



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



July 2025

Commodore's Comments

Needless to say, July has not been the best month for sailing. If it wasn't oppressively hot, it was heavily raining. Oh well, here's to better weather in August and the rest of the 2025 sailing season.

I am optimistically looking forward to kicking off better weather at the MRSA August Picnic/Cruise! As is our tradition, the Taylors and Pirones will be hosting the August Picnic/Cruise. I am looking forward to seeing my MRSA friends there and, as Dave Argue said, hoping for some nice cool breezes. Please remember to bring along your friends and, of course, any possible new members. The MRSA August Picnic/Cruise will be held on Saturday, August 2nd, starting at 1:00.

Please remember we do intend to conduct a little MRSA business at the August Picnic/Cruise. You have been sent a proposed revision to the MRSA bylaws that is intended to modernize the Bylaws and address some practical issues. It is important to MRSA's efficient functioning that we keep our Bylaws current. Assuming we have a quorum, we will vote on the Bylaws revision then. So, there, you have another reason to attend! I would again like to thank Ed Tracey and David Hankey for their efforts in updating the Bylaws, and I would like to also thank Tim Polk for his work on the Bylaws.

I am happy to report that, notwithstanding our initial challenges finding a sufficient number of instructors, we had a very successful Junior Training Program

this year. The participants were engaged, learned a lot about the fundamentals of sailing, and had a wonderful experience. Yvonne Dedrickson, MRSA's Fleet Captain for Junior Training deserves the lion's share of the credit for the Program's success this year, going above and beyond to meet every challenge, of which there were more than a few, and even offering her home for the Junior Training Awards Ceremony and Picnic. Shep Drain, MRSA's Fleetmaster also deserves real credit for managing our Junior Training Fleet while MRSA's continued use of the Lopper Property is sorted out. And I would like to call out Ella Bowen, our Head Junior Training Instructor, for a special thanks. Everyone I have spoken to about the Junior Training Program this year has done nothing but praise her skill and efforts. Finally, we should all thank Grace O'Brien, who remains invested in the Program's success and continues to provide support.

I hope to see everyone out there on the water!

Cheers,

John Ratino, Commodore, commodore@magothysailing.org

Racing Corner

We are well into the heart of our racing season as we have finished two series and have one more race to complete Series 3. With the addition of two new boats this year, the non-spinnaker is one of the largest on the bay (13 boats). DJ and I will be reaching out to them to discuss some options for Series 5. The spinnaker fleet is still doing well with eight boats. We recently learned that long term MRSA racer Chris Lindsay has sold his boat (J-80 ***Jezebel***) so we wish him best of luck.

Here are the standings in the Second Series:

Multihull

1st Place – John Nicholson, *Mikayla*

Spinnaker

1st Place – Dave Purcnal, *UltraViolet*

2nd Place – Shep Drain, *Hey Day*

3rd Place – Bruce Mitchell, *Charlie*

Non-Spinnaker

1st Place – Alan Weiss, *Endless Summer*

2nd Place – White Lightening, *Bob Aaron*

3rd Place – Dick White, *Nike*

4th Place – Joe Berchielli, *Allu*

MRSA and PSA are excited to announce a new race, the Magothy Mayhem, on Saturday, September 27th. This pursuit style race is open to all self-righting monohulls (sorry no dinghies) and multihulls. This race will take the place of MRSA's Hallie Rice Series whose numbers have dwindled significantly over the last few years. The race will be followed by a party at PSA (come by boat or car). We hope to see MRSA racers come out and support this new event. Details will be sent out in shortly.

One of the biggest North of the Bay regattas, BCYA's Race to Baltimore was held on Saturday, July 19. Seven MRSA racers participated in the race (*Eighth Deadly Sin, Giggity, Mischief, Masquerade, Patriot and Heyday*). Congrats to Jeff Thompson's *Patriot* and Shep Drain's *Heyday* for winning their divisions!

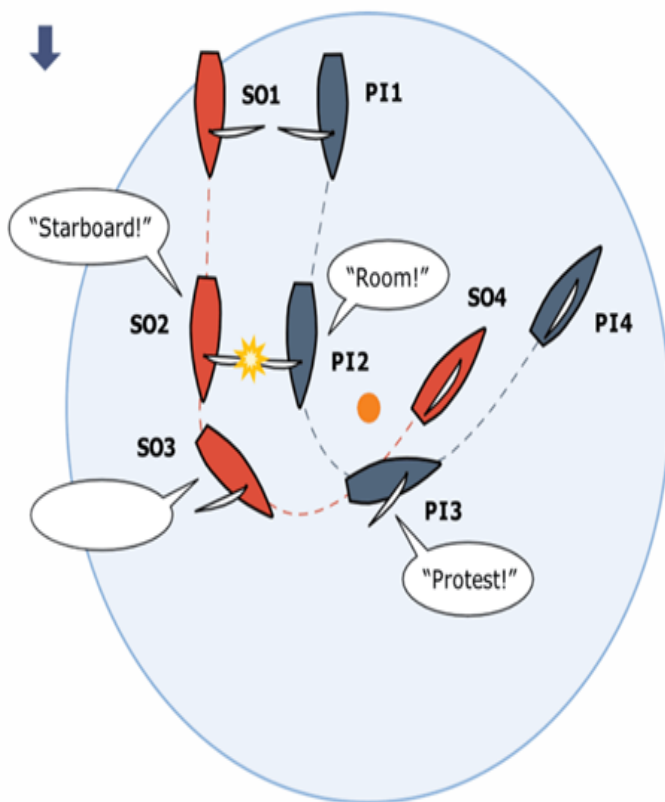
And finally, this month's racing quiz... courtesy of Dave Perry. remember not to cheat and look at the answer at the end of the Old Man right away.

