

the Mainsheet

MAY 2021



A close finish for Fleet 12; from left, Marc Culler, Stan Knapczyk, Pat Crosby, Guy Whitney, Suzanne Philbrick, Bob Bernstein, and John Walter.

From the president

After the past year, when we have seen so much sickness and suffering—and so many restrictions put on our daily lives—it is an understatement to say that it feels good for things to be starting to get back to some level of normalcy. With that in mind, we have been hard at work planning for a new season, putting together racing schedules, and taking the cover off the boat and getting it ready. In Marblehead, we will start our season shortly, on Memorial Day weekend.

The off-season was a busy one. Over the winter, we held the first virtual annual class meeting. This new format was very well received, and a lot was accomplished. If you have any feedback about whether we should continue to use this format instead of the in-person meetings, please let me know. I have included more detail below.

Several class bylaws were updated to make it easier to qualify to compete in class-sanctioned regattas. We also worked hard to address the crew issue before the 2021 season. An initial proposal was discussed at the annual class meeting and later rejected by a vote of the class. We solicited more feedback from the class and followed up with a revised proposal, which passed. The new language is detailed in this newsletter, and the revised class rules are on the class website here (<https://bit.ly/3eYMhgS>).

Our new East Coast regional vice president, Mike Hebert, has also been hard at work. He hosted several fleet captain meetings designed to help regional fleets. His most
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**They said it.
We sail it.**

**Start first and
increase your lead.**
— Buddy Melges

The prez continues

recent meeting included 12 fleet captains or their representatives! These discussions have been an excellent way to build community around the class, with topics including:

- Overview of each attending fleet
- Getting to know the area fleets and their unique characteristics
- Lessons learned
- Fleet-building ideas
- Sharing news about the class
- Brainstorming solutions to identified issues

Fleet 5 (Marblehead) recently hosted an interesting seminar with Jud Smith and Tomas Hornos, both Rhodes 19 national champions. The topic was “Winning the Big One,” a discussion of how to prepare to win a regatta, not just the race. What goes into preparing yourself, your boat, and your crew? The very informative event was recorded and is available for all here (<https://bit.ly/2QdZPFC>). I highly recommend it!

Please be sure to register as an active member of the Rhodes class for 2021 at <http://rhodes19.org/fleet-activity/join-us/> on the class website or <https://www.regattaman.com/>. Please also encourage any of your fleet members who might not already be a part of the class to register.

If you are not a member of the class and would like to be included on our mailing list to receive *The Mainsheet* and communications about upcoming events, you can sign up on the class website here (<https://bit.ly/3f1yqjN>).

I am really looking forward to a new sailing season—one we hope will be filled with some great Rhodes sailing!

Please stay safe.

—Mike Lane



Fleet 7

For those of you who wish to get a feel for it, get in the car and bring it up to 50 miles an hour, and then stick your head and arms outside, and—while driving—try to fold up a simple bath towel in the wind.”

—Gary Paulsen, *Caught by the Sea: My Life on Boats*



Looking Forward

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 guideline concerns, the 2021 East Coast Championships have been cancelled, but we are excited about announcing the regatta dates for the summer of 2021:

- **Gulf Coasts** at Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans, May 28-30
- **Edgartown Yacht Club Annual Regatta**

The Edgartown Yacht Club 98th Annual Regatta for one-design classes will be held at Edgartown, Massachusetts, Thursday, July 8, through Saturday, July 10. For more information, please go to the regatta webpage (<https://bit.ly/33VOUU8>) or contact Jeff Randall (jr@jlrassoc.com).

- **Marblehead Race Week**

Don't forget one of the biggest Rhodes 19 regattas of the season will be held this year July 22-25: Marblehead Race Week (Sailing World NOOD's) (<https://www.sailingworld.com/helly-hansen-nood-regatta-in-marblehead/>).

- **Great Harbor Yacht Club Challenge Regatta**

Our friends in Nantucket are planning their 2021 Great Harbor Yacht Club Challenge Regatta for August 1. All Rhodes 19 sailors are welcome. This is a terrific opportunity to sail in a gorgeous location—and in a centerboard Rhodes 19! Boats will be provided. For more information, please go to (<https://www.ghyc.com/waterfront/visiting-sailors>) or contact Emma Hermanek (ehermanek@ghyc.com).

- **Nantucket Race Week**

There is another opportunity to sail on Nantucket this season. August 14 and August 22, the Nantucket Yacht Club and the Great Harbor Yacht Club are hosting a regatta to benefit Nantucket Community Sailing. For more information, please go to the regatta webpage (<http://www.nantucketraceweek.org/page/nrw>) or contact Steve Ulian (stephen.ulian@gmail.com).

- **Rhodes 19 National Championship** at Corinthian Yacht Club in Marblehead, August 17-20.



Fleet 33

This past winter, we held the 2020 Rhodes 19 annual class meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first virtual class meeting in the history of the class. It actually turned out to be very efficient. Feedback from attendees was very positive. Everyone had a chance to be heard. Any class member who wanted to could attend—not just those who managed to make the trip to the national championship as is the usual scenario. We had 55 members attend. That represents 39 percent of our members.

