



# The Old Man

< November 2011 >

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

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

Deadline for ALL  
future issues:  
**25<sup>th</sup> DAY**  
**OF THE MONTH**  
**PRIOR TO**  
publication date

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **October 29-30, Sat-Sun: Frostbite Cruise – to Maryland Yacht Club**
- **October 30, Sat: Hallie Rice Fall Series Races 7-8**
- **November 6, Sat: Hallie Rice Fall Series Races 9-10**
- **December 1, Thurs: Elections – with Wine & Cheese, Belvedere YC, 6:30 PM**
- **December 10, Sat: Parade of Lights Party, Annapolis Marriott**
- **January 28, Sat: Commodore's Ball, Gibson Island Club**

## **Commodore's Comments – Looking Like Janus**

By Jon Mullarky, Commodore



Where did October go?  
Here it is November, but it  
seems like the month  
started only a few days  
ago. It was a busy month  
for MRSA members. The  
racing community  
celebrated the end of  
Wednesday Night racing  
with a Trophy Party on  
October 5.  
Congratulations to all the  
skippers and crew that  
took home trophies that  
recognize some of their  
many achievements this  
year!

At the October 6<sup>th</sup> membership meeting we enjoyed an award winning film showing us what it was like to go around Cape Horn in a sailing vessel.

Cruisers were on the water for the Schooner Race Start on October 13, a Goose Cruise on a beautiful October weekend and our Annual Frostbite Cruise. This year frost biters enjoyed dinner at the Maryland Yacht Club on Rock Creek.

Of course October brought the Annapolis Boat Show. Anybody sail a new boat home, or did you leave the show loving the boat you have a lot more?

As you can see, MRSA was an active club in October, and there is more to come in the coming months. The Nominating Committee, headed by Dick Kammann, will propose a slate of candidates for election at the December 1 Membership Meeting. A week later MRSA will have a room at the Annapolis Marriott so we can view the Parade of Lights. Planning is underway for the Commodore's Ball scheduled for January 28 at the Gibson Island Club.

Your boat may be winterized and on the hard, but your sailing club still has many activities for you this winter.

Jon

**2010-2011  
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OF THE  
MRSA**

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**--- SPECIAL LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP ---  
FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

*Thanks for Stepping Up!*

*By Dick Kammann – Stepper; Nominating Committee Chairman*

Thanks to everyone on the Nominating Committee this year. Special thanks to all who have thrown their hats, rain gear, socks, and maybe a sheepshank into the ring for the upcoming election of officers. At this writing, we still have a few empty slots. Please give your MRSA Board consideration in your service plans for the coming year.



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**Upcoming Cruises & Events**

*Frostbite Cruise, October 29 – 30, Maryland Yacht Club*

*Submitted by Myron Dorf, Cruise Leader*

We're happy to be able to announce a new destination for our Frostbite Cruise. The Maryland Yacht Club, a full service yacht club, has welcomed us to enjoy their spacious grounds and club house with a great view of Rock Creek and the Patapsco River. We will be selecting from their varied menu with reasonably priced dishes prepared by their gourmet chef. Slips are available for those coming by boat for a fee of \$1.50 per foot. Festivities begin at 6:00 pm.

By car – Take Rt. 2 or Rt. 100 to Magothy Bridge Road. Follow Magothy Bridge/Hog Neck to end. Turn right onto Ft. Smallwood Rd. and travel 2.3 miles to Fairview Beach Rd. Turn left at the sign to Fairview Marina and Maryland Yacht Club. Go to the end. There is a buzzer at the gate to have them open it.

By boat – Enter the Patapsco River.

- At mouth of Patapsco River turn to port after passing Brewerton Channel green buoy 5.
- Proceed on course 244 degrees Magnetic, passing the white rocks on your starboard.
- Proceed into Rock Creek.

Maryland Yacht Club sits on your port side after passing between red day marker 4 and lighted green day marker 3.

If you plan to use a slip, let us know and we will send you a form for the slip.

Please RSVP by October 26 so we can give the club a number: [myrondorf@comcast.net](mailto:myrondorf@comcast.net) or 410-255-8330.

