



The Old Man

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

Margaret Burri, Editor



August/September 2020

Commodore's Comments

Jeff Thompson

I hope this month's edition of the ***Old Man*** finds you well. December 10th this year is not just 22 days before the end of this crazy year we call 2020. It also happens to be the Magothy River Sailing Association membership meeting. With COVID19 still affecting our daily lives I thought it best to not meet in person, and with the help of the Board of Governors (BoG) came up with a viable solution.

During the September BoG meeting a motion was made (and passed) to permit the use of Zoom as "in-person," enabling the membership meeting to occur virtually and allow members to cast their votes. The details of the meeting will be forthcoming as well as a how-to guide that will help those unfamiliar with Zoom to join. Your BoGs are hard at work coordinating a guest speaker that will kick off the meeting as well as some much-needed recognition of your fellow members.

If you, or someone you know are interested in becoming one of the MRSA Officers, please feel free to add your name to the list of nominees. I look forward to "seeing" you then, if not sooner.

*Jeff
Commodore, MRSA*

Racing Is Back!

Chris Adriance and Mike Mullarky



With September winding down, Wednesday nights come to an end and racing transitions to Sundays. It is this time of year that we can look back at the season and reflect.

2020 was a difficult and challenging year for most off the water. On the water, 2020 didn't end too badly. The start of the season was delayed but after that racing seemed to be a slice of normal in an otherwise abnormal world. Turnout started out slow, but finished the season with 20 or so boats showing up each week.

In an attempt to mitigate this low turnout, race leadership tried something different this year. Taking a cue from the impromptu pre-season racers, we allowed the RC boat to race and do their committee boat responsibilities under the guise of a pursuit race. On the whole, this change seemed to be a success. Most of the fleet enjoyed the departure from the almost routine course of 'JGA2', but some missed their typical windward leeward courses. Next year's race leadership will have to make some tweaks so every week is not a pursuit race. In the last third of the season 3 new boats joined the fleet, which is a welcome sight in a year with fears of low turnout.

Looking back also makes us realize this is the time of year for the transition of race leadership. Race Committee Chair and the Rear Commodore are the two leadership positions that allow this program to operate. Both of these positions will be changing hands in 2021. We'd like to remind racers that this is a volunteer run program, so their participation keeps them racing. If you, or anyone you know, would like to volunteer for 2021 race leadership please reach out to this season's race leadership or the MRSA Board of Governors.

Race Committee: Fun or Fear? Or Show me the script

Alan Weiss

Race committee duty in a volunteer organization is an obligation you can view as a disruption in the force, or an opportunity to gather with friends and family for a nice day or evening on the water. It all depends on a simple distribution of labor and a script that's easily laid out. In the best of all worlds it is a simple as a **Highlights** magazine connect the dots puzzle, with all players reading for the same simple script.

And best of all, the script is provided for you! You don't even have to memorize it. Make enough scripts for everyone to read at the same time. Go through the sequence with mock starts in a shortened manner about 5 times. Have your crew share their inner actors: the horn person says "toot," the gun person says "boom" and the flag person raises and lowers imaginary flags. This can all be done while motoring out the starting mark.

Pro tip one: I personally prefer to set the script in countdown format, but it can be done with both count up and countdown formatting appearing on the same script.

Pro tip two: Make sure you have GPS time on the boat times 2 for backup, and make sure it has a seconds timer.

Pro tip three: Buy a kitchen timer with a large display that can re reset easily for the countdown timer....this is key.

Look at a few sites for wind direction, and what shifts are expected. It's amazing how many sites can have different numbers and even wind direction. Windfinder.com is pretty easy to use. Windy.com is nice and a TV channel in Alabama WBRC Wx has a weather app that is awesome.



The bottom line is get out on the course early and look at the wind. Make your mind up then based upon all the information you have gathered and are seeing real time. Try to set a windward / leeward course that can be finished in a reasonable time based upon the wind speed.

And after that last fleet is started, relax and pop a beer and watch the fun!

Race committee duty is an obligation for each boat entered to race and if you sign up for a date, you have the benefit of choosing what works for you. Once sign up is over and there are vacancies, you could be assigned a date that may not be one you like, so remember sign up for your Race Committee duty this winter.

