The Old Man

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

April 2022

Commodore's Comments

Hey! You sailboat owners who rarely get out on the water because you "don't have the time."

Well, we have a cure for that! Participation in a weeknight racing program will drag you off the couch (or away from the lawn mower) and out into nature's glory.

Ask any racing sailor: when it's a scheduled, weekly event, it becomes a part (a very fun part) of your routine.

We would like to see you out on the Magothy River to test your skills against the Wednesday night racers.

But you say you've never raced before? Don't know the rules? Own a cruising boat, not a racer?

On Friday evenings, starting May 27, the Yacht Club of Cape St. Claire will be running a low-key program on the Magothy River, with simplified rules for the beginning or casual racer, no spinnakers, no hassles. Many types of boats can participate, an 18-foot pocket cruiser or a 40-foot cruising yacht.

But you say you need instruction? Need a crew?

Well, we can help there! An experienced racing skipper can climb aboard your boat and guide you around the buoys and provide tactical advice during Friday Night races until you feel you are ready. And other crew is available also, should you need it.

Like they say, you only go round once in life - maybe it's time for you to experience the pleasure which keeps racers returning to the river, week after week and year after year.

For more info, contact Phil Ourisson (pourisson@gmail.com), Alan Weiss (racingsocialchair@magothysailing.org) or myself (commodore@magothysailing.org)

Joe Berchielli

Joe Berchielli, Commodore, 2021

Junior Training

There's still room in our Junior Training program! Do you know any youngsters, ages 9 to 17, who would like to learn to sail or improve their sailing skills? Registrations are being taken and space is available to enter the MRSA Junior Training Program, which will be held weekdays, at the Grachur Club, Monday, July 11 through Friday, July 22.

This 2-week program is affordable, and Fleet Captain/Director Grace O'Brien and Fleetmaster Shepherd Drain are working to provide an educational and fun experience on the waters of the Magothy River.

You can get more information by visiting https://magothysailing.org/junior-training and feel free to contact us by email at juniortraining@magothysailing.org.

Racing Corner

"Start first and increase your lead." *Buddy Melges*

The racing season has officially started! Twelve boats made it out to the first race of the year. Winds were moderate to light with a crisp chill still in the air for the three fleets. Since ***Incommunicado*** was on the hard finishing up getting ready for the

season, we jumped on another MRSA member's boat (Patrick and Denise Hannigan) to do RC duty. It's amazing how much stuff you have on the boat when you don't race and Patrick and Denise's Catalina 34 ***Regretless*** was well equipped with food/drinks along with a dodger to keep us out of the light, but cool, breeze.

We are looking forward to other boats joining us on Wednesday nights. If you haven't registered, please do and work with Jim Bradac on getting your RC date confirmed.

Next up for MRSA, besides more Wednesday Night racing, is our Spring Fling race on Saturday, April 30th. This race marks the start of weekend racing north of the Bay Bridge, and we hope that racers sign up to take part in the time trial event. It's a great way to shake the rust off for long distance racing and starts / end just outside of the river.

And finally, a few pictures from last's night race (Courtesy of Tim Ford and Jeff Thompson).

Cheers and sail fast!
Ed Tracey

From the Racing Social Chair

The first race of 2022 was Wednesday 4/20/22. Although turnout was light with twelve boats, it was great to be back on the water.

I have populated the "Boat Wanted" spreadsheet with some very worthy newbie sailors.

I myself have one new person who joined us on some shakedown sails including Sunday 4/17/22 when it was blowing steady 20 with gusts in the high 20's. We put the whisker pole through the main on a jibe, reefed, and kept sailing. Everyone was safe and it was exhilarating. Seeing the joy these newbies faces helps delay or even avoid burn out. Pick up a new crew member and feel the joy.

I'm still looking for a second beer boat volunteer. Please step up! I can you make it fun and easy. Email me at sailingdr@aol.com.

Alan Weiss

Cruising and Social Corner

MRSA Spring Brunch

The MRSA spring brunch was held on March 27th at the Gibson Island Boathouse. It was a chilly early spring day and the waves whipping up against the stranded ***Ever Forward*** container ship were clearly visible in the distance. Fortunately, the boathouse was a comfortable haven from the chill. It has been a couple of years since MRSA hosted a spring bunch. So, a special thank you to the twenty-six sailors who braved the weather and attended.

It was a good homecoming for guest speaker Dave Gendell, who grew up on the Magothy and participated in MRSA's junior training, both as a student and an instructor. Dave went on to co-found ***SpinSheet*** and ***PropTalk*** magazines and author the definitive book about the historic Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse: ***Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse: A Chesapeake Bay Icon***. His slide show and presentation focused on stories about the beginning of the sailing magazine industry in Annapolis and the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse. Everyone found Dave to be a very informative and highly entertaining speaker, and many of us stood in line to purchase a signed copy of his book.

Thank you to Dave Gendell for the excellent presentation and to Gibson Island for the wonderful venue, food and drink.

John Ratino

Save the Date: Sock Burning

This year's Sock Burning will be held at Looper Beach, starting at 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 14th. Larry Turner will play guitar and sing a variety of songs - a few old, many more recent, some you will recognize, some obscure, including a few great ones about sailing, love, and love of sailing. All new (and veteran) members are encouraged to attend. Come by boat or land, bring guests, socks to burn, side dishes to share, and your own drinks. Burgers and hotdogs, bear and wine, and makings for S'mores will be provided. The location is convenient and this is a great opportunity to make sure your boat is ready for the season, and, if it's not, well, you can drive your car.

Please email jratino@goulstonstorrs.com to let him know you will attend or for further information.

Cruise Schedule

The Cruising group has a great set of events planned! Watch the ***Old Man*** for more details; in the meantime, mark these dates on your calendars:

Cruise Leader	Event	Event Date
Rich & Toni Hughes	Memorial Day Weekend	May 28 - 30
Dave & Deni Boyer	West River/Rhode River	Jun 17 - 19
Rich & Toni Hughes	North Point Marina	Jul 2 - 4
Mike & Loura Bonham	Location to be Announced	Jul 16 – 17
Norm & Chris Poulsen	Dog Day Afternoon	Aug 20 - 21
Chris Adriance & Kristin Mullins	Labor Day Cruise to Choptank River	Sep 3 – 5
John & Debbie Lund	Long Cruise	Sep 6 – 11
Rich & Toni Hughes	Sunday Brunch Cruise; South River	Sep 10 – 11
John & Debbie Lund	Langford Creek Chester River	Sep 24 – 25
Angela Cremeans & Larry Turner	Rideout Creek Whitehall Creek	Oct 15 – 16
Chris Adriance & Kristin Mullins	Frostbite Cruise The Point Restaurant	Oct 22 – 23

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Magothy River Sailing Association
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Please do your part to restore the Bay and *actively make it cleaner*.