



The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing
Live well, have fun, sail!
(Vol 2 No. 7, September 2021)



A Whole Lot of Sailing Going On!

Feedback or questions should be directed to:
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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



Protest Committee at the ILCA-North America No Coast Championship at Crescent Yacht SC. Bob Harvey and Jack White of PYC with Peggy Menzies (Crescent SYC and U of M). Back to camera are Jim Sunstrum (PYC) and Matt Bounds (PRO of the event).

In this issue:

Photo of the Month	1
Interlake Hot-to-Trot Regatta	1
Upcoming Regattas	2
Hot Scot Regatta	3
47 th No Sweat Laser Regatta	3
Sailing Illustrated TFE Live Videos	3
Dear Rick	3
HPYC Board of Governors	4

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

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

Interlake Hot-to-Trot Regatta

Bill O'Donnel and Nicholas Marion's victory in the 2021 came down to the last race in an action-packed 5-race series on Saturday 21-Aug at Portage Yacht Club.

Seven boats from as far away as Traverse City, MI; Columbus, OH; and Mansfield, OH gathered for a day of intense competition in light winds on Portage Lake.



Bill O'Donnel (#972) and his crew Nicholas Marion.
(Ann Taylor photo)

In the 5-race series, four different boats notched victories and the final spread between first and

fourth place was a mere 2.25 points. Wow! Runner-up Rick Lyons (#1189, 1987 ISCA National Champion) sailing with his son Elliot finished a mere



0.25 points out of first place. Clark Chapin and Chuck White (#1317) were only a point behind. Jeff Clark (#1317) and Tim Cullinen of Columbus were just off the podium with 9.75 points despite their win in the final race.

After racing, the competitors enjoyed various beverages and snacks in the shade of the PYC park. Tyler and Felicia Cathey (#1341) provided lovely edible prizes for the competitors. Bill O'Donnel, in accepting the winner's trophy, complemented his crew Nicholas Marion and (pointing toward a possible future career as a stand-up comedian) noted that Nicholas's father had crewed for Brook Smith (#1380) when he said, "I'm the father of several daughters. I enjoyed sailing with Nick and said that he was the son I never had. He turned to me and said, 'Bill, you're the father that I never had.'"



Clark Chapin (#1317), Rick Lyons (#1189), and Tom Wills (#1373) duel downwind. (Sarah Walsh photo).

Jeff Clark left his boat at PYC so that his trailer bearings could be serviced by Midwest Sailing before stopping by the following week to travel on to the Great White Northern Regatta at Grand Traverse Yacht Club. Tom and Sue Wills (#1372) made this a stop in their grand tour of Michigan sailing and recreation sites.

Jolly Roger SC's Ron Gall, crewing for Grand Traverse YC's Bruce Moore (#1417) at the event said, "I want to thank everyone at Portage Yacht Club for being such wonderful hosts at this year's Hot-to-Trot. The Interlakers at Portage always make visitors feel at home. And to top that, it's a great place to sail with top competition."

2021 Hot-to-Trot Regatta Results										
Pos	Points	Sail No.	Skipper	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	
1	7.50	972	Bill O'Donnel	Nicholas Marion	5	1	4	1	2	
2	7.75	1189	Rick Lyons	Elliot Lyons	2	4	1	2	3	
3	8.75	1317	Clark Chapin	Chuck White	1	2	2	4	4	
4	9.75	1370	Jeff Clark	Tim Cullinen	3	3	3	3	1	
5	19	1417	Bruce Moore	Ron Gall	4	5	5	6	5	
6	24	1380	Brook Smith	Greg Marion	RET	7	7	5	6	
7	26	1372	Tom Wills	Sue Wills	6	6	6	7	7	

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)					
Flying Scot	Hot Scot Regatta	Portage YC, Pinckney, MI	11-Sep	11-Sep	LIN K
MC Scow	Fall Regatta	Maxinkuckee YC, Culver, IN	11-Sep	12-Sep	LIN K
Interlake	Sandusky 1 Design	Sandusky SC, Sandusky, OH	18-Sep	19-Sep	LIN K
Laser (ILCA)	No Sweat Regatta	Portage YC, Pinckney, MI	18-Sep	18-Sep	LIN K
Sunfish	Michigan Sailing Club Sunfish Regatta	Michigan SC, Dexter, MI	19-Sep	19-Sep	-
Sunfish	Sunfish Regatta	Michigan SC, Dexter, MI	19-Sep	19-Sep	-
Interlake	Haphazard Regatta	Mohican SC, Mansfield, OH	25-Sep	25-Sep	LIN K
MC Scow	Cowan Scowin'	Cowan Lake SA, Cowan Lake, OH	2-Oct	3-Oct	LIN K
Interlake	Poltergeist Regatta	Indianapolis SC, Indianapolis, IN	2-Oct	3-Oct	-
Laser (ILCA)	District 19 Championships	Grand Rapids YC, Grand Rapids, MI	2-Oct	2-Oct	LIN K
MC Scow	Cowan Scowin'	Cowan Lake SA, Cowan Lake, OH	2-Oct	3-Oct	LIN K
Interlake	Fall Blowout	North Cape YC, LaSalle, MI	9-Oct	9-Oct	
Interlake	Snowball Regatta	Buckeye Lake YC, Buckeye Lake, OH	16-Oct	16-Oct	

Hot Scot Regatta



The annual regatta for Flying Scots, the Hot Scot Regatta, will be a one-day event on Saturday 11-Sep. Flying Scots from all over Michigan will attend and the racing promises to be close.

