



# The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing

Live well! Have fun! Sail!

(Vol 3 No. 8, December 2022 - January 2023)



## Gala Award Dinner

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 Back issues are available [HERE](#).

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### 2022 PYC Race Committee

Jack White, Chair	Brook Smith, Vice Chair
Clark Chapin, Secretary	Rick Lyons (LA)
Tom Ehman	Bill O’Donnel
Bill Foster	Brian Hawkins (FS)
Ann Taylor	Marc Gleichert (IL)
Steve Wiseman	Tyler Cathey

### 2023 HPYC Board of Governors

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

### Photo of the Month



Nancy Staub (FS #3854) receives her crew award for the 2022 season.

### 2022 Awards Dinner November 18

The PYC Awards Dinner was held on Friday November 18 at PYC. The assembled sailors, family, and friends enjoyed a festive evening with a slide show of photos from the year’s racing, storytelling, and catching up with friends since the end of the sailing season in late September.

### US Sailing President’s Award



One of the highlights of the Award Dinner was an appearance (via Zoom) of US Sailing President Rich Jepsen (Alameda, CA, left). Jepsen presented a US Sailing President’s Award to Clark Chapin for his work as a volunteer as Chair and member of the Bylaws

Committee for the period 2007-2020. The award read:

“For his extraordinary contribution to re-inventing our governance for the 21st Century and providing advice of incalculable value to US Sailing Leadership”.



## Most Promising Beginner

One of the oldest perpetual awards is the Most Improved Sailor Award, first awarded in 1958 to Bill Bird. Many current PYC sailors have received this award including Brian Hawkins (2004), Steve Wiseman (1993), Brook Smith (2001 and 2017), and Marc Gleichert (2019).



Sam Hawkins, 2022 Most Improved Sailor.

The trophy, donated by Jack and Avery Bartlett, is awarded “To the skipper who has most improved in the current season. May be someone who has made a major move in the bottom or middle of the fleet, or someone who made a smaller move in terms of number of places advanced, at the top of a competitive fleet.”

Sam consistently improved his finishes in this year’s Small Boat Silver Series and has also competed multiple times with his father Brian Hawkins in the Bayview YC Port Huron to Mackinac Race.

## Chapin Coaching Award

This award was created by the Board of Governors to honor the Chapin family (Gordon, Betty, and their son Clark). The Deed of Gift says, “This award is to be presented to a person who has over the previous year distinguished themselves by helping others become better sailors. This could be accomplished by instructing classes, seminars, or individual coaching. The person should be nominated by one or more individuals (does not need to be a HPYC member)...”

“The intention of this award is to promote and recognize individuals who have helped others improve their sailing skills. Examples can be as simple as a skipper (or crew) helping the other crew members in their boat understand the rules better, or improving their sailing performance.”

In presenting the trophy this year, Past Commodore Clark Chapin said:

“Obviously, this award means a lot to me, personally. It was created 32 years ago to honor my entire family, especially my parents.

This year’s award winner is someone who came to sail with us not so long ago. During that time, they have not only taught and coached many of us, but also enlivened our racing program.

I may have been the primary beneficiary of this person’s coaching, especially in past years, but this year, with our emphasis on beginning competitors, their effect has been felt by several others, including our Interlake Fleet Captain.

Much of this person’s best advice came in pithy little sentences such as:

- (Just after the warning signal) “Take three deep breaths”;



- (In a neck-and-neck downwind duel) “Steer faster!”; or
- the ever-popular, “Uh-oh!”

This person is quick to notice and complement improved movements and behavior and maintains an infectious balance between lighthearted demeanor and competitiveness.

I am proud to announce that the 2022 winner of the Chapin Coaching Award is Chuck White.”



