



R h o d e s 1 9

Fleet 5 Newsletter

www.r19fleet5.org / www.rhodes19.org

January 2010

Greetings From the Prez

Happy New Year, and boy what a year it will be. But before we get to that, we have a few people to thank, starting with **Judy Despres**. As **Kathleen Lane, Jennifer Uhl, Christina Pandapas, Barbara Hallawell, Katie Bloxham** and countless others can attest, this fleet management stuff is no picnic for the spouse. Not only has Judy supported husband **Tom Despres** through two years of leading Fleet 5, but she also endured his two years as class president – *at the same time*. And if that's not enough, she allowed him to re-up in that job for another two years. Either the woman likes her free time or she's a saint. I'm going with saint. So Judy, thank you. Please accept our sincerest appreciation.

I suppose we should reserve a little gratitude for Tom too, who for two years has been our benevolent patriarch. He did a terrific job presiding thoughtfully over Fleet 5's continued growth and good health. Fortunately for us, he hasn't ventured too far, and we can all rest easy knowing he'll be minding the class store for another two years. Thanks also to the rest of last year's fleet leadership, **Doug Trees, Steve Uhl, Bruce Bolen, Jim Raisides** and **Rick Smyers**, all whom contributed greatly to the smooth functioning of our fleet family. I'd like to throw out an extra nod to Bruce Bolen for opening his home to us for a very festive fall awards party. Congratulations, by the way, to all of last season's winners. A recap of those results and the perpetual award winners is included later in this newsletter.

Looking ahead, I couldn't be more grateful to the folks who have stepped up to run things this year. Doug Trees, who has served as treasurer since the Clinton administration, along with Jim Raisides (social) and Rick Smyers (scoring), have all signed on for another tour of duty. That's huge. Even more astonishing is that Steve Uhl has re-upped for another term as secretary – *in addition to co-chairing the Nationals Committee* with **Mike Lane** (I'll get to that in a second). Also signing on are **Rick Berliner** to manage the website, my wife Christina to help out with the newsletter and **Charlie Pendleton** to serve as VP. All and all, this is a terrific group who will work hard to keep this party going. Please don't forget to buy them a drink next time you have the chance.

As I write from chilly Maine on Christmas, sailing seems pretty far away, but we have an incredible season in store. Nationals are coming. As I mentioned, Steve and Mike are chairing the committee and will be working to make this one of the best regattas ever. Their goal is 50 boats, and that's obtainable. When was the last time you were on a starting line with 50 boats? And with Race Week just a couple of weeks before, that regatta should be pretty well-attended too. For now, just block out August 17-20. Stay tuned here and on the web site for regular updates, and don't be surprised if Steve or Mike call looking for help. We're not sure yet where East Coasts will be, but rumor has it that they'll be back in Padanaram. We'll let you know.

We're also working on an aggressive schedule of off-the-water events, starting with the winter party on February 6th and a tactics clinic for the evening of Thursday May 6th, so circle those dates.

Spring is coming. Stay warm. Go Pats.

Upcoming Events

Fleet 5 Winter Party – Fleet 5's winter party will be held on the evening of **Saturday February 6th**, with the location still to be determined. Keep an eye out for the e-invite, and please respond. As usual, the party will be a potluck dinner, and the fleet (courtesy of Jim Raisides) will supply the bar.

Spring Registration Meeting / Party – The spring registration meeting will be at Kim and Christina's sometime **mid-April**. The event will be a potluck dinner and feature the fleet bar. But be forewarned, Doug Trees will be stationed in front of the bar collecting registration checks.

Spring Clinic Fleet 5 will host an off-the-water strategy and tactics clinic on **Thursday evening, May 6th**, the location to be determined. Details are still being worked out, but the expected format will be a panel of 3-4 successful sailors walking us through a race, and sharing their thoughts, priorities and approach at each stage.

Spring Series – May 30-31. The Spring Series not only kicks off a "nationals" season, but also constitutes the first of the season's regattas included in the season championship.

