



R h o d e s 1 9

Fleet 5 Newsletter

www.r19fleet5.org / www.rhodes19.org

March 2010

Greetings From the Prez

Two years ago, **Tom Despres** and the Fleet 5 leadership made the inspired move of selecting **BJ Mansfield** as the winner of the 2008 Outstanding Crew Award. Their choice was motivated by her staunch and selfless support of her husband and skipper, **Mike Carpenter**, through their long journey to replace his heart. It was a blockbuster decision enthusiastically embraced by all. We were moved, both by her selection and by what it stood for. In addition to lending some perspective to our annual awards, it also served as a poignant reminder of just how close we all are and how much of a family we have become. Last month, BJ laid claim to that award in perpetuity through the gift of her kidney to Mike. Words fail me. I am humbled by how they've handled this difficult voyage and grateful they are among us. Thankfully, today they are home, on the mend, and at last word, feeling optimistic about the future and looking forward to sailing in 2010. Our thoughts are with them.

We owe a well-deserved tip of the hat to **Jim Raisides** and **Steve Uhl** for organizing what some say was one of the most festive and best-attended winter parties we've had in a long time. If alcohol consumption is any measure, I'd have to agree. The 35 to 40 folks in attendance didn't seem to eat a lot, but we sure put a dent in the fleet bar. It was great to see old friends like **Norm & Carole Cressy**, who made it feel like old times. It also was great to see new friends like **Joan Thayer** and **John Read**. Also in attendance were **Susie Schneider**, **Cheryl Byrne** and a few other race committee friends, who after a drink or two, allowed us to bend their ear about why we couldn't possibly have been over early in that one race last year. A good time was had by all.

Next up is the spring registration meeting, which will be held on Thursday April 15th. The meeting will be mostly business, though in keeping with tradition, will also include whatever is left of the fleet bar (but you'll have to complete your registration before we'll let you have a drink). The agenda will be in next month's newsletter, though generally in addition to the business of registration, it looks like we'll have a couple of issues to vote on. The first is whether to race three races per day or two. The second is whether to score, not score or award byes to folks sailing in East Coasts, which by the way, will be held on June 25-27 in Padanaram. We'll probably also talk a little about measurement certificates and the importance of getting measured in the spring (there is more about that elsewhere in this newsletter). So circle the date, and don't be late.

Finally, I'd like to extend my thanks to **Rick Berliner** for his efforts to update the fleet web site. He's definitely bitten off more than he bargained for, but is doing a great job bringing it current and making it easier to navigate. We hope to be able to show it off sometime soon. In the meantime, if you have any good pictures or other interesting historical content, please forward that along to him.

The surest sign of spring was a truck that left Fenway heading south. They're playing baseball in Florida, so the Spring Series can't be far off. It's time to make your lists, order your parts and lock in the team. It won't be long now.

Upcoming Events

Registration Meeting – April 15th
The spring registration meeting will be held on Thursday evening April 15th at 7PM at the home of **Lynn Mangiaracina and Jeff Shoreman**, located at 34 Ticehurst Lane in Marblehead. The fleet will provide beer from the fleet bar, but be forewarned the registration desk will be strategically located between the door and the bar. Don't forget your checkbook.

Spring Clinic – May 6th Fleet 5 will host an off-the-water strategy and tactics clinic on Thursday evening, May 6th, at 7PM at the Gerry 5. The clinic will feature a panel that includes **Jud Smith, Bill Lynn and Jack Slattery**, all extraordinarily successful sailors who will share their thoughts, priorities and approach at each stage of the race. We've decided to open this event to the broader Marblehead sailing community, so get there early to get a good seat.

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

Kickoff Cocktail Party – Saturday June 12th at 6PM Restoring an old tradition, the fleet will host an early summer post-race cocktail party on Saturday June 12th at the home of **Lydia and Rick Smyers**, who live at 94 Jersey Street in Marblehead. The event will commence after racing and feature the fleet bar.

East Coast Championships – June 25th-27th The East Coast Championships will be sailed in Buzzards Bay on Friday through Sunday, June 25th-27. Thanks to **Geoff Marshall** and the good folks of the New Bedford Yacht Club. This will be the third Class event they have hosted in the last four years!

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SHORT TACKS

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

Who Dat? Rumors that the Marblehead police had to be called in to contain the enthusiasm of a New Orleans woman after her Saints beat the Colts in the Super Bowl were greatly exaggerated. Neighbors of the West Shore Drive couple seemed to take it all in stride, wondering aloud, "Who dat crazy woman screaming?"

