



R h o d e s 1 9

Fleet 5 Newsletter

www.r19fleet5.org / www.rhodes19.org

January 2011

GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ

First gun is in five months! That might sound like a lot of time to you, but it doesn't to me. And as I sit in Maine enjoying the Christmas break, one of my to-dos is to finalize my spring parts list and start ordering. I know – get a life. But hey, preparation is key. An old friend once told me that he had 'em beat before he left the dock. Why? Because he'd been thinking about it and working on it all winter. And you know what – he was right. So I'm making my lists and checking them twice. The 'Road to the Cup' starts now.

Huge thanks to brother **Bruce Bolen** for opening his home to us, as well as to the dependable, steady and always jovial **Jim Raisides** for again contributing to our collective delinquency. It was a spirited awards party and fitting end to an epic Nationals season. Thanks to all for coming. A special shout-out to my bride and crew, **Christina Pandapas**, who on this occasion served as the trophy lady. Pulling all of that together is no small task, and she did it with her usual grace and style.

In case you hadn't heard, every member of last year's fleet leadership signed on for another tour of duty. How great is that? I didn't have to bribe, cajole or threaten (to use those pictures!). Without exception, the immediate answer was yes. That kind of dedication and loyalty is no small matter and not to be taken for granted. I am so grateful for working with (and for) such a terrific group.

Your 2011 Fleet 5 leadership held its annual fall planning meeting on December 15th. In addition to consuming a lot of beer, the group started planning next season; blocking out the social schedule, batting around clinic ideas and generally getting its act together. For the most part, our social schedule will be similar to last season's (details elsewhere in this newsletter). We're also planning a spring clinic focused less on tactics and strategy and more on how specifically to make a Rhodes go fast. It should be worthwhile, and we'll confirm the details as soon as we can.

On the recruiting front, we are fortunate to have more interest in joining our fleet than available boats. Last time that happened was about 10 years ago, when we were forced to search backyards for boats being used as planters. If you know of a boat for sale (or even one that's not), either in this fleet or another, please let me know. Similarly, if you know of a potential new recruit, let me know that too, so we can reach out and engage them.

Along those same lines, we decided to more actively encourage associate fleet memberships this year. Many of our fleet members started as crew, so the plan is to offer them fleet membership status for 20 bucks/year, which gets them and their spouses officially into the fold. It also defrays a little of the cost of the cool aid we serve. If you're a crew and would like to get a registration package this spring, please ask **Steve Uhl** and **Doug Trees** to add you to the list.

So first up this young season is the winter party, and if it is anything like last year, hang onto your socks. The party is being held a little early this year – next Saturday January 8th at our house, and I'm sorry for the short notice. But the e-invite went out a couple of weeks ago and based on the responses, it looks like it will be well attended. We hope to see you there.

Happy New Year and go Pats.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Party – Saturday January 8th Fleet 5's winter party will be held at 6:30 PM on the evening of Saturday January 8th at the home of **Christina & Kim Pandapas**. The e-invite was sent out in December. As usual, the party will be potluck dinner, and as he does for every party, **Jim Raisides** will supply the bar.

Spring Registration Meeting – Thursday April 28th The spring registration meeting will be held at the home of **Lynn & Jeff Shoreman**. The event will feature light appetizers and the fleet bar, but **Doug Trees** won't let you through to the bar until you complete your registration.

Spring Clinic – May 15th at 7:30 PM Fleet 5 will host an off-the-water clinic, tentatively scheduled for Sunday evening May 15th. The location is still to be determined, but will probably be in the Harbor Room at the CYC. Details are still being worked out, but the expected format will be a panel of three or four of Fleet 5's top sailors, who will talk about boat tuning, go-fast tricks and the secrets of their success.

Spring Series – May 28th–29th The Spring Series is only five months away. This constitutes the first of the season's regattas that are included in the season championship, and hence kicks-off our "road to the cup."

Cocktail Party – Saturday June 11th at 6PM The fleet will hold its first summer cocktail party on Saturday June 5th, 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.

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Rick Berliner
(781) 321-0457

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.

Tell MRA What's on Your Mind The Marblehead Racing Association is busy planning next season. The Rhodes Fleet is fortunate to have ample representation on MRA, including **Kim Pandapas**, **Charlie Pendleton** and **Mike Lane**. If you have comments that you'd like to pass along to MRA, please send them along to any or all of those three.

Spring Meeting Agenda Topics sure to be discussed include the usual administrative and scoring items. We'll also likely discuss three races vs. two, so if that issue is important to you, make a point of showing up.

Associate Memberships Fleet 5 is offering associate fleet membership status to crew and other friends of the fleet. The goal of the initiative is to actively embrace all our stakeholders, particularly crew members and their families. Associate membership is not required for crew, and the truth is that we'll shamelessly add anyone to our list for free. But the effort is intended to make sure skippers include all of their crews on their registrations so that we don't miss anyone, as well to allow crew to join independently of any skipper if they so desire.