The event starts at 9 AM when registration opens. The first Warning Signal is scheduled for Noon and the race committee will attempt to get five short races completed. The Notice of Race, which explains all of the particulars, is [HERE](#).

The Flying Scot is sailed all over the United States and Canada. Over 5,000 have been built and it was designed by a transplanted Scotsman named Sandy Douglas who also designed the Thistle and the Highlander.

Even if you don't register and participate, it will be a great opportunity to observe sailboat racing here on Portage Lake. There's no fee for spectating!!

47th No Sweat Laser Regatta



The longest running single class regatta at Portage Lake, the No Sweat Laser Regatta, will be on Saturday 18-Sep.

The regatta attracts some of the best small boat sailors in SE Michigan, so we look forward to lots of action.

Due to an ongoing legal tussle between the International Laser Class Association and the company that builds these boats for sale in North America and Europe, new boats are called:

- ILCA 7 (formerly Laser Full Rig);
- ILCA 6 (formerly Laser Radial); and
- ILCA 4 (formerly Laser 4.7).

The numbers refer (roughly) to the sail area of each boat's sail in square meters. All three types are welcome at the regatta.

In the pre-pandemic year of 2019, there were 24 competitors and four races, making for some tight and exciting racing. The Notice of Race is [HERE](#) and contains all of the necessary details.

Sailing Illustrated TFE Live Videos



Tom Ehman, Jr.'s Sailing Illustrated continues to bring international sailing news to the online community. New shows are aired twice each week: Tuesday and Friday at 4 PM Eastern Time. If you are a Facebook user, you can participate in the live chat during the show, but even if you're not, the shows are available for viewing on both Facebook and (starting recently) YouTube ([HERE](#)). Some recent shows and their YouTube links include:

[#444 with American Magic CEO Terry Hutchinson](#)

[#447 about the Canada's Cup in Toronto](#)

[#448 with news about the next America's Cup](#)

Dear Rick



*Rick,
I'm new to sailboat racing.
What are 5 things that I
should focus on given my lack
of experience?*

- Newbie

Dear Newbie:

You should never think sailboat racing is too hard to do, or not interesting enough to keep yourself engaged. If nothing else sailboat racing on a closed course, will always make you become a better sailor overall, while having fun trying to concur this sport's infinite challenges.

1. Before, during, and after your initial learning time, talk to the leaders of your fleet, or others in the sport with boats similar to yours, to make sure your boat is set up properly, so the rig and equipment is balanced, and with practice you feel comfortable simply sailing the boat around in a variety of manageable wind speeds.
2. You should **practice**:
 - a. **Tacking and jibing** (multiple times in a session) in light to moderate winds (This will

help with moving around the boat and when or where to place your weight).

- b. **Sheeting in, and sheeting out the sails** (To match your rate of turning in either direction on either tack, and when speeding up or slowing down so the boat is powered up and easier to turn in an instant)
 - c. **Steering** with control and urgency to avoid close encounters with other boats.
 - d. **Watching others** and emulate what they are doing (You don't want to follow so close, tack for tack, that you are in another boats wind shadow, but positioned to see how they sit, and handle their boat. The crew should be watching as well, so there is less telling and more simply doing on their own).
 - e. **Not being afraid to make a mistake.**
3. Before and after each race, or practice session, do a diagnostic verbal review within yourself, or crew, fleet members, or others in the game, so you can get feedback and analyze how you are progressing and how you might shift your focus, or double down in some areas.
 4. Ask why and when to change (or initially set) the fine-tuning sail adjustments and other protocols that can make the boat easier to sail and perform well.
 5. Ask for help understanding of the basic top 10 or 12 right of way rules, so you know when and where to avoid others, which will help you practice the how. Again, the leaders of your fleet, or others hanging around, are a good source, and can help explain.

There are no dumb questions. In fact, any questions are encouraged. Those sailing in your fleet, or others that are leaders in the sport, typically welcome questions. They have learned over time that answering questions and explaining how they sail and race their boats helps them with their progress and learning as well as yours. Generally, anyone new to sailboat racing will have tail end of the fleet finishes as they learn more about their boat and racing regarding; boat handling, boat speed, tactics, strategy, etc. But this is part of the game and all top of the fleet sailors started at the back and worked their way up. Chances are improvement won't be overnight, but the challenges this sport presents within the

variables that come your way like reacting to; wind strength changes, shifting winds, other boats around you, etc., make the sport what it is. Challenging, exciting, and fun!



[Here's a link to the Pages of the local Fleets](#)
Rick Lyons
 (More questions? Send them to RL@CharterMI.net)

HPYC Board of Governors



The Huron-Portage Yacht Club Board of Governors met on Monday evening, 30-Aug, to start planning our end-of-year activities.

- Tom Ehman, Sr. was appointed to Chair the Past Commodores Committee which is charged with selecting the next Commodore and Board of Governors.
- The Board delegated the responsibility for selecting winners for most of our perpetual trophies to the Race Committee, chaired by Jack White.
- Lastly, the Board started plans for the Awards Dinner and social activity, tentatively scheduled for Saturday 13-Nov.

Stay tuned for more details!



Spinnaker action at the 2021 Hot-to-Trot Regatta. #1370 (Jeff Clark), #972 (Bill O'Donnel), #1189 (Rick Lyons, and #1380 (Brook Smith). Sarah Walsh photo