Cruising Corner

MRSA 2020 Long Cruise Wrap-Up

Debbie Lund

COVID-19 could not stop the MRSA long cruise from happening this year. We were also able to complete the entire week. In the past two years, we have had 100 degree temperatures that brought an end to the cruise and a hurricane moving up the east coast to send us back to our home ports. This year we made it despite some boat issues.

Mike and Loura Bonham on *Frequent Flyer* and John and Debbie Lund on *Chapter Three* started on Friday, September 4th and went to Harness Creek off the South River. This was 1 day after a tornado went through the area. On Saturday there was a great northerly in the morning and we went to Hudson Creek, off the Little Choptank. We were met by Rich and Toni Hughes on *Fantastic*, Dick and Dreta Peterson on *April Fool*, Dave, Deni and Richard Boyer on *Tattoo*. There are biting flies in that area!

On Sunday, we all went to Solomons and anchored in Mill Creek. This was Labor Day weekend so it was fairly busy but Mill Creek is a great place to anchor. Chris Adriance and Kristin Mullins on *Y Knot* were on their maiden voyage from Mojack Bay, Va in their (new to them) Catalina 30.

For some reason, whenever we go to Solomons something will break. It happened again this year-we thought that maybe it only happened on the Hunter. The windlass stopped

working! Our anchor is heavy when you have to lift it by hand. Chris and Kristin also had engine problems outside of Solomons and had to be towed to Zahnisers.



Many years ago, the Club went to Vera's White Sands Restaurant and had drinks and dessert. Since that time, the restaurant has been sold but we wanted to see what it was like under new management. It is usually open only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

but it was open on Labor Day. We decided to go inside to eat and drink. Not quite the same atmosphere as when it was Veras.

On Tuesday, *Chapter Three*, *April Fool*, *Frequent Flyer*, *Fantastic* and *Tatoo* left the Patuxent and headed for the Choptank River. We anchored in Baby Owl Cove off of Leadenham Creek in Broad Creek. Broad Creek could be classified as a River! Mike was the diver to clean off the props on three boats.

By Wednesday, everyone needed water and ice so we headed for Oxford. Several of us decided to go to a marina. The first two marinas in Town Creek are now Safe Harbor Marinas. They have a new bath house and laundry facility and by next year they will have floating docks. The group decided to eat at the Capsize Restaurant. Unfortunately, the ice cream store was closed! Rich found out that his alternator was not working because of a broken belt. Luckily, he had a spare so he was good to go for the rest of the week.



On Thursday, we changed the destination to Waterhole Creek instead of LaTrappe Creek because we wanted to go to St. Michaels on Friday. It was windy out of the NE on Friday so we tacked up Eastern Bay. Knapps Narrows has been dredged but you must remain in the center of the channel. St. Michaels harbor was choppy so *Chapter Three* and *Tattoo* went to Long Haul Creek for more

protection. We dinghied around to town to get some ice cream.

Chapter Three, *Fantastic* and *Frequent Flyer* spent the last night in Shaw Bay. The Eastport Oyster Boys did a concert on the water to benefit the Miles River/Wye River Riverkeeper. There were over 200 boats and most people were “socially distanced”. This has become quite a tradition.

Everyone was back at their home ports by Sunday, September 13th. It was a great cruise and great company. We altered our “Happy hours” to remain distanced but we were able to go on a cruise.

Pictures are Worth a Thousand Words! Scenes from the Long Cruise.

Thanks to Toni Hughes for sharing these.







SAVE THE DATE: RIDOUT CREEK CRUISE

Larry and Angela Turner

Ahoy MRSA Sailors,

Here is the itinerary for the October Ridout Creek Cruise. This will likely be the last fair weather cruise of this unusual year! Ridout Creek is off of Whitehall Bay, just south of the Bay Bridge on the western shore. It will be held on the weekend of October 17-18. We will meet on Saturday, Oct 17th in Ridout Creek. Larry Turner and Angela Cremeans are organizing the cruise and will be there by 3PM Saturday and hoist an MRSA pennant.

It is worth noting that Angela and Larry have not yet been on an MRSA cruise - This will be our first! So if there are traditions we should be abiding (other than the cruise leader provides all the liquor and food), please let us know. Otherwise, we will basically be there and will collect names of all who attend.

If you would like to join the cruise, please contact Larry at laturner123b@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you on the water!



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 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!



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Magothy River Sailing Association
P.O. Box 1135 Pasadena, MD 21122

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

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