During the meeting, we covered a range of topics, including some proposed changes to the class bylaws, detailed below. After lively debate, it became clear that if the proposal to change the required crew complement for a class-sanctioned regatta did not pass a vote of the class, then it would need to be revisited.)

Following the meeting, the entire class was asked to vote on the business of the class electronically. This meant that we did not have to use proxies and that the results would more accurately reflect the opinion of the class membership. The result was a very high response rate. Given these advantages, more than a few members have asked if we plan to make the virtual meeting and electronic voting permanent.

I am eager for your feedback on this. What do you think? Please let us know at timmyd616@gmail.com with the subject line “Virtual meetings.”

The minutes from this meeting have been posted to the class website and can be accessed here <https://bit.ly/3g-Gk5dM>.

Annual class meeting results

- 2019 class meeting minutes—**Approved**
- Proposed class officers—**Approved**
 - President—Mike Lane, Fleet 5, Marblehead
 - Treasurer—Tom Carville, Fleet 7, New Orleans
 - Secretary—Tim Dittrich, Fleet 5, Marblehead
- 2020 annual dues \$0—**Approved**
- 2021 annual dues \$35, or \$0 if no regattas are held—**Approved**
- \$75 per boat stipend, with a minimum of \$1,500 total for the 2021 national championship—**Approved**
- Bylaw changes:
 - Change B 12.00.02 to *The person in charge either a) must have campaigned a Rhodes 19 either during 25% of the current racing season within the territory of the fleet they represent as helmsman, b) have been a member of the Rhodes 19 Class Association for two consecutive years immediately prior to the current year, or c) have been a past district or national champion as helmsman, or d) not yet reached their 25th birthday by the first day of the regatta. If the person in charge is not the helmsman, then the helmsman is subject to the same criteria.* —**Approved**



— Following B 12.00.03, add *Any ISAF Sailor Classification Category 3 sailor* participating in a class-sanctioned event either (a) must have sailed a Rhodes 19 either during 25% of the current racing season within the territory of the fleet they represent, (b) have been a member of the Rhodes 19 Class Association for two consecutive years immediately prior to the current year, or (c) have been part of the winning team (helmsman or crew) of a past Rhodes 19 district or national championship. Neither helmsman nor*

crew shall accept a payment or fee specifically for participating in a race. —**Approved**

*To download the classification code automatically, don't click; instead, type this in your browser bar: www.worldsailing.org/tools/documents/classification-code-%5B432%5D.pdf

— Change B 12.02 from *The minimum total crew complement per boat shall be three for all races* to *The minimum combined weight of all crew and helmsman shall be 425 pounds.* —**Not approved**

Number of crew

Because the proposed change to bylaw B 12.02 was not approved, a follow-up proposal was submitted to the class for a vote. This proposed change was **approved**, with the class voting 78 yea and 20 nay. The new bylaw reads:

B 12.02 —The total crew complement per boat, including the helmsman, shall be no less than two for all races.

B 12.03—The crew complement shall be declared at registration, shall apply for all races, and shall not be changed for any reason.

B 12.04—The names of the crew on each boat, including the helmsman, shall be specified at registration. Any substitutions will require the written consent of the judges.

Regional vice presidents

Each region of the class is represented by a regional vice president. They are nominated by the fleets and approved by the class president. It is the responsibility of each regional vice president to represent his/her region on the class executive committee and to schedule regional class-sanctioned regattas. If you have any feedback or input that you would like addressed, please contact your regional vice president:

- East Coast—Mike Hebert, Fleet 46, Hingham/Hull mshebert@msn.com
- Midwest—Peter Kovats, Fleet 12, Chicago, pmkovats@comcast.net
- Southern—Tommy Taggart, Fleet 7, New Orleans tommytaggart@bellsouth.net

Join the class as a 2021 member

To ensure that you will be able to vote on any proposed bylaw changes, you must be an active member of the Rhodes class. Be sure to register at <http://rhodes19.org/fleet-activityjoin-us/> on the class website or <https://www.regattaman.com/>. Please also encourage any of your fleet members who might not

already be a part of the class to register.

I have been involved in the Rhodes 19 class since purchasing my first boat, #1553, in 1998—the inaugural season of **Hingham Bay Fleet 46**, founded by **Dick Callahan**.

Taking early advice from **Kevin Lane** in **Sandy Bay**, I have attended about 15 or so national championship regattas and probably the same number of East Coast championship regattas, and I served as class president several years ago. Yet, as the newly installed East Coast VP, when I looked at the list of current East Coast R19 fleet captains, there were more people I did not know than people I did.

I reached out to all the known fleet captains, introduced myself, and suggested we try a video conference with all of the leaders in the region in order to accomplish a few modest goals. First, to all get to know each other; second, to see how the class can be of greater benefit to its fleets and members; and third, to give something back to the association and to promote the boat that has provided me and my family with so much enjoyment over the past 22+ years. The idea was well received! In fact, we've now had several monthly video roundtables in preparation for the upcoming season.

