



R h o d e s 1 9

Fleet 5 Newsletter

www.r19fleet5.org / www.rhodes19.org

September 2010

GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ

In the words of the late great Red Sox play-by-play man **Ned Martin** – “Mercy!” I write to you from my home office on Saturday morning, where I’d typically be checking the forecast before racing. But this weekend, thankfully, we have a break. And it came none-too-soon as it affords me a few minutes to catch my breath, reintroduce myself to my kids and reflect on Nationals.

I really don’t know where to start. Never have so many done so much and done it so well. **Mike Lane** and **Steve Uhl** assembled and led an astonishingly energetic, dedicated and talented team. This group worked together in what struck me as a well-choreographed ballet. The words friendly, helpful and welcoming all come to mind. I hesitate to name names for fear I’ll leave someone out, but here goes. **Maura Power** was everywhere doing everything. **JP Zonnenberg** and **Nick Cann** ran registrations. **John Casler** was roving ambassador and sold shirts. **Pete Kaznoski** ran the parking lot during measurement and haul-out, and secured the largest cask sponsorship we took in. **Jerry Blouin** measured (and measured and measured). I won’t even try to mention the names of the multitudes who helped with that – there are just too many. **Nancy Blouin** handled housing and raffle sales. **Doug Trees**, **Shan McAdoo** and **Kenny Harvey** measured about 5000 sails (or so it must have seemed). **Charlie Pendleton**, with a lot of help, brought in the sponsorship items and auction items which helped us to pay for everything. **Jim & Vonda Raisides** opened their home to us in what was simply the nicest regatta party I’ve ever attended. **Renee Heffernan** managed the trophies, and on and on. And how about that CYC! Commodore **Martin Ray** and the Executive Committee made sure we were well treated. GM **Dave Titus** and Dock master **Jack Carney** both came through in a major way. We also shouldn’t forget the EYC, who opened their waterfront to us for a measuring day in July. Oh, and let’s also not forget the astonishing job done by **Joe Whipple**, **Tommy Tompkins** and the RC in ridiculously difficult conditions. I don’t remember one leg of the six races where they didn’t have to move a mark – not one! As we crossed the finish on one race, Tommy quipped to me that he’d picked the wrong week to stop sniffing glue. Amen. So many people, so many moving parts, such a well managed event. Give yourselves a hand.

Congratulations to **Bill & Renee Heffernan** and **Julie Savage**. This was no walk in the park. With 45 boats and truly whacky conditions, they sailed through it and managed to be the last standing. It shouldn’t go unnoticed that in six races, six different boats earned bullets – no one dominated. And in an event that included ranked sailors, college All Americans and even the captain of the Harvard sailing team, one of our own brought home the prize. In fact, Fleet five collected the top six spots and nine of the top 10. That’s outstanding.

So we now find ourselves in the 7th inning of our short season. Coming up next is the two day Labor Day Regatta, which constitutes MRA Series 4, the final MRA series of the season. After that will be three consecutive Saturdays of the Fall Series, and then we’re done. Where has the time gone? Thanks in advance to **Sloan & Charlie Pendleton**, who will be opening their home to us for our traditional Labor Day Party after racing on Saturday September 4th.

One more thought for today. I got a call from someone asking if he needed to keep the lead in his boat, now that Nationals is over. Are you kidding me? The answer, of course, is yes. We’re all obligated to sail legal boats all the time. And since everyone worked so hard to get their boats compliant, let’s all try to keep them there. If you have questions on that, just email Jerry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Labor Day Regatta – Saturday September 4th – Sunday September 5th The Labor day Regatta (MRA Series 4) will be held the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend. This will be the last 2-day regatta of our season.

Labor Day Party – Saturday September 4th at 6PM Our annual Labor Day party will be hosted by Sloan and Charlie Pendleton at 94 Nanepashemet Street, and start around 6PM after racing. The party will be potluck and the fleet bar will be in attendance.

Fall Series – The Fall Series this year will be held on three consecutive Saturdays, September 11th, 18th and 25th.

MRA Awards Dinner – Friday October 22nd It’s never too early to circle the date for the MRA Awards dinner, which this year will be held at BYC. Details forthcoming.

Fleet 5 Awards Party – Saturday November 6th – The fleet will hold its annual end-of-the-season awards party on the evening of November 6th. Details forthcoming.

