



The Old Man

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

Margaret Burri, Editor;

June & July 2023

Commodore's Comments



Photo credit: Grace O'Brien

Welcome to the mid-summer edition of the ***Old Man*** which contains updates and news from both June and July since your commodore was busy sailing up to Block Island, racing, and returning and totally forgot to send an article in for the June edition.

The big news this summer is that the Junior Program is in full swing as I'm writing and will wrap up on July 21st. We increased participation to around 34 kids from last year's enrollment of 24. Not quite to the program maximum of 40 but getting better. There is a lot of work that goes into making Junior Training work and I want to thank the following folks for making the program possible:

- Zoe Forsyth, Christine Miller-Langemark, Shep Drain, and Grace O'Brien for all of the planning that goes into marketing, enrollment, setting up camp, hiring instructors, etc.

- Grace, head instructor Eddie Langemark, and all the rest of the counselors (plus counselors in training) for battling the heat, jellyfish, and the occasional errant sailboat
- Grachur club members Karen Scarlett and Beth Cook. Karen is the president of Grachur club and Beth is the Grachur member that was on-site the entire time to allow us to use the facility
- Parents and grandparents that support the program by their participation in boat preparation, daily support during the camp, and the final breakdown of the boats.

I'm sure I missed a few folks but thanks again to everyone who made this program a reality. It's part of our mission to train junior sailors and instill the love of sailing which we all enjoy.

Next up on the social calendar is the August picnic. Dave Pirone and the support crew will be getting the Mil-Bur event set up for August 4th from 1p to 5 pm. Great time to come out and catch up with some of the MRSA cruisers and racers while not on the water. We hope to see both new and existing members out for this event.

Cheers,

Ed Tracey

Racing Corner

JUNE



1Photo credit: Mike Busch

I'm pleased to report that as June arrived, we saw the return of the vast majority of boats that raced last year with a couple of new participants. As of June 14th, we have 20 total boats; 10 spin, 7 NS and 4 MH. We've been lucky thus far to not have experienced any weather-related cancellations, although we came close on May 31st when boats were greeted at the starting line with 1kt winds.

Luckily that night's PRO,

Clent Lowe and the race committee aboard Merlin were closely monitoring the wind forecast and postponed the race for 25 minutes while the wind built as predicted. We ended up having a beautiful night of sailing while organizations in the surrounding area cancelled their racing.

No surprises thus far for Racing Session #2 as **Ultra Violet** has finished 1st for spin class in all 4 races, **Mikayla** has finished 1st in the MH class in all races she has competed and **Endless Summer** has dominated the non-spin class, although **Vagabond** edged her out for 1st place on June 7th in the only race she has competed in this year.

On June 13th the wind predictions were calling for 8-10kt winds so the Rear Commodore in consultation with the Commodore and Race Committee Chair made the call to hold the 2nd pursuit race of the season for the following day. Race PRO, Tom Awalt (who "volunteered" for the job on short notice having returned to the fleet only a week earlier) chose the A-EA2 course for the westerly winds. As we drove our boat, **Mischief**, out to the starting line it was clear that we

would have an exciting night of racing as the sustained winds were closer to 15kts with gusts over 20.

We made the call to reef the main and with about 8 minutes until our start, we decided to switch out our genoa for our #3 jib. We began hoisting the jib but when it was only halfway up a gust of wind ripped it from forestay, obliterating the Harken race foil in the process. Our race was over before we even got started.

After notifying the RC that we would be retiring we broke open the beer cooler early and proceeded to follow the fleet down to "E" as we headed home. It was a joy to watch the boats as they had to deal with the strong, gusty winds. From a distance it seemed as though all of the boats would be reaching the 1st mark at the same time despite the staggered pursuit race start. But out of the pack emerged ***Sagacious*** as she made the turn and hoisted her spinnaker. She was flying down the 2nd leg heading for "A" when a huge gust of wind caught her spinnaker and whipped her to her side. With experienced racer Jim Gary at the helm and his experienced crew they were able to quickly right the boat only to have another gust knock her down again. As I rushed to get my iPhone to record what I was seeing, the crew aboard ***Sagacious*** managed to reel in the spinnaker and proceed to "A" under mainsail alone. Amazingly after that catastrophe ***Sagacious*** still managed to finish 4th in her class, only 10 seconds out of 3rd.

There are regattas happening "North of the Bridge" almost every weekend for those who need more than just Wednesday nights to satisfy their racing appetites. PSA hosted their yearly Moonlight Race on June 17th. Excellent winds and warm temperatures made for a fantastic night of racing.

