in the wind speed and wind direction over the course. Another option is to use VPP ratings to come

up with adjusted PHRF ratings based on wind and course configuration. This approach looks to combine the benefits of VPP ratings but take advantage of the simplicity of PHRF ratings. Definitely a lot to digest!

Several Wed night racers have suggested MRSA move to a measurement handicap system for our races. This will be a topic of discussion at the spring organizational meeting. The plan for now is to continue to use PHRF certification but to also score each race with a measurement system to see how it affects the outcome.

Hope to see all the racers at the March 30th Spring Race Meeting.

Jim

Jim Bradac, Race Committee Chair

Racing Social Chair

Racing season is just around the corner. If I had to choose the two most important jobs I have ahead of me they would be:

- Get Captains to register their boat under the [Crew Wanted page](#) in the Racing dropdown menu. This worked very well last year but is off to a slow start this year. So please list your boat, and take on at least one newbie. This is critical if we are to grow the sport and/or keep it alive for those that currently race. **Do it today please.**
- Beer boat is a tough one. Everyone's boat has a mix of crew with diverse obligations. Raft ups are the safest way for us to gather and party so please try to attend a raft up and help by being Beer Boat one night.

I will soon start populating the website's *Boat Wanted* spreadsheet, also accessible through this [page](#), so Captains, please look at these new sailors and give them a shot.

Upcoming Race

Registration is open for MRSA's weekend race on Saturday, April 30th at www.magothysailing.org/spring-fling. Please consider coming out and joining us to support the club in our CBYRA sanctioned race. I heard the multi-hullers maybe doing a race among themselves for a bottle of scotch?? Race starts and ends at Magothy Light (for Magothy boats) so no long deliveries to the starting line or on the trip back home.



Member Notes



Carolyn Cuncell is having a Studio Tour of her paintings on Saturday, April 30 & Sunday, May 1 at her home from 10 to 4 pm.

Details:
420 Riverside Drive, Pasadena,
MD. 21122-5042;
camarb@aol.com;
410-437-5474

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!



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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.

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