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(781) 631-6930

Vice-President
Charlie Pendleton
(781) 631-8409

Treasurer:
Doug Trees
(978) 468-4551

Secretary:
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Jim Raisides
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(781) 321-0457

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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.

Thanks Tom Despite three years on the job and in need of a rest, class president **Tom Despres** announced at the class annual meeting that he would serve an unprecedented fourth year. Four years! Tom is a saint, which makes his wife **Judy Despres** something close to a deity. Running a fleet is a walk in the park compared to managing the day care center that is our class. It requires leadership, patience and a really good sense of humor, and Tom has those qualities in abundance. Many thanks to Tom and Judy.

Kudos to Fred Class President **Tom Despres** awarded the coveted class 2010 President's Trophy to **Fred Brehob**, which marks the second time Fred has been so honored – he also won in 1999. Newer members may not know Fred (and his wife Barbara), but Fred has been a member, supporter and unfailing advocate of the Rhodes Class since before some of us were born. Fred served as Class President from 1995 to 1997, as well as a couple of stints as Fleet 5 fleet captain. He's also won the fleet President's Trophy at least once. Long story short, he's the man. Congratulations Fred, and thanks for all you've done.

Brehob's 2010 Debut Foiled Speaking of Tom and Fred, Fred sailed his first race of 2010 in the Nationals practice race. Crewing for the maestro was none other than the Class President himself. Regrettably, the team shot itself in the foot when Fred's crew mistook the X-flag for a general recall and ordered his skipper back to the line.

New Fleet 5 Web Site Goes Live Thanks to the efforts of **Rick Berliner**, our fleet web site has a new look. Rick has been working in his limited spare time all spring and summer to improve the look, feel and organization of our site, and he's done a terrific job. Thanks Rick.

Nationals Going to Chicago The 2011 Rhodes 19 Nationals will be held next August on Lake Michigan. Start your planning today.

Will the Champs Defend? With Nationals going to Chicago, the Heffernans will have to travel to defend their title, and traveling isn't something they historically done. If they go (and the current Las Vegas line is 100 to 1 against), it would mark the first time in memory that they hauled their boat beyond state lines. Stay tuned.

Shannon Shannon Shannon Mike Lane lost one of his crew the day before Nationals was to begin. Just after the practice race, Mike's sister **Shannon Lane** sought to protect Mike's boat from a surging towed boat by inserting her wrist between them. Though lost for the regatta, and despite a morphine drip, Shannon was determined to make the Raisides' party on Wednesday night despite facing surgery scheduled for early the next morning. Now that's spirit! So how did she deal with having a new plate in her arm and cast to her elbow? She did what most of us would do in that situation – she got a haircut.

Sorry About That In our report about Fleet 5 kids in Junior RW, we somehow neglected to mention **Matthew Adam, Mike Lane's** son. Matthew sailed Laser Radials and finished 15th in a class of 29.

Continued on page 4

WELCOME

Seamus Hourian and **Peter Frisch** have been sailing John Thompson's boat Hall Pass (1210) for the better part of the season, including Race Week and Nationals. For Seamus, it's a victory lap of sorts as he was part of the wildly successful **Tom Dimond / Mark Crawford** program that won three nationals back in the late 90s. Peter is a dedicated one design sailor who has spent the last several years sailing Sonars. Both sail out of EYC. Welcome.

Colin Santangelo, who currently sails on the Harvard Sailing Team, sailed Race Week with **Mark Rubin**, recently joined the class and the fleet. We know his desire to sail Nationals had a little something to do with his joining, but given how much fun he seemed to be having at Nationals, we wouldn't be surprised to see him on our line from time to time. We certainly hope that will be the case. Welcome Colin.

Long-time Rhodes racer **Richard Brown**, who spent years helping **Mike Carpenter** and **BJ Mansfield** in their many successful campaigns rejoined Mike as 3rd, in Nationals. Welcome back Richard.

Welcome To Crews We could afford to get a whole lot better at tracking the folks who, day in and day out, sail on our line as crew. We invite their skippers to help us out with that, so we can more personally embrace them and make sure they get invited to our class socials. To that end, please send their names into **Steve Uhl** and **Kim Pandapas**. In the meantime, welcome to all.