Our group is a great mix of young and veteran sailors, keel and centerboard (or a mix of both, such as **Eric McKnight's Riverside, Rhode Island**, fleet) sailors; newer fleets, including **Mike Spillane's in Lewis Bay, Hyannis**; established fleets in decline (though we hope that's not for long); established fleets holding steady or growing; a couple that are primed for resurgence—for example, **Southport, Maine**, under the leadership of **Chris Jacobs**; and our oldest fleet, **Edgartown**, with **Jeff Randall** returning to the R19 from the Shields.

A special thank-you goes out to **Elise Nash** from **Marblehead**, who provided us with the Fleet Leadership Bible (**Kim Pandapas** edition). This document is basically a how-to of fulfilling a fleet leadership role. The most common theme from the early meetings was that fleet leadership is often like drawing the shortest straw. Without willing and engaged leaders, fleet membership and participation will surely decline because of lack of communication and organization.

Doug Powelson from the **Savannah** fleet has already implemented several ideas from the leadership guide, which he customized to fit his own fleet. Doug has expanded the

fleet leadership team to include more of the fleet members (many hands make light work, or something) and published their first newsletter! They have come up with several great racing formats to try this year as well, including a unique bang-and-go-back race, where they'll go up or down the river based on time, then all turn at the same time and race back to the finish! I met several Savannah sailors for cocktails

at Isle of Hope, Georgia, during a recent trip up the Intercoastal Waterway, and all had nothing but great things to say about Doug and the improvements being implemented.

Over the past few months, we've discussed fleet building by recruiting new members from local junior programs, recruiting sailors from other PHRF or one-design fleets with less engaged leaders, and even establishing adult learn-to-sail/race programs, which are nice feeders of crew in my own Fleet 46, thanks to **Bob Foley**. We've batted around ideas for racing formats, including non-spinnaker races and themed races like Halloween or junior sailor has to helm, last boat wins, etc.

But the #1 theme across all growth ideas is to focus on the social aspect of our sport—to keep it fun. After race socials with potluck, off-season socials not only with current fleet members but also Race Committee volunteers and prospective members (we hope we'll be maskless in 2021), and fostering a welcoming and inviting environment were the central themes of the shared fleet-building ideas of the roundtable. Not earth-shattering or groundbreaking ideas at all, but those are the kinds of things, along with good communication, that may not necessarily transition successfully from outgoing fleet leaders to new fleet leaders over the years.

I am looking forward to accepting an invitation from **Steve Ulian** to race in a one-day invitational with the **Nantucket** fleet on August 1 and to participate in the nationals in Marblehead later this summer. We hope the roundtables will resume in the fall.

In the meantime, I encourage all fleet members to get involved in your local fleet in some way. If a leadership role is not to your thing, offer to help organize a social event, put together the newsletter (Kim's tip is to use lots of names and bold them), start or update fleet email databases, or initiate a social media presence. The goal is to build a sustainable fleet that can replace the membership ebbs

**IF WE BUILD IT,
THEY WILL COME**
**East Coast
Fleet Captains'
Roundtables**

*Big boats get the glory,
but the dinghy
makes the sailor.*
— From the movie "Wind"



with membership flows.

— Mike Hebert

Edgartown

Greetings from Fleet #3 and Edgartown Yacht Club. Like many other fleets, we have ebb and flow in activity and participation. We have had from a high of 13 boats on the line regularly to a low of two boats on the line last summer. This upcoming season, we are hoping for four to five boats on the course. EYC purchased another Rhodes over the winter and will make her available for charter during the racing season.

About 10 years ago, the club developed a women-only intro to sailing and racing program sailed on Rhodes 19s. The program was a real success and led to the purchase of about four Rhodes by graduates of the program. Unfortunately, the program stalled, and interest in the fleet subsequently dropped. The program this summer is experiencing more support, and we are hoping that the fleet will experience some growth. There are probably 10 or so Rhodes collecting pollen in backyards, and our goal is to get them out of drydock and into the water.

Besides our weekly series, our annual One-Design Regatta is July 9 and 10, and all are invited.

— Jeff Randall



Greetings from Marblehead! While we are still getting some nights with temperatures dipping into the 30s, the start of our season is just around the corner, and we could not be more excited. After an abbreviated 2020 season, when, thanks to our steadfast race committees, a good portion of the fleet was able to get in a fair number of races, the Marblehead Racing Association is planning to run a full racing season this summer. We have several great events planned—including Marblehead Race Week (NOOD's <https://bit.ly/33yJ6zH>, July 22–25 and the Rhodes nationals (<http://2021nationals.rhodes19.org/>) August 16–20—and after a year of not seeing so many of our friends, we truly hope to see all of you here.

We kicked off the season with our annual Spring Clinic on May 6. “How to Win the Big One” featured world and national champion sailors Jud Smith and Tomas Hornos walking us through what it takes to put together a winning regatta.

