



The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing

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Metaphor for 2020



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Your Race Committee

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 Tom Ehman Bill O’Donnel
 Bill Foster Kerry Pebbles (FS)
 Brian Hawkins Ann Taylor
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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 back. Lots to talk about in this issue.

I regret to report that Fritz Wagner has decided to “hang it up” after a lot of years of sailing here and at other clubs.

Fritz sailed at Northwestern and began recreational sailing in 1963. Fritz jointly owned his first Scot in OH in 1976.

Fritz is known as the guy who is always looking for crew, and he’s had a bunch. He and Helen sailed in the 80’s and were district champs, he sailed with son Bill for a number of years, and then a lot of other folks. Always competitive, always great fun.

Fritz has been a member of PYC for over 35 years and has been our Quartermaster since 2001. As Quartermaster, he has done yeoman’s work to keep our boats, marks, and equipment in good shape. Fritz has generously passed his trusty boat, Hummer, to Nicholas Marion, his present crew. We’re hoping Nick will join us here at PYC in future years. We need new sailors and new enthusiasm for the sport.



We'll surely miss Fritz on the course, but he is still going to be the quartermaster for the rest of this year and after that we'll see if we can keep him involved.

Though the regular race season was cancelled there has been sailing, and friendly "horsing" going on between the sailors of PYC. Ty Cathy has taken the lead on this and is putting the marks out.

On Sunday, the 12th, Clark Chapin and Tom Kimball Joined me and my son, James, for some fun. Thursdays, so far, have seen Steve Wiseman, Jim Sunstrum, Tom Kimball, Brian and Suzy Hawkins, Ty and Flea Cathy, Clark Chapin, and yours truly (with a combination of wife, kid, grandkid, etc.) on a course laid out by Ty.

Ty wants to encourage people to come out. We have been doing "main and jib" when there are single handers. After all it is for fun and friendly competition. To quote a phrase, "A bad day on the water beats a good day of anything else."

Generally, the marks are out at 1830 on Thursdays, and 1300 on Sundays. Ty has been putting an email message out to one and all the-day-of, to let folks know about the wind and weather and remind them to come out.

Speaking of Tyler; I've been sailing here for most of 30 years and I've never figured out what "YITBOS" means??

We have a great issue of "The Mainsheet" for you. A piece on the Port-Huron to Mackinac by Bill O'Donnell; Some tips on drills from Rick Lyons for us to do while out horsing around; and stuff on knots and the America's Cup. So enjoy the issue and let me know what you think,... oh' and hope to see you out sailing!!

Jack

PYC Sailors in the Mackinac Race by Bill O'Donnel

In a year where sailing opportunities have been sparse, three of our PYC sailors were fortunate to compete in the 96th consecutive Port Huron to Mackinac race. PYC sailors Brian Hawkins, Sam Hawkins and Bill O'Donnel were part of the 7-person crew sailing on Mystic 3 (a Dobroth 41). Suzy Hawkins provided much needed support on the Island.



Sam Hawkins, Commodore Brian Hawkins, and Bill O'Donnel, our Mackinac Racers. (Suzy Hawkins photo)

For small boat sailors, much of our racing focus is on an aggressive start, playing the shifts, navigating boat to boat interactions, efficient mark rounding's, and a strong finish...all in one hour. Success in the Mack requires knowledge of the systems of a bigger boat: the sail inventory; a maze of lines, sheets and halyards; electronics, navigation, long term tactics and positioning, weather awareness, food supplies, etc. Leadership, teamwork and communication are critical.

Our race began on Saturday, July 11th with a 1:40 start. We were seeing 10-15 knots from the NW, as predicted, and opted for a full main and the #1 genoa. This continued for a while until we hit a lull. We drifted and the biting flies took full advantage. While headway was slow, the boat ghosted along nicely and we found ourselves passing boats to both windward and leeward. Soon, the wind turned on and we were experiencing winds in the 12-24 knot range. The waves built and swelled on our nose accordingly. We reefed the main and furled the genoa. Surprisingly, this was our wind for the next 40-ish hours. Our highest speeds were in the 7.5 knot range and we sailed above 6 knots for most of the race. The wind was always on our nose and the boat and crew took quite a beating. Most of us chose to stay above deck in full weather gear, PFD's, and tethers where we could see the waves and spray coming rather than take a chance below deck and experience the hull dropping out below you or the unpredictable changes in heel.

