



# R h o d e s 1 9

## Fleet 5 Newsletter

www.r19fleet5.org / www.rhodes19.org

June 2010

### Greetings From the Prez

First things first. Huge thanks to our panelists **Jud Smith**, **Jack Slattery** and **Bill Lynn**, who put on a fantastic show at our recent clinic. It was a great event solidly attended by about 175 folks from every corner of Marblehead sailing. The panelists walked us through a race, from start to finish, and delivered a fantastic 90 minutes of collective wisdom and tangible take-aways. If you missed it, you can catch it on the Fleet 5 web site. Huge thanks also to **Rick Berliner** for recording the event and making it available to us.

What a spectacular Memorial Day weekend of sailing. Spring Series is often wet, cold and thinly attended, but not this time. We were treated to two days of sunshine, warm temps and great conditions - a shifty northwesterly on Sunday and classic sea breeze on Monday. The turnout was terrific, with about 10 boats each day. We were the largest class on the line. Congratulations to **Charlie Pendleton** and **Jim Raisides**, who embarrassed us all with four bullets in six races. They were unstoppable. In addition to staring at their transom, some of the other impressions I'll hang onto for a while include **John Casler** single-handing it for all three races on Monday, hearing Charlie's laugh from across the course, dueling with **Steve Uhl** and **Maura Power** all weekend, **Mike Lane** not being there and the huge smile on **Rick Saunders'** face while he reached back and forth across the starting line.

MRA starts next weekend, but the 'Road To The Cup' started last Thursday night when **Kent Hallowell**, took an early lead by beating his arch Thursday night rival John Casler. Then Charlie and Jim rocketed to the top on the strength of their Spring Series performance. The 'Cup' leaders as of the end of the weekend are posted on the back page of his newsletter. I'm hoping to convince the powers behind my throne to publish a weekly email blast on Mondays to keep everybody current between newsletters. So stay tuned.

We have a busy June in front of us, starting with our post-race cocktail party on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to **Lydia** and **Rick Smyers** for opening their home to us. **Jim Raisides** will make sure no one is thirsty, but the appetizers are pot luck. I look forward to seeing everyone talking with their hands as they recount the day's racing. Of course, in only three weeks, several of us will head down to Padanaram for East Coasts where we'll compete against the metal of the other New England fleets in condition that are typically SW 15 - 18. It's just a tremendous place to sail. And not long after that will be our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout and the Casler's (on July 3<sup>rd</sup>). Please mark all of this in your calendars.

Finally, the Nationals Committee is looking for people to host out-of-town sailors. In addition to keeping things affordable, it's downright neighborly and the right thing to do. New queen of the Corinthian **Nancy Blouin** is leading that effort, so give her call and sign up today. See you on the race course.

### Upcoming Events

#### Cocktail Party – Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6PM

The fleet will hold a cocktail party on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, graciously hosted by **Lydia & Rick Smyers**, who live at 94 Jersey Street in Marblehead. The event will commence after racing and feature the fleet bar. Please note that this is a date change from the original June 12<sup>th</sup> previously reported.

#### East Coast Championships – June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

The East Coasts will be sailed in Buzzards Bay on Friday through Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Info and registration form can be found at <http://www.nbyc.com/racing/rhodes-19-ccc/>. Don't forget that to get a bye, you must notify MRA scorer Jim Whipple by no later than noon on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Jim's email is [jimwhipple@aol.com](mailto:jimwhipple@aol.com).

#### Independence Day Cookout – Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fleet 5's traditional Independence Day cookout will be graciously hosted by **Jane & John Casler** at their home in Washington Square. The event will feature steaks and other barbeque, and begin at 6PM.

#### NOOD at Race Week – Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>

The centerpiece of our season (and warm-up for nationals) will be July 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>. Though the regatta is free for all MRA registered boats, you still have to register. You can register online [www.sailingworld.com](http://www.sailingworld.com). For more information, contact **Steve Uhl** at [steve@macwayuhl.com](mailto:steve@macwayuhl.com).

#### Race Week Party – Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup>

This year's traditional Race Week party will be generously hosted by **Jenifer & Steve Uhl** at their new home overlooking the harbor on Front Street near Fort Sewell. The party will be potluck and feature the fleet bar.

#### Junior Keel Boat Regatta – Sun August 15<sup>th</sup>

This year's CYC's Junior Keelboat regatta will be held on Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup> – circle the date. Turnabout is fair play, and this is the perfect opportunity to let the kids call the shots. Information can be found on the CYC web site, or you can contact regatta organizer **Maura Power** at [maurapower@verizon.net](mailto:maurapower@verizon.net).