*Elections and Wine & Cheese Party, Thursday, December 1,  
Belvedere Yacht Club*

*Submitted by Peggy Poe, Admiral, Black Hole Contingency Task Force*

Mark your calendars for December 1<sup>st</sup> and the annual Wine and Cheese Party at Belvedere Yacht Club. After greeting and meeting and having a glass of wine or a sip of something or other, we'll probably find something yummy to munch on, because MRSA has some of the best cooks in the area. (Cook - not me. – ED)

So come to Belvedere YC at 6:30 on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Bring your favorite vino and a hearty snack. Oh yes, we'll be voting for the next Board of Governors of MRSA. Be

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prepared to cast your very important votes. And maybe you should bring your plans for sailing into 2012. There are always folks who have suggestions of what you could do to your boat – how to repair it, where to sail it, what and where to buy for it, etc, etc. Come see your old friends and make new ones. PLUS – special treat for all the racers in attendance!

### [2012 Commodore's Ball](#)

Mark your calendar. The 2012 MRSA Commodore's Ball will be held the evening of Saturday, January 28 at the Gibson Island Club. More details will follow in the December and/or January editions of *The OLD MAN*.



## Tall Tales from Past Cruises and Events

### [Commodore's Movie Night - October 6](#)

*Submitted by Jon Mullarky, Commodore*



"Where's the Pizza?" MRSA Members await the arrival of pizza at the Movie Night.

At the October 6 MRSA membership meeting enjoyed pizza and viewed film shot by round-the-world voyager Captain Irving Johnson during his rounding of Cape Horn on the sailing bark PEKING. Capt Johnson's narrated film took viewers through a wild storm as the PEKING rounded the Cape and gave us a feeling of what it was like to climb into the rigging of a turn-of-the century sailing vessel in order to tend sails under the worst conditions possible. Johnson also showed crew training exercises and day-to-day routine on a sailing vessel. The PEKING captain's dog that could not be petted according to Johnson enforced the training by nipping sailors if they made a mistake or did not respond fast enough to satisfy the mate.

### [Schooner Race Start On Ravenous - October 13](#)

Due to a glitch, this article will appear next month. One picture is worth a thousand words. Photos courtesy of John Hubbs. Counterclockwise from left: George Stamps, Jack Blair,

## CBYRA

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### Website:

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MRSA is a member of CBYRA, CBYCA, and Boat US. (Member #GA 80366 S)

## RESERVATIONS REQUIRED or REQUESTED FOR:

*-Elections; Wine & Cheese – by Nov 29, to Peggy Poe at [mpoe1@comcast.net](mailto:mpoe1@comcast.net)*

*- Parade of Lights – by Dec 6, to Marianne Kammann at [marichkamm@atlanticbb.net](mailto:marichkamm@atlanticbb.net)*

## PHOTO CREDITS:

*Special thanks to John Hubbs and Peggy Poe*

*If anybody thinks they can get rid of this excess (but truly lovely) blue bar by having the Editor send an original format newsletter, and then you remove the excess, PLEASE send an E-mail to the Editor with your offer. Thank You! - ED*

Alex Daly, Peggy Poe, Marty & Mark Walker, and Ed Poe. More photos page 7 & 8.



## Special Membership Notices and Announcements

### [MRSA Co-Founder Laid to Rest](#)

*Submitted by Jon Mullarky, Commodore*

We are sad to report that MRSA Co-Founder, Past Commodore, and dedicated member Dr. Lyle Millan passed away on September 29. He had served as MRSA Commodore in 1976. A memorial service was held Friday, October 7, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church (intersection of St. Margaret's Rd & Pleasant Plains Rd). Several MRSA members honored Lyle at his service.

### [Nominating Committee Appointed](#)

Commodore Jon Mullarkey has appointed this year's Nominating Committee consisting of Dick Kammann as Chairman, Gabriella Belli, Laura Bonham and Joe Berchielli. The Committee will report the slate for next year's officers in mid-November. Elections will be held at our December 1 meeting.