Following the Spring Clinic, we will take to the water for our Spring Series, a two-day regatta over Memorial Day weekend. That Thursday evening will see the start of our Thursday night Twilight Series, which saw increased popularity in 2020, and we suspect that will carry through to the

2021 season.

In June, we kick off our Summer Series Saturday racing, which runs from the beginning of June to the Labor Day Regatta, another two-day event to bookend the season. On any given Saturday, you will find 10 to 25 Rhodes on the line vying to win the day and up their standings in the seasonlong competition for the Nick Nichols Trophy, aka “the Cup,” with results chronicled weekly in Kim Pandapas’s widely circulated “Road to the Cup.”

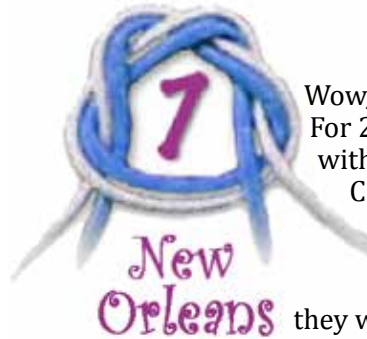
As noted above, we are fortunate to be hosting two great events this coming July and August. As those of you who have joined us in the past know, the Marblehead NOODs (Race Week) is by far our toughest event. The Rhodes fleet enjoys four days of racing, with typically more 30 boats on the line, including friends from local fleets in Manchester, Rockport, Hull, Hingham, and Winthrop. Even after four days of racing, it often comes down to a mere few points between the top boats. An event not to be missed, it’s a perfect run-up to the nationals, which we will be hosting just a few weeks later, in the third week of August.

And speaking of the nationals, after two years of planning, we can assure you that there will be a nationals this summer. Currently, we are planning for the event as usual, with measurement, the annual meeting (via Zoom), three days of great racing, and some social events that of course will follow COVID-19 protocols as needed. Please check out page 11 and/or the event page (<http://rhodes19.org/>) for the notice of race and any other information you might need, and click here (<https://bit.ly/2Qay6pe>) to register.

Wishing you all a great season and looking forward to seeing you on the water soon!

—Elise Nash

elise.mazareas@gmail.com



Wow, what a difference a year makes! For 2021, it is out with the old and in with the new. In 2020, we dealt with COVID-19 shutdowns and too many named storms to remember. In the last storm, two members lost their boats, as they were blown off their trailers. It was pretty bleak as we

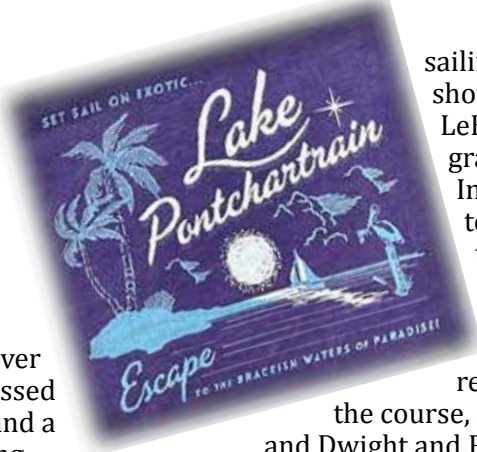
limped into 2021.

However, like the phoenix, we are rising out of the ashes that was the 2020 dumpster fire, and many good things are happening in 2021. First, plenty of vaccines have been given out in New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana, and many of the restrictions that we have been under have been loosened. Second, both members who lost boats have replaced them with other local inactive boats and have

breathed new life into them. Also, we have picked up two new members, who have purchased other inactive boats, and we look forward to their participation this year. We're definitely off to a very good start.

We have our full, regular schedule in place for 2021, and the first event on the calendar was the 2021 New Orleans Yacht Club Mardi Gras Regatta, which was held over the weekend of March 13–14. We were blessed with mild temperatures and great winds, and a very competitive regatta ensued. The racing was very tight, and there were many lead changes and tight, overlapped finishes. Peter Sladovich and Rocky Sanchez split the first two races, setting up a winner-take-all third race. Rocky got the jump on Peter at the start, and the two fought it out around the course, with Rocky holding on for the win. It was also very close for third place, with Jim Rogers sailing his new boat, *Freedom*, sneaking past Rick MacGregor on the strength of his second in the final race.

On April 11, SYC officially kicked off the 2021 sailing season with the 173rd Opening Regatta, which included a boat parade and a flag-raising ceremony. By the time we headed out for the race, the pleasant morning breeze was beginning to die. We started in a very light westerly that shifted left and made the port start at the pin the only option. Peter Sladovich nailed the start and was off. New member Rob Rogers,



sailing *Kuyon*, also had a good start and showed good speed, slipping by Dwight LeBlanc—who was sailing with his son and grandson—into second at the weather mark. In near-drifting conditions, the fleet drifted toward the leeward mark, fighting to fill their chutes. Peter started sailing to the wrong mark and opened the door for Rob to move into first while Dwight was fighting off Rocky, who was trying to recover from a terrible start. Halfway down

the course, a new breeze began to fill from behind, and Dwight and Rocky took the opportunity to gybe and pass Peter. Dwight had to get around a slow Flying Scot, and that gave Rocky an opportunity to get a nose out on Dwight. As all the boats came into the finish, Rob made a critical mistake, and not seeing the S flag (shorten course), he rounded the leeward mark and headed up the beat only to see Rocky and Dwight cross the line one and two. Peter salvaged a third place. It was truly a case of “the first shall be last, and last shall be first!”

