



The Mainsheet

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

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Back issues are available [HERE](#).

In this issue:

Photo of the Month	1
PYC Awards Dinner.....	1
Perpetual Award Winners.....	2
SailGP Starts Fifth Season.....	5
Vendée Globe – the Ultimate Sailing Race.....	5
Fast Tango Black Friday Sail	6
Sailing Heroes.....	6

2024 PYC Race Committee

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

2025 HPYC Board of Governors

Steve Wiseman, Commodore
Brian Hawkins, Past Commodore
Clark Chapin, Secretary
Brook Smith, Treasurer
Marc Gleichert, Governor

Handy Reference Links

[PYC Sailing Calendar](#)

Photo of the Month



Cheryl Kuzinski joyfully accepts the Walt Rensel Trophy for the Most Promising Beginner at the 2024 Annual Awards Dinner. (Suzy Hawkins photo)

PYC Awards Dinner

PYC racing sailors gathered on Saturday November 9, to celebrate the finish of the season and to award prizes for the year’s racing.

In the individual fleets, the top finishers were:

Flying Scot

1. 5235 Brian and Suzy Hawkins
2. 3854 Ann Taylor and Cheryl Kuzinski
3. 3288 Greg and Melinda Marion

Interlake

1. 1317 Clark Chapin and Chuck White
2. 1380 Brook Smith and Bill O’Donnel
3. 1282 Marc Gleichert and Brian Williams

ILCA/Laser

1. 158712 Steve Wiseman
2. 2356 Paul Ehman
3. 145449 Rick Lyons

At the end of the awards, the 2025 Board of Governors was introduced:

- Commodore Steve Wiseman
- Past Commodore Brian Hawkins
- Treasurer Brook Smith
- Secretary Clark Chapin
- At-large Governor Marc Gleichert

Perpetual Award Winners

A highlight of each year's Awards Dinner is the announcement of the winners of the Club's perpetual awards, which reward those who make PYC and its sailing program the success that it is.

Sailor of the Year

Given in recognition of outstanding performance in competition and sportsmanship.

The recipient must have demonstrated extraordinary performance both at Portage Lake and elsewhere and have been a credit to the club in demonstrated sportsmanship. The award is not primarily a service award, but the person should have made a "fair share" contribution to the Club programs.

The trophy consists of a ship's barometer mounted on a pedestal base.

This year's winner was Brian Hawkins in recognition of his successes in several venues, including the Crescent One Design Regatta and at Crystal Lake.



Past Commodore **Brian Hawkins**,
2024 Sailor of the Year (*Suzy Hawkins photo*)

Exemplary Crew Award

This award is given in honor of Gordon Chapin, in recognition of the recipient's outstanding efforts as a crew, and as a reminder to skippers and crews alike of the indispensable role that the crew plays in sailboat racing.

The traits looked for include enthusiasm, dependability, even temper, dedication, athleticism, and knowledge of sail trim, wind conditions, and racing rules.

Previous winners include:

- 2023 Paul Ehman
- 2022 <No Award>
- 2021 Elliott Lyons

This year's winner was Bill O'Donnel for his outstanding efforts crewing for Brian Hawkins at the Crescent One Design Regatta and Brook Smith in the Silver Series.



Bill O'Donnel, winner of the 2024 Exemplary Crew Award with skippers Brian Hawkins and Brook Smith (*Suzy Hawkins photo*)

Most Improved Sailor

This award, which dates back to 1958, is made to the skipper who has most improved in the current season. It 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.

The Race Committee considers both regular series and regattas. Factors include enthusiasm, participation, success, sportsmanship.

Previous winners include:

2023 <No Award>

2022 Sam Hawkins

2021 Nicholas & Greg Marion

The 2024 winner was Marc Gleichert, who (along with crew Brian Williams) showed significant improvement in the Interlake Fleet throughout the year



Marc Gleichert,
2024 Most Improved Sailor
(Suzy Hawkins photo)

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. It might be a fleet member giving advice to others in the fleet to improve their performance.

