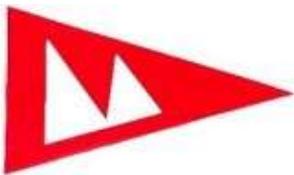




# ***The Old Man***

## ***January 2020***

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association*



### ***Commodore's Comments***

So, who is this new Commodore anyhow? Let me introduce myself. I am Jeff Thompson, a retired Army Warrant Officer and married to Pennsylvania native Sandra Hack. We have four wonderful children, Lucas, Emily, Zachary, Jacob, and a granddaughter named Juliana. I was born and raised in Southeastern Michigan to a sailing family that raced on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. My earliest memories of sailing are racing aboard my parents Catalina 27 riding the transom, and being told to hang on no matter what.

I began dinghy sailing at an early age in a youth sailing program with El Toros and then Lasers. In 1991, at the age of 18, I raced in my first [Port Huron to Mackinac Race](#). This 204 miles long race runs up Lake Huron, following the Michigan shoreline. Sailing onboard a 1947 Sparkman & Stephens Pilot 33 we placed 1st in our class.



When I joined U.S. Army in 1992, I put my love for sailing on hold, only completing the Race to Mackinac four more times over my 25-year career. Upon moving to Maryland in 2013 I began my search for a small keelboat to allow my family to experience the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding areas. We found our 1985 Catalina 25 Tall Rig *Sea Bear* on the West River near Galesville and brought it up the Bay to Hammock Island Marina. We re-named it *iBelieve*.



It was around this time I met Jon Anthony and began racing with him on the Corsair Dash 750 *Esterel*. I have raced the MRSA Wednesday Night Series for several years and in numerous Bay races, including the [PSA Moonlight](#) and [PSA Race to Rock Hall](#).

My fondest memory of racing on *Esterel* was during the 2018 PSA Moonlight race when it was just Jon and I onboard. During the race we made a poor decision that put us in the back of the entire fleet. When we got to the final mark hope was all but lost. We rounded and headed for the finish line at the Baltimore Light. It turns out we were on a beam reach where we saw boat speeds in excess of 15 knots and passed all but three boats finishing 1st in the multis and 2nd overall.



If you have seen me in my 4Hermanos jacket, you might wonder what's with the Speed Gonzales logo. In 2016, my second oldest brother put the word out to the three of us that the J/70 Corinthian Regatta, hosted by Eastport Yacht Club, was coming up and he had on loan his friend's boat if we wanted to race. The special detail here is that in all our years of sailing, the four Thompson brothers (hermanos) had never sailed in a regatta together on the same boat. We had all been on different boats during a BYC Race to Mackinac and met on the Island but that was as close as we got. So, Jim brought the boat, Mark brought the booze, John paid the entry fee, and I provided lodging. The regatta was incredible and hands down one of my favorite sailing experiences of all time.



In November of 2018 we purchased **Lola** the F27 trimaran with the intention of cruising and racing her.



Unfortunately, we only had her for about 6 months when on May 29, 2019 we were capsized by the microburst that hit the Magothy River. This picture shows the two trimarans that were lost that day within a few moments of the storm hitting. That day has forever changed how I sail on my own boats and when I am crew on someone else's. If you'd like to hear the story, just ask me sometime.



Finally, In October of 2019 I graduated from the [Warrior Sailing Program Basic Training Camp](#), hosted at the [Annapolis Yacht Club's](#) new sailing center. The Warrior Sailing Program Basic Training Camp introduces the skill of sailing to wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans of all branches of the U.S. military. In a fun but intense 3-day camp, participants are taught the basics of sailing and sailboat racing. It's about teamwork, self-reliance and the fun-factor. It was a remarkable experience, one that pitted the AYC J/22 fleet against everything nature could muster. We had no breeze, moderate breeze and rain, and on the final day, gale force winds. It caused the instructors to solve a problem they had not faced... how do you reef the main on a J/22?



I look forward to being the MRSA Commodore for 2020, I'd like to think we have perfect vision for the year to come.

My final thought: try and remember to take pictures when you encounter a fellow sailor on the Bay, it's very rare that you get a picture of yourself on your boat at sea. You just might if they do the same.

*Jeff*

*Jeff Thompson, MRSA Commodore, 2020*

## *Cruising Corner*

### Winter Planning Party

Debbie Lund

It is time to plan the 2020 sailing season! The Winter Planning Party will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Belvedere Yacht Club, 419 Alameda Parkway, Arnold.

At this party we will go over the 2020 cruising schedule and determine the cruise leaders for each event. Please bring an entrée, side dish or salad. MRSA will provide soft drinks, beer, wine, snacks and cake. We look forward to seeing you there! RSVP to John or Debbie Lund at 410-544-2551 or [dlund210@gmail.com](mailto:dlund210@gmail.com).

## *Racing Corner*

### Wednesday Night Racing

Chris Adriance

For the 2020 Wednesday night racing series, your Rear Commodore is Mike Mullarky. The race committee chair is Chris Adriance. Preparations are underway for the upcoming season. The Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions are both being looked over and refined. Both will be in posted on the website as soon as they're completed and in the 2020 Red Book. Keep checking your emails for information regarding the race planning meeting, which will be sometime in February, as well as an information session on how to better run race committee on Wednesday nights.

## FACEBOOK

*You have heard a lot about our Facebook effort but have you done your part? Please take a moment today and go to [facebook.com/magothysailing](https://www.facebook.com/magothysailing) and “like” each article and each photo. You could click the link right now and then come back to the riveting articles in the Old Man! Put it on your calendar to do all the time! Help us spread the word about MRSA to attract new members!*



### The Old Man

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

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