FLEET 5 TRIVIA

(Answers on Page 3)

1. Who were the 10 winners of the outstanding crew award during the 1990s?
2. Which active Fleet member has won the President's Trophy the most times, and how many times did he/she win it?
3. In which Rhodes 19 Nationals did the winner throw out a 2, and where was it held?

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WELCOME

Fleet 5 welcomes new member **Joan Thayer** and **John Read**.

Joan comes to us from the Sonar fleet, and anyone who has spent any time around Marblehead sailing knows that she is the moving force behind the very successful annual Women's Sailing Conference held each spring at the CYC. John reportedly also has a healthy one design pedigree involving several classes. The two plan to race Thursday nights to start, but will undoubtedly be unable to resist for long the temptations of Saturday racing.

Fleet 5 also welcomes back **Rick Saunders**. Rick actively raced with us through the late 90s until about 2001, and returns now for another go. In case you weren't around then or don't remember, in August 2001, Rick treated us to one of the most impressive displays of seamanship it has been my privilege to witness. After losing his crew late Saturday morning and deciding he wouldn't be denied, Rick set out to race by himself. In the first race, a standard windward-leeward, he single-handed himself to a 9th place finish out of 22 boats. With walkman blaring (no iPods back then), he started, he tacked, he set the chute, he jibed, he doused – all by himself, and he got a single digit finish. That's amazing. Even more impressive, however, was his performance in the second race, which was an O-course. Single-handing a triangle course in 12-15 knots, he sailed to a 7th place finish. And to punctuate the day, he threw the chute up for the ride in. Wow! This guy is really good, and I couldn't be happier that he's back.

Speaking of really good, we have it on reasonably good authority that our starting line will once again be graced by **Michael Carpenter** and **BJ Mansfield**. Assuming that is so, 'welcome back' just doesn't cut it. BJ and Michael's historical contributions to Fleet 5 are legendary, as by the way, are their skills on the water. Their return is great news for the fleet, but a mixed blessing for all who have designs on winning races. Even more notable, though, is *how* they sail. No more gentlemanly a skipper has ever steered a R19 than Michael, whose approach to the game defines 'Corinthian.'

CYC member **Scott Krypel**, bought a boat about two years ago that is not quite race-ready, but moving in that direction. He did the bottom and the keel last spring, and now turns his attention to standing and running rigging. As is the case with many of us, carving out time is the issue. Assuming he gets it done, he'll likely ease into things by sailing Thursday nights. Any fleet members who know Scott (and even those who don't) might consider reaching out to help get him on the water this season.

SHORT TACKS

Got News? Let's here from you. Send your gossip, rumors and embarrassing tidbits to kpandapas@comcast.net. We'll get the word out.

Nationals are Coming To Marblehead The class voted at last year's annual meeting to approve Fleet 5's bid to hold the 2010 nationals, which will be hosted by the Corinthian Yacht Club. The regatta will be held the week of August 16th, starting with measurement and launching on Monday, more measurement and a practice race on Tuesday and racing on Wednesday through Friday. Co-chairing the event are Steve Uhl (steve@macwayuhl.com) and Mike Lane (mlane@katandmike.com), who are bound and determined to make this the best nationals ever. Their goal is 50 boats. Big regattas have a lot of moving parts, but both of these guys are veterans of organizing previous nationals, so they know what they're doing. But they're going to need a lot of help, so if you're able to pitch in, please let one of them know.

Rules Proposals Two changes to the class association rules were introduced at the last annual meeting and are currently under consideration. The first is a proposal to change the bylaws to provide for measurement certificates, and is intended to ease the burden of measuring each boat at the national regatta. The second is a proposal by Doug Trees and **Chris Small** to allow a fabricated composite keel along with the original cast iron keel currently provided for in the rules. Copies of the proposals and related materials can be found at www.rhodes19.org.

