



The Old Man

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River
Sailing Association*



January 2025

Commodore's Comments



Happy New Year All!

Wow, it's cold outside! Maryland is experiencing a real old-fashioned winter, and the dreaded wintry mix has once again become a topic of conversation. But fear not MRSA members, I bring good news: Spring Sailing Season is just around the corner.

As MRSA begins its 51st year, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have supported MRSA's mission over the years.

In particular, I appreciate the MRSA members who have volunteered to join the BOG this year (and our immediate

past Commodore, Ed Tracey, as well as the other immediate past BOG members, Chris Lindsay, Joe Berchielli, John Nicholson, and Grace O'Brien). And I think Ed Tracey deserves special recognition for volunteering to be our Rear Commodore this year after serving as Commodore for the past two years. It is a great privilege to serve with other MRSA volunteers who devote so much of their time and energy to ensure MRSA's success.

It is a notable achievement for any membership organization to continue its mission for 50 years, and MRSA starts its 51st year in good financial shape, with a well-regarded Junior Training program and active racing, cruising, and social programs. I can report that the BOG met on January 9th and approved our 2025 budget, which projects a surplus resulting in substantial part from increasing our Junior Training program fees to bring them more in line with market rates. Registration for our Junior Training opens on February 1st, with members of MRSA and Grachur Club and returning sailors having registration priority until March 1st. The BOG is also actively working on the 2025 racing, cruising and social calendars. Please save the date of Sunday, March 23rd, for the MRSA Spring Brunch. More details on the Spring Brunch and other events will come out as dates and details become available.

Despite its success, MRSA is facing a very real challenge: Like many sailing associations, MRSA is experiencing a gradual decline in membership. It will take effort by our entire membership to successfully reverse this. So, I am calling on every member to help! We are establishing a Membership Engagement Committee to focus specifically on this issue. If you would like to join this new committee, please let me know. If not, please consider how you might otherwise be able to help us address this issue. If you have a crew member, relative, friend or neighbor, who will make a good MRSA member, please bring them to one of our social functions. If you have other ideas on how to increase MRSA's membership, please share them.

Finally, MRSA membership renewals have been sent out. So, if you have not already renewed your membership, please take a few minutes this week to do so. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the renewal process.

Cheers,

John Ratino, Commodore
commodore@magothysailing.org

Racing Corner

Happy New Year, hope everyone is enjoying the brisk weather. Good news is that there are still a few racing events to follow while we wait for better weather. The Sydney – Hobart race was a tough race this year and unfortunately with two fatal accidents. The Vendee Globe racers have started to finish their non-stop solo race around the world. The winning boat averaged over 17 knots during the 64 days it took them to finish the race.

DJ Parry and I will be managing the race program this year. For those of you that don't know DJ he races on **Charlie** (J-35) on Wednesday nights on the Magothy, races Tuesday night on a Frers 38, races Thursdays and the occasional Friday nights on a J-24 out of Annapolis. On top of all of that he's in the process of getting a new boat which I'll let him provide details on next month. We have been meeting to start planning and will send out a note to racers when we finalize some of our dates. For a preview of the schedule, we are planning the following:

- An early February Zoom meeting to talk about lessons learned from last year, the 2025 schedule, and to gather feedback for this year's racing season.
- Our traditional in-person meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 19th. Once we have the location confirmed we will send out a hold the date notice.

MRSA Race Committee representatives took part in Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association's annual race scheduling meeting on Saturday, January 18th, to help coordinate the race calendar for the coming year. MRSA will be hosting the Spring Fling Regatta again this year. This race, scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, will have the same unique format as last year's inaugural event; a 17nm course (wind dependent) on the Bay with 3 separate starting locations; Baltimore Light, Swan Point and the Patapsco River entrance. Boats start at the location of their choice anytime within a specified time slot and can travel either clockwise or counterclockwise around the course. Each boat records their own start time and reports their finish time at the conclusion of the circuit.