Measurement Certificates The class has proposed amendments to the bylaws that, for the first time, would introduce measurement certificates to our class. You can review the proposal at the class website www.rhodes19.org/pdf/bylawchgs2010.pdf and comment at www.rhodes19.org/blog. Measurement certificates are long overdue, and should serve to keep compliant all of our boats and not just those who sail Nationals. They also will vastly streamline the measurement process at Nationals. Class members can vote online or by paper ballot, and voting will close on April 30th.

Pre-Launch Measurement In case you missed it, Nationals will be sailed in Marblehead this year, and every boat that plans to compete will have to be measured. As in years past, the measurement process involves measuring rigs, which can only be done while the rig is out of the boat. As none of us will want to pull our rigs once they are stepped and tuned, measurer **Jerry Blouin** is offering to measure our boats in the spring before we launch. Because the class's measurement certificate proposal is still in process, we might still have to repeat a portion of the measurement prior to the event. But measuring in the spring before we launch should prevent us from having to pull our rigs mid-season and dramatically facilitate the nationals measurement process. So do yourself and your friends on the Nationals committee a favor and give Jerry a call this spring before you launch. He can be reached at 781-990-3548.

Update From The Technical Committee The Technical Committee has issued a FAQ regarding electronic compasses, specifically the TACKTICK product. They are a no-no. Some of these have been used in recent years and their use has been questioned. The class rule does allow an electronic compass but only if it only provides real time heading information. The TACKTICK product can do more than that. If you find a simple digital compass with only heading information that would be okay, but no one seems able to find one. Analog is us.

Fleet 5 Web Site Getting A Facelift We all owe a tip of the hat to **Rick Berliner**, who has taken it upon himself to upgrade our fleet's web site. But to get the job done, Rick needs our help. He wants to build a permanent archive that includes photos, historical racing results going back as far as we can, and historical newsletters. So search your archives, and if you have anything that might help, please forward it along to Rick at rickberliner@yahoo.com.

MRA Update MRA continues its winter work of preparing a robust season of racing for us and the other Marblehead fleets. Three Fleet 5 members serve on MRA; **Mike Lane**, **Charlie Pendleton** and **Kim Pandapas**. In addition to their MRA contributions, these three also keep an eye out for the collective interests of Fleet 5. So you can direct any questions, comments or concerns you have about the MRA schedule to any of them. The next MRA meeting will be held on March 3rd and will include fleet reps, so if there is an issue you'd like to raise, please contact one of them before that meeting.

Three Races on MRA Days We've sailed two races per day for MRA for at least 15 seasons. However, there has been escalating interest in sailing a third race, as do several other fleets. This issue is again on the front burner, and we suspect that the majority now favors three races over two. So expect the question to be raised for a vote at the registration meeting on April 15.

WELCOME

Chock one up on the recruiting front for **Shan McAdoo** with an assist by Courageous Sailing Center in coercing **Tarin Comer** to join our ranks. Tarin started sailing about 18 months ago at Courageous where she met Shan frostbiting. She crewed with him on 1945 last season during MRA, and they sailed together at Fairhope last fall. When Shan sold the boat in Fairhope, Tarin resolved to take matters into her own hands, and purchased 1652, which she and Shan are currently working to restore. This time around, Tarin will steer and Shan will crew. So welcome Tarin Comer and thanks Shan.

Rick Saunders, whom we welcomed back in this space last month, passed on buying back his old boat 1703 in favor of Stuart #3161. This was originally a cruiser that included a swim ladder, bow pulpit and motor mount, and rumor has it that it was raced PHRF! Sounds like Rick has his spring work cut out for him.

NOTICE BOARD

Please mail postings to kpandapas@comcast.net.

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 R19 sails. If you'd like to donate your old sails and get a tax break for it, contact **Miguel Corti** at miguel@courageoussailing.org.

FLEET 5 TRIVIA

(Answers on Page 4)

1. Who was the designer of the original boat which was to evolve into the Rhodes 19, when was it designed, and what was it called?
2. Which active Fleet 5 team won multiple National Championships in the Town Class?
3. How many teams have won the Fleet 5 Triple Crown (East Coasts, Nationals and Race Week in the same year)?