Racing Quiz

Question:

Boats PI, on port tack, and SO, on starboard tack, are sailing dead downwind bow to bow approaching a leeward mark to be left to port with PI on the inside. When a length from the mark, PI bears off slightly so that she can round the mark leaving it to port without touching it. The booms of the two boats make contact with no damage or injury. SO hails, "Starboard!" and PI hails, "Room!" Both boats hail, "Protest!" SO rounds the mark behind PI. Neither boat takes a penalty.

You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



Racing Social Chair

Save the Date! The last beer raft up of the year, once again ably hosted by Dave and Shari Argue on **Mariah** on August 13, is open to both racers and cruisers. We would like to make this an organizational event so please show up ready to drink. You will need to inform the Beer Boat how many beer drinkers are on your boat; Dave can be reached at dargue@secretariat-intl.com

Fingers crossed that the weather will cooperate and the race won't be cancelled. Not a lot of luck in that category this year sadly.

The summer is slipping by fast and this is the final raft up of the year, so please plan to attend. The last one was awesome and with the warm weather and no nettles we should be able to swim!!!

Alan Weiss, Endless Summer, sailingdr@aol.com

Cruising Corner

EAGLE COVE CRUISE

It was a hot humid day in the 'Dena on Saturday, July 26th. Thank you to all who RSVP'd to the cruise invitation. The cruisers gathered at our home with the yard and porch all prepared for fellow cruisers. Nary a soul stepped from the air-conditioned house to the porches to roast themselves midday. That is, except the captain who braved the 108-degree heat index and grilled the dogs for all to enjoy. Thank you, Mike.

The Lunds braved the weather and motored up from Annapolis. Car cruisers consisted of Sherri and Homer Sandridge Shari and Dave Argue, Joyce Gun, Mike Mullarkey and Peggy and Ed Poe.

A good time of hearing many sailing tales was had by all. Thanks everyone for all the delicious food you contributed. A special thanks to Mike Mullarkey for his endless efforts at satisfying our sweet teeth!

Loura D. Bonham

Member's Corner

Hello MRSA Members:

The August weather may be hot, but there is usually a coool breeze blowing and there is always the pool to cool off in at the **August picnic/cruise at Mil-Bur Community Park**. The Taylors and Pirones will be hosting the August Picnic / Cruise. Come join your MRSA friends (and bring along other possible members) for a fun, relaxing afternoon on **Saturday, August 2nd, starting at 1:00**.

Come by water or land. 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 dessert to share with the group**. Besides swimming and eating, we will be entertained by Larry Turner (the renowned Six-String Sailor), and there will be games to play and lots of conversation.

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.

Please let me know by return e-mail, or you can text or call my cell at 240-476-5097. I'll send reminders, but we'd like to have your response by a couple days before the event.

Thanks, and see you there.

David Argue, Vice Commodore, vice_commodore@magothysailing.org

Other Upcoming Membership Events

We're switching things up a bit! Mark your calendars for October 23rd for a potluck at Belvedere Yacht Club, and December 4 for a dinner at Cafe Mezzanotte.

RACING QUIZ ANSWER

Answer:

Boat SO is disqualified. When Boat PI reached the zone, the boats were overlapped. Boats on opposite tacks are "overlapped" when rule 18, Mark-Room, applies between them or when both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind. In this case, rule 18 applied between them and they were both sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

Rule 18.2(a)(1), Giving Mark-Room, requires an outside overlapped boat to give the inside boat mark-room, which is the space the inside boat needs to sail to and around the mark in a seamanlike way (see the definitions Mark-Room and Room). SO failed to give PI that space and broke rule 18.2(a)(1).

PI broke rule 10, On Opposite Tacks. However, as she was sailing within the mark-room to which she was entitled, she is exonerated (freed from penalty) by rule 43.1(b), Exoneration, for her breach of rule 10.

It is possible that both boats could have avoided the contact, in which case each broke rule 14, Avoiding Contact. But because SO was the right-of-way boat and PI was sailing within the mark-room to which she was entitled, they are each exonerated by rule 43.1(c) as the contact did not cause damage or injury.

This quiz was excerpted from *Dave Perry's 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes* available from US Sailing. For a comprehensive explanation of the rules, read Dave Perry's *Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing through 2028*, which is also available from US Sailing. Permission to reprint this quiz for non-commercial use is granted by the author.