



# ***The Old Man***

***The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association***

*Margaret Burri, Editor*

## *January 2023*



### *Commodore's Comments*

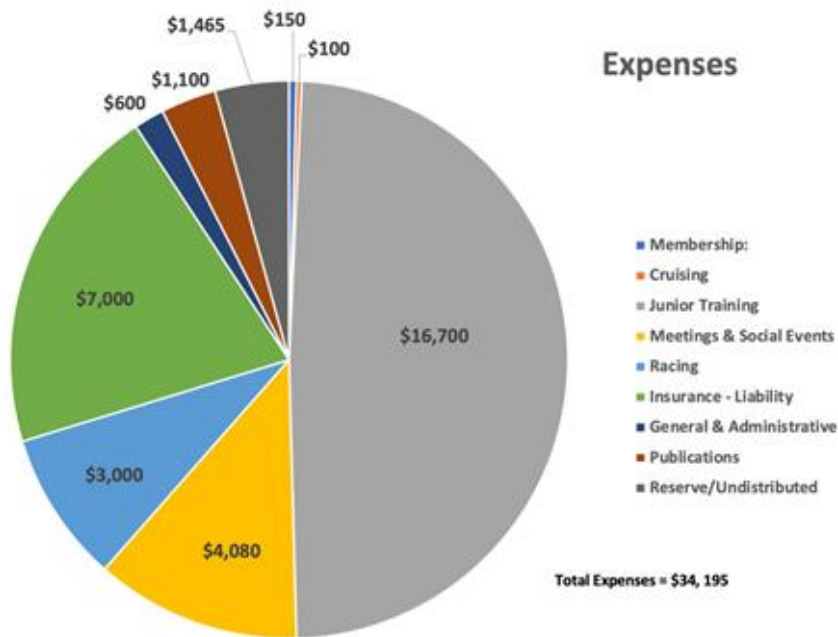
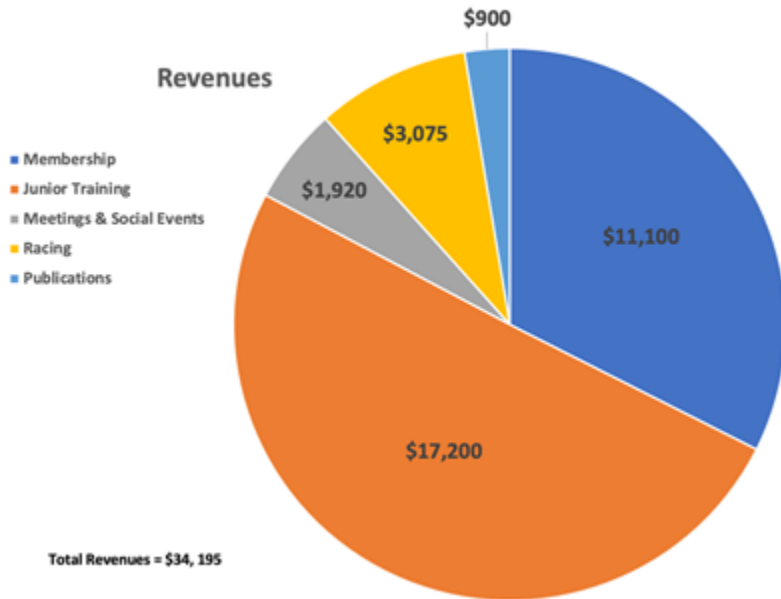
Happy New Year Everyone,

I hope the holidays were good and you had a chance to catch up with families and friends (and maybe watch the start of the Sydney to Hobart race on December 25<sup>th</sup>!). First, I would like to thank all the folks that volunteered to support MRSA this year in various roles. As many of you well know our club runs by the efforts of those volunteers, some who have been in positions for many years. As Commodore one of your biggest privileges is working with folks that are willing to put their time and energy into the organization.

As discussed during our Board of Governor's (BOG) meeting in December we have three main initiatives this year: increase membership (which also means retaining members); completely fill our Junior Training program; and update some of the MRSA processes (e.g., e-mail lists and document archives). I'll report on these initiatives during the year.

After a few years of deficits, the BOG passed a 2023 budget which restores approximately \$1,460 to our reserve fund. The hard choices included our first increase in membership fees in over twenty years. Of course, there are also a lot of assumptions that go into the budget, like membership renewals, new members, Junior Training students, and various expenses that might change but

we are off to a good start. The following pie charts summarize the expected revenues and expenses for 2023:



We are busy working on the 2023 calendar of events including cruising, racing, membership meetings and social events so stay tuned as we expect to have the schedule ready in early March.