MEASURER'S SPOT – ALL IN THE SAME BOAT by *Jerry Blouin*

I'm old enough to have been educated at institutions that stressed discipline over learning. Although I spent far too many hours in what my catholo-military captors called "Penance Hall" and "Penance Drill" (attendance depending upon the particular context of the violation), I remain unaware if any of the standards for transgressions were written, and convinced that many were dreamed up on the spot especially for me. Nevertheless, if no one was looking, I would now and then walk up the wrong side of the staircase, just for spite.

The measurement rules that we sail under aren't like those school rules. The class rules are written. The intermediate aim is to get people to follow the rules. The ultimate goal is to make the rules a positive force for fleet and class building. There is no administration that 'catches' people doing something wrong. We're all in this together. In the same way that we do turns for hitting a mark that no one else sees happen, there's no point to taking corrector weight out of a boat to gain a speed advantage.

We all generally agree with these self-enforcement ideas. Where we fall short is in taking the time to read the rules. So read them. Be sure that your boat is in compliance all of the time, including fleet races. It's good for us all.

And now for some quickies: Remember, no electronic compasses. Black bands must be on your mast and boom in the correct locations. Repair any mast partner that has been damaged or altered. Don't remove any corrector weight until you are absolutely certain that it can be done. If you took any out, put them back.

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**" has built a couple of dozen Rhodes 19 rudders over the past few years under the "Phil's Foils" brand name and Phil feels he builds 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 and Marblehead 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

SAIL SMART, GO FAST – PRE-SEASON PREPARATION by *Charlie Pendleton*

In the dead of winter, it's easy to forget the warm summer and great racing that comes with it. In New England, we spend more months off the water than on, so there is no reason not to be prepared for the first race. Here are some of the things that I do over the winter to make sure I'm ready in the spring. They help keep me sane and motivated during the off-season!

Goal setting and ongoing learning Goals are great motivators. Jim and I set goals every year. They can be simple, skill-related goals like better starts or roundings, or they can be aspiration-based like winning a specific regatta. In the early off-season, Jim and I meet and review the past season while it's still fresh in our minds. What goals did or didn't we achieve? Where did we make mistakes? Where could we improve? These questions serve as the basis for next season's goals. Don't stop learning because it's cold! During the winter, Jim and I share articles about rules and areas where we need to improve. Trading emails and articles is a good way to stay motivated through the winter.

Boat and Equipment R19s need ongoing maintenance, and chances are good you have something that needs attention. What needs repair or replacement? Lines, sails, hardware, rigging, hull, trailer, sailing gear...? Things break and wear down. It's easier (and often cheaper) to find parts and equipment during the winter, when you have time (and suppliers have what you need in stock). Substantial off-season discounts can be found on sails through

group orders. Once the spring comes, you'll have less time to focus on these things. A good practice is to write it down. Keep a running repair/replace list throughout the year and work through it as you find the time. If you don't have a list, start one now!

Schedule and Crew Jim and I meet in May to look at the sailing schedule and talk about what races and regattas we're going to sail. Sailing is a major commitment for you and your family, so figure out ahead of time which weekends and regattas you are going to sail. Block them off in your calendar and communicate those dates to everyone so you don't run into scheduling conflicts. With all of the sailing days in the calendar, you need flexibility. Build a network of alternate crew. I have eight to ten alternates going into each season that can sub for Jim or me. It's also good to have third available for windy days. There is nothing worse than missing a perfect Saturday because you can't find crew.

Stay In Shape Sailing is physically demanding. I've come into the summer out of shape and felt it - sore arms, sore back and muscle cramps. Weight is another consideration. R19 sailors go to great lengths to keep their boats close to minimum weight but that's easily offset by the five to ten extra winter pounds. So exercise! I try (try!) to work out during the off-season to keep the weight off and stay in shape. Spring sailing is cruel to those who have been lazy over the winter, and August winds are kind to those that have stayed trim. Stay warm.

NATIONALS UPDATE by *Mike Lane & Steve Uhl, Regatta Co-Chairs*

Fleet 5 is hosting the R19 National Championships in Marblehead this year. Racing will be held August 18-20, with registration, measurement and a practice race planned for the preceding days.

So – first and foremost – be sure you’ve set aside these dates! We’re targeting 40+ boats, which means it will be great racing and competition for everyone. If you are looking for crew, just let us know. To reach our goal of a large turnout, we need everyone’s help, so be sure to talk up the event.