Our first fleet series of the spring, the Bordelon Series, was scheduled for

April 17; however, rainy, squally weather put an end to that, so we will have to use a makeup date in June to sail this series. On the horizon, we have a lot of racing in May and early June, including the Juby Wynne One-Design Regatta, which will again serve as our 2021 Gulf Coast Regional Championship. It has been great getting out, sailing, and seeing old friends, and we look forward to returning to a normal racing and social schedule.

—Rocky Sanchez

Last season was still a success despite the virus. We masked up and sailed, mostly two to a boat. There were about 14 boats competing overall in our Sunday series and Wednesday beer can races. As other fleets have pointed out, consistency is the way to be at the top, and our first three winners overall sailed almost all the races and made few mistakes. Bob Bernstein, with Crew of the Year Tom Veed, led the way by sailing almost flawless races. Bob showed how to find a passing lane when he sometimes got a bad start and had to recover on the downwind, if not on the initial leg. Stan Knapczyk was consistent as well, showing up for all races and always comparing notes over a beer after the race. Stan shows what persistence can do, as he is



constantly improving and had his first second-overall on the podium. Third was Peter Kovats. With his lightweight crew, Peter was frequently in the groove and rounding the first mark first.

In the fall, Mitch Polgar, from our Laser fleet, reinvigorated frostbite sailing for our club. Lasers, Vanguards, and Rhodes extended the season through the sometimes-cool fall weather of October and November. Seven Rhodes came out for four races per Saturday with just jib and main. While it was a fun way to extend our short, four-month season, the real positive was how the casualness of this series allowed to come out people who would not otherwise have done so. Newer skippers gained experience with four starts and mark roundings in



A great day for Stan Knapczyk and Morgan Van Ness



New sailors Mark Pawlikowski and Suzanne Philbrick

addition to trying to manage a racecourse. Totally new crew could come on board with no pressure or intense (sometimes yelling) skippers. Crew could learn quickly through repetition on short courses.

We were so excited about the success of the fall that we decided to do it this spring as well. Again, four races, jib and main. We found that we had not only new skippers but also an offshore skipper who wanted to try out one-design racing on a small boat. Other “big boat” skippers voiced interest but had conflicts with trying to get their boats ready for the summer.

Another exciting addition has been the use of three mark-set bots. These are robot marks, computer controlled with a smartphone. That’s not so surprising when you think about it. If we have cars that can drive and park themselves, why not marks that can go to a spot designated by GPS and maintain their position? We have used two bots to set a line and one for a windward mark for a windward-leeward course with a gate formed by the starting-line bots for a leeward rounding and another time around. One of the marks has a



horn and can be programmed to sound our starting signals. The windward mark can measure wind speed and direction at the mark and signal the race committee, who can then program

changes to a course. The bots hold a stationary location without anchors and can reach a top speed of 3 mph to motor themselves to a programmed location. We have not named

them yet, but they have been a really cool addition to our racing. The only things they cannot do yet are call the line for boats over early and record the finishes. We do have a RC boat that also stands ready as a safety boat to call the line and finishes. At the end of a race, we merely program the bots, and they head home to the harbor all by themselves.

Our adult sailing school is going to be back in full swing this summer. It is part of our education program, Corinthian University. We have a crew school in the spring, which is a six-week course in the club program to introduce new crew to the language and skills of sailing. We usually have about 50 people graduate from this course and go on to crew on



*Corinthian University boat with new skipper
Lisa Reiter and John Walter*

Rhodes and offshore boats. The crew school was totally viral this year and still had 50 people. The other programs within Corinthian University are the adult sailing school, which is run by the Rhodes fleet, and the junior fleet.

Having had to cancel all our classes last year, this year we are moving forward by adding two more instructors to our fleet of three Rhodes. Head instructor Jayme Novotney, along with the school director, yours truly, plan to have 13 four-session courses totaling 16 hours of on-the-water training. Two of the courses will be for women only as part of our women-on-water focus. We have also started a rental program for the school boats so newbies can get a feel for racing along with some coaching. Thanks to John Durlak, we have begun marketing the program with some colorful decals on the boats.

With the new summer season approaching, we are planning a full schedule for 14 Sunday races and 14 Wednesday beer can races. We are hoping to add a jib and main Thursday series as well. With all the pent-up feelings of a year with COVID-19, everyone is anxious to get out and back to sailing.

If you are in Chicago this summer, call or come by.

—John Walter

*I am really fighting for every spot. Even
if I am back in the pack tomorrow, I'll
be fighting for every point come the end
of the regatta.*

— Tom Slingsby

I am always pleased to talk up Rhodes 19 sailing on SFBay.