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Rick Berliner  
(781) 321-0457

**SHORT TACKS**

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

It is with sadness that we report the passing of **Bill Brockhurst**. Bill's association with Fleet 5 dates back to the 2000 era, when he frequently sailed with old friend **Steve Caswell** in Pastiche, which Steve sold to **Chris Hutchinson**. A consummate sailor, Bill started in Widgeons off Children's Island in the 60s, sailing against people like **Jud Smith**. He also sailed 110s and other one-designs, and was a veteran of numerous Newport-Bermuda and Halifax races. A natural driver, Bill excelled in his ability to make a boat go fast. More importantly, his special gift was to elevate the game of those around him while keeping them loose and in good-humor. We will miss him.

Speaking of Steve Caswell, Steve recently underwent quadruple bypass surgery, and we're pleased to report that he came through with flying colors. Before relocating to Bethel Maine, Steve was a force on our course, sailing with longtime crew **Shannon Lane**, and still occasionally joins us sailing his old boat. Steve hopes to sail Pastiche a few times this season.

Also on the medical front, we're pleased to report that team Pandapas member **Ken Cormier** is resting comfortably after a bit of surgery last week. His recuperation will likely keep him sidelined for East Coasts in Padanaram, but he'll be ready to go in July.

**Rick Smyers** and **Jeff Sachs** are getting serious. They recently closed a deal to buy Jumbly - 892 - from **Paul Zymba** and **Andy Savage** (so by the way will be selling their old boat 1939). 892 has a great pedigree. **Jeremy Bloxham** restored it in the late 1990s, and went on to win Race Week, East Coasts and the 2000 Nationals in it. He sold it to the Savage-Zymba team, who respectably campaigned it for several years. They also chartered it to **Jon Cressy** for Race Week, who then went on to win that. Great boat! Just hope the RC's don't confuse 982 and 892.

Rumor has it that Class Association President **Tom Despres** is thinking about stepping down at the annual meeting in August. If he does, it will be the class's loss, though we shouldn't be surprised as he's been at it for almost three years. Running the class is a thankless job, so next time you see him, you might consider thanking him and perhaps even buying him drink or two.

Speaking of thankless jobs, class measurer (and 3-time winner of the what-a-guy award) **Jerry Blouin** has been working overtime to insure we all get to sail nationals with as little hassle as possible. In addition to giving up his weekends to measurer Fleet 5, he's also traveling to Hingham, Hull, Winthrop and who-knows-where-else to help them too. What a guy? So a tip of the hat to Jerry. Also in the what-a-guy category, Jerry Blouin lent **Rick Saunders** his boat so Rick could sail this weekend. It seems that a rigger, whose name we won't mention (in large cap bold this time), promised him his new mast for April 1<sup>st</sup> and failed to deliver even a month late. Shameful!

**FLEET 5 TRIVIA**

*(Answers on Page 3)*

1. Who were the last three Fleet 5 skippers to win the East Coasts, in what years did they win and where were the regattas held?
2. Which active Fleet 5 member is employed as a commercial airline pilot and for which airline does he fly?
3. Which active member of Fleet 5 invented erasable ink?

**WELCOME**

Fleet 5 extends an enthusiastic welcome back to **Pat & Peter Beckett**, who return this month from London. Peter, who is a long-time partner with **Kent Hallowell** on their boat Interlude, has been on temporary assignment across the pond for three years. He rejoins Kent this season, and plans to sail everything, including nationals. Welcome back Pat and Peter.

Welcome also to **Rich Tickner**, who has signed on to crew this season with newly-returned **Rick Saunders**. We don't know how these two found each other, but rumor has it **Shan McAdoo** played a part. Thanks Shan.

Welcome to **Steve Burr**, who has signed on to crew with **Nick Cann** this season. Steve has been diligently preparing for the season by taking advantage of the various resources available on the Fleet 5 web site. He's serious - better watch out for these guys! Steve also is considering buying his own boat, so let's make a point of putting on the full-court press whenever we happen to see him.

Welcome also to **Martha & David Martini**, and want to charter a Rhodes this summer for occasional use, but probably not racing. If you don't know them, you can find them at the top of the Town Class standings - there is very little in that class they haven't won. They plan to take this year off from racing but hope to be back next year, hopefully in the Rhodes fleet. They have their eye on a Rhode Island boat that will be available next spring, but for now, they just want just like to get a little experience in the boat during their off-season. See Notice Board for contact details.

**NOTICE BOARD**

*Please mail postings to [kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net).*

**Be the Host with the Most** If you can host out-of-town sailors for Nationals, please contact **Nancy Blouin** at 781-990-3548 or [f31355@aol.com](mailto:f31355@aol.com).

**Experienced Crew Available** **Tristan Whitman** lives in Salem and is interested in crewing on a Rhodes this season. He used to crew in a J-24 race league on Lake Winnepesaukee, and since moving to Salem, has been looking to either buy a boat or to crew. You can contact Tristan at 617.848.5019 or [Tristan.Whitman@gt.com](mailto:Tristan.Whitman@gt.com).