Saturday, June 24th, EYC hosted the Maryland Cures Cancer Regatta (formerly the Leukemia Cup). This year, in conjunction with MYC and RCRA they offered a NOTB start with a finish on the Severn River. On July 15th BCYA hosted the Race to Baltimore. This race has proven popular with MRSA racers as it features a start at Baltimore Lighthouse finishing in Baltimore's Inner Harbor with an after party at Anchorage Marina.

Farther afield, our Commodore, Ed Tracey, and boat co-owner Tim Polk moved their boat, Incommunicado, to Rhode Island to participate in Block Island Race Week held June 19-23. I look forward to seeing their report on those festivities in the July Old Man.

Jim Bradac, Rear Commodore

JULY

Series 3 took place under standard hot, hazy and humid July conditions, plus some smoke from fires a long way away added to the mix. Not so good for outside exercise but there have been some great sunsets.



We had 18 boats on the line on 6/28. With a scheduled raft-up there was one lap for everyone. The after-race party was a resounding success. Thank you, Alan Weiss (***Endless Summer***), for your determination to make it happen, and Kris and Jerry Chappell for delivering the beer! [Photo credit: Jim Bradac]

The first week in July was our first drifter of the year. Mercifully canceled. Thank you, Bruce!

The next week saw 17 boats on the river for an unexpectedly exuberant sail. Tough line and, yes, it was the standard JGA2, but we all got the opportunity for a second lap. As a side note, B mark is back from its walk-about and back on station.

The 19th was a more typical July evening. With a dying breeze, Lanny kept us guessing but finally pulled the trigger to shorten the race. Had us going to the point where we had to make sure we had provisions for a second lap.

Several MRSA racers raced up to Baltimore. Winds were not as light as predicted for the downwind run from Baltimore Light up to the inner harbor. Many opportunities to practice jibes and navi-guess to find the best breeze out of the worst of the current. Some boats were way more successful than others.

It has been great to see a consistent 17-18 boats out on Wednesday out of the total of 19 registered. There may be fewer than from previous eras but we're tenacious. Proving, once again, the adage that it's always better to be out on the river.

John Nicholson, Race Committee chair

Racing Social Chair



I hope everyone has enjoyed getting out on the water with friends and made new ones. I have one new crew member and know of other boats that have also taken on new crew. While this year has brought fewer newbies, I am pleased to report that those who have new crew have really enjoyed their effect on the racing experience. I continue to get inquiries and add them to the online spread sheet, so please

check it out every now and then if you think you have a place on your boat for one more crew member. [Photo credit: Jim Bradac]

The weather has finally taken a turn for raft ups and swimming fun. Our first raft up was a tremendous success! Great turn out and a super fun beer selection.

Sales Call (Kris and Jerry Chappell) delivered the beer, and **Endless Summer** was the anchor boat and the anchor held beautifully.

I'd like to share some tips for the next raft up in September:

Bring substantial bumpers. Boats presenting should have at least three good sized bumpers, bow and stern lines and a spring line. Spreaders have to be staggered so wave action won't affect them.

If you missed the raft up the next one will be the 6th of September. We would really appreciate a cruising boat to host the raft up so that boats can join the raft right after their finish. Shoot me an email if you can do this: SailingDr@aol.com. Once again, this event is for both racers and cruisers.

Alan Weiss, Racing Social Chair

Cruising Corner

Memorial Day Cruise 2023

Toni and Rich Hughes

Beautiful weather greeted many sailors at this holiday adventure. Saturday was a spring like warm day, low humidity, and a breeze. As has become tradition, the cruisers destined for Granery Creek on the Wye River were intermixed with the racing fleet to St. Michaels.

The happy hour was a shared event ashore with all clubs participating. The highlight of the happy hour was a Rum Punch sampling. Each club brought their own secret formula Rum drink to share. Each punch was tasty but MRSA's stole the show!!! Happy hour merged into "grill your own dinner" with hot coals provided by the host.

MRSA had Rich and Toni Hughes on ***Fantastic***, John and Debbie Lund on ***Chapter Three***, Dave and Deni Boyer on ***Victory*** and guests Frank and Sharon Synowiec aboard ***Sassy***. Dick and Marianne Kammann joined the group via land cruiser. Sunday morning started with the "silly boat inspection" conducted by MRSA inspectors. Thank you to the Lunds, Boyers and guests Synowiec for helping with this MRSA activity. Each year the inspection criteria changes and it is always humorous to watch people scramble to collect the inspection items in a very tight time limit.