As I have said many times, the keel R19 is an ideal boat for SFBay sailing. Be assured that East SFBay and the Oakland-Alameda estuary make one of the best sailing venues for excellent wind and wave conditions anywhere on the bay at all times of the year. Plus, the views of San Francisco and Oakland cannot be beat either!

Regretfully, our “don’t cost nothin’” East SFBay R19 sailing group has taken a major hit, that hit being that Alameda Marina, where we and many others dry-sailed their boats for many years, has been effectively closed for a long-planned, wide-ranging, and extensive renovation.

The expectation is these renovations of the marina and associated maritime businesses will be completed in at least 2021-22.

For more complete information about the renovations, recommended access to the Alameda Marina home website is <https://www.alamedamarina.net/>.

Much of the old Alameda Marina and its efficient service to the East SFBay boating community with large-tonnage marine hoist system were closed this past year, as was the on-site marine chandlery store. Several other marine-related businesses at Alameda Marina were also forced to relocate or just close down.

In place of the old Alameda Marina will be upscale condos and apartments with parking.

The old dry storage area, with more than several hundred spaces, has been effectively eliminated in the planned renovation. Future dry storage will be very limited compared to that which was previously available. Access to the water for dry-storage boaters will now be served by *ONE* crane compared to the previous three cranes.

Life is full of changes ... without the Alameda Marina dry-storage parking spaces and efficient hoists, we had to relocate to other SFBay marinas with hoists. Thus, our don’t-cost-nothin’ R19 group’s sailing activities were very limited this past year because of our R19s’ relocations to other SFBay marinas and difficulty in arranging “meet ups” for touring the bay. None of these new locations have any stray R19s owners either ... or anyone who knows what an R19 is!

As spring and the warmer SFBay sailing weather progresses, we are hopeful of coordinating some R19 sailing get-togethers.

Please feel free to ask any/all questions about our past activities.

—Bill Clune

Fleet 33 is back in action! The fleet was created in the 1970s when six Rhodes 19s were racing in the summer on Sheepscot Bay off Southport Island in Midcoast Maine.



Portsmouth Yardstick. Fast-forward to the summer of 2020, and the fleet is alive and kicking, with seven Rhodes on the starting line.

Despite COVID-19, our Rhodes fleet participated in several open-class races and had a few Rhodes-only-races. The first big race of the season was the annual ‘Round Southport Race co-hosted by Boothbay Harbor and Southport Yacht Clubs. This is an open reverse handicap pursuit race in which the slower classes start first, the faster boats start last, and if everybody sailed perfectly, we all would finish at the

Southport



During the 1980s and 1990s, the fleet dropped down to three boats, which sailed actively in open-class races with J-24s, Christmas Cove-21s, and various other types of boats, using the

same time. Seven Rhodes from our fleet participated in a fleet of 20 boats. Unfortunately for the Rhodes, there was a wind hole halfway through the course, and all the fast classes (the J-80s, J-24s, etc.) caught up to us way too soon.

Other weekend races saw a good Rhodes turnout. A Rhodes 19, *Rhodes Among Thorns*, won the Southport Yacht Club end-of-season race (actually, this year, we got in three races in one afternoon), the Mark Island Trophy Race, beating out five other Rhodes, a Soling, a J-24, a Sonar, and three other boats.

Perhaps due to COVID-19, most of our Rhodes teams were family affairs (mom, dad, and the two kids; husband and wife; or dad, son, and niece). It was great to see families enjoying Rhodes 19s and sailing.



We expect to be participating in a normal summer of races with the Southport Yacht Club. This includes the annual ‘Round Southport Race, which is co-hosted with Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club. Last summer, we had seven Rhodes 19s participating, and we hope to keep the momentum going and build the fleet more in 2021.

—Chris Jacobs

Rockport

36

Greetings from Fleet 36 and Sandy Bay YC in Rockport, Massachusetts.

We recently held our first skippers meeting of 2021, via Zoom, of course.

We are looking forward to the return of a full schedule of racing from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Several series are held throughout the summer, including three-day events on Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day. We will hold our Founders Series on Saturdays and Sundays in June, and our July/August Series will be held on Sundays for those months. The popular Wednesday Night Series will also return. Additionally, we host the

Flying Scots for the Kam Kamerer Race, and the Scots reciprocate by hosting the Rhodes for the Gusto Cup. Those two races are traditionally held the weekend after Labor Day.

Kevin Lane brought us up to speed on the new two-person rule for regattas. We also reviewed the schedule for the nationals so skippers can start making plans for that race, and we learned of the cancellation of the East Coasts.

Scott and Debbie Hale's Rhodes has been purchased by Mason Browne and his brother. They will be very competitive, and it will be good to see her back on the line.
—Mike Crawford



Fleet 33

The effect of sailing is produced by a judicious arrangement of the sails to the direction of the wind.

