



# The Mainsheet

## Newsletter of PYC Sailing

(Vol 1 No. 1, July 2020)



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### In this issue:

Your Race Committee .....	1
HPYC Board of Governors .....	1
From the Back of the Boat .....	1
2020 Racing Schedule .....	2
Slalom Racing .....	2
Racing Rules Book Club .....	3
Sailing Illustrated on the Web.....	4
Supporting Each Other.....	4

### Your Race Committee

Jack White, Chair	
Brook Smith, Vice Chair	
Clark Chapin, Secretary	
Fritz Wagner, Quartermaster	
Ty Cathey	Rick Lyons
Tom Ehman	Bill O'Donnel
Bill Foster	Kerry Pebbles
Brian Hawkins	Ann Taylor
Rick Jarzembowski	Steve Wiseman

### HPYC Board of Governors

Brian Hawkins, Commodore	
Clark Chapin, Secretary and Past Commodore	
Brook Smith, Treasurer	
Bill Foster, Governor	
Bill O'Donnel, Governor	

### From the Back of the Boat



Welcome to the inaugural edition of a new newsletter that is intended to keep the PYC sailing community up-to-date about various plans and activities.

This year your Race Committee has been busy. COVID-19 has not only impacted our racing program but sailing programs across the US. Like us, many clubs have been weighing the risks of competitive sailing and the need to maintain social distance and disinfect equipment in all activities. Many organizations, including PYC, have concluded that season series and regattas are not worth the very real risk that COVID-19 still presents. Hence, we reluctantly took the action to cancel the racing program.

For all of us the challenge going forward is going to be maintaining the sailing program into the next year. Through the leadership of Jim Sunstrum and Clark Chapin we are already doing different things that engage members around sailing. Chief among these has been the Thursday Night (via Zoom) Racing Rules Book Club. Initiated by Jim and led by Jim and Clark, who tells us that Judge Judy is not always the way, we held an 11-session seminar on the Racing Rules of Sailing. Not merely an exercise in learning the rules, the seminar used "on the water" situations to illustrate different aspects of the rules and how the rules work in practice. Members from other clubs were regular attendees, and the sessions gave our sailors a chance to do what they like best... talk about sailing.

And..., for those Saturdays (Sundays) when the wind seems just right, some folks have



suggested informal (socially safe) "horsing". Marks may, or may not magically appear, but boats surely will. We will be setting up an email list so anyone can send out a suggestion that sailing would be fun. Respond to the call.

In future issues I'll be talking about our challenge to "keep the lamp burning" until the 2021 season. Please let us know what you think.

Jack

### 2020 Racing Schedule

The Race Committee has been meeting via videoconference since March and the most important topic at each meeting has been how to safely restart our 2020 events in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the various Executive Orders, CDC Guidelines, and the desire to keep our members safe and healthy.

An additional constraint is that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has not approved our annual Marine Event Permit and the regional official has been furloughed due to the COVID-19 crisis.

At its latest meeting on Wednesday June 24, the Committee reluctantly decided to cancel all of our racing activities for 2020, including the Gold Series, Silver Series, and the invitational regattas scheduled for September.

Official Notice 20.02 was sent to all registered racers on June 28:

#### Official Notice 20.02

The PYC Race Committee (RC) met on Wednesday, June 24 and after some debate cancelled the balance of the 2020 sailboat racing program, but with encouragement for racers to go out on the lake and "horse" if it can be done following the CDC's and Governor's "latest" social distancing methods. The RC also directed that the checks submitted with your 2020 racing registration be ripped up unless

you wish to donate them to the racing program. Two racers have done so. Absent an email reply to this email requesting your donation, your check will be ripped up on Friday, July 3. The Service Boat was not launched this year so it cannot be used for "horsing." I suspect the Signal Boat shortly will be mothballed until next season.

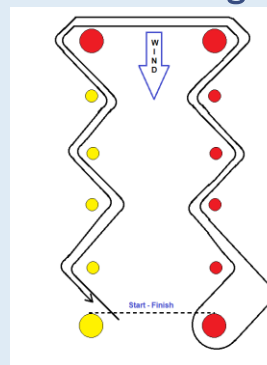
The Service Boat, which has not been launched, will remain on its trailer this year, hoping for better days to come.

The Signal Boat is (at this time) at its mooring along with the marks and anchors.

The Race Committee has agreed for this year to allow the Signal Boat and marks to be used by racing members for informal "horsing" activities and practices. Members should check out and in with the PYC Office and fill out a Post-race Checklist when returning.

Of course, informal horsing without marks is available any time!