NOTICE BOARD

Please mail postings to kpandapas@comcast.net.

New Main for Sale Rick Hamill, who won the Doyle main in the Nationals raffle, is selling the sail because he no longer owns a boat. He's offering the sail for \$700.00 including numbers and insignia in choice of color (Gen at Doyle said the Doyle donation included that). As a frame of reference, the 2010 retail price was \$1015, with a 20% discount if purchased over the winter. (\$862.75 including tax). She's not sure of the 2011 pricing, but it certainly won't go down. Contact Rick at rickhamill@comcast.net.

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 (www.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.

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-
csmall19021@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

FLEET 5 TRIVIA

(Answers on Page 4)

1. How many active Fleet 5 members have held the position of President of the Class Association, and who are they?
2. Who won the 2009 Fleet 5 President's Trophy?
3. Name the youngest sailor to participate in the 2010 Nationals.

FLEET PROFILE – A CHAT WITH DAVE REYNOLDS

by *Christina Pandapas*

How long have you been sailing and how did you start?

I started sailing competitively in high school. I was fortunate to go to a school with a very competitive program (Hotchkiss School in CT) and crewed in dinghies on a team that won the high school national championship. After that, I was hooked. Lisa started sailing sunfish as a kid and taught sailing at her yacht club in New Jersey.

What kind of boat(s) did you sail before the Rhodes?

All the college dinghies and then I owned a Vanguard 15 for about 8 years after college. Great boat, too much travel.

What attracted you to the Rhodes fleet?

Jeff (Shoreman) and I had been frostbiting at Courageous for a few years and liked sailing the boat. I loved that the fleet has competitive one design racing every week close to home. Jeff was sold on the fleet when he found out the Fleet's largest (& perhaps only) physical asset was a large inventory of booze.

From whom did you buy your boat and how did that come about?

Jeff and I bought the boat together from Shan McAdoo and Paul Adam. I'd met Shan a few times and he is the one that sold me on the Rhodes.

You've been in the Fleet for 3 years, or is it longer?

Just finished our 3rd season. Hard to believe it took that long to win a race.

How has it compared to previous fleet racing you've done?

You can't beat the competitiveness week after week and the great attitude of the fleet members to get newcomers up to speed.

How did you and Jeff hook up as boat partners?

Jeff, Lisa & I all sailed together at Dartmouth College. In fact, my senior year, Lisa & I sailed together almost every weekend. It was an easy choice to buy the boat with Jeff. He is a awesome partner. At our first nationals in Padanaram, he buffed the boat on the tune up day (with Ian Peebles), and I showed up a day later to drive it.

How do you decide how to split the driving/crewing?

Jeff and I agreed right off that we would split the driving with the expectation of each becoming better at all aspects of sailing. We didn't anticipate that Lisa would be so fast so there's now a healthy competition to drive McLovin.

What's Lisa's sailing background?

I (Lisa) started sailing on cruising boats with my family when I was young, and then got into dinghies in my early teens - which was probably a little late, so I missed out on the Optimist. I taught sailing for 2 summers at a club in NJ and joined the sailing team my freshman year in college. I crewed for David my freshman spring, and developed a pretty serious crush on him. By my sophomore year he came to his senses and got rid of the old girlfriend. The rest is history.

What is the story behind the boat name?

We both have a relatively adolescent sense of humor, so it goes without saying that we loved the movie 'Superbad.' And our wives vetoed a series of lame names like that before we settled on McLovin.

What other activities do you do for fun?

Not much. Lisa wants to learn to surf so if there are any surfers in the fleet, send her a note (lisa_core@comcast.net).

What do you do for work?

I'm a strategy manager for Cabot Corporation (a chemicals company) and Lisa is an Assistant District Attorney in Essex County.

RULES & TACTICS – SAILING DOWNWIND – HOW LOW CAN YOU GO? *By Charlie Pendleton*

Most sailors are highly tuned in to upwind strategy and tactics, but many mistakenly treat runs as a parade and an opportunity to catch a breather. Downwind sailing is just as tactical as upwind sailing and provides opportunities for big gains. Taking advantage of those gains depends heavily on communication in the boat.