Jerry Is Here For You We're fortunate **Jerry Blouin** chose to make Fleet 5 his home, for a lot of reasons. But one of the biggest is that he's our class measurer, and he's ready, willing and able to help us sort out any technical issues we might have. We're all obligated to sail boats that conform to class technical specifications, whether its nationals or Thursday night. But as this is a nationals year, how lucky are we that he makes house calls. You can reach Jerry at 781-990-3548.

Three Races on MRA Days? We've sailed two MRA races per day for at least 15 seasons. However in recent years, there has been growing interest in sailing a third race, as several of the other classes do. This issue is again on the front burner, and we suspect that the scales have now tipped to favor three races over two. So expect the question to be raised for a vote at the spring registration meeting in April.

Lock In Your Team Early Have you ever noticed that the guys in front always seem to have their act together - to be a step ahead? When it comes to winning, you can never start planning early enough. And as this is a nationals year, you can be sure the competition is already working to put together the perfect team, which is why the good crew always seem to be taken. Get off to a good start this year and lock in your team early. If you need help finding crew, just let us know.

RACER'S RESOURCE BOARD

Dave Whittier of **Stuart Marine** in Rockland Maine is the exclusive builder of Rhodes 19s. Call Dave at 207-594-5515 for pricing on new boats, used boats, repairs and replacement parts.

Cape Cod Shipbuilding, makers of the Zepher extrusions most of us use, provides a full range of mast and boom hardware and fittings. Call **Dick Landis** at 508-295-2240.

"**Phil's Foils**" We've built a couple of dozen Rhodes 19 rudders over the past few years under our "Phil's Foils" brand name and feel we build a very high quality product. **Phil Locker** www.fastcomposites.ca (613) 599-6951

Kenny Harvey – Rigging kenny@harveyrigging.com, (781) 883-4496

Chris Small – Fiber Glass - csmall9021@yahoo.com, 978.500.9021

Neal Lewanda – repairs, fiberglass/gel coat, rudders, keel work, etc. - neallewanda@msn.com, (508) 264-7973

Waterline Systems, Inc provides a complete range of services. Call at 401-254-0690

Etchells sailor **Pat Stadel** operates **Marblehead Rigging** in San Diego 619-224-0323.

Doyle Sails at 978-740-5950 for fast Rhodes 19 sails www.sailortailors.com for boat covers, rudder bags and any other marine stitching need.

Butch Roth in Gloucester providing boat repairs and tuning. Also trailers. Contact Butch at 978-283-4451 applewood@gis.net

NOTICE BOARD

Please mail postings to kpandapas@comcast.net.

Fleet Sail Order Doyle Sails is offering its standard 20% discount off their 2010 retail prices through January 15th. A 50% deposit is due with the order, with the balance due at spring delivery. You can download an order form at www.doylesails.com/onedesign/rhodes19, or simply call Genevieve Casey at 978-740-5950.

Boat Wanted Rick Saunders is looking to buy a fast boat. Email **Rick** at rsaunders1963@yahoo.com.

Boat Wanted **William Laidlaw** lives in Western Massachusetts and is looking for a boat with trailer to take to some of the regional regattas. He's handy, so the boat doesn't have to be perfect, but he prefers to start with a solid, close-to- race-ready platform. Email him at will@pineconehill.com.

Donate Your Used Sails Courageous Sailing Center is always looking for used sails for its fleet of Rhodes 19s. If you'd like to donate your old sails and get a tax break for it, contact **Miguel Corti** at miguel@courageoussailing.org.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In chronological order, they are Judy Adams - 1990, Joan Lane - 1991, Rick Hamil - 1992, Tim McCaffrey - 1993, John Carullo - 1994, Mimi Ballou - 1995, Elizabeth Casler - 1996, Christina Pandapas - 1997, Shannon Lane - 1998 and Christine Fisher - 1999.
2. John Casler won it in 1979, 1981 and again in 1984. Only one other person, former BYC Race Committee Chairman George Lail, won it three times, but George is no longer an active fleet member.
3. Jud Smith's consistency and domination of a field of 37 boats in the 2006 nationals in Rockport was even more impressive in light of the tremendously fluky wind and current conditions.