Fleet Finances Budget conscious fleet members might be interested to know that fleet treasurer **Doug Trees** has been doing a bang-up job keeping us solvent and operating mostly between the lines. We seem to spend each year just a bit more than we take in (booze is expensive), but have a recently rejuvenated balance sheet thanks to the good efforts of **Mike Lane**, **Steve Uhl** and the countless others who put on the Nationals of all Nationals last year. At our expected level of deficit spending, and assuming modest spending growth, we're good for another 7-10 years.

Measurement & Compliance Based on his work last season, class measurer **Jerry Blouin** is planning to email each of us notification of the amount of corrector weight we each must carry. Though not quite a measurement certificate, this is proof that you were measured and also not a bad reminder of how much weight to put back in if you happened to take it out when you pulled your boat apart for the winter.

Close Call at Sugarloaf Former Fleet 5 member **Jeff Dinsmore** was among the first at the scene to render assistance to those injured in the Spillway lift accident over Christmas. While several Marbleheaders were involved in that unfortunate accident, to our knowledge none of them were members of Fleet 5. **J.P. Zonnenberg**, **Christina & Kim Pandapas** were fortunate to have gotten off that chair three minutes before it dropped.

FLEET PROFILE – Q&A WITH 2010 OUTSTANDING CREW AWARD WINNER JOSH WHEELER by Christina Pandapas

Josh was the 2010 recipient of Fleet 5's Richie Santos Outstanding Crew Award, so we thought you all would like to know a little more about him. Boy, did we get more insight than we could have hoped for – from his casual reading of linear algebra to gate crashing a black-tie gala at the Imperial Palace. Read on.

Q: What was the first boat you ever sailed?

JW: I sailed Sunfish on a lake at summer camp, but there was never any wind so I don't know if you'd actually call it "sailing." I would say my first real acquisition of any rudimentary sailing skill was sailing a Mercury at Community Boating on the Charles in 1994, two summers after I moved to Boston.

Q: How long have you been sailing Rhodes?

JW: For about 10 years. I joined the Marblehead R19 fleet in 1999 or 2000. I crewed on the David Rose for five seasons, and I think I've crewed on Harm's Way for five seasons as well.

Q: Why did you start sailing Rhodes?

JW: Before I moved to Europe I was racing in both the Sonar and PHRF fleets in Marblehead. After I moved back to the States, I was looking to get back into racing, and the first solid offer I got was from Fleet 5. I must add, however, that what's kept me a Rhodes sailor is the phenomenal camaraderie and esprit de corps of R19 sailors generally and Fleet 5 specifically.

Q: What is your favorite non-sailing activity?

JW: Outdoors, I love skiing. Indoors, I don't have any one thing, but I do brew my own beer a few times per year starting from raw grain, and I've been known to cook an esoteric dish or two.

Q: What do you do for work?

JW: I'm a software engineer, working mostly on the database side of enterprise billing applications for everything from airports, to stock markets, to telecommunications.

Q: What is your most memorable sailing moment?

JW: The first time I was offshore on a completely cloudless night and seeing the whole sky alight with stars from horizon to horizon. Not only was the view ineffable, but one feels, I think, in these moments a certain sense of community and continuity with all the mariners who have gone to sea before you in small boats with nothing more to guide them than the lights above.

Q: What is the biggest bonehead thing your skipper has ever done during a race?

JW: C'mon, it's Mike Lane.... I'm sure you all have your own favorite memory, of which I shall not try to disabuse you.

Q: What is the biggest bonehead thing you've done during a race?

JW: Working bow on a big boat, I once forgot to clip the guy into the lifeline after dousing the chute, which resulted in a few hundred dollars worth of line and hardware sitting at the bottom of the Atlantic.

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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 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

Benjamin Parker operates Aequoris Yachts and does all varieties of glass work and boat repair. Contact Ben at
benjamin.parker@aequorisyachts.com or at 58 Gregory Street, Marblehead (207) 319-3583.

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

Chris Small – Full restorations and glass work-
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) 682-1661.

Doyle Sails at 978-740-5950 for fast Rhodes 19 sails

Sailor Tailor 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 offering its fall discount off their 2011 retail prices through December 15th. If you missed the deadline, you might try offering flowers and candy to **Genevieve Casey** at 978-740-5950.

Missing a Trophy? If you won or placed in a series last season but don't have a trophy to show for it, chances are **Christina Pandapas** is holding it for you. Email her at cpandapas@comcast.net.

Boat Wanted New fleet member to looking for competitive boat for the 2011 season. Contact **Elise Mazareas** at elise.mazareas@gmail.com.

Join An Established Program In 2011 **David Rubin**, who usually sails with his brother **Mark Rubin**, is looking for someone to share responsibility with him for his racing program next year (Mark lives in DC which is getting tougher for him). This would involve sailing and sharing in expenses. The boat is in great shape has a permanent mooring near the Barnacle. Contact David at 781-863-1419 / w 508-875-9595, or email dlr0412@aol.com.

