



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



March 2025

Commodore's Comments

Congratulations to Yvonne Dedrickson, who was formally elected as Fleet Captain - Junior Training at the MRSA Spring Brunch Meeting on March 23rd. Also, I would like to congratulate and extend a warm welcome to William & Jennie Ewing, our newest MRSA members!

Personally, I was out in Utah skiing last week, which was great fun, but I was sorry to miss our Spring Brunch and the Belvedere Yacht Club Sock Burning and Chili Cook Off. My sources tell me both were well attended, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Is everyone else starting to get excited that sailing season is just around the corner? I am attending to the last bits of winter maintenance on my new (to me) boat, ***Caleighmia***, and starting to get a bit antsy because she is scheduled to launch on April 1st! I am really looking forward to just getting out on the water and seeing you all out there.

As most everyone knows, MRSA's wonderful supporter and benefactor, Eddie Looper, passed away last year. Fortunately for MRSA, Eddie had provided in his testamentary documents that he wished for existing uses of his property, like those of MRSA, be allowed to continue. Eddie's estate is sorting through the future ownership of the property this year, and this has resulted in some hopefully short-term issues regarding MRSA's use of his property. So, we have decided to hold this year's Sock Burning at Twin Harbor Pavilion (181 Baybourne

Dr, Arnold, MD 21012) on May 3rd. Please mark your calendars and remember family and friends are encouraged to attend!

We currently have 18 students registered for Junior Training at our two-week training program at the Grachur Club. The Program will be held on weekdays from Monday, July 7th to Friday, July 18th. While we do currently have a waiting list, we definitely could accommodate several more students. So, please continue to spread the word about the program. Registration is online and the forms can be found at <https://magothysailing.org/junior-training/>.

Finally, please don't forget that we want to increase our membership. This is one of the reasons we are now coordinating some of our social activities with other organizations, like the Belveder Yacht Club, and everyone can do their part to help with this effort. You can help by mentioning MRSA to fellow sailboat owners and others who might be interested in our social, racing and cruising activities, displaying your MRSA burgee or sticker when you are out and about, and inviting prospective members to our social activities. So, please continue to spread the word about MRSA.

Cheers,

John Ratino, commodore@magothysailing.org

Racing Corner

"Sailboat racing becomes a game of chance only when you are not prepared." - Buddy Melges

And yes, it's that time of year to get prepared. The weather has turned (except for the occasional last gasps of winter) and we hope you're getting ready for the new season. As part of our preparation, we had our Spring Meeting at The Social restaurant on Wednesday, March 19th. About thirty racers showed up at the meeting to go over the finalized racing schedule, scoring options, and the recently updated Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). A few key takeaways from that meeting (presentation is available on-line if you didn't receive it via email):

Racing Schedule

- Practice Starts / On the Water Committee Boat Training – April 16, DJ will be sending out more details.
- First Race – April 23
- Spring Fling (Weekend Race) – Sat, May 3rd, registration is open on our website, please help support our race!
- Fall Race (in conjunction with PSA) – Weekend of September 28th
- End of Season Party – Wednesday, October 5th

Registration

Registration is open and we have about ten (10) folks that have signed up so far. Please go on-line and sign up along with picking your race committee slot.

Scorer Reminders

- Please make sure you fully complete the check-in sheet and finish sheets
- Starting Times
- Actual Courses Sailed
- Use military times for finishing times
- Pick the person with the best handwriting to do the paperwork!
- And finally, please send a photo of the results as soon as possible after the finish otherwise results will be delayed

Handicap Ratings

- 2025 scoring will be existing PHRF ratings using Time on Time scoring
- We will be shadow scoring the fleet using two methods:
- MURF 2.0, golf handicapping using 2024 Seconds Per Mile (SPM) data to calculate new handicaps
- North American Ratings (NAR), using VPP generated handicaps that are wind and course (windward / leeward vs. random course).
- More details will be available on-line

Racing Rules Updates

- No major changes but several rules have had tweaks, in particular; Rule 14 Avoiding Contact, Rule 17 On the Same Tack, Rule 18 Mark Room, and Rules 19 & 20 Obstructions.
- A link to the new rules and changes have been posted to racing section of the MRSA website

As always if you have any feedback on the racing program, please let us know.

Here's to a warm Spring, freshly painted bottoms, and excited skippers and crew to get out on the water shortly.

Cheers,

Ed Tracey, Rear Commodore, rear_commodore@magothysailing.org

Racing Social Chair

Racing season is just around the corner, and I have begun my match making endeavors. If you are not signed up on the website "Boat looking for crew" already, and want crew, please do so.

I missed my chance at the recent Race Planning Meeting to request Beer Boat volunteers, so here's my plea! We need two boats to buy (you do get reimbursed!) and help drink beer. They don't have to be part of the racing fleet. In fact it really is better if it is cruiser, so they can be anchored during the race.

Please send me your preferred dates. My preference would be a late second series and a 4th or 5th series event.

In summary:

1. Website to sign up <https://magothysailing.org/racing/crew-boat/>.
2. Volunteer to be beer boat. Don't let it be the other guy.

Alan Weiss, Racing Social Chair, sailingdr@aol.com

Cruising Corner

Hello Cruisers,

Spring is finally here. We held our Spring Bunch on Sunday, and for those who had requested them, received hard copies of the 2025 **Red Book**. Both the social events and cruising calendars are in print now, as hard copy documents they are locked in place, until next year. However, the activities are very much dynamic and subject to change. If you have an idea for a cruise and wish to lead it, let us know and we will try to make it happen.

As of today, one event still needs a cruise leader: the annual trip to Rock Hall for the 4th of July. If you are able to take the lead, please let me know.

The next social event, by land or by sea, will be the Sock Burning at Twin Harbor Community Pavilion, 191 Baybourne Drive, Arnold, Maryland, on Saturday, May 3rd. Festivities get underway at 4 p.m. and last until 7 pm. It might be a good time to undertake a shakedown cruise on our boats before the season gets fully underway.

Looking forward to another safe and fun filled cruising season.

Regards,

Ziya Gun, Fleet Captain, Cruising; cruising@magothysailing.org

Membership Corner

MRSA 2025 Spring Brunch and General Membership Meeting



MRSA members gathered for the annual Spring Brunch and Membership meeting on March 23. After a bit of socializing, the members enjoyed a brunch catered by Garry's Grill in Severna Park, followed by a brief break

for Association business to elect Yvonne Dedrickson as Fleet Captain-Junior Training.

The speaker at the brunch, Richard Payne who is a veteran coastal sailor, told a tale of his experience saving a 35' sailing vessel (owned by David Argue) from crashing ashore on the New Jersey coast in heavy seas. A snapped bow line in windy conditions at a marina days earlier had led to damage to the boat's rudder, some of which went undetected until the rudder was completely lost about a mile offshore north of Barnegat Inlet in New Jersey. What came next was a mayday call to the Coast Guard, failed attempts by a good Samaritan to tow the boat away from the shore, and finally, the under-sized anchor holding against all odds just inside the outer line of breakers. Ultimately, the boat and crew were towed away safely by the Coast Guard, and David's boat lived to sail another day.

David Argue, vice_commodore@magothysailing.org

Member News:

MRSA member Carolyn Cuncell is having her annual open studio tour April 5 & 6 from 10 to 5 pm. For more information, see <https://www.artistopenstudios.com/artist-carolyncuncell>