2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2010 social schedule is still being worked out, but here is what it looks like so far. If you'd like to host a party, please contact Jim Raisides.

Event	Date	Location
Winter Party	Feb 6th	TBD
Registration Party & Meeting	April - TBD	Home of Christina & Kim Pandapas
Spring Clinic	May 6th	TBD
Early Summer Post-race Cocktail Party	June - TBD	TBD
4th of July Cookout	July - TBD	Home of Jane & John Casler
Race Week Party	July 29th	TBD
Nationals Parties	Aug 17-20	TBD
Labor Day Party	TBD	Home of Sloan & Charlie Pendleton
Awards Party	TBD	TBD

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2009 WINNERS

In case you missed it, here is a recap of last season's winners, with congratulations to all.

Spring Series

Kim & Christina Pandapas

Twilight Series 1

Pete Kaznoski

Twilight Series 2

Kent Hallawell

Twilight Series Overall / Charly Bar Trophy

Kent Hallawell

MRA Series 1

Kim & Christina Pandapas

MRA Series 2

Nick Cann

MRA Series 3

Kim & Christina Pandapas

MRA Series 4 - Labor Day Regatta

Kim & Christina Pandapas

MRA Overall

Kim & Christina Pandapas

East Coast Championships

Chris Small & Doug Trees

Race Week & Spittoon

Jim Raisides & Charlie Pendleton

Fall Series

Chris Small & Doug Trees

2009 Season Championship / Nick Nichols Trophy

Kim & Christina Pandapas

Richie Santos Outstanding Crew Award

Andrew Coffin

Rookie of the Year Award

Jennie Aspinal

Most Improved Skipper Award

Jeff Shoreman & Dave Reynolds

President's Trophy

Steve Uhl

FLEET PROFILE – TEAM ZONNENBERG-DALTON**New Duo Anything But Cl(ue)less**

By Christina Pandapas

Watch out Fleet 5, there's a new team in town and if the 2009 season was any indication, they are a boat to contend with this year.

J.P. Zonnenberg and Bill Dalton formed their new partnership on the snow last year when the first day of MRA racing was still many miles of skiing away. Standing together on the side of a slope at Sugarloaf in Maine, J.P. lamented that his wife Pat's back problems were going to sideline her from sailing with him on Clewless (#3299), the Rhodes they bought in 2000 and had raced together ever since. It was serendipity. Bill and his brother Steve had recently sold the Rhodes they had raced together for years. He was a free agent.

Compatible personalities are key to successful co-skippering programs, and it seems that J.P. and Bill have found a good fit. According to Bill, "J.P. is really relaxed on the boat, which is nice to be around."

Interestingly, relaxed is not a word that could be used to describe their work lives. Both Bill and J.P. are consultants with long hours and heavy travel schedules.

"I usually get on a plane Monday morning and don't get back until late Thursday night," explained J.P. "During winter, when we come up [to Sugarloaf] on weekends, I don't think I ever see my home in daylight."

With work and family demands always vying for attention, time on the water is precious for both J.P. and Bill. The deal is that the two of them split tiller time, but neither of them is so bent on driving that they always stick to that arrangement. If things are going well, they may not switch.

Things certainly went well during the 2009 Sailing World NOOD at Marblehead Race Week. Team Zonnenberg-Dalton posted six top-ten finishes out of eight races including a bullet. They seemed to find a solid groove, getting more and more consistent each day. They finished fifth overall in the 25-boat fleet. Not bad for their first regatta together.

Race Week is on the docket for the team again this year, and they have already begun pow-wowing about the season. Those Sugarloaf lift rides can provide a lot of time for strategizing.

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The next Fleet 5 Newsletter will be published on March 1st, and then on the first of every subsequent month through October. All newsletters will be distributed by email only unless you specifically request a hard copy. To request being added to the hard copy distribution list, please contact Steve Uhl.