**Another Experienced Crew Available** **Dr. Paul Stolzmann** recently moved to the area wants to crew. He started sailing in optis continued on FDs and in recent years has been sailing maxi yachts. You can contact Paul at [pstolzmann@partners.org](mailto:pstolzmann@partners.org) or call 617-840-8194.

**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](http://www.fastcomposites.ca) (613) 599-6951

**Kenny Harvey** – Rigging  
[kenny@harveyrigging.com](mailto:kenny@harveyrigging.com), (781) 883-4496

**Chris Small** – Fiber Glass -  
[csmall9021@yahoo.com](mailto:csmall9021@yahoo.com), 978.500.9021

**Neal Lewanda** – repairs, fiberglass/gel coat, rudders, keel work, etc. -  
[neallewanda@msn.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:applewood@gis.net)

**TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. 2009 –Chris Small in Hull  
2008 – Kim Pandapas in Winthrop  
2006 Jud Smith in Marblehead.
2. Nick Cann, a veteran of numerous carriers, currently flies for Continental Airlines.
3. Henry Peper

**NOTICE BOARD** *Continued from previous page*

**Yet Another Experienced Crew Available** **Donald Gilligan** is moving to Salem in mid-June and wants to crew. His background is fifty + years of sailing, including National One Designs, Lightnings and Lasers. He is 5'10" and 180 pounds. Call 781-793-0250 or [dgilligan@naesco.org](mailto:dgilligan@naesco.org).

**Even Yet Another Experienced Crew Available** Doyle sail maker **Genevieve Casey**, who has been racing a lot on the Town Class in recent seasons, is interested in sailing on a Rhodes. It's probable that she may have even built that sail you're using, so what a terrific opportunity. Contact Genevieve at 781-771-8815 or [onedesign@doylesails.com](mailto:onedesign@doylesails.com).

**For Sale - Race Ready O'Day** 2637 was optimized by Winthrop Marine, who installed new foam ribs and stiffening, faired the bottom keel and built a new mast. The package includes new standing and running rigging, new blocks and hardware, a Suunto compass, cockpit cover and barely used Doyle sails. The package is complete with a Triad custom trailer. This is a n turn-key opportunity. Contact **Paul Girard** at [pagirard@verizon.net](mailto:pagirard@verizon.net), or call (h) 978-774-2469 or (c) 978-808-3996.

**For Sale - Race-Ready Stuart** 3135 (Stealth) includes unused Doyle mainsail, jib and race spinnaker; new Lewanda rudder and custom tiller; new SuperSpars spinnaker pole; keel and full bottom fairing by Waterline; new rub rail; EZ-Reach cabin top controls; Harken hardware; FabriCraft soffee hiking straps; racing compass, mast windex, boom tent; lightweight halyards, lines and sheets, and custom trailer. Most interesting is that the boat potentially comes with a mooring for the 2010 season. The mooring is located in the cove about halfway between the EYC and CYC. Contact **Steve Gelineau** or Catharine at [sdgboston@comcast.net](mailto:sdgboston@comcast.net), or call 781-639-1551.

**For Sale - Race Ready O'Day** 1939 was raced last season. Package includes new mast, boom, mainsail, spinnaker (2009), jib (2008) and dull set of backup sails. Also includes numerous new lines, boat cover and trailer. Dry-sailed out of Marblehead for the last four years. Asking \$4950. Contact **Rick Smyers** at 617-563-5188 or (m) 617-645-1478 or [richard.smyers@fmr.com](mailto:richard.smyers@fmr.com).

**1987 Stuart Keel Model** Boat is not yet rigged for racing but includes spinnaker gear (not installed), adjustable backstay (not installed) and new Harken traveler. The keel and bottom were done last year, and package includes trailer. Also includes new spinnaker (never used) and cruising sails that are in good shape. Contact **Scott Krypel** at 781-639-8601 or [scottkrypel@comcast.net](mailto:scottkrypel@comcast.net).

**Two O'Days for Sale** Courageous Sailing is still selling the two O'Days advertised in the April newsletter. Call **Miguel Corti** at [miguel@courageoussailing.org](mailto:miguel@courageoussailing.org), or call 617- COURAGE.

**Charter Wanted** **Martha & David Martini** are looking to charter a Rhodes this summer for occasional use. Contact them at (978) 922-5961 or [Martini558@aol.com](mailto:Martini558@aol.com).

**Looking for Used Sails** **Peter Batchelder** of Novato California is restoring an old boat and looking for used sails. He doesn't plan to race so reasonable condition is okay with him. Email [peter@marincovenant.org](mailto:peter@marincovenant.org) or call 415-816-7152.