— William Falconer

As the Hull/Hingham Rhodes 19 fleet grows to more than 30 boats, a group of sailors has made a concerted effort to maximize the fun. Most people have an idea to make sailing more fun, and each person is certain their idea is the one that will carry the day.

Well, what worked for pirates during the golden age of piracy also works for Fleet 46. We put some motions out to vote. Majority wins. A simple Survey Monkey was a way to gauge consensus and plan for the future.

Thursday evening racing is the heart and soul of Fleet 46. As the numbers grow, we have seen some pileups at weather marks and leeward marks. To cut down on the screaming and to maximize the fun, the fleet voted strongly in favor of giving the RC the option to set an offset mark at the weather mark and a leeward gate.

Given a choice between two longer races on Thursday evening, "no spinnaker races," or four shorter races, the fleet strongly voted for four shorter races.

Fleet 46 welcomes sailors of all skill levels and secretly hopes to get some skippers of center-console powerboats to come sailing in Rhodes 19s. Some folks thought it would be



more fun if we had two separate starts, one for the A division boats and one for B division boats. The fleet voted against this proposal. Keeping everyone in one fleet was a landslide, 80% to 20%.

An open-ended question was how to make sailing more fun. There were a lot of different suggestions, but most were centered on a common theme of "be a learning fleet."

If Fleet 46 is built to be a learning fleet, everyone benefits. We are talking about ways to make learning the rules more fun, learning how to use spinnakers, and hearing words of wisdom from the winner of the night.

A mentorship program is one way to bring the ideal of the learning fleet to life, with those who at the top of the fleet helping those who are new. To paraphrase the Book of Luke, "To whomsoever much is given, much shall be required."

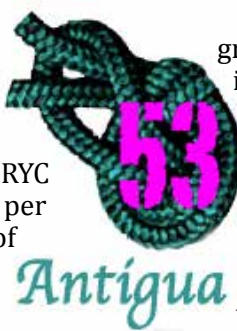
As a way to motivate owners to get boats in the water before June 1, a free shock cord replacement program was initiated. Any worn shock cord on a Rhodes 19 will be replaced free of charge—but only before June 1.

We hope to see you on the water.

—Joe Berkeley

R19
**KEEP
CALM
AND
SAIL
ON**

The Rhodes 19 fleet at Mill Reef Yacht Club has had an active season despite the challenges of the pandemic. Strict COVID-19 testing and protocols enabled MRYC to host two “in-house” regattas per week, involving a wide range of sailors from complete novices to Olympic medalists. We also held weekly Sailing for the Mildly Nervous Afternoons and added a Ladies Sailing Clinic to entice more female sailors.



Antigua

group or to hold a clinic. We have six vintage boats in our fleet, and the club also offers tennis, golf, and lovely beaches for nonsailors.

Caribbean sailing took a beating these past two winter seasons with the global pandemic. Most all-major events are postponed until the 2022 season. Antigua is very much poised to rebound next season, and currently our sailing/training programs are back up and running in English Harbor with Antigua Yacht Club and National Sailing Academy. On a bright note, there were three young Antiguan men who were on three of the four teams for the America's Cup—the Sinclair brothers on *American Magic* and Team New Zealand and Shannon Falcone on *Luna Rossa*.

For more information, please contact our club manager, Daniel Brown (Dbrown@millreefclub.ag) or Fuller Cowles (Fuller@mayeroncowles.com).

—Fuller Cowles



High winds in our beautiful Nonsuch Bay created a few cancellations as Antigua experienced a particularly windy winter/spring season (gusting to 25 knots +), so we choose to protect the fleet and not sail. The attractiveness of the bay enticed quite a few megayachts to anchor for the season, adding a few beautiful “obstructions” to our race-courses. But the conditions here are beautiful, and we warmly welcome those from R19 yacht clubs to visit as a



Wiley Crockett Has Crossed the Bar

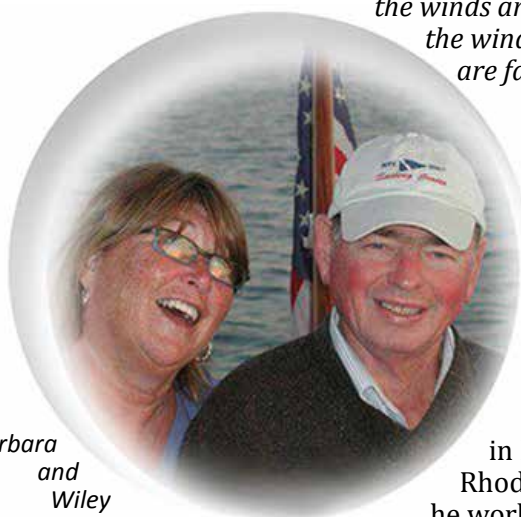
“Sailing is a metaphor for life itself, of how we lead our lives. Some choose to let the winds and currents take them where they will, to go with the flow. Others use the winds to navigate towards destinations chosen by them; some of them are fanatic about it. Wiley Crockett was such a sailor.”

