



The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing
Live well, have fun, sail!
(Vol 2 No. 4, June 2021)



Sailboat Racing Returns to Portage Lake!

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
send an email to ClarkEChapin@gmail.com.
Back issues are available [HERE](#).

Photo of the Month



Interlakes and Flying Scots sail away from the starting line on Saturday 22-May as sailboat racing returned to Portage Lake. Later, the Weather Gods smiled and sunny skies returned to grace the other two races. Michael Ehnis photo

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Your 2021 Race Committee

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Jack White, Chair | |
| Brook Smith, Vice Chair | |
| Clark Chapin, Secretary | |
| (IL) (Vacant) | Rick Lyons |
| Tom Ehman | Bill O'Donnel |
| Bill Foster | Kerry Pebbles (FS) |
| Brian Hawkins | Ann Taylor |
| Rick Jarzembowski | Steve Wiseman (LA) |

2021 HPYC Board of Governors

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

Sailboat Racing Returns to Portage Lake!

Sailboat racing returned to Portage Lake on Saturday 22-May after a 20-month hiatus. Brook Smith (Interlake) and Brian Hawkins (Flying Scot) started the season off right by winning the first race in Interlakes and Flying Scots, respectfully. Clark Chapin and pick up crew Steve Wiseman followed Brook across the finish line in the first two races before taking Interlake line honors in the third and last race. The vintage crew of "The Toms" (Tom Ehman and Tom Kimball) were always in contention and had a second-place finish in the third race. The boats raced for 2½ hours under our new format of three shorter races run back-to-back-to-back. Bill Foster and Michael Ehman manned the Signal boat and were assisted by Nicholas and Greg Marion on the Service Boat. Afterwards, the sailors retired to the park at PYC and enjoyed various and sundry beverages along with some classic Doritos furnished by Brook Smith. Our next Gold Series race day is Saturday 5-Jun!

Upcoming Regattas

There are several regattas coming up for the classes that sail on Portage Lake. Sailing at another venue helps grow skills as well as make new friends and contacts. It's also the best way to see how others rig and sail their boats.

| Class | Regatta | Location | Start | End | Link |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------|--------|----------------------|
| (FS=Flying Scot, IL=Interlake, SF=Sunfish, MC=MC Scow) | | | | | |
| FS | Cowan Lake Flying Pig Regatta | Cowan Lake SA, Cowan Lake, OH | 5-Jun | 6-Jun | LINK |
| IL Laser | Cattail Regatta | Jolly Roger SC, Toledo, OH | 5-Jun | 5-Jun | LINK |
| MC | MC Cage Match Regatta | Lake Fenton SC, Fenton, MI | 5-Jun | 6-Jun | LINK |
| SF | Watkins Lake Regatta | Watkins Lake, Waterford Twp, MI | 6-Jun | 6-Jun | LINK |
| Laser | ILCA Nationals | Big Blue Sailing Academy, Norfolk, VA | 17-Jun | 20-Jun | LINK |
| FS | Egyptian Cup | Carlyle Sailing Assn. Lake Carlyle, IL | 18-Jun | 20-Jun | LINK |
| IL | Cleveland Race Week | Cleveland YC, Cleveland, OH | 18-Jun | 20-Jun | LINK |
| IL | George Fisher Memorial Regatta | Hoover SC, Columbus, OH | 19-Jun | 19-Jun | LINK |
| MC | Eagle Lake Open | Eagle Lake SC, Edwardsburg, MI | 19-Jun | 19-Jun | LINK |
| FS | Women's NAC | Deep Creek YC, Swanton, MD | 26-Jun | 27-Jun | LINK |

TFE Live Interviews Gary Jobson

With the Tokyo Olympics a mere six weeks away, Tom Ehman, Jr. interviewed renowned sailing commentator Gary Jobson on Friday 21-May. Besides being a TV sailing commentator for both ESPN and NBC Sports, Gary won the America's Cup as Ted Turner's tactician in 1977 and has also served as President of US Sailing and Vice President of World Sailing.

The interview was part of Tom's bi-weekly videos that are streamed live on Facebook, but you don't have to be a Facebook member to view them.



Topic discussed included the upcoming Olympics, plans for the Olympics in 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles), as well as Gary's views on the America's Cup and World Sailing. You can see the interview [HERE](#).

Join the Race Committee Team!



The PYC Race Signal Boat doesn't look like this, but you shouldn't let the proliferation of flags (or cylindrical shapes) intimidate you. The Principal Race Officer (PRO) is always able to take one or more "newbies" on board to help out and see sailboat racing, as they say, "up close and personal." A baseball writer once wrote a book about umpires entitled, "The Best Seat in Baseball, But You Have to Stand." This is true for sailboat racing, but we have chairs!

While it is always best to call the Club ((734) 426-4155) beforehand and say that you want to go aboard the Signal Boat, someone can almost always show up at the briefing unannounced and go aboard for the evening's or day's activities.



| Series | Briefing | Usually Over by: |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gold (Weekend) | Noon | 2:30 PM |
| Silver (Tuesday Small Boats) | 5:30 PM | Sundown |
| Silver (Thursday Large Boats) | 6:00 PM until 15-Aug, 5:30 PM after | Sundown Dinner afterward at PYC |

If you show up, you will:

- Get the best seat in the house to see the pre-start maneuvering and the start of the race;
- Get a front row seat on some of the most exciting parts of the racing (the mark roundings and the finish)
- Help the PRO with the starting and finishing process; and
- Learn something, whether you want to or not!

