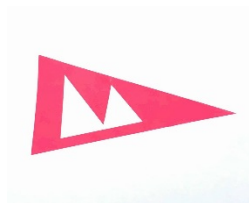




The Old Man

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association



November/December 2017

Commodore's Letter

I wonder what Dick Tinkler, MRSA Commodore in December, 1974, was thinking when he started his year as Commodore? I wonder if he scratched his head and pondered how to add racers to the Wednesday night fleet? Is it possible that he also tried to figure out how to get more people involved in enjoying the MRSA cruises? They really are lots of fun!

This year the racing program, led by Dave Prucnal, will be trying new ways to make Wednesday night racing more fun, more exciting, and more competitive for sailors heading out to race on Wednesday nights.

Debbie and John Lund, two of the most experienced cruisers in our club, have agreed to head our cruising program. With your help, they will be planning a fun cruising schedule, including some old and new destinations.

Evan Clayton will once again head up our much-in-demand Junior Training program, held at the Grachur Club. Evan, a graduate of the MRSA junior program, is the assistant sailing coach at Washington College, and a Wednesday night racer with Mike Mullarky.

As Commodore, I am excited about our opportunities to grow the membership with parents of junior training students, new racers, and new cruisers. I think we can always do a better job communicating with new and current members. As the forty-fifth Commodore of Magothy River Sailing Association, I am excited to lead us into our 45th year.

The new Board of MRSA (listed below) is full of enthusiasm for 2018, and we hope you are too. We hope to see you at all of our meetings, parties, and races this year. Let us know how we can make MRSA better! Send your suggestions to commodore@mrsa.org.

Peggy Poe, Commodore

2018 Board of Governors and Appointed Positions

At the December 7, 2017 meeting of the Magothy River Sailing Association, the members unanimously elected the following Board of Governors:

Commodore	Peggy Poe
Vice Commodore	(open)
Rear Commodore	Dave Prucnal
Fleet Captain Cruising	Debbie and John Lund
Fleet Captain Junior Training	Evan Clayton
Secretary	John Nicholson
Fleetmaster	Rich Hughes
Treasurer	Homer Sandridge
Race Committee Chair	Jim Gary and Jon Anthony

Fleetmaster Rich Hughes was nominated from the floor and was elected by acclaim.

There were thanks for the officers who served the club for 2016-2017 and are retiring from the Board. They are Dennise Fath, Rod Swank, and Rick Fenton.

Also we thank Shep Drain who has been the CBYRA Delegate for a number of years and is retiring from that job. Thanks Shep. We are looking for a replacement for Shep, so please let Dave Prucnal know if you would like to step into Shep's shoes.

Other appointed positions vital to MRSA are as follows:

Membership Chair	Peggy Poe
Webmaster	Mike Mullarky
The Old Man Editor	Maggie Burri
Red Book Editor	Dave Pirone
CBYRA Delegate	Open
PHRF Delegate	Mike Mullarky
Ship's Store	Loura Bonham

Frostbite Cruise

Submitted by Peggy Poe

Nineteen MRSA cruisers met at the Federal House in Annapolis for dinner on Saturday, October 28th to celebrate the end of the Cruising season. Unfortunately the restaurant forgot we were coming, but we made the best of the situation, and everyone enjoyed a tasty dinner and the camaraderie of their dinner companions. The weather wasn't very frosty, and the Sunday forecast was decidedly nasty. All of the diners (pictured below) came by land yacht except the hardy Lunds, who sailed from the Magothy on Chapter III, making the rest of us look like wimps. Sherry Sandridge volunteered her house for next year's Frostbite Cruise. We will take her up on that offer!



Frostbiters Ed Poe, John and Debbie Lund



Marty Walker, Norm and Chris Poulson,
Sherry and Homer Sandridge, Mark Walker

Wine, Cheese, and Election of New Officers

Submitted by Rich Hughes

The MRSA membership gathered at the annual Wine and Cheese party at the Belvedere Yacht Club on December 7, 2017 to celebrate another successful sailing season. The party was hosted by Rich and Toni Hughes and Jim Wilson, of Belvedere Yacht Club. The hors d'oeuvres were up to the usual MRSA standards and the wine was superb (no bottle above \$10.00). Over 40 members attended to socialize and select the leadership for next year. The social hour was a good event to celebrate the end of the year and beginning of the holiday season. The slate of officers for next year was presented and elected. All look forward to another season under the new leadership of the club.