Brian did the bulk of driving on Monday morning as we navigated the Straights of Mackinac. Interestingly, the wind was in the 10-14 knot range with smoother water and he was able to maintain boat speeds above 7 knots. Apparently, the Dobroth is a very light boat and performs best in light air.

It was a fairly benign, calm finish to the race and Suzy was surprised to hear how grueling the race really was. While there were no awards or party on land, the PYC sailors opted to stay a few days on the island enjoying the awesome weather. There were lots of stories, a little shopping, exploring the interior of the island and great food.

Animated Knots – the bowline



Want to learn how to tie knots like a pro? There's a web site for that! The link is [HERE](#).

This month, we'll start with a basic knot that all boaters (power or sail) should know, the bowline.

HINT: It's pronounced "Bow-lin", not "Bow-line". The link above takes you to a site with some nifty step-by-step instructions.

If you were once a Boy Scout, the mnemonic was, "the rabbit comes out of the hole, around the tree, and back into the hole." A former PYC sailor once said that he remembered it by, "the rat comes out of the sewer pipe, around the lamppost, and back into the sewer pipe." Because his Boy Scout troop was in the city.

Activities this Summer by Rick Lyons

A word of encouragement, since the "Race" (which leaves little time to practice) is not the prime concern this year.

Please keep in mind that this would be a really, really, really good opportunity to spend some time maybe at each impromptu outing to spend 30 minutes or more doing some drills either as a group or individually like;

-30 tacks,

-20 gybes,

-10 times sheeting in from a standstill to full

speed at different points of sail,
-10 times stopping and holding your place as if on the starting line without drifting,
-15 times sheeting in hand over hand while at different rates of turn on both tacks as if maneuvering at the start or rounding a buoy,
-10 times practice clearing weeds upwind and downwind without loss in momentum or direction,
-5 times doing 720's or 360's (gybe first), etc. instead of just 2-3 straight line races to one end of the lake and back.

Then maybe some short form rabbit start races (kept tight and quick maybe up and back 5 minutes total max). All the while adjusting/tuning the sail/boat/weight to these maneuvers and wind velocity changes.

Have fun and stay safe,

36th America's Cup in Auckland

Even with the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the next America's Cup is taking shape in Auckland, New Zealand.



Defiant, the first of two AC75 foiling monohulls built by the New York Yacht Club's American Magic Syndicate.

The Defender, Emirates Team New Zealand (ETNZ) have created a radical new boat type for this edition of the oldest trophy in international sport – a 75 ft foiling monohull.

Four clubs are vying for the right to sail against ETNZ when the Cup Match starts next March 6:

- New York Yacht Club's American Magic Team
- Royal Yacht Squadron's Ineos Team UK
- Circolo Vela Sicilia's (Italy) Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli
- Long Beach Yacht Club's Team Stars + Stripes

Team Stars + Stripes is perhaps not a "real" challenger. They have asked to use a Kiwi boat during the Challenger Series, violating the "constructed in country" requirement.

Team American Magic's first boat, "Defiant" has arrived in New Zealand.

The other two "real" teams are planning their moves to New Zealand as well.

If American Magic defeats the other challengers and then the Kiwis, USA will become the first nation to win the Cup three times (1987, 2010, and 2021). New Zealand won the Cup in 1995 and 2017.

TFE Live



Tom Ehman, Jr.'s video blog, "TFE Live" is live at 4 PM every Tuesday and Friday.

The show is live streamed on Facebook, but you do not need to be a Facebook member to view. Most people watch the replays [HERE](#).

In July, some of the most watched shows are shown below with links to the videos:

- [#311](#) (July 7) with guest Chris Clark of Bayview Yacht Club on the Port Huron to Mackinac Race.
- [#313](#) (July 14) Mackinac Race wrap up on the Island.
- [#317](#) (July 28) Alistair Murray, an incredible sailing personality.