Take the plunge, call the Club, show up, and, you know, learn something while you spend a pleasant evening out on Portage Lake!

New Series: Dear Rick



Dear Rick,

I'm a new sailor. I always seem to be behind everyone, even at the start. What's the best way to improve my starts without getting in

someone's way and being protested?

- Newbie

Dear Newbie: Don't worry about being protested, it's not personal. The first race I was ever in, I was protested for tacking to close and learned from it. A lot of times a sailor applies the rules at the Starting Line (SL) by hailing a rule claim to another boat because they themselves failed to get a good position and are trying to pry a hole in the SL to get into the front row. They have to allow you time to react to their claim, so start to react, and most of the time they will move on before there is need for a protest.

But nobody wants to be a wrecking ball bouncing off other boats. See [HERE](#) for a basic overview of the most common rules that are intended to keep boats apart, but allow for close quarters, without a quarrel.

As a beginner, should be conservative (maybe watching others), and as you learn, try less

conservative approaches to starting a race, pushing your ability. Many times, an experienced racer will try a risky starting approach that ends up a complete failure and puts them at the back of the pack in an instant, so there's a balance to be struck, which makes racing fun and interesting. Basics to achieving a front row start in a conservative manner, and some links [HERE](#) (starting at 6:20), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#) that go well beyond the space allowed.

Typically, the first leg of the course be to a buoy set directly into the wind (the Windward Mark, so you have to tack back and forth while close hauled to get to it.

Because all port takers must give way to starboard tackers, the safest move at the start is to be on starboard tack as you approach the SL the final time to start. The next goal is to be within a half boat-width at full speed while close hauled at the starting signal. So that will require sort of a swoop up toward the SL during the last few seconds before the start, by turning and trimming the sails at the same time to close hauled, with sails tuned for the conditions (watch others, ask, or research your class association, sailmaker, such as [HERE](#).)

Rick Lyons

(More questions? Send them to RL@CharterMI.net)

Slalom Race Returns June 13!

The Second Annual PYC Slalom Championship will be held on Sunday, June 13. Last year's event taught us a lot and we're eager to expand the fun this year. Because there are only two boats on the race course at any one time, there is little chance for contact and this is a good opportunity to try out your boat handling skills.

This is a fairly informal event, so although the entry from only lists Lasers and Sunfish, we can probably find a way to squeeze in anyone who shows up. There is no entry fee for registered racers and only \$20 for anyone else.

Where can I get more information?

The Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, and a group of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are located [HERE](#).

Most Promising Beginner Award

Our racing sailors get an inordinate amount of joy out of seeing someone get into sailboat racing and grow in both skill and enthusiasm. We have an award to encourage them.



Walt Rensel Award for Most Promising Beginner

In 1979, the family of Walter Rensel presented our Club with a trophy to honor and encourage our promising beginners and to remember Walt, an enthusiastic Interlaker who passed away suddenly in the previous year.

This award is unique in that it is a signed numbered print by the noted artist Peter Max. Max, a colorful neo-expressionist, is, among other things, the Official Artist of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

The inscription on the Award reads:

**IN MEMORIAM
WALTER RENSEL 1933-1978**

To the youth of Huron-Portage Yacht Club, Walt gave his time, knowledge, and love of sailing. The Walter Rensel Award is presented by the Board of Governors to a young beginning sailor who

displays outstanding sportsmanship, desire, courage, and sailing skill.

Many of the winners of this award have gone on to embrace sailing as a life-long pursuit:

| Year | Recipient | Year | Recipient |
|------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2020 | <No Award> | 2002 | Kirsten Petro |
| 2019 | Elliott Lyons | 2000-2001 | <No Award> |
| 2018 | Nicholas Marion | 1997-1999 | <No Award> |
| 2017 | <No Award> | 1996 | Kim Reeve |
| 2016 | Lindsay Irwin | 1995 | Andy Hecker |
| 2015 | Art Varaday | 1991-1994 | <No Award> |
| 2014 | Erika Auner | 1990 | Laura Brooks |
| 2013 | <No Award> | 1989 | Theresa Brooks |
| 2012 | Mitch Kimball | 1988 | Bill Chapin |
| 2011 | Carl Grolle, Jr. | 1987 | Tom Poulter |
| 2010 | Carl Grolle, Jr. | 1986 | Dan O'Haver |
| 2009 | David Alday | 1985 | <No Award> |
| 2008 | Matthew Bodner | 1984 | Jenny O'Haver |
| 2007 | Sam Hawkins | 1983 | Dan O'Haver |
| 2006 | Andy Davis | 1982 | Neil O'Brien |
| 2005 | <No Award> | 1981 | Kristin Moody |
| 2004 | Corey Petro | 1980 | Eric Lochner |
| 2003 | <No Award> | 1979 | Curt Sage |



(Steve Schewe Photo)