



The Old Man

<May 2009>

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

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E-mail newsletter
 contributions to
newsletter@magothy.com
magothy.com

**Deadline for next
 issue:
 Monday,
 May 25, 2009**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **May 2:** Cinco de Mayo, Saturday, Cattail Creek (Casa de Betz)
- **May 9:** Spring Classic Race & Cruise Raft-Up, Saturday, Broad Creek
- **May 19:** Tuesday with the Blue Angels, meet at Black Hole Creek
- **May 23-25:** Memorial Day Cruise, Sat-Sun-Mon, Granary Creek on the Wye River
- **June 5:** Annual Picnic at the Poes, Friday, Black Hole Creek
- **June 6-7:** Miles River Cruise, Saturday-Sunday, Picturesque Miles River



Commodore's Comments



By Toni Hughes,
 Commodore

After lots of waxing, sanding, and painting, the new racing season has started. As an added safety feature for this year we have a telephone alert system that can be activated to call your cell phone. Race skippers: we had a test of our alert system on April 22nd. If you got a message

(not very clear this time) it was a test of the system. If you did not get that message and would like be sure you are on the list please contact Craig Coltharp, Rear Commodore, to update your phone number.

Remember the start of the season means to **do a good safety check on your boat**. Be sure your crew is familiar with the safety items on your boat. Some of the items on your spring list should be to check your flares for dates, check your first aid kit, check for correct number of PFDs, check your horn, check radio, and check your fire extinguisher.

Thank you to Peggy Poe for publishing the "Day Mark" – an added reminder of our many club activities this spring. I hope to see you on the water enjoying our early events.



To sea, to sea! our wide-winged bark
 Shall billowy cleave its sunny way,
 And with its shadow, fleet and dark,
 Break the caved Tritons' azure day,
 Like mighty eagle soaring light
 O'er antelopes on Alpine height.
 The anchor heaves, the ship swings free,
 The sails swell full. To sea, to sea!

– From *To Sea! To Sea!* by Thomas Lovell Beddoes (1803 – 1849)

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Upcoming Cruises & Events

Cinco de Mayo Party – Saturday May 2 (in advance)

By Fred and Sue Betz

Let's try to repeat or exceed last year's weather blessed gathering to celebrate **Cinco de Mayo....** in advance, on Saturday May 2, 2009, at 5:00 PM, (1700 hr.) at Casa Betz, either by sea or by land. By water, head northwest on the Magothy River to the westerly branch of Cattail Creek, leaving the MR daymarker and red #2 to starboard. Proceed approximately a mile west on Cattail Creek to the burgee marked Betz pier (with the distinctive pink bench), on the north shore. By land come to Berrywood, north of Severn Park on Rt 2 and right (north) on 648, 2nd right, Berrywood Drive, and find 175 Topeg Drive. Note: the "Berrywood" entrance sign is gone!

Dining details are not yet available, but we are planning traditional Mexican fare, with beverages attributed to the culture as well! Please plan to bring an appetizer or dessert. There will be charge of \$15 per person to help defray the cost of food and drink. Therefore, please RSVP to the Betz no later than Tuesday, 28 April, to be sure that we have "... enough to eat and a little more than enough to drink, for thirst is a dangerous thing...." (Chapt. 3, "Three Men in a Boat", 1887). Please E-mail us at fredbetz@verizon.net or call/leave a message at 410-647-3824.

Spring Classic Race & Cruise Raft-Up, Broad Creek – May 9

By George Braun

Cruisers and racers are invited to the Spring Classic Raft Up on the afternoon of May 9th. The raft up will take place just inside Broad Creek on the port side (if you are headed north). *Quicksilver* will be anchored around 2:30 P.M. so cruisers can join up after that time. After the two Spring Classic Races, the racers are invited to join the raft. This is not an overnight raft up, so we will break up in the evening. Drinks will be supplied on *Quicksilver*, but please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Contact George Braun at gbraun223@comcast.net or 410-255-3481 if you have any questions.

May 19th – A Day with the Blue Angels

By Peggy an Ed Poe

Ever Want to Sail into the Wild Blue Yonder? On Tuesday, May 19th you have the chance to sail to Annapolis on *Ravenous*, a beautiful blue J-42, along with Ed Poe and others who have decided to take the day off from work or away from the everyday chores. Just for one day, sail away and experience the fabulous Blue Angels soaring above you with their twists and turns and swoops over Annapolis, as they practice for the Naval Academy Graduation show.



