



# The Mainsheet

## Newsletter of PYC Sailing

(Vol 1 No. 3, September 2020)



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 Back issues are available [HERE](#).

### Photo of the Month



Some days are good for informal “horsing” on Portage Lake and others, not so much. (Michael Ehnis photo)

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### Your Race Committee

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

### HPYC Board of Governors

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

### Board of Governors Meeting

The HPYC Board of Governors met on Monday August 24, and took several actions:

The 2020 Awards Dinner was cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.

The Board agreed to cover the 2020 expenses of the Race Committee, such as the launching and retrieval of the Signal and Service Boats, from the HPYC assets.

The Race Committee, notwithstanding the cancellation of the racing schedule, was empowered to make any of the perpetual awards, such as Sailor of the Year, that do not depend upon our season racing results.

The Board also recommended that the Past Commodores Committee adopt several changes to the HPYC Bylaws, including the adoption of a new “Associate Member” category for folks who aren’t active racers, but wish to remain connected to the PYC sailing program.

### Hawkins Family Victorious at Bayview



Detroit's Bayview Yacht Club rescheduled their annual One Design Regatta from June to August 14-16.

Although some classes raced all three days, many of the smaller boats, such as the

Flying Scots, Lightnings, and Sunfish, raced only on Saturday and Sunday. Portage Yacht Club was represented by Brian and Suzie Hawkins as well as Kerry Pebbles in the Flying Scot Class. Former member Joe Smyk sailed on the Tartan 10 *No Rebase*. Jack White and Clark Chapin served on the protest committee.

Saturday was Brian's day: He had three first place finishes to lead the Flying Scots.



Sunday dawned with numerous thunderstorms in Lake St. Clair and after postponing ashore, racing was cancelled for the day, giving Brian the victory. Kerry Pebbles was tied for third heading into the last race, but was forced to settle for fourth place. *No Rebase* was third in the Tartan 10 Class.

Congratulations to Brian and Suzie!

### Animated Knots – the Sheet Bend



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 move to a knot that is similar to the bowline, but used to

join together two different lines, often of different sizes or diameters.

### Practice Tips by Rick Lyons

*Each month in this column a video link and/or a written commentary link will dig deeper into the practice tips introduced in our August Mainsheet. These techniques will not only help your racing ability, but are great for those daysailing too. Some of these can be found at the [Interesting Links section of the PYC website](#).*

Hand over hand mainsheet trimming: This is the most consequential technique I've learned over the years. It is one of those things you learn to be "Motoric" [moh-tawr-ik] as my wife Cheryl defined when I demonstrated. This technique can be blended into all maneuvers, like accelerating from a standstill, heading up, gybing, leeward mark roundings, etc. helping make them consistent with predictable outcomes.

Below are several links that should give you a start with this technique, or help you refine it. Watch closely what the hands are doing independently and tiller extension action/position, so it will take repeated viewings. One thing to note while viewing is that you may have to change how you've been holding the tiller extension to allow for a quick clean exchange of the mainsheet from hand to hand regardless of the maneuver and necessary steering and type of boat. I call it the overhand or ski pole grip while always holding the tiller extension in front of your body.

For some of us we will not be able to practice these tips this season, but as with any new physical movement it helps to visualize the maneuver in our minds-eye going through the various motions. So while at home or sitting in the boat on the trailer watching the video links maybe on your phone, you could grab the tiller with extension and a piece of line as the mainsheet and practice moving your body, arms, hands and fingers to get a feel for this technique especially if you need to relearn holding the tiller extension.

[SailZing](#) [Rooster Sailing](#) [Steve Smith](#)  
[Flying Scot](#) [Int. Sailing Academy](#).

Note on the International Sailing Academy video, once learned, his ease of handling the mainsheet sheet from hand to hand without thinking about it, while sitting in the boat on land talking to us to get a free hand for explanation. It's so second nature or automatic.