### Slalom Racing



The Race Committee decided to try a different type of competition this year called a "slalom race" involving quick races (about 4 minutes) with only two boats at a time tacking and jibing around a series of marks.

The diagram above shows the track of one competitor starting and finishing near the yellow mark at the starting line. The second competitor would start at the same time near the orange mark and sail a mirror image course. After this race, the two boats would trade sides and go again with the winner of the match having the lowest combined time in the two races.

At its meeting on June 3, the Race Committee decided to limit the event to singlehanded boats only and on June 12, made the event informal only because of the lack of the Marine Event Permit.

The informal event was held on Sunday June 14. Conditions were a bit cool and blustery and so participation for this trial and shakedown was limited to two enthusiastic sailors: Jim Sunstrum and Steve Wiseman.



And they're off! Jim Sunstrum (nearer) and Steve Wiseman start in the first PYC Slalom Race on June 14. (Wendy Willford photo)

It was exciting racing to watch and Steve Wiseman narrowly edged out Jim in the third match to take the win.

Several people helped make this a success:

- **Signal Boat:** Clark & Karen Chapin
- **Yellow-side Marks:** Todd, Wendy, and Hannah Willford as well as Brian Hawkins.
- **Orange-side Marks:** Jack White, Nancy Staub, Tyler and Felicia Cathey.
- **Photos:** Steve and Nancy Schewe.

The Club now has all of the equipment to do this again for both singlehanded and multi-handed boats. We're looking forward to another opportunity with more participation (and maybe more spectators cheering them on).

## Racing Rules Book Club

Just before the State of Michigan Stay-at-home order, Jim Sunstrum hosted a "Racing Rules Quiz Book Club" using Dave Perry's book, "100 Favorite Rules Quizzes". The group would take an individual quiz and discuss it among themselves before reading Dave's answer.

At its meeting in late March, the Race Committee endorsed the idea of trying this on line using Zoom meetings. The first on line session was on Thursday April 2 and the series ultimately expanded to 11 sessions, stretching through June 11. A total of 67 different quizzes were discussed from a variety of sources: The Perry book, US Sailing Appeals, World Sailing Cases, Sail Canada Appeals, Royal Yachting Association Appeals, and question submitted by attendees.



**PYC Racing Rules Book Club**  
SESSION 11 JUNE 11, 2020 7:30 PM EDT

- ▶ Book Club Format
- ▶ Come prepared to discuss and contribute!

US SAILING

Each session was 90 minutes long.

Because this was an on line format, participants logged on from as far away as Minnesota, Maryland, Traverse City, and Columbus.

The attendees thought it was an entertaining and informative way to learn more about the rules and expressed enthusiasm for a similar program next year, when we'll have a new rule book.

### Sailing Illustrated on the Web



Tom Ehman, Jr. is now the host of a semi-weekly (Tuesdays and Fridays) video blog entitled "TFE Live".

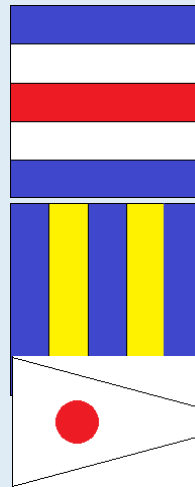
The shows are livestreamed on Facebook from his apartment in San Francisco, but you do not have to be a Facebook member to view them. The shows have gathered 750,000 views.

The videos are archived for viewing [HERE](#).

Some recent shows include:

- **#307, June 26:** Peter and Dr. Edit Harken about the history of Harken, what they're doing now, and Edit's sun care products for sailors called "Harken Derm".
- **#300, June 2:** Tribute to Henry H. (Harry) Anderson, Jr.
- **#293, May 8:** Terry Hutchinson, CEO and skipper of the New York Yacht Club's American Magic Syndicate challenging for the America's Cup

### Supporting Each Other



Do you know what this signal flag combination means? No, it's not in the Racing Rules.

The combination "C-G-1" means "I will stand by to assist you" or "I will not abandon you." Several yacht clubs, both nationwide and globally, are flying this signal as a sign to their members and communities that they are a source of mutual support during this unprecedented

crisis.

In 1926, the SS President Roosevelt stood by the British steamship Antioe during a horrendous Atlantic gale on January 20. The Roosevelt, bound for the English Channel, answered a call to rescue the Antioe. Roosevelt stood by the Antioe for over 85 hours, launched several rescue efforts, and lost two of her own crewmen before saving the lives of everyone aboard Antioe. At the time, the signal flag combination was "A-I", but the code has changed in the intervening century to "C-G-1".