As mentioned earlier we are working on getting our Junior Training program up and running to full capacity this year. The Grachur club has again agreed to host us this summer and we will be working with them to market the program to their membership. We do have a vacancy in the Fleet Captain Junior Training position as Grace O'Brian will be in school over the summer. If you know of anyone (parent, grandparent or college student) that is interested please let us know and we will get the job description out to those that are interested. And as always please spread the word about the program! MRSA members have priority registration starting March 1<sup>st</sup> so if you have kids or grandkids interested, please have them sign up.



And finally, to celebrate David Crosby's life and one of the best sailings songs ever written I leave you with one of the verses from the song "Southern Cross." (Photo credit: ESO, Claus Madsen, CC BY 4.0

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*Got out of town on a boat goin' to Southern Islands  
Sailing a reach before a followin' sea  
She was makin' for the trades on the outside  
And the downhill run to Papeete  
Off the wind on this heading lie the Marquesas  
We got eighty feet of the waterline nicely making way  
In a noisy bar in Avalon I tried to call you  
But on a midnight watch I realized why twice you ran away*

Cheers,

***Ed Tracey, Commodore***

## *Racing Corner*

Planning is underway for the 2023 racing season. MRSA will again host the Wednesday Night race series on the Magothy River, in conjunction with PSA, GIYS and YCCSC. The first race will take place on April 19th with races scheduled for every Wednesday through September 20th. A spring planning meeting for all interested racers will be held at Ledo's Pizza in Severna Park on March 29th. More details to follow.



MRSA will be hosting the Spring Fling Regatta again this year. Scheduled for Saturday, April 29th, the race will have the same format as in past years, with a 17nm course (wind dependent) on the Bay with three separate starting lines located at Baltimore Lighthouse, Swan Point and the Patapsco River entrance.

(Photo courtesy of Les Drickson.)

Ed Tracey and I attended the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Cruiser Racer Association (CRCA) held at the Severna Park Public Library on January 14th. Awards were presented to 2022 CRCA Series winners and MRSA was well represented.

Shephard Drain of **Heyday** was awarded 1st place CRCA B and 1st overall in the North of the Bridge (NOTB) Series.



Ed Tracey and Tim Polk of *Incommunicado* received awards for placing 2nd in the CRCA A class and 2nd overall in the Annapolis Series and 1st in CRCA A and 2nd overall in the NOTB Series. (Photos courtesy of Les Drickson.)



The 2023 CRCA NOTB Championship Series will consist of:

- April 29 – MRSA Spring Fling
- May 20 – MYC/RCRA Five Forts
- June 17 – PSA Moonlight
- July 16 - BCYA Race to Baltimore
- Sept 30 – GSA North of the Bridge Regatta
- Oct 7 – PSA Race to Rock Hall
- Oct 21 – BCYA Harbor Cup
- Oct 22 – FSK Classic

Awards will be determined by best of four of the eight events.

The number of boats racing on Wednesday nights continues to dwindle, mirroring what is being seen around the Bay. Last year we had 22 boats registered to race at the beginning of the season (19 monohulls and 3 multihulls) with only about 17 boats racing by season's end. This contrasts with 58 boats entered 25 years ago (according to MRSA archived race results). Interestingly, 4 boats listed on that 1997 list are still racing; ***Endless Summer, Sagacious, Charlie*** and ***White Lightning***. The Racing Program committee will be brainstorming in the coming weeks to try to identify ways to rekindle the racing spirit once seen on the Magothy. We would appreciate hearing suggestions from MRSA members on how to address this situation.

Only 3 short months until the first Wednesday night race. Better order your bottom prep supplies now.

***Jim Bradac, Rear Commodore***

### ***Racing Social Chair***

Now deep into winter, thoughts of sailing may seem distant, but not for Maggie and me. We just got back from Belize where we chartered a 40-foot catamaran.

My racing first mate, Mike Busch, joined us and we discovered the forgotten Caribbean. Isolated islands with minimal to no development, and private anchorages; definitely a piece of paradise.





What does this have to do with racing? A good bit actually. Racing teaches you to sail in a variety of conditions, and Bay racing teaches you navigation. Systems like refrigeration and shore power can be learned on the fly. The more you race the more you feel comfortable with extreme conditions. A sailing resume is required for chartering and you will obtain the needed hours to qualify in all but the Mediterranean where certification is required.

Now back to the job of growing the organization and getting crew. I will be able to supply boats with crew starting in March. Remember that adding newbie's keeps it fresh, avoids burnout, gives you team depth for those who can't make it, and adds to your circle of trust.

***Alan Weiss, Racing Social Chair***



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Please do your part to restore the Bay and *actively make it cleaner.*