Long time MRSA member Ed Tracey and the crew of *Incommunicado* were recognized with the presentation of the U.S. Sailing Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal that is awarded to skippers and crew of boats who rescue victims from the water. *Incommunicado* was returning from a bay race when they rescued Pat Seidel, a PSA member, who was in the water and clinging to a buoy. More details in the next article!

Magothy River Skipper and Crew Receive the Hanson Award



US Sailing's Arthur B. Hanson Award "recognize[s] the significant accomplishment in seamanship which has saved a life." It was presented to the skipper and crew of a Magothy River Sailing Association boat at the Wine and Cheese party on December 7. Here's the text of the citation:

“On October 23, 2016, Captain Ed Tracy at the helm of *Incommunicado*, and crew Dewey Ward and Ray Racine, spotted trouble on their way back from the Baltimore Harbor Cup Race. Pat Seidel, United States Naval Academy Graduate, retired submarine commander, and experienced racing sailor was shocked and surprised to find himself in very cold water. He could have died.

Seidel and Janet Gawler were sailing on the Capri 22 named “.45” at Buoy 2 which is the entrance marker to Magothy River in 10-15 knots of wind, seas of 2’, air temperature of high 50’s, and water temperature of 60 degrees. As Seidel turned the boat to head into the river, he moved outboard against the lifeline. The pelican hook on the lifeline opened, and he went overboard. Holding onto the tiller extension, with the boat going 5 knots, he couldn’t hang on and he was separated from the boat injuring his right shoulder.

Seidel tried to coach first year sailor Gawler to drop sails and return to him. On one pass Seidel grabbed a stanchion bending it, again losing his grip. Recognizing that rescue would take time, Seidel stripped down to boxers. He swam 500 yards to a No-Wake Buoy and clung to it. With barnacles encrusting the buoy, Seidel’s chest was scratched and cut. A Vanguard stopped, but indicated it had no way to bring him up on deck, and kept going without making a Distress Call for others to come.

After he was in the water for 30-35 minutes, *Incommunicado*, an Omega 36, with spotted trouble. They dropped sail and arrived under power. Seidel was exhausted and somewhat incoherent. Seidel was of little help to get himself out of the water onto the deck which was done with a ladder with Ward, Racine and Tracy lifting. The *Incommunicado* crew clothed and warmed Seidel. Meanwhile crewman Ward coached Gawler aboard the out of control Capri to steer head-to wind to stop the boat, which Ward then boarded, took the sails down, attached the outboard, started it, and drove the Capri 22 home to Gibson Island Marina.



US Sailing is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to Ed Tracy for rescuing his fellow mariners in very trying circumstances.”

Left to right: Dewey Ward, Ed Tracy, Jon Wright, Pat Seidel. Jon Wright holds the Vanderstar Chair at the USNA, and is an advisor to US Naval Academy Sailing.

Parade of Lights

Submitted by Dave Pirone

Saturday, December 9th started out cold, but soon turned into light snow in the afternoon. As the day progressed, the snow increased and started to accumulate, covering the piers and walkways at the Annapolis Hotel. The snow did not deter the hearty sailors of MRSA. The first of our members, Wally and Jean Gribben, arrived at 4 p.m. with a plate full of fudge. It wasn't much longer before additional

members arrived. There were meatballs, shrimp, dips, cookies, and snacks galore. MRSA provided refreshments and the great room that overlooks the Annapolis Harbor at the Annapolis Hotel.

The snow did not slow the Parade of Lights. In fact, it added a level of decoration to every boat. Some of the participating crew members were throwing snow balls from the decks. Snowflakes blew past the windows of our room as the boats passed and entered Ego Alley. There were several new boat displays with great graphics and some of our old favorites.

In all, we had a great time with slightly over 30 members, family and friends attending. If you haven't attended the Parade of Lights from our room on the 6th floor of the hotel, please plan to do so next year.