**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](mailto:miguel@courageoussailing.org) (www.courageoussailing.org).

**RULES & TACTICS – GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START** *By Kim Pandapas*

It's all about the start. Getting your nose out at the gun lets you play from strength and improves your chances of executing your game plan. My primary goal on every start is to get off the line with speed and in clear air. *Speed and clear air.* Sounds simple enough, right? But it's not always easy to execute consistently. Speed and clear air are doubly important for us because Rhodes are so slow to accelerate. In contrast to a dinghy or any boat with a more powered-up sail plan, if you don't hit the line with speed, you'll get rolled, forced to tack and probably forced out of your game plan. So forget about the head-to-wind with 15 seconds left in chop approach. It's just not effective in a Rhodes.

So how do I approach it? I follow three simple rules. The first is to sail within myself. To achieve consistency, you need an approach that you're comfortable with and that is repeatable. That's not to say that you'll start that way every single time – ultimately you have to take what the race gives you. But using a basic framework that you've executed consistently over and over again improves your odds. My approach is to be at the pin sailing towards the boat with 1½ to 2½ minutes left (depending on which end I want), and then tack into a hole when I find one. I like that approach. I'm comfortable with it and it works for me, so that's always my default.

The second rule is to avoid high risk starts. I tend to stay away from the ends (especially the boat end), because only one boat can win an end and the losers often end up OCS, spit out the back or with no room to put the bow down. The ends are a low probability, go-for-broke game. Of course, there will be times when circumstances dictate that you win an end, and at those times you go for it. But most of the time, I'll gladly trade a boat length of line bias to increase my chances of starting with speed and clear air.

And the third rule is to sail cleanly and focus on my own start. I wish I had a nickel for every time I've seen people go out of their way to engage other boats, only to pooch their own starts in the process. There will always be times when you need to hook someone to defend a hole - that's inevitable. But why go out of your way to mess with other people? That does nothing to improve your start. Focusing attention on anything other than getting your own clean start will almost always guarantee that you don't.

**NATIONALS UPDATE** *By Steve Uhl and Mike Lane*

It's crunch time with just ten weeks to go until Nationals. So, here is the latest.

The social calendar is coming together nicely. The latest confirmed plan is for a clam bake at the home of **Jim and Vonda Raisides** on Wednesday evening. A great deal of planning went into this event and we have a great menu – steamers, lobsters, chicken, corn on the cob, you name it.

**John Casler** has taken the lead on arranging for some great Nationals polo shirts. Get your "2010 NATIONALS" polo shirts in time to wear them this summer as you and your crew prepare for the Nationals. The shirts are navy with gold lettering, 100% cotton, and include familiar R-19 logo with the lettering "2010 Nationals" and "Marblehead" below the logo. They are \$20 each. Order by June 10 and get your shirts in early July. These are top quality polos of the same fabric and cut as the shirts R-19 fashion plates **Steve Uhl** and John Casler wore last season. If you want to see the quality and style, just show up on the CYC porch after one of the first MRA or Twilight races and simply buy either Steve or John a beer. You can e-mail your order info to [johnscasler@gmail.com](mailto:johnscasler@gmail.com), but please also send a check payable to John Casler in the amount of \$20 per shirt to 199 Washington Street, Marblehead, Mass. 01945.

The Nationals web site is up and running at [www.r19nationals.com](http://www.r19nationals.com). Stay tuned here for the latest updates as we post them. If you look carefully, you might find the long-lost 'double secret local conditions document' that has always been rumored to exist.

**Nancy Blouin** has been coordinating housing for our many out of town guests; hopefully you've received her request to help out. Better yet, you've responded and let her know you can help house some of our out of town guests.

Most of all, do you have too much free time? Wondering what to do with yourself? Bored to tears with lack of stuff to do? We have the solution - just let us know ([lanmik@gmail.com](mailto:lanmik@gmail.com), [steve@macwayuhl.com](mailto:steve@macwayuhl.com)) and we'll put you in touch with one of our over-stretched, hard-working, desperate-for-help committee chairs. And you'll sleep like a baby knowing you helped make Nationals 2010 a regatta for the ages.

**ROAD TO THE CUP**

*Top Ten as of 6/1/10*

1 <sup>st</sup>	1217	Pendleton / Raisides	12 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	982	Team Pandapas	15 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2585	Steve Uhl	17 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	3225	Nick Cann	21 Points
5 <sup>th</sup>	722	Shoreman / Reynolds	29 point
6 <sup>th</sup>	2648	Kazoski / Cooke	32 points
7 <sup>th</sup>	2435	Beckett / Hallowell	38.75 points
8 <sup>th</sup>	1643	Stuart Boyd	44 points
9 <sup>th</sup>	2495	Rick Saunders	45 points
10 <sup>th</sup>	3161	David Rubin	47 points