We'll leave the Poe pier on Black Hole Creek at about 1030 and enjoy the day sailing to Annapolis. Bring your lunch, and we'll have water and drinks aboard *Ravenous*. The world famous air show above the Severn will begin at around 1300, and we should be back at the pier by about 1630, after a beautiful day on the water (if Mother Nature is

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cooperative).

Before takeoff/setting sail, please call Ed Poe at 410-296-6428 or Email Ed at mpoe1@comcast.net to let him know you'd like to join the fun.

Strawberries, Burgers, and Fun!

MRSA Picnic Friday, June 5th at 6:30 pm

By Peggy Poe

Once again MRSA is throwing a party. And we are getting really good at it! This time it is the June picnic. Rain or shine, we will be cooking hot dogs and burgers at the home of past Commodore Ed and Peggy Poe, 438 Shady Lane, Pasadena, 21122 on Black Hole Creek. There will be strawberries and ice cream and plenty of your favorite beverages as well.

You don't want to miss this annual event. Come by land or come by sea. There will be launch service if you would like to anchor out in the outer harbor and get a lift in to the party. This is a fun party for all ages. There is a beach for wading or swimming for the young and young at heart. There are kayaks for paddling.

If your name begins with A through L, please bring an appetizer. If your name begins with M through Z, please bring a salad or side dish. Our dessert will be strawberries and ice cream (and maybe some chocolate sauce for our non-strawberry eaters!)

Please call 410-296-6428 or email to mpoe1@comcast.net by June 2nd to let us know that you will be coming.



Tall-Tales of Past Cruises and Events

Sock Burner at Beverly's Beach, Broad Creek

By The Sea

The weather cooperated and this years Sock-Burner at Beverly's Beach on the Magothy's Broad Creek was a well-attended success - plus. The plus was the celebration of hostess Beverly Looper's gala 85th Birthday. Congratulations were passed as well as a beautiful (and large) birthday cake decorated especially for the occasion. Beverly's son Eddie chauffeured Beverly in style to the occasion in the Looper go-kart. About 45 people of all ages, and at least 3 dogs warmed to the burning socks on the fire. The dogs and many of the children took advantage of the warm weather to swim or wade in the creek, and not a few of us were startled as (relatively) cold wet dogs or kids brushed against those seeking warm dry conversations. A great variety of munchies were shared and consumed under the pavilion as winter tales and summer dreams were ruminated amongst the assemblage.



Wes McNair holds the cake as Birthday Girl Beverly prepares to blow the candles - in the go-kart (More photos later in this issue.)



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RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR:

- *Cinco de Mayo*
By April 28
(or ASAP)

- *Blue Angels Cruise*
By May 17

- *MRSA June Picnic*
By June 2

Special Membership Notices and Announcements

Why Not MRSA?

By Peggy Poe – Membership co-chair

We are such a friendly group of sailors. I sometimes wonder why we don't have long lines of people just clamoring to join our group. But then, I wise up. And I understand. There are other sailing clubs, and bicycling clubs, and chess clubs, and golf clubs, and hiking clubs, and camping clubs, and gourmet clubs, and book clubs, and the list goes on and on and on.

But this month there are three very intelligent families who decided that we are the club they really wanted to join. And we are very happy to welcome them aboard. We welcome Marion and Jay Lewald of Severna Park. Jay is actually a returning member, having been a member some years ago. His boat is a 30 foot Bayliner named *Sh-Boom*. Jay and Marion have a grandson who has been accepted into this year's Junior Training class.

Also new to us this month are Anne and Mike Province with son Andrew and daughter Claire, also from Severna Park. The Provinces live near the Lewalds and the Province kids are friends with the Lewald grandkids. Anne is Andy Andrews' daughter. Mike and Anne own a Tartan 26 named *Dolphin* and a Van de Stadt 45 named *Argo Navis*. The family has been live-a-boards. Andrew Province has also been accepted into this year's Junior Training class.

Our newest member is Collin Jones who has been sailing for three years and is interested in beginning to race with MRSA this season. He owns a Catalina 26 named *Kerri'd Away* that he keeps at Whitehurst Marina. Collin lives in Annapolis.

Please welcome these new members to MRSA.



Racing Corner

MRSA Racing Corner for May 2009

- Up To Date MRSA Racing News

By Craig Colthorpe, Rear Commodore

As racing events and results occur during the season they will be posted rapidly on the MRSA web site and announced via the "RACERS" E-mail list. If you are a racer and are not on this list, or not sure, please contact Web Master Mike Mullarky at 410-439-1556 or webmaster@magothysailing.com to put your E-mail address on the list. Similarly, if you are a Cruiser (or both), contact Mike. MRSA does not distribute these addresses outside of the Club and the only use is in connection with the Club. You will receive no junk mail, heartfelt stories, chain letters, or jokes from us. (Too bad for you.) Just the good MRSA information you crave.

