



The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing
Live well! Have fun! Sail!
(Vol 3 No. 5, July 2022)



Early Season Action

Feedback or questions should be directed to:
Jack White, Race Committee Chair:
Jack@SnapshotJack.com
Clark Chapin, Race Committee Secretary:
ClarkEChapin@gmail.com
Tom Ehman: TE@CharterMI.net
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
send an email to ClarkEChapin@gmail.com.
Back issues are available [HERE](#).

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2022 PYC Race Committee

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2022 HPYC Board of Governors

Steve Wiseman, Commodore
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Photo of the Month



In the dramatic fourth race of the Slalom Race Finals, Craig Pearson (right) capsized just short of the finish line, giving Rick Lyons the race win. (Brook Smith photo)

Slalom Race Drama

Rick Lyons held off a determined charge by Craig Pearson to capture the Third Annual PYC Slalom Championship on Sunday June 12. After a double round robin between the four contestants and a Petit Final between the third- and fourth-placed boats, Craig and Rick needed five races before Rick managed to win two in a row for the crown.



(L to R) Rick Lyons, Matt Heywood, Paul Ehman, and Craig Pearson at the 2022 Slalom Championship on June 12.



Action started at 10:30 AM and didn't wrap up until a little after 3:00 PM. The double round robin featured a total of 24 races (12 matches) between the contestants. Lyons emerged at the top of the leaderboard with a spotless record.

Round Robin Results		Sail No. & Name				Total Wins
Sail No	Name	145449	167251	2856	137086	
		Rick Lyons	Craig Pearson	Paul Ehman	Matt Heywood	
145449	Rick Lyons	n/a	2	2	2	6
167251	Craig Pearson	0	n/a	1	2	3
2856	Paul Ehman	0	1	n/a	1	2
137086	Matt Heywood	0	0	1	n/a	1

Each race was a little more than four minutes long (including the starting sequence). Each contestant sailed in at least 14 races, so everyone got their money's worth.

The Slalom race is a unique PYC event. While other clubs, notably St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco, have held slalom events, there are few elsewhere and none in the midwest

Flying Scot NAC July 9-14



The Flying Scot Sailing Association is holding its North American Championship (NAC) at North Cape Yacht Club near Toledo, OH on

Saturday July 9 through Thursday July 14. The Junior Championship will be held on Sunday July 10 and the balance of the races from Monday through Thursday July 11-14. Currently, Brian Hawkins and Michael Ehnis are registered to represent Portage Yacht Club. Other upcoming regattas include the Hot Scot Regatta at Portage Lake on 11-Sep:

Regatta	Club	Start	End
Midwest Districts	Delavan YC Delavan, WI	23-Jul	24-Jul
Hot Scot Regatta	Portage YC Pinckney, MI	11-Sep	
Ohio Districts	Moraine YC Portersville, OH	9-Sep	11-Sep

Interlake Nationals July 20-23



The Interlake Nationals will be held July 20-23 at Mohican Sailing Club near Mansfield, OH, northeast

of Columbus. Registration is now open at: <https://www.interlakenationals2022.com/>.

After the Nationals, the next regatta on the ISCA schedule is the Hot-to-Trot here at Portage Lake:

Regatta	Club	Start	End
Hot-to-Trot	Portage YC, Pinckney, MI	20-Aug	
Great Northern Regatta	Grand Traverse YC, Traverse City, MI	26-Aug	27-Aug
Sandusky One Design	Sandusky SC Sandusky, OH	17-Sep	18-Sep
Haphazard	Mohican SC Mansfield, OH	24-Sep	
Poltergeist	Indianapolis SC Indianapolis, IN	1-Oct	2-Oct
Fall Blowout	North Cape YC LaSalle, MI	8-Oct	
Snow Flurries	Buckeye Lake YC Buckeye Lake, OH	15-Oct	

Can Sailing Return to the Paralympics?

Olympian and coach Betsy Alison took this picture almost a decade ago at a clinic for disabled sailors.



The photo shows seven abandoned wheelchairs on a dock while their owners are out sailing. It was a powerful image that shows, as Tom Ehman, Sr. says, "Sailing isn't for everybody, but it is for anybody." In 2018, the International Paralympic Committee decided to remove sailing from the 2020 Paralympic Games to be held in Tokyo, citing the limited numbers of nations and continents where the sport was active as well as an imbalance of ages, genders, and ethnicities (i.e., too many old white men). The decision was a shock to World Sailing, US Sailing, and the US Paralympic Sailing Team.

After resolving some internal issues, World Sailing has undertaken a plan to reinstate sailing in the 2028 Paralympic Games to be held in Los Angeles. The shortcomings noted in the original decision are all being attacked vigorously: More athletes from more nations and continents as well as increased gender equity. The result has been a 30% increase in international events and a social media campaign entitled #BacktheBid and #SailtoLA.