### [Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Ideas Wanted](#)

*Submitted by The Old Man*

- Want to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay? Of course you do!
- Ever actively done anything to clean up the Chesapeake Bay? Maybe; maybe not.
- If you have done something to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, what did you do?  
Can others do it also?
- Please share your thoughts and good works with *The Old Man* and we will pass them on.

One innovative idea has received mention in the local press on a few occasions recently: floating fountains. These “aerators” are designed to restore oxygen to the water, which allows fish to survive, which brings in other aquatic life – turtles, crabs, grasses, sub-aquatic vegetation (SAV), and all the little creatures that live in the SAV. About two-dozen fountains have been anchored in Furnace Branch and Marley Creeks so far. The locals claim the fountains work. So does number one proponent, County Councilman John Grasso from Glen Burnie. His *Clean the Creeks* nonprofit is selling the fountains for about \$425 – or up to \$600 for the lighted versions. The fountains have about a 2-foot diameter floating base, are anchored to the bottom, and shoot a tower of water about 15 feet into the air – bringing oxygenated water back into the body of water. Since many MRSA members live where they could install the fountains, it may be worth a try. Personally, I like those false mussels that cleaned up the Magothy so well about 3 years ago, and oysters do a good cleaning job also. Unfortunately, false mussels and oysters are picky about habitat; fountains – not so picky.

So ... what have you done to clean up our Chesapeake Bay lately – or ever?  
Sharing is a virtue.

### [Dobbins Island Dispute Goes to Maryland High Court](#) **Court of Appeals will weigh whether beach should remain available to the public**

Synopsized/paraphrased/elaborated upon for space – but based on a fine article by Andrea F. Siegel, *The Baltimore Sun* October 5, 2011

The article talks about a woman from Severna Park who has been going to the island in the Magothy River since the 1960s. “You’d picnic, meet people and swim,” the Severna Park woman said of her trips to a beach that she and many others considered to be a public place.” Then David and Diana Clickner bought the 7-acre island in 2004, with plans to make it their family home. Like most beach-front land owners on the river, they have no interest in hosting a summer long party or in sharing the beach with uninvited strangers who often leave their trash behind. So in 2006, the Clickners erected a modest low fence to mark their private property. But the Magothy River Association and others sued to keep the beach public, and won. The fence came down. The Clickners appealed, and the case is scheduled to be heard in Maryland's highest court. At issue is whether a century of tradition trumps private ownership.

"The judge has made my personal property a public park," David Clickner said in a recent interview. The Magothy River Association sees it differently. "Did somebody take something away from him, or is he taking something away from the public?" Unlike the Little Island or “Little Dutch” just north of the island, at least the Clickners ask for permits – unlike Mr. Wagner with his still un-permitted pool, rocks, lighthouse, and piers. Curiously, nobody parties on his island or ties up to his piers.

History: Baltimore Judge George Dobbins bought the island, also known to the locals at “Dutch Ship Island,” in the mid-1800s as a retreat – when it was a larger place, and actually constructed buildings, long gone, on the island. The Magothy River Association says that the Dobbins family allowed public use of the beach and subsequent owners kept that tradition – or maybe just ignored the boaters who initially were rare since boats, especially power boats, were rare until the late 1950s on the river. In 1997, the *Chesapeake Bay Magazine* called the island a great stopping-off point for boaters, though it noted that “no trespassing” signs were posted “from time to time.” (Once CB Mag publishes a quiet anchorage, it is that no more. – ED) The island was once home to Native Americans, and area residents say they used to find arrowheads when they explored there as children. Local lore has it that old Dutch coins, possibly from a shipwreck, washed ashore and that a Colonial-era ship’s planks were found underwater nearby. Recently the sandy beach on the island's north side that has been the draw, serving as a destination for weekend boaters. Solitude has disappeared. The annual Bumper Bash, a daylong party that has drawn hundreds of boaters in recent years, is one example. The gathering of revelers has turned rowdy in the past, and the police presence has been stepped up.

