



The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing
Live well! Have fun! Sail!
(Vol 4 No. 1, February-March 2023)



Spring is Coming!

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Back issues are available [HERE](#).

Photo of the Month



Believe it or not, we'll be sailing in a few short months. (Rick Lyons photo)

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2023 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	

2023 HPYC Board of Governors

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

Race Committee Prepares for 2023

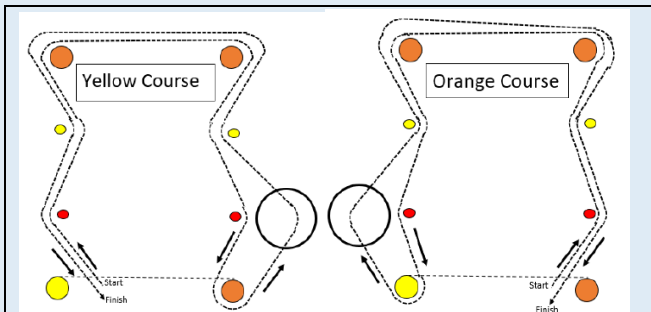
The Race Committee, which is responsible for PYC's organized sailing activities, met in January and will meet again in the coming months to prepare for the 2023 Season. While the final plan is taking shape, some major aspects are taking shape:

Silver Series Schedule

The weeknight Silver Series is our most popular racing series, featuring both singlehanded and multi-handed boats. For the past several decades, the singlehanded boats (Lasers, Sunfish, and MC Scows) have raced on Tuesday evenings and the multi-handed boats (Interlakes and Flying Scots) on Thursdays.

In 2023, all boats will race on Thursday evenings. The Race Committee is still sorting out the details to provide the best racing for both groups, but the format will provide at least three races each evening (if the wind cooperates) with a 6:30 PM Warning Signal. Most of the sailors gather afterward in the PYC Park Room for dinner and to swap sailing stories and advice.

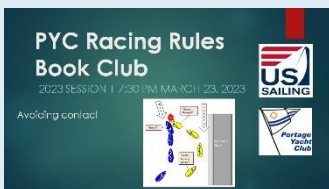
Slalom Race Returns



In a slalom race, only two boats are on the course at a time. They are only near each other at the top of the course. After the first race, the two boats swap sides and repeat. The lowest total time for the two races wins that match.

The PYC Slalom Race will return for its fourth year on Sunday June 11. This exciting test of boat handling features only two boats at a time. It's easy to tell who is ahead at any point in time and the winner is often in doubt until the final few seconds, so it's a great spectator event as well. The intent will be to set the course as close to PYC as possible so that good viewing may be available from the second floor deck as well as on the water.

Racing Rules Book Club Returns



The Racing Rules Book Club is a friendly, interactive way to become more comfortable with the Racing Rules of Sailing

and to stay out of trouble on the race course. Also in its fourth year, each of the six sessions will feature multiple racing situations, focusing on the most commonly applied rules.

This year, we will be returning to some of the most popular quizzes from Dave Perry's and the ones that are most helpful to neophyte sailors.

Conducted on Zoom, the format includes:

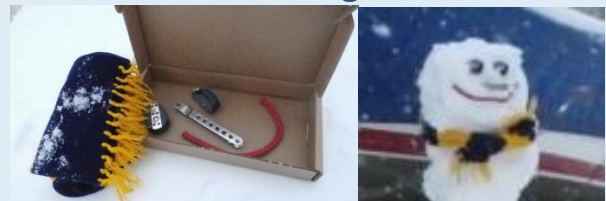
- An introductory diagram and description;
- A brief review of most of the rules that apply to the incident;
- Group discussion involving all participants to one degree or another, not just the experienced sailors;
- Usually, a consensus about whether one boat or the other (and sometimes both) infringed a rule; and

- The answer from a rules expert is revealed, often with additional discussion.

Spinnakers Allowed

The details are still under discussion, but spinnakers may return to club racing in 2023. The Race Committee is aware of the intimidation factor that spinnakers present to new sailors, but wants to offer opportunities for newbies to experience the intricacies of the spinnaker and allow more experienced sailors to maintain or sharpen their skills. Much sailing will still be under JAM (Jib And Main), but opportunities will exist for multi-handed boats to sprout their colorful, billowing sails.

Do it Yourself Sailing Snowman Kit



Just in time for Valentine's Day. The Snow Sailor Kit, as featured in the Photo of the Month on Page 1. The perfect gift for that special sailor in your life. Available at your favorite local sailing store. (scarf and snow not included).

Sailing Leadership Forum



The Sailing Leadership Forum is taking place in Florida this week. Among the sessions are:

- One-Design Sailing Survey Results
- One-Design Sailing Awards
- US Sailing: The New Organization & Mission to Serve All Stakeholders
- Mixed+ Sailing: Encouraging Gender Balanced Teams
- Sailing Diversity in Action
- New Solutions to Old Problems in Race Management
- FREE COFFEE with Dave Perry
- Building a High-Functioning Race Committee Team
- Changing TIDES: How College Sailing is Shaping the Conversation Around DEI



- Keeping Your Program Afloat with High School Sailing

And many others.

Clark Chapin will be attending and will attempt to bring back as much information as possible, but it's a little like trying to drink from a fire hose.

