



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



May 2025

Commodore's Corner

Well, after focusing on racing for the last few years, I have decided to join a few other MRSA members and participate in the Eastport Yacht Club Memorial Day cruise to Wye River. Anchoring on the hook for couple of nights with Trish will be a new adventure for us and we are finding there is much to learn! We both really appreciated David Argue coming to our boat last week and helping us prepare. And I would like to thank Ziya Gun for coordinating MYSA's participation in the cruise. I'll let you know how it goes in a future Commodore's Corner!

MRSA's next social event is the June Picnic on Saturday, June 7th. It will be held at Norm and Chris Paulsen's house in Annapolis. Looking forward a bit, our next following social event will be the August Picnic on Saturday, August 2nd at Mil-Bur Park on Cornfield Creek.

Remember, friends, family and guests are welcome at MRSA activities, and prospective new MRSA members are particularly welcome! Our Membership Enhancement Committee headed by Tim Polk is up and running. So, please be on the lookout for ideas about what we can do to increase our membership. Everyone's participation in this effort is welcome and needed.

I would again like to thank Yvonne Dedrickson, Grace O'Brien, Shep Drain and Angela Ward for their commitment to MRSA's junior training program. Our junior training program is scheduled to run on weekdays from Monday, July 7th to

Friday, July 18th. This year we were able to hire fewer instructors than in previous years, so the program will be mostly focused on our younger sailors (aged 13 and younger), and we are encouraging a limited number of our more mature junior sailors to participate as junior instructors in training. We also received a nice response from MRSA members in our call for chase boat support. A special thanks to the MRSA members who volunteered to spend some time on the water supporting our junior training program!

Finally, please note the Bylaws Amendment Committee headed by Ed Tracey has made significant progress in preparing an update to our bylaws that will make them more modern and eliminate archaic provisions. I appreciate Ed's efforts, as well as the efforts of David Hankey, who has significant legal expertise in governing documents for non-profits and generously volunteered his time to assist in this effort. We hope to be in a position to hold a general membership vote on the by-laws amendment in connection with this year's August Picnic.

Cheers,

John Ratino, commodore@magothysailing.org

Members' Corner

Hello MRSA Members:

Our next social event is coming up in a few weeks! The **MRSA June Picnic** will be held on **June 7 beginning at 4:00 p.m.** I am happy to say that Chris & Norm Poulsen have agreed to host the party with a cookout at their home in Annapolis. As was the case with the Sock Burning, I have ordered good weather so the picnic will be a great way to top off your weekend with fellow MRSA members and friends. Please bring along any friends you think might enjoy the party or be interested in joining MRSA. We are always looking to get new faces involved in the club.

MRSA will provide hamburgers (meat and veggie) and hotdogs along with buns and condiments. We will also have a supply of beer, wine, soft drinks, and water. **Members are requested to bring side dishes or desserts to share.** Also, please bring a folding chair to ensure that you have a place to sit while you chat and eat.

You are welcome to drive to the Poulsen's residence at 20 Wardour Drive in Annapolis. If you wish to sail, please anchor in Weems Creek, and then drive your dinghy around the corner into the Severn to the beach next to the Poulsen's boat "Horizon," a Catalina 36.

Please let me know by return e-mail (reply just to me, not to all) or you can text or call my cell at 240-476-5097. I'll send reminder messages, but we'd like to have your **responses by June 4.**

Thanks.

David Argue, Vice Commodore, dargue@secretariat-intl.com

Welcome To A New Member

We're delighted to welcome Tim Fenton, his wife, Whitney, and his children, Hank and Samantha to the MRSA family. Tim is a graduate of the Naval Academy, and sailed Navy 44s during college, including offshore. He also had brief stint coaching the offshore sailing team, but then family obligations took over. As he says, "[I've] been sailing since I was 10 but while fairly naive to racing rules, I know my way around a boat." He joined us at our sailing planning meeting earlier this spring and looks forward to racing on Wednesdays.

Racing Corner

Racing season is well underway with MRSA Wednesday Night Races and local regattas. The 5th Annual Magothy River Sailing Association (MRSA) Spring Fling race was held on Saturday, May 3rd. Ten boats entered this unique event which is a time trial event featuring three starting points (Patapsco River Entrance, Outside of Bodkin Creek and over on the Eastern Shore near Rock Hall).