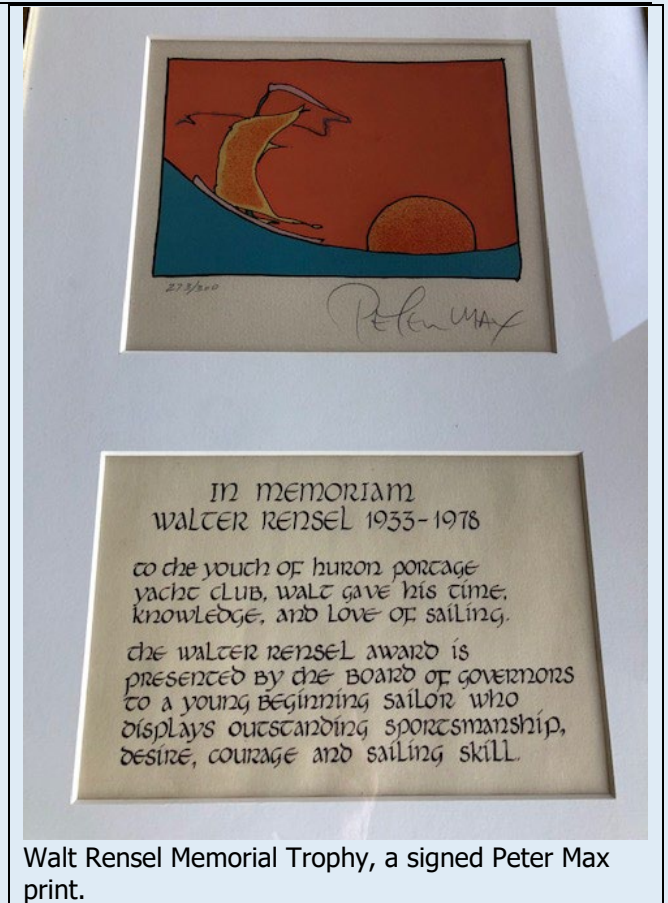
Chapin Coaching Award

## Most Promising Beginner

This is the Walt Rensel Memorial Trophy. Walt was an avid sailor whose enthusiasm for the sport affected all those around him. When he died suddenly in 1979, his family donated this award, a print signed by the artist, Peter Max.

The Deed of Gift says, “A beginning sailor who displays outstanding sportsmanship, desire, courage, and sailing skill.”

Previous winners include Greg Marion (2021), Elliott Lyons (2019), and Nicholas Marion (2018)



Walt Rensel Memorial Trophy, a signed Peter Max print.

This year, the trophy was awarded to Ron and Sharon Frisbie for their dedication to sailing and their enthusiasm to expand their sailing experience.



Ron and Sharon Frisbie  
(Kerry Pebbles photo)

## Flying Scot Sportsmanship Award

The Flying Scot Sportsmanship Award was established by the Flying Scot fleet in 1992 to promote and improve the quality of racing by acknowledging on the water integrity by a



competing PYC sailor from any fleet.

This award is made by the fleet captains of the active racing fleets with the following guidelines:

- The person should be a frequent and strong racing competitor.
- There should be universal agreement that

the candidate is not only a good winner but a gracious loser.

- The candidate uses his/her racing skill to avoid racing situations with a high potential for conflict.
- Is known to display a strong sense of fair play and good manners on the water.
- Enhances the sport by encouraging less skilled sailors and by providing sailing tips and instructions in a thoughtful manner.

This year's winner was a popular choice as someone who has not only taken an interest in all of the members of their fleet, but also displayed the spirit of self-sacrifice that is the hallmark of Corinthian sailing, Laser sailor Jim Sunstrum.



Jim Sunstrum, Flying Scot Sportsmanship winner  
(Cris Sunstrum photo)

## Thomas Lott Award



The Club's most prestigious award is named for one of our founders, Thomas Lott. The award is "In recognition and gratitude for continuous outstanding contributions to Huron-Portage Yacht Club and yacht racing, and for inspiration to others to follow this course."

The award is not decided by the Board of Governors or Race Committee, but by the Past Commodores of the Club.

The award is not given every year. Since 2017 (a span of 15 years), the award has been made only six times.

The Past Commodores awarded the trophy this year to 2020-2022 Race Committee Chair Jack White for his hard work, innovation, and continued commitment to our program and to sailboat racing. In addition to leading the Committee through significant changes, Jack has also pursued certification by US Sailing as a Judge (soon to be at the Regional Level) and volunteered his time both in the Midwest as well as on Cape Cod.



Jack White, 2022 winner of the Thomas Lott Award  
(Nancy Staub photo)



## Broken Rudder



The trophy and presentation speaks for itself. "This is, with little doubt, the *least* sought-after award that our Club bestows. Often, the Board of Governors or Race Committee have

declined to make the award because the nominee might not accept it in the proper spirit. As the Deed of Gift says, "Someone who contributes to the degradation of the image of the yachtsman by extraordinary incompetence, sluggish thinking, or ludicrous behavior." Portage Yacht Club has always prided itself on excellent race management. (As an aside, you all should know that one of the most coveted US Sailing trophies is the St. Petersburg Award, which is presented each year to the event with the best race management.) On our boat, when we witness a race committee mistake, we say to ourselves, "Oh well, there goes the St. Petersburg Trophy for another year".