Safe Sailing 2009

By Ancient Mariner, with thanks to the Boat US Seaworthy safety magazine, April 2009

Spring has sprung – and with it, sailing season 2009. How sweet it is! As you stow the winter wrappings and walk about your boats this spring, remember to dust off those areas where you keep safety gear. Especially remember to dust of that corner of your mind where you keep your safety gear.

Remember last year that we had a very tragic drowning during one of the first Wednesday Night Races. There was plenty of help available, but we still lost a very seasoned Magothy

Sailor. Nobody wants a repeat of that this year – or any other year. Lifejackets – especially, and not limited to strong weather, were the number one lesson learned last year. Number two: man overboard drills.

Let's assume you wear your life jacket at all times when on deck and require everyone on your boat to do the same. And you showed everyone where they are stowed and where the nearest throwable is found. When you and your crew/passengers board for the first time this year, take a few minutes to review a few safety areas.

1. Fire Extinguishers. These should be viewed and the operation explained. If you have fire ports for your engine, point those out also. How often during the season should you review fire extinguishers? Depends on how quickly you want the fire put out.
2. Flaws (Southern for "Flares"). Show where they are stowed and maybe give a word or two on how they work – like that they should be held overboard to avoid using #1.
3. Engine and fuel shutoffs. Sometimes these are not obvious or are hidden in a box with a way-cool sailboat name that your land-lubber friends never heard of, as in "Quick – in the starboard lazarette!" (Repeated more forcefully:) "**The lazarette!!**" (Loud thud.)
4. No Fiddle Areas. Boats have "thingys" that you do not want curious people to touch. Sometimes no fiddle areas are co-located with engine shutoffs in lazarettes.
5. Battery Switches. See #3 and #4 to avoid use of #1 and/or #2.
6. VHF. Show off some of your skills: familiarize people with the operation of your VHF. Explain the use of channels 16 and 9, and how to select them with the word "MAYDAY." Explain that "over" precedes release of the push-to-talk button so that we can hear the person on the other end of the conversation. Occasionally inform those not familiar with points of interest where they are - so that when the person on the other end of the conversation asks "where are you," they can respond with other than "inside the boat."
7. First Aid Kit. We know YOU know where it is, but what if YOU are the victim?
8. Flashlight. Even in bright daylight, flashlights come in handy in the far corners of the boat. See #3 through #5.
9. Man overboard. And finally, if you are the only person on board that you trust to pick you up if you chance to use your life jacket, do whatever it takes to make sure at least one other person finds out how to turn the boat around, start the engine, and use that Lifesling2 you paid \$100 for. And be sure somebody (not you) knows to keep eyeballs on the guy in the water (you).

You will look great in your spiffy new inflatable doing drills with your crew this weekend! Do them well and you will get to do them for many years to come.



Junior Sailing Program

By Rich Hughes

MRSA is preparing for this year's has an outstanding youth sailing camp. The program includes a comprehensive training program for students from beginners to advanced sailors as well as a weekly racing program for interested youths.

This year's two-week sailing camp for boys and girls from 9 to 16 years of age is shaping up now. Information for those who have signed up this year will be available shortly and posted on MRSA's web site. The 2009 sailing camp will be held on weekdays from June 15th through June 26th, beginning at 0830 hours and finishing at 1600 hours. Registration for this year's camp is complete and there is a waiting list. We are still looking for volunteers to help spruce up the boats, and to escort the boats to the Grachur Club up river from the McNair property on Black Hole Creek (and back again two weeks later). If you would like to join this fascinating experience with MRSA 420s, Lasers, Optimis, and other One-Design sailboats, please contact Rich Hughes at 410-224-4155 for more information.



Oh, By the Way

New Emergency Beacon Frequency Started February 1, 2009

Modified from an article by Glen Johnson, Associated Press writer

As mentioned in these pages in March, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will stop using its satellites to monitor the 121.5 MHz frequency used by older analog boater distress beacons. NOAA and the Coast Guard, which responds to maritime distress calls, will instead limit their watch to newer digital signals coming across the 406 MHz frequency sent by Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons, or EPIRBs. EPIRBs are not mandatory equipment like life vests, but they are considered a good idea for anyone boating alone or beyond the sight of land. Older 243.0 and 121.5 MHz distress calls may still be monitored by ships and aircraft, but the new 406 frequency will guarantee a quick emergency response via satellite monitoring. EPIRBs cost \$400 to \$1,000. If you spend \$400 for a GPS for your car, compare that to the cost of your life in a boat? You can also rent EPIRBs for short periods at many marine stores. The Boat U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water rents them for only \$40 per week – an easy choice for your offshore trips this season. They even register the unit for you and ship direct to your front door with a return label. (www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/epirb)