—Wiley's friend Douglas Mesney in *An Incredible Epic*, 2020

Wiley Crockett, age 77, died February 12, 2021. Wiley lived as he sailed—he was fanatic about life and happiest in the company of his many friends, who remember him fondly. He was an intense competitor in both motorcycle racing and sailing, and he was excellent at both. He raced and won from Marblehead to Key West; from Manhasset Bay, Long Island, to Chicago; and from Newport, Rhode Island, to Newport Beach, California. His proudest achievement was winning Block Island Race Week.

He was a longtime Rhodes 19 sailor on #2463, *It's Rhodiculous*, in Manhasset Bay, Hingham, and, most recently, Fleet 35 in Riverside, Rhode Island. Wiley served the Rhodes 19 class as president, when he worked hard to build up the class treasury to enable us to one day purchase the hull molds from our sole class boat builder, Stuart Marine. A very passionate competitor, he was known to have had many memorable “discussions” at the annual class meetings, including with the late Fred Brehob.

Wiley's obituary can be found at <https://bit.ly/3farBv1>.



Barbara
and
Wiley
Crockett

2021 Rhodes 19 National Championship

August 16-20, 2021

Rhodes 19 Fleet 5—Organizing Authority; Hosted by Corinthian Yacht Club
Marblehead, Massachusetts, USA

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and the Rhodes 19 Class Association rules.
- 1.2. The regatta and competitors will adhere to all federal, state and local COVID guidance and regulations. [DP] [NP]
- 1.3. Racing rules will be changed as follows:
 - 1.3.1 The failure to hail, the order of hail, the hail of some but not all, the failure of a boat to hear such a hail, or the untimely hail of OCS boats will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
 - 1.3.2 Rule 61.1(a)(2) is deleted. A boat must conspicuously display a red flag at the first reasonable opportunity. She shall display the flag until she is no longer racing.

2. ADVERTISING

Competitor advertising will be restricted to World Sailing Regulation 20.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 3.1. The regatta is open to all fixed keel boats of the Rhodes 19 Class meeting eligibility requirements specified in the Rhodes 19 Class Association Rules. Bylaw B12.02 remains in effect.
- 3.2. Eligible boats may enter by completing the online entry at regattaman.com by August 10, 2021 at 2359.
- 3.3. Late entries will be accepted under the following conditions: a late fee of \$50 will apply after August 10.

4. FEES

- 4.1. The entry fee is \$300 per boat.
- 4.2. Entry fees for skippers under the age of 25 will be reimbursed by the Rhodes 19 Class Association.

5. SCHEDULE

- 5.1. Registration:
 - Monday, August 16, 1400–1600
 - Tuesday, August 17, 0800–1000 and 1600–1700
 - Wednesday, August 18, 0800–1000.
- 5.2. Measurement and inspection:
 - Monday, August 16, 1200–1600 (w/prior arrangement)
 - Tuesday, August 17, 0800–1600
- 5.3. Skippers meeting
 - Wednesday, August 18, 1000
- 5.4. Race schedule
 - August 17, 2020 Practice Race— First warning 1400
 - August 18, 2020..... Racing—First warning no earlier than 1200
 - August 19, 2020..... Racing—First warning no earlier than 1100
 - August 20, 2020..... Racing—First warning no earlier than 1100
 - No warning signal after 1530
 - Maximum number of races scheduled is 12. Up to four races may be raced on each day.

6. MEASUREMENT

A boat may not complete registration without written approval of the event measurer.

7. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing instructions will be available no later than August 10, 2021, on Regattaman.com.

8. VENUE

The racing area will be in Massachusetts Bay, outside Marblehead Harbor.

9. COURSES

Courses will be windward/leeward.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM

Appendix V1 will be in effect.

11. SCORING

- 11.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a championship.
- 11.2 When five or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

12. HAULOUT RESTRICTIONS

Boats shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee. [DP]

13. RADIO COMMUNICATION

All boats must carry a working VHF radio. [DP]

14. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to skippers and crew for the first five places in the regatta. Daily prizes will be awarded to the first boat in each race.

15. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

16. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance sufficient to cover liability for loss, damage, personal injury, or death.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Kim Pandapas at 617-901-8845 or Elise Nash at 781-504- 5598.

How a Rhodes 19 fared against bigger boats

Having sailed and raced a Rhodes 19 back in the mid-1960s, I would occasionally check out your website.

Having seen a video of the history of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club, I recalled a race that might be of interest to you.

Sally was the only Rhodes 19 that raced down on Biscayne Bay, so she raced in cruising class C (under 20 feet). Normally, the cruising classes would have their own starts with separate courses to try to get them back together for the last leg.

For this particular race just for CGSC members, they grouped the B (20 to 30 feet) and C classes with the same start and course. *Sally* was third across the finish line behind two Soverel 28s, leaving a good number of the mid-20s (such as Columbia 24s and Cal 25s) in her wake!

—John Schultz

If anyone needs some spares I've got 21 packs of emergency sailboat fuel for sale. \$10 per package

\$10 • Hopewell Junction, NY