Currently according to World Sailing:

- 750 para sailors are registered with World Sailing
- 15% of registered para sailors are under the age of 30
- 20% of registered para sailors are female

The US and Great Britain have been leaders in the development of boats and equipment to enable disabled sailors to enjoy sailing as a sport and to race competitively. Many top competitors in the Sonar Class are on disabled teams since the Sonar has been the paralympic keelboat class.



2.4m Class

Similarly, the 2.4M, a small keelboat where a single occupant sits inside the hull, has many disabled sailors

among its ranks.

Only time will tell if the campaign is successful.

Alistair Murray's Top Ten Sailboat List

Australian Alistair Murray, the retired CEO of hardware supplier Ronstan, compiled his personal list of boats that have made the greatest contribution to sailing. His criterion was "a boat or class that had the most impact on getting people sailing or raising the profile or interest level in sailing sometimes by sheer weight of marketing image or fame."

Alistair omitted boats that were quite regional or had a limited number of devotees. Also eliminated were overly specialized classes, such as the old J Class, the 12 Metre, or the modern TP52.

You can watch Alistair explain his choices [HERE](#), starting at about 35:37

With that in mind, here is Alistair's list, in reverse order (David Letterman style):

Rank	Boat	Comments
10	Cutty Sark	Record-setting square rigger
9	Gypsy Moth IV	Sir Francis Chichester's boat for his circumnavigation in 1966-7
8	America	1851 schooner that started the longest winning streak in international sport
7	Australia II	The boat that lifted the spirits of a nation when it ended the winning streak
6	Optimist	200,000+ boats that have introduced so many kids to sailing and produced an incredible number of champions.
5	J/24	5,500 boats that revolutionized one design keelboats.
4	Mirror Dinghy	A family sailboat that introduced stitch-and-glue construction.
3	Moth	An 80-year-old class with two basic rules: a monohull with 80 ft ² of sail. The first class to make foiling mainstream.
2	Laser/ILCA	220,000 boats and Olympic status. Simplicity, a stay-less rig, strict one design rules, and affordability.

And the #1 boat that made the greatest contributions to sailing (drumroll):

1	Hobie 16	135,000 boats the introduced asymmetric hulls, colored sails, and kick-up rudders. The ultimate beach toy that introduced countless couples to sailing.
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Somehow, neither the Flying Scot nor the Interlake made Alistair's list. (Ed: Your Editor is *OUTRAGED!*) Do you have your own list?

US Sailing Turns 125!



US Sailing (formerly the United States Yacht Racing Union and the North American Yacht Racing Union) turns 125 years old this year. Wow, a lot has changed in 125 years since the

predecessor organization was formed in 1897, not the least of which has been the racing rules. A short video about that progression is [HERE](#).

Other milestones include the separation with Canada that caused the North American Yacht Racing Union (NAYRU) to become the United States Yacht Racing Union (USYRU, now US Sailing) in the mid-70's, the formation of the Class Racing Council in 1976, and the creation of the Championship of Champions Regatta in 1976.

That regatta brought together the National or North American Champions from several classes to race against one another in a single class of boat. Tom Ehman, Jr. and Major Hall won the second CofC held in the fall of 1976 representing the Flying Scot class. Several Michigan sailors have served US Sailing over the years:

President: Lynn Stedman and Bruce Burton (Bayview YC), and William Martin (Bayview YC and Portage YC);

Vice President: Tom Ehman, Jr.

Secretary: Ted Everingham (Bayview YC) and Clark Chapin (Portage YC)

Board of Directors: Jack Bartlett (Huron-Portage YC)

CEO/Executive Director: Tom Ehman, Jr.

Committee Members and Chairs: Too numerous to count.

Dear Rick



I keep hearing people say they needed to Change Gears when sailing or racing. What does this mean when sailing a sailboat?.

-- Gear Head

Dear Gear Head:

There is no short answer to changing gears and it does vary from one class of sailboat to another, but many things ring true from one class to another. Simply put, there should be a lot of changing gears whether you are out for a day sail, or out racing. Whether your end goal is to have a comfortable sail out on the water, or get the most out of the boat, and still be safe.

Much of changing gears has to do with keeping a balanced and well-trimmed boat, which helps you

steer and crew a sailboat with ease rather than fighting it. With practice, that can translate into less work, more speed, and more time to have fun. "Balanced and well-trimmed" boils down to (with practice);

- Alert anticipation,
- Reacting to changing wind conditions as they approach and pass the boat,
- Moving weight,
- Eyes out of boat,
- Communication and feedback,
- Sail trim, and
- Relieving excess pressure on the rudder.

Here is a [LINK](#) related to the Flying Scot that includes an in-depth interview that is all about what it means to change gears.

Some things discussed relate only to a Flying Scot, but could translate to other classes as well with practice and questioning a top sailor or two in your fleet.

Boats without wires holding the mast up (such as a Laser) might want to be cautious and ask around before applying what is presented because of how an un-stayed mast bends when various controls are applied.

While the specific actions to be taken vary by boat and sail design and how the sail is sheeted in various conditions, there are lessons to be learned with a keen eye overall.

Rick Lyons

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



(Steve Schewe photo)