*(Next month: Keeping the mainsheet from getting caught on the transom corner or rudder head.)*

### Time Passes at PYC

In 1995, the relationship between Huron-Portage Yacht Club and Portage Yacht Club entered a new phase with the construction of the new PYC Clubhouse and other changes. 1995 began the PYC era and there were 56 members of HPYC who became the original members under the new Joint Operating Agreement. 25 years later, there were only 7 racing memberships remaining from those 56:

Tyler Cathey	Clark Chapin
Tom Ehman	Brook Smith
Jack White	Dave Williams
Steve Wiseman	

Several others, including Dave and Carole Moody and Fritz Wagner, remain active in supporting our sailing and racing program.

### 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 August, some of the most watched shows are shown below with links to the videos:

- [#322](#) (August 14) America's Cup news including Ineos Team UK's moves to New Zealand.
- [#325](#) (August 25) Andrew McIrvine (GBR), a physician and surgeon, describes starting sailing back up in the UK.

### New Rule Book in 2021



Every four years (in the year after the Summer Olympics are held) World Sailing (formerly ISAF or IYRU) revises the racing rules. Even though the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed until 2021, the new rules will go into effect worldwide on

January 1. There aren't any earthshattering changes (like when "mast abeam" was abolished in 1997), but some changes are significant. We'll discuss some of these in the coming months, but here's the first:

**"Sailing the Course"** is a new definition. "A boat *sails the course* provided that a string representing her track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its prestart side to *start* until she *finishes*, when drawn taut,  
 (a) passes each *mark* of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order,



(b) touches each *mark* designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding mark, and (c) passes between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous mark.”

This fixes two problems in the current rules:  
- It is currently possible for a boat to finish (i.e. cross the finish line in the direction from the last mark) without starting (crossing the starting line after her starting signal); and  
- If the Race Committee observes a boat fail to round a mark, their only recourse currently is to protest the boat. Under the 2021 rules, they may score the boat “NSC (Did not sail the course)” without a hearing.

### From the Back of the Boat – Brian Hawkins



I sit here in my den (I call it a den on weekends. Monday through Friday it transforms into my work office) on a calm Sunday afternoon reflecting on what should have been a

fantastic race season with a greater number of participants. The planning began when snow was still falling, and the temperature was below freezing. The race committee, chaired by Jack White, was restructuring the race program to be more appealing to a wider group of potential racers. The strategy was to grow the racing program by shortening the time commitment to both racers and those who serve on race management. Changes included a shorter season, not racing on every weekend and more races per day without increasing time spent on the water.

Plans to further increase the size of our program also included participating in US Sailing’s First Sail program. This program offers

a two hour ‘first sail’ experience for a nominal fee. The idea was to expose people without any previous experience to the sport of sailing and PYC with the hope of cultivating participants in to future skippers and crew.

“First Sail is a new initiative organized by US Sailing with the goal of promoting the benefits of sailing, encouraging individuals to get out on the water and growing the sport of sailing across the United States.”

The entire Race Committee put in a tremendous amount of effort and time into making this year’s race season a success. All this planning went down the drain when it became obvious that the season should be canceled.

Thanks to Felicia and Tyler Cathey, a few members continue to mess about in sailboats on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. The Cathey’s set two marks from their pontoon and rush back home to bring Farkleberry Too out to play on their informal race course. Starts are conducted using a ‘Rabbit’ start where the ‘Rabbit’ boat sails a close reach on port tack and the other racers start when they closely pass behind the rabbit on starboard tack. Races are short, only lasting two legs. The informal setting allows for quick changes to how races are run.

There is one more thing that I am missing more than sailing this year and that is the social aspect of sailboat racing. I truly miss just sitting back after racing and enjoying everyone’s company. Whether it’s just relaxing with an adult beverage and replaying what happened on the race course or experiencing everyone’s favorite family recipe at a potluck dinner. If anyone ever wants to hang out in the park, while maintaining a social distance, just give me a call and we’ll be there.

Brian