As those of you who have participated in Nationals know, putting on an event of this magnitude is no small challenge. Participants come from all across the country and the logistics alone are daunting. Add to that measurement, social activities, trophies, sponsorship, race management and registration and you’ll see why we need ‘all hands on deck’ to host a great regatta. So we look forward to everyone’s help – large or small.

How can you help? We have several sub-committees established to organize the core elements of the regatta. Please think about where your interests are and then email any of the folks listed below. They’ll be glad for your help and can find roles that suit your interest and time requirements. Areas where we could use your help include the following:

Registration: Registration involves the whole process from collecting competitor information, to shepherding them through the measurement process, finalizing their entry and getting them all the regatta information they need. Contact **JP Zonnenberg** at jpzonnenberg@prtm.com.

Measurement: Though we hope streamlined procedures will be in place this year, measurement is always a large task. We plan to measure most local boats well in advance so the burden in the days prior to the regatta is minimized. Sails must be measured as well. So if you are good with scales, measurement jigs, a clipboard, and the occasional measurement ‘interpretation,’ then you’re perfect. Contact **Doug Trees** at dtrees@dfta.com.

Sponsorship: A key to running a great regatta is supplementing the registration fees with money and in-kind sponsorship. Securing this support is something that requires lots of effort by lots of folks ahead of time. **Charlie Pendleton’s** team is already at work. Sponsorships range from large direct donations, to beer

contributions and raffle giveaways. So if you have ideas to help, drop Charlie a note at charliependleton@me.com.

Awards: **Renee Heffernan** (Heff2692@aol.com) is in charge of procuring trophies. In addition to the primary awards we hope to add day prizes plus other creative recognition items.

Social: A regatta like Nationals is not just about the racing on the water, it is about the social element off the water. It is not often that we have a chance to visit with so many of our competitors, including those from other fleets. The social events are also where our guests and spouses can join in the fun. **Maura Power** (maurapower@verizon.net) and the social team have already begun to arrange the major events, which are likely to include events at Corinthian YC as well as other parties most every night. More details on the specifics will be coming soon, but each of these events will require work to pull off with panache.

Hospitality: Half of all our competitors may be from out of town. As those of you who travel to other locations for racing know, the key difference between a great event and a good one is how welcomed the participants feel. After driving over a 1,000 miles, being greeted by a smile, a beer, and clear procedures makes all the difference. Fundamentally, hospitality is the job of everyone...so consider yourself part of the team as of now! When the event comes, go out of your way to help out our visitors in any way you can. In addition, **John Casler** (johnscasler@gmail.com) will be organizing specific plans to meet and greet our visitors upon their arrival.

Housing: If you are able host out of town competitors, please consider doing so. It’s a lot of fun, and often you’ll end up making new friends that you’ll see again in the coming years. Contact **Nancy Blouin** at f31355@aol.com.

Logistics: As in most things, logistics is the stuff that needs to happen behind the scenes. Trailers need to be moved, moorings organized, launching areas arranged. **Pete Kaznoski** (p.kazoski@easternbk.com) will be leading this effort and would welcome folks that can help out with these vital tasks.

In closing – this is an event not to be missed. Plan to enjoy the fun and great racing. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact either of us at lanmik@gmail.com or steve@macwavuhl.com.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Naval architect Philip Rhodes was commissioned by Allied Aviation Corporation to design an inexpensive family boat in 1947. He responded with a 19 footer center boarder called a Hurricane.
2. Bill & Renee Heffernan
3. Several people have won two, but to our knowledge, no one has yet won all three in the same year.

Event	Date	Location
Registration Meeting	Thursday April 15th at 7PM	Home of Lynn Mangiaracina & Jeff Shoreman
Spring Clinic	Thursday May 6th at 7PM	Gerry 5
Post-Race Cocktail Party	Saturday June 12th at 6PM	Home of Lydia & Rick Smyers
Independence Day Cookout	Saturday July 3rd at 6PM	Home of Jane & John Casler
Race Week Party	Thursday July 22nd at 6PM	Home of Jenifer & Steve Uhl
Nationals Parties	Aug 17-20	Various locations
Labor Day Party	Saturday Sept 4th at 6PM	Home of Sloan & Charlie Pendleton
Awards Party	TBD	TBD

The next Fleet 5 Newsletter will be published on April 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 at steve@macwavuhl.com.