Sunday afternoon again brought wonderful temperatures for our silly games. MRSA has hosted the Marlinspike (knot tying) for several years and it is always a fan favorite. The games were followed by a delicious Eastern Shore chicken dinner.

Monday was another clear day with comfortable temperature and low humidity but with very light (Non-existent) winds. It was still a great day to be on the water!!!

MRSA Long Cruise Wrap-Up

Debbie Lund

For the last several years, the MRSA cruise was a one-week cruise in September. This year, we tried something else; a two-week cruise in June. The goal was to travel as far south as Cape Charles and Norfolk. We didn't get to Norfolk.

On June 10, the Boyers on ***Victory*** and the Hughes on ***Fantastic*** departed the South River and the Lunds on ***Chapter Three*** departed the Severn River bound for Galesville in the West River. On Sunday, the winds were predicted to increase from the south. By early afternoon, the wind and waves increased to about 15 knots out of the south. The last several miles were slow and pounding into the waves. After anchoring in Mill Creek, near the Solomons, we went to dinner at the Lighthouse Restaurant. The weather prediction for Monday was for winds of 15 to 20 knots out of the south. The decision was to stay in Solomons and head for Reedville in the Great Wicomico on Tuesday.

The Hughes and Lunds anchored in Reedville (past the fish processing plant) after motoring 42 miles. Unfortunately, the Boyers had engine trouble at Smith Point in Virginia and had to be towed to Reedville. There were many problems with the tow so they decided to depart the cruise. On Wednesday, the Hughes and Lunds proceeded to Jackson Creek off the Piankatank River. The entrance to the creek is something to encounter (like Fairlee Creek). It is the backside of Deltaville and the home of the Fishing Bay Yacht Club. The rest of the week were short hops; East River in Mobjack Bay and Sarah Creek on the York River. Unfortunately, not much sailing due to light winds. We stayed at York River Yacht Haven for two nights. It was time to reprovision and do some laundry. At the entrance to the York River there was a Navy Destroyer going outbound. Since we have AIS, he called us by name on the radio to let us know he wanted us on the southern side of the channel. We gave him the right-of-way!

We changed our itinerary the second week. On Sunday, the two boats headed over to Cape Charles. It is a charming town with small shops and eating places. Unfortunately, the old hardware store closed its doors. Outside Cape Charles there were about 20 ships in the anchorage waiting to get their cargo.

After Cape Charles we headed back to the western shore to the Rappahannock River. We sailed up the river to the East Branch of the Corrotoman River. This area is part of the northern neck of Virginia. From the Corrotoman River, it is a short hop to Urbanna. Both boats tied up to a T head at the Urbanna Boatyard and Marina. The marina changed hands last year and the new owners could not have been nicer.

The weather forecast was not good for Wednesday, so we stayed an extra day. Forty knot gusts were seen in Urbanna. On Thursday, we went back to Reedville. We sailed from Windmill Point to the mouth of the Great Wicomico. The winds on Friday were 10-15 knots from due south with 3-4 foot swells. It was not a pleasant ride to the Solomons. On Saturday, we ended in Church Creek off the South River.

This was home for the Hughes and Boyers so we all had dinner together at their community club house.

On Sunday, we returned to Chesapeake Harbour off the Severn. We logged about 370 GPS miles. We did more motoring than sailing, but it is always fun to see a different area of the Bay. Since it was only two boats, most nights we had dinner together and Toni and I shared the cooking. We also had several nights at a restaurant. The two weeks had a variety of weather, but it was never hot and humid. All in all, it was a successful MRSA cruise.

Annual July 4th Cruise to North Point Marina at Rock Hall

Toni and Rich Hughes



This year, the July 4th holiday occurred on Tuesday. Three boats started the cruise on Saturday, July 1st in Swan Creek and moved to North Point Marina on Sunday: John and Debbie Lund on ***Chapter Three***, Mike and Laura Bonham on ***Frequent Flyer*** and Dave and Deni Boyer with sons Dillon and Rich on ***Victory***. This flotilla moved to North Point Marina on Sunday and were joined by David and Shari Argue on ***Mariah***, Vicky and Stu Timerman on

Dark Star, Rich and Toni Hughes on ***Fantastic*** and two guest boats: ***Sassy*** with Frank and Sharon Synowiec and ***Folly*** with Bob and Carolyn Troise who were joined by their son and family Scott and Marcella and their two children Luca and Lilly. As people arrived, they headed for the pool to cool off.