Roles are reversed downwind. The crew is now fastidiously focused on a sail (spinnaker) and it's the skipper's turn to get their head out of the boat. The skipper (and/or a third if you are sailing with one) needs to consider the big picture: Are we in the breeze? Where is the next puff coming from? Where is the leeward mark? Are we on the right jibe? Once you've rounded the windward mark, make the transition to your new role.

There are two concepts are critical in a Rhodes. Sail as low as you can go - on the jibe that takes you closest to the mark. In a good breeze, you can sail a Rhodes extremely low - just "by the lee" – a little past dead down wind. However, as the breeze lightens up if you sail too low, the spinnaker will collapse. When the breeze is not strong enough, figuring out how low you can go requires communication between the skipper and crew. Jim and I constantly talk about the pressure on the spinnaker. If the breeze gets too light and the spinnaker is getting hard for me to fly, I'll ask Jim to "heat it up a little" and Jim will head higher. If I feel good pressure on the spinnaker, I'll let Jim know and he'll point the boat a little lower.

In my last article, I talked about understanding whether you wanted to jibe or bear off around the offset or windward mark. This is an important decision and is driven by the following concept: jibe on the lifts. This is the opposite of what you do upwind (tack on the headers). The idea is to sail on the jibe that allows you to point closest to the mark (and therefore sail least distance).

Finally, consider where you are on the racecourse in comparison to the boats around you. Are you positioned well for the mark rounding? With a single leeward mark or a gate, this usually means positioning yourself on the inside of the pack so you will be entitled to room at the mark.

Some good rules of thumb downwind:

- Sail low in the puffs and higher in the lulls.
- Steer with your weight – heel to leeward to head up, heel to windward to bear off (very effective when sailing by the lee).
- Let the spinnaker breathe. If it's within a foot of the head stay, it's probably over-trimmed.
- Don't forget your vang! Too little vang lets the boom bounce and will spill wind out of your mainsail.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Three. Current president Tom Despres (2007 – present) and Kim Pandapas (2001-2002) and Fred Brehob (1996-1997).
2. Steve Uhl
3. Wilson Kaznoski, age 8, sailed all three days of the 2010 Nationals.

SHORT TACKS

Continued from Page 2

Brian Bones Takes Over the TC Class President **Tom Despres** announced that **Brian Bones** will chair the class technical committee. It will now fall to Brian, to work through a docket of several unresolved technical issues, and in so doing to strike the right balance between our needs today and what is best for the long-term interest of the class. The list of issues includes relatively minor stuff like allow electronic compasses, to major changes such as allowing the introduction of a new composite keel. We don't envy Brian, but note that he embraces the job with positive energy and no apparent personal agenda.

Christina's a PR Machine In case you hadn't noticed, Fleet 5 and the Rhodes class have been getting a lot of press lately. **Christina Pandapas**, who is a PR professional and writer by trade, has been an ongoing contributor this season to the Marblehead Reporter, writing feature articles about a variety of sailing topics and making sure the MRA scores are listed. She's also been a regular contributor to this distinguished periodical. But on top of all that, this season she trained her energy and talents on promoting our Nationals, generally working to make sure we get the press (we so richly deserve), and she's done a great job. Several articles about us (featuring Fleet 5, Race Week, Nationals and our new Nationals champs) have found their way in Scuttlebutt and the Marblehead Reporter. Great job – thanks to Christina.

Sailing World Takes Notice – Who are These Guys? And in case you missed it, one bit of PR Christina didn't have a hand in was the feature column by **Dave Reed** about **Jim Raisides** and **Charlie Pendleton** in this month's Sailing World. What a feather in the cap of our 2-time consecutive Race Week winners. Through this article, they demonstrated how to build a successful program and what a good partnership can be. And at the same time they brought national attention to our fleet and our class. Congratulations Jim and Charlie (or is it Charlie and Jim).

Clark Uhl Wins the R19 Junior Keelboat Regatta In breezy conditions our Nationals organizers might have sold their souls for, **Clark Uhl**, sailing with his dad **Steve Uhl**, who dominated a field of four boats. In the four races sailed, he scored 1-1-2-1. **James Collins & Cameron Holley**, sailing with **Jamie Holley**, finished second. **Nicholas Pandapas** took third and **Wilson Kaznoski; Isabella, Miles & Malcolm Renney** took fourth. Congratulations to all.