This year, we might have managed to keep in the running for the St. Petersburg Trophy until mid-August. Then, as they say, disaster struck. Our experienced and exceptionally competent Principle Race Officer was accompanied by a veritable plethora of able assistants, but who had not worked with each other before. After crossing the finish line in the first race, we tacked and sailed to the Signal Boat only to hear our illustrious PRO hail us, "No! Five-leg course! Five-leg course!" To which we replied, "Yes, that's what we sailed!" Consternation and discussion ensued on the Signal Boat and ultimately, the race was re-sailed because the race management team hadn't, you know, recorded the finishers. Of course, the 2022 St. Petersburg Trophy went down the flusher with that race, but in consolation, the 2022 winner of the PYC Broken Rudder is the Principle Race Officer, Steve Wiseman."

## Sailing Leadership Forum on tap for February



Sailors and program leaders from across the US will meet in St. Pete Beach, FL in February. The 3-day event will feature 100 presenters, 45 breakout sessions, and two awards ceremonies.

Sessions and topics include:

- Rocking the Boat: Bringing Sailing to the People Study
- An Idle Fleet Doesn't Pay the Bills: Maximizing Income from an Already Existing Fleet
- Mixed+ Sailing: Encouraging Gender Balanced Teams
- Keeping the Fun in Race Committee Work – the US Sailing Race Committee Fundamentals Course

And many more. Details, including registration and housing information, are at:

<https://sailingleadership.org>

## Committee Boats Inspected and Winterized

Commodore Wiseman along with Brook Smith, Chuck White, and Clark Chapin managed to get the Signal Boat and Service Boat covered and ready for winter on Sunday 9-Oct. Several repair and enhancement items were noted for the 2023 Race Committee to tackle.



## 37th America's Cup Heats Up

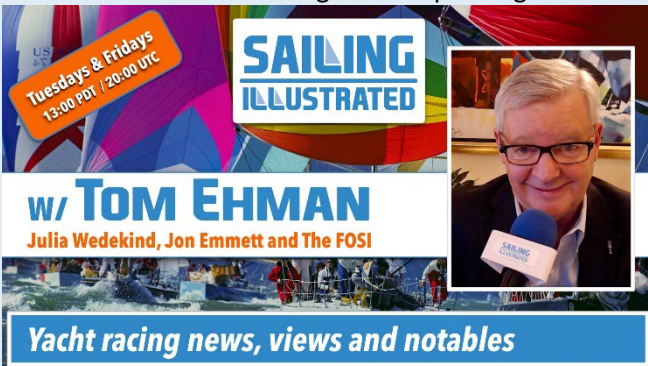


Teams from the New York Yacht Club, Switzerland (Alinghi Red Bull Racing), Great Britain (INEOS Britannia), and Italy (Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli), along

with a possible (albeit unlikely) French team and the defender (Emirates Team New Zealand), are preparing for the 37<sup>th</sup> America's Cup which will be held in Barcelona, Spain starting in September of 2024, less than two years from now. Some teams are building smaller (39 ft) foiling monohulls to test out new systems. A one-design 40-footer called the AC40 is being built for the subsidiary Women's America's Cup and Youth America's Cup competitions, and all the teams are feverishly working on computer simulations to design a boat to wrest the Cup from the Kiwis.



The first AC40 suffered structural damage to its bow during a test sail last month, showing just how far into the unknown the designers are pushing.

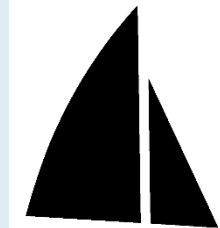


**SAILING ILLUSTRATED**  
w/ **TOM EHMAN**  
Julia Wedekind, Jon Emmett and The FOSI  
Tuesdays & Fridays  
13:00 PDT / 20:00 UTC  
Yacht racing news, views and notables

Tom Ehman's twice-weekly video keeps up on all of the intrigue and action. It airs live on both Facebook and YouTube at 4:00 PM Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Facebook link (you do not have to be a Facebook Member to watch) is [HERE](#) and the YouTube link is [HERE](#).

## 2023 Nationals and North Americans Set



The Interlake Nationals will be held at Grand Traverse Yacht Club in Traverse City, MI from Saturday July 29, to Tuesday August 1. The Women's and Junior Nationals will be held on Saturday along with

registration, weighing, and measurement for the National Championship Series, which will feature eight planned races over the next three days and an



afternoon trophy presentation. Grand Traverse Yacht Club has hosted several major one-design and US Sailing

events.

The Flying Scot North American Championship is set for Friday June 2, through Thursday June 8, at Lake Norman Yacht Club in Mooresville, NC. Lake Norman YC is a vibrant 200-plus member sailing club located a 22.5 acre site with a hoist, two launch ramps, and drysailing capacity for 300 boats.



Lake Norman YC Clubhouse