Looking To Join Program In 2011 Old friend **Mitch Mitchell**, who raced in Fleet 5 for several years back in the mid-2000 time frame, is interested in getting back into the fleet. Mitch is an experienced sailor and would be an excellent crew or potential boat partner. Contact Mitch at mitch@relayhealth.com.

Race-Ready Stuart For Sale 1986 Stuart #3038 is race ready and optimized, including Duplin keel, Lindsay rudder, reinforced ribs, new boom, elevated mast step and more. Boat has an extensive race record, including 1st at Marblehead Race Week. Package includes a trailer, spin pole, lifting bridle, cover and two full suits of sails including 2010 spinnaker, 2008 main, 2008 jib. Contact Mike at lanmik@gmail.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.

Donate or Sell Your Used Sails Greg Marie, a sail designer at Doyle, is working to find sails for the Nahant Sailing Program. If you'd like to donate your old sails, or possibly sell them for a small consideration, contact Greg at (978) 740-5950 ext 205.

FLEET 5 TRIVIA

(Answers on Page 4)

1. Name four fleet members who are regulars at Sugarloaf.
2. Rhodes 892, currently sailed by Rick Smyers and Jeff Sachs is called Sheerboom. Who gave it that name and why?
3. Which former members of Fleet 5 for several years running hosted the winter party, and what made their house unique?

2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2011 social schedule is still being worked out, but here is what it looks like so far.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Winter Party	January 8th	Home of Christina & Kim Pandapas
Registration Meeting	April 28th	Home of Lynn & Jeff Shoreman
Spring Clinic	May 15th	TBA, but probably the CYC
Early Summer Post-Race Cocktail Party	June 11th	Home of Lydia & Rick Smyers
4th of July Cookout	July 2nd	Home of Jane & John Casler
Race Week Party	July 28th	Home of Jennifer & Steve Uhl
Labor Day Party	September 3rd	Home of Sloan & Charlie Pendleton
Awards Party	November TBA	TBA

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2010 WINNERS

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

Spring Series

Jim Raisides & Charlie Pendleton

Twilight Series 1

Kent Hallawell & Peter Beckett

Twilight Series 2

Joan Wheeler

Twilight Series Overall / Charlie Bar Trophy

Kent Hallawell & Peter Beckett

MRA Series 1

Kim & Christina Pandapas

MRA Series 2

Kim & Christina Pandapas

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

Race Week & Spittoon

Jim Raisides & Charlie Pendleton

Fall Series

Mike Lane

2010 Nationals

Bill & Renee Heffernan w/Julie Savage

2010 Season Championship / Nick Nichols Trophy

Kim & Christina Pandapas

Hallawell Family Trophy

Jim, Ann & Nat Taylor

Richie Santos Outstanding Crew Award

Josh Wheeler

Rookie of the Year Award

Tarin Comer

Most Improved Skipper Award

Peter Frisch

President's Trophy

Mike Lane

JOSH WHEELER

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Q: What's the best tip you could give someone who is crewing on a Rhodes for the first time?

JW: The same advice I'd give anybody crewing on any boat: Don't get on a boat to race unless you're 100% serious about winning. It doesn't mean you have to win to have a good time, but if you're not giving it your all, go find some other activity that motivates you to that level of commitment. If you have the commitment and the desire, you can always learn the mechanics.

As far as a specific piece of crewmanship advice, I'd say: coming out of the leeward mark, trim first and clean up later. It's very easy to get caught up in all your various responsibilities when the chute is coming down and the boat is rounding the mark, and heading back upwind. Of all the gear shifts on the course, I think this is the one where it's easiest as crew to get distracted and focus on the wrong thing.

Q: What book are you reading?

JW: I recently picked up a text book on Linear Algebra and am working through it on my own.

Q: Name one thing about yourself that fellow Fleet 5 members might be surprised to know about you.

JW: I crashed a black-tie ball at the Imperial Palace in Vienna by cajoling a very good looking woman that I had never met before into sweet-talking the security guards to let me in... and doing this all in a foreign language by the way.

Q: Finish this sentence: My skipper often...

JW: ...does the right thing but for the wrong reason; then again so do I. (Of course, we planned to go to that side of the course!) That's probably why we work as a team.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Daltons, Thompsons, Zonnenbergs and Pandapas
2. Andrew Savage previous owned 892 (which he bought from Katie & Jeremy Bloxham), and sold her to Rick and Jeff last season. A regular at Sugarloaf, Andrew named the boat Sheerboom after the ski run of the same name, which is located under a portion of the mountain's SuperQuad chairlift.
3. Deirdre & Larry Robbins generously opened their home to our winter party through the better part of a decade. Their home was unique in that it included a large indoor pool, into which at least one jocular, inattentive fleet member stumbled for an unexpected winter swim.

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.