In lieu of happy hour at 1700 hours, the group opted to go to dinner early at the Harbor Shack to avoid the dinner hour rush – very good decision!! With the group of 22 people, we split into groups of 4 to 6 people to be seated – another good decision. All reports were that the food was excellent. Next year, rather than plan a happy hour and then dinner out, we will plan dinner out and then a group dessert. After dinner, everyone turned in early to batten down for severe storm with strong winds. For those of us without AC, it was a stuffy night.

Monday the 3rd was a free day to “do as you please.” Most people spent at least part of the day in the pool; several people walked into town to explore. Everyone gathered at the pavilion on the dock at 1700 hours for happy hour and a potluck dinner and then retired to their boats to prepare for the fireworks. There were storms threatening and we were unsure that the fireworks display would occur. At 2100 hours the music began and as the wind settled down the fireworks began on schedule. The display ended at 2133 hours and the heavens opened at 2134. Everyone batten down for the night. All agreed that the display was “the best ever.”

For the 4th, most stayed to enjoy another day in Rock Hall. The Hughes left early and had a motorboat ride home to host a house full of family. Argues walked into town to watch the parade and then departed for home.

Despite threatening weather throughout the holiday, the event was a great opportunity to spend time with friends and enjoy the facilities at North Point Marina.

August Save the Dates!

Milbur Picnic: Saturday, August 5

The August picnic/cruise at Mil-Bur Community Park is coming up on Saturday, August 5th. It should be a fun afternoon and the August picnic is always a wonderful opportunity to catch up with everyone. There always is a lot of interesting conversation, and this year Larry Turner will be there to play guitar and sing a variety of songs – some oldies, many more recent, some you will recognize and some that may be new to you. I expect he will include a few great ones about sailing, love, and love of sailing.

Activities will start at 1:00 and by 2:00 the grills will be hot and busy with hamburgers and hot dogs grilling. Drinks are provided but please bring a side dish, salad, or a dessert to share with the group.

Cornfield Creek is a well-protected secure anchorage just off the north shore of Gibson Island. After entering the creek be sure to heed the small green can #1 (stay to the right of the can) and then look for the Mil-Bur community pier at the north end of the creek. If you have any questions, give Dave Pirone a call 410-255-4953.

Land directions - take Rte. 100 to the end where it merges onto Mountain Road. Continue straight for about 3 miles and after passing Chesapeake High School on the left the next right turn is Milburn Circle. Turn right and go straight to the clubhouse and pool.

This year, I am soliciting volunteers to help man the grill and tidy up after the picnic. Please, please let me know if you would be willing to volunteer to help! Also, if you have not already done so, please, please RSVP to let us know if you are coming no later than Wednesday, August 2nd so that we can shop accordingly.

Please RSVP to John Ratino (jratino@goulstonstorrs.com)

I hope to see you there,

John Ratino , Vice Commodore, MRSA

Dog Day Afternoon

And possibly evening! Join us for this year's cruise to Eagle Cove, Aug 19 - 20. Norm and Chris Poulsen are the cruise leaders and will be providing the hot dogs. Bring appetizers and desserts to share, as well as drinks, and plan on spending a leisurely afternoon out of the midday sun with fellow MRSA members.

Chris and Norm will anchor ***Horizon***, their new-to-them Catalina 36 in Eagle Cove by 1:00 Saturday 8/19 afternoon. Other boats are welcome to raft up or anchor nearby. We will provide hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Other boats may provide a dish to share, and their own beverages.

Right now, we plan to stay anchored overnight, weather conditions permitting. This event is open to all, so we hope to see racers there as well!

Member Corner

Welcome to new member, David Hankey. He usually crews on boats Wednesday nights in Annapolis and wants to have the option to race his own boat, an old and much-loved 1967 Pearson Renegade, ***Night Owl***, on the Magothy.

In David's own words: "I have been sailing my whole life, much of it on the Magothy (where I grew up and still live). I've raced as crew for many years in the Annapolis Wednesday Night Races, the NOOD, Solomons Race, the Oxford race, and many others. I sail the **Night Owl** in the CRAB Cup each year. Most of the time, my family and I simply putter around the Magothy and the Bay."

PHOTO GALLERY

Enjoy these photos of July 4th and the Raft up, courtesy of Toni Hughes and Shari Argue





Race and Raft Up







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

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