Ten Ways You Can Help Clean Up The Bay

Modified from an article in "Indicator" – Westinghouse Magazine – June/July 1989 and the Governors "One Million Marylanders" Campaign

1. Get involved.
2. Save water. Use water sparingly when brushing teeth, washing dishes and shaving. Take showers instead of baths.
3. Dispose of household products carefully. Never pour paints, preservatives, brush cleaners and solvents down a drain. Buy products with the least amount of toxic material. Before discarding paint cans and chemical containers, stuff them with newspapers.
4. Care for your lawn cautiously. Trees and shrubs prevent erosion and soak up nutrients before they run off into the Bay. Don't over-fertilize, and if you use a lawn service, make sure it is appropriate for your lawn's needs. When your yard is dry, water it to a depth of four to six inches.
5. Practice sensible pest control. Do not apply pesticides near water or bare ground or if rain has been forecast.
6. Control run-off from your yard. Ninety percent of the Maryland rainfall ends up in the Bay. This run-off can carry the fertilizers and toxic chemicals you use on your yard.
7. Control soil erosion. When rain falls on hard surfaces, it can be carried into storm drains. Run-off can be slowed by reducing the amount of hard surfaces around your home. For example, wood decks with space between the boards allow water to drain into the ground. Run-off is reduced when rain is diverted from paved surfaces onto grass.
8. Maintain your septic system. Make sure toilets don't drain slowly, dispose of chemicals properly and use garbage disposals sparingly.
9. Use car care products wisely. Dispose of motor oil, anti-freeze and battery acid properly by keeping them contained. They can harm the Bay if they flow into storm drains or off of paved surfaces into a waterway. Check with your local service station or call the Maryland Environmental Service at 1-800-492-9188, if you have questions about disposing of these products. Wash your car on the grass. It can filter water and detergent. (And water the lawn.)
10. Contain chemical spills. If pesticides, oil or other chemicals leak on a surface, like a driveway, surround the area with soil or another absorbent material. Place the material in a plastic bag and put it in the trash.

Scuttlebutt – nautical lore...

By Long John Silver

Three or even four years ago, Harvey Paskin spiced up his electrifying Master-of-Ceremonies Joke-Fest at the Commodore's Ball with a few comments about nautical terms reaching the current vernacular from the far reaches of sailing ships of old. Those were the days of wooden ships and iron men as opposed to more recent times of fiberglass boats and gentle women.

One of the terms not discussed was “**shiver my timbers**” (also pronounced in the olde English fashion of "shiver me timbers"). In the modern vernacular the term is the nautical equivalent of “my goodness gracious” (also pronounced in numerous nautical and not-so-nautical ways generally associated with mothers putting their hands over their children's ears and the non-nautical term: “expletive deleted”). “But where does the term come from?” you may ask. “Shiver” is not associated with cold. Your timbers are not cold. Rather, a “shiver” refers to “splinter” – again from the olde English. When a wooden sailing ship in battle saw its rigging blasted in the masts or other wooden members or “timbers,” the resulting splintering was termed “shivering of the timbers.” The reference may also be attributed to the effect in heavy seas where a sailing ship would heave and pound hard enough to “shiver the timbers.” The term was made popular in books before 1800, but in 1883, Long John Silver really coined the phrase as a pirate exclamation in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* when he used the phrase repeatedly in the modern vernacular – more or less. Ever since, the term is also generally associated with Pirates, including “Amazon Pirate” Nancy Blackett in Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* books where the phrase occurs in almost every book. (The first book of the series, by the way, relates to two dinghies named *Swallow* and *Amazon*, and has references to *Treasure Island*.) “Shiver my timbers” has also morphed to more civilized sailors such as Popeye in cartoons and comic books - and even a feature movie. Shiver Me Timber songs have been recorded by Tom Waits and Bette Midler. *Treasure Island* is still popular and you may find it even more interesting now than when you read it the first time. Finding a copy with the original 1911 N. C. Wyeth illustrations – priceless.



Walt and Nancy Burmeister enjoying the Sock Burner



Correction from the April Fool's Issue: Here are Bob Krapfel and Sheryl McNair. Wes McNair is not in this photo. The Editor was the Fool.



The end of a sure-enough formerly fine sock.



From Left: 3 of the wet "under-21" set; George Stamps with Shirley Masiee; Donna and Dave Prucnal

More people:



The Old Man

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Picture by Bill Paul

The Old Dog