Paul Spadaro, president of the Magothy River Association, says Dobbins Island plays an important role in the community as what he asserts is "the only public beach" in the Magothy. He said the Clickners *should have known* when they bought Dobbins Island from Jim and Edward Wilson for about \$825,000 that they purchased what amounted to a park. In fact, Spadaro wants to see the entire island turned into a public space, but his efforts to find a buyer willing to turn it into a park have been unsuccessful. A few years before, the owner was offering the land for \$1.00, but legalese and liability issues turned potential buyers away. Now what's at stake is the 1,200-foot sliver of beach. Under Maryland law, the public has access to any waterfront — the portion of land below mean high tide. Boaters can legally drop anchor along Dobbins' beach or tie up to the posts that remain from the Clickners' fence.

Mr. Clickner says he has no problem with the boaters but is not prepared to share the entire beach. "We can't manage a public park," he said. He mentions problems with underage drinkers, visitors who damage island foliage and the mess that many parties leave behind. "We have picked up everything from beer cans to diapers to a lot of drug paraphernalia," Clickner said. "It's on our property, and if somebody gets stuck by a needle that has some kind of a virus in it, who are they going to sue?"

But if the Maryland Court of Appeals agrees with the lower court that the entire beach must be considered public land, it would set a precedent. After all, the Clickners pay taxes and insurance for their land, not the state. Similar efforts have been successful elsewhere. Florida and Oregon are among the states in which judges have ruled that past public use of private beach property created a custom that could continue over property owners' objections. The Florida case applied to just one location, but the ruling in Oregon applies to the entire coastline. The Maryland Supreme Court has been asked to settle the issue, which some legal experts say amounts to government granting the public free use of personal property without compensating landowners.



## Racing Corner

### [RACING!](#)

By Joe Berchielli, Racer

**Special announcements** of fall and colder races will be announced through the E-mail Racers List. Please be sure your E-mail address is up to date with me so you hear all the racing scuttlebutt in a timely manner now that there is a chill in the air.

**The MRSA Race Trophy Party** was held at the Gibson Island Boathouse on October 5. Racers, crews and families were wined and dined on a beautiful autumn evening.

The Magothy Cup Awards were presented to Angelo Guarino for best spinnaker boat, *Bella Donna*, and to Colin Mackenzie for best non-spin boat, *Beagle*.

"Best in-Fleet" awards were as follows:

A-Fleet - *Ultra Violet*

B-Fleet - *Bella Donna*

C-Fleet - *Oras*

Non-Spin 1 - *Beagle*

Non-Spin 2 - *White Lightning*

**The 2011 Hallie Rice Fall Series**, underway since October 2, has featured sunny skies and good winds on the Magothy this autumn. Twelve boats are extending their racing season into November (you can't get too much of a good thing) and are competing in the two classes.



## Junior Sailing Program – Ages 9 - 16

### [Summer Junior Training Program – Think Summer!](#)

By Zoe Forsyth, Fleet Captain Junior Training

Questions? Contact Zoe Forsyth at 410-315-9548 or junior\_training@magothysailing.com.



## Oh, By the Way . . .

### [Maryland Boat Ownership](#)

Submitted by A Boat Owner

With all the boats on the hard and at the piers around the Bay and elsewhere in Maryland, you may think that Maryland must have the most boats per capita in the country – or at least come in second or third place. Wrong-oh Red Rider! Not even close to it. According to 2004 USCG stats, Maryland is not even in the top half in boats per capita!! We rank a little higher in total boats registered at 24<sup>th</sup>, but per capita, an amazing 30<sup>th</sup> on the list. Number one? Take a guess: Florida? California? Hawaii? Sorry Charlie. Number one on the per capita list: Minnesota. Remember the license plates: “the land of 10,000 lakes.” Florida does top the charts at total boats registered: 946,072. And for those of you who guessed Hawaii could be first...Hawaii is LAST on the per capita list.

### ***Treasure the Chesapeake!***



Photos at the start of the Great Schooner Race, October 13, 2011 – taken by John Hubbs aboard the Poe yacht, *Ravenous*.



Left: Red Sails in the Cloud Bank. Right: Sultana (?) (Phillies Phan)





***Mystic Whaler***



***America II***



***Treasure the Chesapeake!***



## The Old Man

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Photo: "Distant Crossing" © John Hubbs

Please do your part to restore the Bay and make it cleaner.