



# The Mainsheet

Newsletter of PYC Sailing  
Live well! Have fun! Sail!

(Vol 4 No. 4, June 2023)



## Sailing Season Starts!

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Back issues are available [HERE](#).

### Photo of the Month



An old advertisement for Customflex, Inc. shows the Interlake and Flying Scots that were staples of Customflex for many years. See page 3 for more information about the passing of Customflex owner Terry Kilpatrick on May 29.

### In this issue:

Photo of the Month .....	1
Racing Begins for our 70 <sup>th</sup> Year .....	1
Eight Bells – Buddy Melges .....	2
The Ocean Race Heads For the Finish .....	2
Eight Bells – Terry Kilpatrick .....	3
Small Boat Atlantic Record Remains Intact .....	3
Fourth Annual Slalom Race .....	4
Sail GP Starts the Season in Chicago .....	4

### 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)
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### 2023 HPYC Board of Governors

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

### Handy Reference Links

<a href="#">PYC Sailing Calendar</a>
<a href="#">Basic Knots (animated)</a> <a href="#">US Sailing</a>

### Racing Begins for our 70<sup>th</sup> Year

2023 marks the 70th season of sailboat racing at Portage Lake, Pinckney Michigan. Portage Yacht Club (PYC) is one of the oldest sailing clubs in the state of Michigan. We have a proud tradition of competitive excellence in Michigan as well as Nationally. PYC members have won National and North American championships in several classes as well as prestigious US Sailing national championships. Besides this serious stuff, we have a lot of FUN and camaraderie. Racing began for the Gold Series on Saturday May 21, and for the Silver Series on Thursday May 25. The Silver Series now features both Lasers and multihanded boats racing on the same course (but with different starts) and an exciting new reaching finish course configuration.

## Eight Bells – Buddy Melges



An American sailing legend passed away on May 18. Harry C. (Buddy) Melges (1930-2023) was more than a sailing champion, he was a force of nature, nicknamed “The Wizard of Zenda” after his home town of Zenda, Wisconsin.

Consider his accomplishments:

- **Olympics:** 1964 Bronze Medal in the Flying Dutchman, 1972 Gold Medal in the Soling.
- **Pan Am Games:** 1968 Gold Medal in the Flying Dutchman
- **America’s Cup:** 1992 Winner in America3.
- **Star Class:** 1978 and 1979 World Champion
- **5.5 Meter Class:** 1967, 1973, and 1983 World Champion.
- **E Scow:** Five-time National Champion
- **Skeeter Ice Boat:** Seven-time National Champion
- **US Sailing Men’s Championship:** Three-peat 1959, 1960, and 1961.
- **US Sailing Rolex Yachtsman-of-the-Year:** Winner in three different decades: 1961, 1972, and 1983

At the age of 80, Buddy won the A-Scow Inland Yachting Association Championship.

Buddy is also the subject of the movie “The Wizard of Zenda”. The trailer is [HERE](#).

As Gary Jobson has said, “Buddy Melges, in my view, is one of the greatest sailors of our age, by far...I’ve sailed with all of the best names of the sport, and Buddy’s a cut above.” There is no higher praise.

## The Ocean Race Heads For the Finish

Leg 5 of The Ocean Race kicked off on Sunday May 21, as the fleet departed Newport, RI and headed to Aarhus, Denmark.

Leg 4 from Itajaí, Brazil to Newport several heartstopping moments:

- Two boats were dismasted, including series leader Holcim PRB. The other boat, GUYOT Environment Team Europe was forced to motor to Halifax, Nova Scotia and is being transported to Europe in an attempt to rejoin the race there.

- 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing (USA), managed to win the leg to their home port of Newport, their first leg victory.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing’s victory, coupled with the dismasting of Holcim PRB, means that the top three boats: Holcim PRB, 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing, and Team Malizia were in a virtual tie heading into the trans-Atlantic Leg 5, which scores double points.
- Holcim PRB arrived via ship in Newport on Wednesday 17-Jun, a mere three days before the in-port race and four days before the start of Leg 5. Their new mast was on hand and they managed to start Leg 5.

Leg 5 offered even more drama. The top three boats each broke 24-hour distance records with Team Malizia ultimately claiming the top award with 641 nautical miles in a single day. Biotherm broke a shroud and is limping toward Aarhus and the start of Leg 6.

11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing struck a large marine animal that injured two of their crew, but still managed to make it from Newport to Aarhus in a little more than seven days, followed closely by Holcim PRB and Team Malizia to round out the podium.



Charlie Enright (USA) and his team celebrate their second leg win in a row in Aarhus, DEN on 29-May. They are now in the overall lead heading into the final two legs.

Each team is mixed gender and also has an onboard reporter and media specialist. There are stunning videos and drone footage each day.

11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing held off challenges by both Holcim PRB and Team Malizia in Leg 6 from Aarhus to The Hague. Leg 6 started on Thursday June 8, and concluded less than four days later, even including a

trip down the east side of the Danish peninsula to Kiel, Germany before heading back around Denmark to the Dutch coast.