Alistair Murray's ABC's of Sailing



Australia's Alistair Murray, currently the President of Australian Sailing, compiled a remarkable list of why sailing is awesome:

- It is always an **ADVENTURE**, whether participating in adrenaline-filled racing or being independent in a quiet cove.
- It is **BEAUTIFUL** in every respect; boats, places, and people.
- **CRAFTSMANSHIP** skills can be developed; it is a hands-on activity.
- People with **DISABILITIES** can sail...and win gold medals, even.
- It is **ENVIRONMENTALLY** friendly.
- **FRESH** air, **FREEDOM**, **FAMILIES**, and **FUN**. (Yes, I overdid it a bit with the F-words).
- **GENERATIONS** can sail together, including grandparents and grandchildren.
- **HUMILITY**. Nature is more powerful than we are.
- It is **INEXPENSIVE** if you want it to be. Of course, if you fund an America's Cup campaign it might not be.
- It is **JOYFUL**.
- You develop your **KNOWLEDGE** of such topics as weather, navigation, charts, compasses, tactics, practical skills, etc.
- You develop **LEADERSHIP** skills.
- It tests you **MENTALLY**; a thinking person's game with a lot of strategy.
- You meet **NEW** and interesting people all the time.
- **ORGANIZATIONS** are there to support you, such as yacht clubs.
- It is **PHYSICAL**. Great exercise.
- You spend **QUALITY** time with family and friends.
- You can go **RACING**, or cruising, or whatever.
- It is **SAFE**. I have had a lot more injuries bike riding than sailing.

- It **TAKES** you outside your comfort zone. We all need that.
- You can **UNWIND**, relax, and recharge your batteries.
- There is a **VARIETY** of boats, places, people, ages, and skill levels.
- It opens up the **WORLD** to you.
- It has an **X-FACTOR!**
- **YOUNG** kids can do it...and old kids.
- **ZZZZZZZ**. You enjoy a great sleep after a big day on the water!



Sail GP Marches On!



The third season of Sail GP, featuring 50-foot foiling catamarans and elite professional sailors, began with the first event last May in Bermuda. The 8th event (out of 11) on the schedule was held last month in Singapore. This year's version debuts two new teams (Canada and Switzerland) as well as a variety of technical changes to keep the racing exciting.

Because the starting lines are considerably more crowded, the umpires can now penalize teams with overall series points (as well as points in the event itself) if they are responsible for contact between boats.

The Sail GP series standings are:

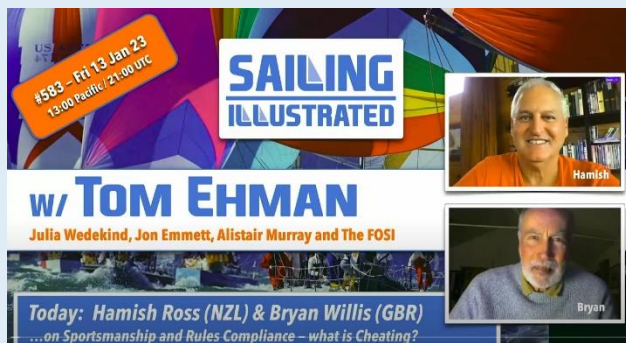
Rank	Team - Skipper	Points
1	Australia - Tom Slingsby	68
2	New Zealand - Peter Burling	59
3	Great Britain - Ben Ainslie	54
4	France - Quentin Delapierre	53
5	Denmark - Nicolai Sehested	51
6	Canada - Phil Robertson	45
7	United States - Jimmy Spithill	43
8	Spain - Jordi Xammar	24
9	Switzerland - Sébastien Schneider	23

The remaining events are:

- Sydney, Australia, February 18-19
- Christchurch, New Zealand, March 17-18
- San Francisco, California, May 6-7 (Finale)

After the fleet racing portion of the San Francisco event, the top three boats, based on the season points, will race for a winner-take-all \$1M prize. It's not easy to watch the racing in real time in the US, but you can find videos at: <https://sailgp.com/>. NBC Sports may broadcast the finale in May.

Sportsmanship Discussion on Tom Ehman Live



The January 13, edition of Tom Ehman Live, the twice-weekly video show hosted by PYC member Tom Ehman, Jr, focused on sportsmanship and whether certain boats in the 2022 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race that began on December 26, should have protest or taken a penalty. The discussion featured Hamish Ross (NZL) and Bryan Willis (GBR) who have decades of experience with rules, cheating, and the fine line between the two. The video is at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3f0_Von0SA and the discussion starts at about 36:00 minutes.

From the Back of the Boat – Jack White



The Picture of the Month photo reminds me that in my winter column, I usually wax lyrical about the ice on the lake (none this year), cold ducks, and the start of the sailing season. This time, I want to talk about

something different: Our Race Committee. The members of this committee (which I am privileged to chair) are a bunch of folks, happy to lend their time to the often-routine tasks that undergird our sailing program each year. All are avid sailors; most have been doing this for years. But beyond all of this they spend a lot of time between meetings thinking about and hashing out ideas to improve our program, attract new participants, and put PYC sailing on a sustainable path. Not only is this necessary to keep the PYC program going but it's also fun for the RC members. Strong groups are built on shared interests, shared tasks, and the bond that comes with working with people that you have come to respect.

Out of all this has emerged innovations to our program. Slalom racing (now in its fourth year); invitational series within our regular series to bring in sailors from other clubs; the Mainsheet newsletter; and the Rules Book Club are but a few examples.

Right now, the Race Committee is working on consolidating our Silver Series to one evening (Thursday nights). I must tell you it has generated a lot of discussion. New courses that can accommodate single-handed and multi-handed boats; a new look at the rules, how they will impact the management of races; and possible reconfiguration of the Signal Boat.

New ideas can come from a lot of places. If you are a PYC sailor or one of our readers from other clubs and have a suggestion or idea for our program, please send a note to jack@snapshotjack.com and I will make sure it get to the RC.

Finally, I want to add my congratulations to Clark Chapin, our RC secretary, and Mainsheet editor for being awarded a President's Award from US Sailing.