MRSA will again be hosting the Wednesday Night race series in conjunction with PSA, GIYS and YCCSC. First race is tentatively scheduled for April 16th and races

will take place every Wednesday thereafter through September 17th. We are looking to turn the Hallie Rice race into one distance race starting and finishing in the Magothy with a jaunt out to Baltimore Light (lighthouse). More details will follow on the schedule and Hallie Rice Fall Lighthouse race after discussion at our winter planning meetings.

The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) have been updated for the next four years (2025 – 2028). We will provide some more detail on what's changed since the last set of races but no changes too wild (or weird) this time like some of the new NFL rules (kick-offs).

And finally, CBYRA has once again lined up their list of speakers for their 2025 winter webinar series. These live webinars for CBYRA (and sometimes open to PHRF) members are starting up this month with two sessions on the recent rules change. CBYRA membership is a great bargain to get access to their webinar series. Please check them out at cbyra.org for more details.

Less than 3 months to the first race so fingers crossed that we have reasonable weather in the Spring so you can get your boat ready in time to get things rolling in early April.

Cheers,

Ed Tracey – Rear Commodore; rear_commodore@magothysailing.org

DJ Parry – Race Committee Chair; race_committee@magothysailing.org

Racing Social Chair

Inspired by my match making on the river, with crew and captains, I had an epiphany. I decided to do the same thing in our community of Stewart's Landing, matching people with interests in kayaking, running, biking, cooking, and yes of course sailing.

Our Homeowner's Association is password protected and on the message board I added categories for folks to add their names and contact information. If you have a HOA website that has a message board, I would like to suggest you put up the topic "sailing" and suggest people sign up with their specific interest ie. racing, cruising, learning, weekdays, weekends, and we can start from there. Check back

periodically and see if you get any bites. Send me (SailingDr@aol.com) the information and I can add it to the online Boat Wanted spreadsheet.

Volunteership is literally what keeps this organization alive, so if you haven't volunteered but don't want a yearlong commitment, volunteer to be Beer Boat. Cruisers are welcome and in fact perfect because they can set the hook, watch the race, and then host a great party! RSVP ASAP please.

Alan Weiss, Endless Summer, sailingdr@aol.com

Junior Training Program

Junior Training Program registration opens on February 1st, 2025! Please visit magothysailing.org/junior-training/ for registration information or email me at juniortraining@magothysailing.org. The program will be held on weekdays from Monday, July 7 to Friday, July 18, at the Grachur Club in Pasadena. The cost for members is \$600, and for nonmembers it is \$780. We prioritize MRSA members and any grandchildren and (grand)nieces and nephews.

We are, also, on the hunt for some chase boats. We are looking for small whalers or inflatable dinghies for the program. These boats are used to instruct from the water and there will be no students on the boats unless there is an emergency. Boats will only be driven by those with a boater's license and are covered under MRSA's insurance policy. All gas will be paid for throughout the JT Program. Please feel free to reach out if you have something like this. Thank you in advance.

Cruising Corner

Hello Fellow MRSA Cruisers,

With some of the 8" of snow still on the ground, our boats covered in ice/snow, and water frozen at the pier, that can mean only one thing;

It's time to plan 2025 MRSA Cruising Season!

Joyce and I are going to serve as Fleet Captains for cruising in 2025 and I wanted to reach out to everyone to get feedback on what type of cruises are you interested in, and if you would like to lead one or more cruises.

For those of you new to MRSA or to our cruising life, here is a summary of what we have done in recent years;

- Land cruises - if you are short on time, or without a boat, you can join us for a dinner or picnic lunch and still be part of the cruising community
- Day cruises - done often during the middle of the summer for a cookout/swimming and general fun during Happy Hour
- Weekend cruises - your typical two-day cruise, often led by members to their favorite creek or Yacht Club
- Long weekend cruises, such as Memorial Day, 4th July, Labor Day
- Long Cruise - one or two weeks long, up/down the Bay.

We have the MRSA net for worry free swimming, it's for when jellyfish appear. Although we have not used it yet, this could be the year to put it to good use.

We've also had some requests to organize a "kid friendly" cruise, so please share your suggestions on how to make our cruises more appealing to families with children.

Let's make 2025 a memorable and safe cruising season

Regards,

Ziya Gun, FC Cruising; cruising@magothysailing.org