The event started out with great Chesapeake summer racing weather; clear skies, and a lighter breeze which build into a solid Southeast breeze up into the upper teens. Last year we switched the format so boats can start at any of the marks and sail the course either in a clockwise and counterclockwise direction. With the moderate to strong breeze the long course of 17 miles was set.

The PHRF and CRCA (ORR ratings) each had three boats, and the larger class was the multihull class with four boats signed up. The winner of the PHRF class was Bill Trainor's *Flow* out of Rock Hall, with MRSA's *Incommunicado* winning the CRCA fleet and MRSA / PSA member Jeff Thompson's *Patriot* winning the multihull fleet.



MRSA's Wednesday Night racing has completed their first series with a total of four races completed. So far, we have had nineteen (19) boats out racing, including newcomer ***Crumbs*** (left) and expect a few more boats to show up starting in Series 2. Series 1 Results are as follows:

Multihull

1st Place – Jeff Thompson, *Patriot*

Spinnaker

1st Place – Tim Polk / Ed Tracey, *Incommunicado*

2nd Place – Shep Drain, *Hey Day*

3rd Place – Dave Purcnal, *UltraViolet*

Non-Spinnaker

1st Place – Joe Berchielli, *Allu*

2nd Place – Lanny Helms, *Windswept*

3rd Place – Alan Weiss, *Endless Summer*

Potapskut Sailing Association's annual Moonlight Race is coming up June 7th. This race starts in the vicinity of Baltimore Light around 1600 hrs and will race under a

full moon this year! Wind conditions willing, the long course will go north to Pooles Island Light while the short course uses Craighill Channel Light. This year's race will include a novice class where boats will be offered a free rating to participate. After the race a free hearty breakfast is hosted at PSA's clubhouse on Blackhole Creek, where sailors can dock for the night. Registration can be found at <https://nextsailor.com/app/page/regatta/882>.

The first post-race raft-up is planned for Wednesday, June 11. Stay tuned for more information and details.

And finally, the Yacht Club of Cape St. Claire is once again sponsoring low-key racing on Friday nights at 1900 hrs on the Magothy. Racing started on May30th and will continue into September. For more information go to [YCCSC Friday Night Racing](#)

Cheers,

Ed Tracey, Rear Commodore, rear_commodore@magothysailing.org

Racing Social Chair



Reminder: Our first BEER RAFT UP, 6/11/25, is open to both racers and cruisers. We would like to make this an organization-wide event, not just a racers' event, so please show up ready to drink. You will need to inform the Beer Boat, ***Mariah***, captained by Dave Argue, dargue@secretariat-intl.com, how

many beer drinkers are on your boat. The picture at left is a blast from the past--a spontaneous Raft Up that started at D after winds died. Let's try to get even more boats out!

Fingers crossed the race won't be cancelled. Not a lot of luck in that category this year sadly. I understand I speak for the not so vocal minority when I say that in the good ole days races were never cancelled for rain, and gusts of 25, but instead sustained winds of 25. The racing fleet has a mix of racers and IMHO all voices should be heard. Many racers love heavy air and of course there are those that prefer moderate to light air. In the past, the captain of each boat could make the decision to sail or stay home. Many things have happened to make our organization more conservative, not the least of which were deaths on the water. I respect that concern for safety, but we have had decades of great racing in heavy air and that seems to be lost. I am hoping we can get you heavy air sailors out there more in the future.

I am also hoping for a great organizational turnout on 6/11/25.

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

Cruising Corner

Hello Cruisers,

The sailing season is finally here and the MRSA Cruisers participated in the first event of the season, the 30th Anniversary Wye Island Inter-Club Rendezvous. On Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 - 26, 2025.

This annual event was hosted by Eastport YC with several organizations participating, among them MRSA, for a long time, (don't ask me how long, way before my time!) Some of the "regulars" weren't able to participate; however, we had some new first-time attendees and that's really great news for the longevity of the cruising program.

Welcome to 2025 cruising season! See you out on the water.

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July 4th Cruise

North Point Marina has been sold and it sounds like it is filling up quickly for the July 4th weekend. Please contact Marshall Owings at North Point Marina, 410-708-5382 (c) or 410-639-2907 (o) if you want to reserve a slip for the holiday. There is still a 2-night minimum, and the new owners need the following information regarding your boat: name, phone number, home address, email address, boat name, boat make and model, length, beam, draft and electrical requirements. Remember the fireworks are on July 3 and there will likely be a potluck dinner on the 3rd and a restaurant night on the 4th.