With the victory in Leg 6, Charley Enright and the American team (which also includes frenchman Frank Cammas and british navigator Simon Fisher) hold a two point lead with one leg to go:

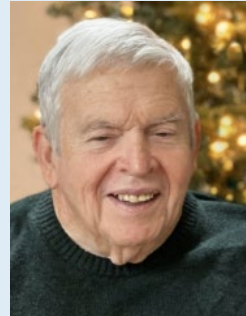
Pos	Team	Points
1	11 <sup>th</sup> Hour Racing	33
2	Holcim PRB	31
3	Team Malizia	27
4	Biotherm	19
5	GUYOT Environment	2

The final 2,185 mile leg from The Hague through the Straits of Gibraltar to Genoa, Italy starts on June 15. The winning boat gets five points, the second place boat gets four, etc.. If 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing finishes third or better, they will win the event since the tiebreaking is based upon their in-port races where they have a commanding lead over Holcim PRB.



The final leg includes the additional challenge of sailing through an area off Spain and Portugal and near Gibraltar where several smaller sailboats have been attacked and damage by orca (*Ed: the plural of orca is also orca*). The leg should take about a week. See <https://www.theoceanrace.com/en/home> for more information

## Eight Bells – Terry Kilpatrick



The former owner of Customflex, Terry Kilpatrick, passed away on May 25. Terry worked at Customflex building Interlakes, Flying Scots, Comets, Penguins, and Crescents before taking over the company upon the retirement of its founder,

Vince DiMaio. Customflex also built Highlanders for a period.

Throughout his tenure with Customflex, Terry was a stalwart supporter of the Interlake and Interlake sailors, even serving as the Class President when Customflex was no longer the Class Builder. Terry is survived by his wife Karen, children, and grandchildren.

There was a Celebration of Life on June 11, 2023 from in Toledo. The Interlake Class is formulating plans for suitable remembrance of Terry.

## Small Boat Atlantic Record Remains Intact



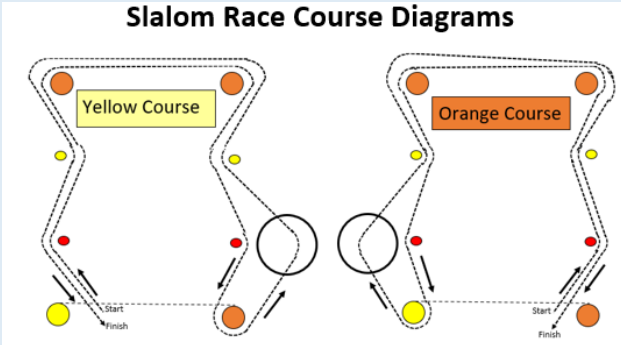
The record for the smallest boat to sail across the Atlantic remains at 1.6 meters (about 7 ft). Andrew Bedwell (GBR) was forced to abandon his attempt to perform this feat with a boat less than 4 ft long ended in Newfoundland mere hours after it began when his Big C Atlantic Challenge began taking on water and he was forced to return to his point of origin. The boat was so full of water that hoisting it back to dry land damaged it further.



There are small boats, such as we sail at PYC, and there are SMALL boats!

Thankfully, Mr Bedwell was unharmed.

## Fourth Annual Slalom Race



The Fourth Annual PYC Slalom Race packed 28 races into a little more than four hours on Sunday 11-Jun. Craig Pearson dominated the round robin phase of the event:

### Round Robin Phase

Entrant	Sail No.	Record
Craig Pearson	167251	6 – 0
Steve Wiseman	158712	3 – 3
Jim Sunstrum	158720	2 – 4
Matt Heywood	137086	1 – 5

In the Petit Final, Jim Sunstrum edged Matt Heywood to take third place overall. In the Final, Pearson took the first two races to complete his unbeaten streak for the day.

### Petit Final

Entrant	Sail No.	Record
Jim Sunstrum	158720	2 – 0
Matt Heywood	137086	0 – 2

### Final

Entrant	Sail No.	Record
Craig Pearson	167251	2 – 0
Steve Wiseman	158712	0 – 2

- The quickest finish was Jim Sunstrum’s 3:48 early in the day against Matt Heywood
- The average winning time was 5:10, reflecting the light winds for most of the day.
- The closest margin in a match was Match 3 between Steve Wiseman and Matt Heywood. Matt won the first race by 0:24 and Steve won the second by 0:23 for a margin of 0:01 in Matt’s favor.

Many thanks to Brian Hawkins, Bill O’Donnel, and Craig Kivi for setting the marks and keeping track of all of the finish times and match records.

- Clark Chapin, Slalom Race PRO

## Sail GP Starts the Season in Chicago



The fourth season of SailGP starts in Chicago on June 16-17. A ninth team, from Germany, joins the field this year.

Team	Symbol	Skipper
Australia	AUS	Tom Slingsby
Canada	CAN	Phil Robertson
Denmark	DEN	Nicolai Sehested
Emirates GBR	GBR	Ben Ainslie
France	FRA	Quentin Delapierre
Germany	GER	Erik Heil
New Zealand	NZL	Peter Burling
Spain	ESP	Diego Botin
Switzerland	SUI	Sebastien Schneider
United States	USA	Jimmy Spithill

Australia is coming off their three-peat, but many teams have won individual events and all teams (except the new German team) have won a race within an event.

### Season 4 Schedule

Chicago 16-17 June	Los Angeles 22-23 July
Saint-Tropez 9-10 Sep	Taranto 23-24 Sep
Cadiz 14-15 Oct	UAE 13-14 Jan
Sydney 24-25 Feb	Auckland 23-24 Mar
Bermuda 4-5 May	Canada 1-2- Jun
New York 22-23 Jun	San Francisco 13-14 Jul

For mor details, see:

[www.SailGP.com](http://www.SailGP.com)