Previous winners include:

2022-2023 Chuck White

2020-2021 Clark Chapin

2017-2019 Tyler Cathey

This year's winner was long-time sailing instructor and teacher Tom Kimball. Tom's nourishment and encouragement of young sailors (including his son Mitch) continues to be a source of new people into both the sport of sailing as well as the PYC racing program.

Most Promising Beginner



Otherwise known as the Walt Rensel Memorial Trophy, this award goes to a beginning sailor who displays outstanding sportsmanship, desire, courage, and sailing skill. This award is understood to be for a beginning sailor of any age. It may be awarded to a junior sailor or an adult.

Walt Rensel was an enthusiastic latecomer to sailing who participated wholeheartedly in events at PYC and elsewhere. His participation was cut short by his untimely death in 1978.

The award is a signed print by artist Peter Max (an important figure in late 20th century art) donated by Walt's widow.

Previous winners include:

2023 Melinda Marion

2022 Ron & Sharon Frisbie

2021 Greg Marion

The 2024 winner was Cheryl Kuzinski, who crewed for Ann Taylor throughout most of the 2024 season (pictured on page 1). In accepting the award, Cheryl noted her eagerness to learn the spinnaker going forward into 2025.

Chapin Coaching Award



This award is presented to a person who has distinguished themselves by helping others become better sailors. This is accomplished by instructing classes, seminars, or individual coaching. The person is nominated by one or more individuals.

The intent of this award is to promote and recognize individuals who have

Broken Rudder Award

Our Club's most humorous award, this is given to "someone who contributes to the degradation of the image of the yachtsman by extraordinary incompetence. sluggish thinking. or ludicrous behavior." The plaque in the upper left was purchased by Ib Bentzen-Bilkvist in Copenhagen, Denmark and the broken rudder itself was donated by Dick Moehl in 1974. It was initially awarded in 1974 to John Laird for shearing off Tom Ehman, Jr's rudder with his Flying Scot during a race.



Broken Rudder Award

Although some prominent PYC sailors don't appreciate this award, it is only awarded to persons who can take their missteps in stride.

Previous award winners include:

- (1977) Ray Dhue for attempting to trailer his Interlake from the (then) Newport Beach Club to his cottage on Portage Lake Avenue with the mast up. He had determined that there were no power lines across his route, but didn't notice the prominent oak limbs.
- (1983) Dick Weaver for sailing through the Interlake start on port tack. In addition to the trophy, Dick also received what was left of his sidestay.
- (1994) Dick Barker for sailing through Brook Smith's spinnaker. This incident was one of the most spectacular incidents involving boat-to-boat contact in the history of the Club since

Brook's spinnaker was rendered into several pieces.

Sadly (or gratefully), there was no award this year.

Thomas Lott Award

This award is named in honor of Thomas Lott, the first Commodore of Huron-Portage Yacht Club who served for five consecutive years (1953-1958). Lott was also a member of the 1951 crew of Escapade, a 75' yawl, that won the most prestigious races in four of the five Great Lakes: The Mills Race (Erie), Chicago to Mackinac (Michigan), Port Huron to Mackinac (Huron), and Rochester Cup (Ontario). The award is in recognition and gratitude for continuous outstanding contributions to Huron Portage Yacht Club and yacht racing, and for inspiring others to follow this course. The award is made by the Past Commodores of the Club.

Previous winners include:

- 2023 <No award>
- 2022 Jack White
- 2021 Clark Chapin
- 2020 Tyler and Felicia Cathey

The 2024 award was made to Clark Chapin for his service and efforts in race management, judging, and this newsletter



Clark Chapin
Thomas Lott Award
(Suzy Hawkins photo)

SailGP Starts Fifth Season

SailGP, the fast-paced international series featuring foiling 50 ft catamarans, began its fifth season in Dubai on November 23-24.



Team USA, sporting new colors and coming off a dismal Season Four, got things off on the right foot with a wire-to-wire victory in the first race. They finished the 5-race fleet racing portion of the weekend in third place with finishes of 1-7-7-6-2 but were unable to better their position in the winner-take-all final race.

Spain is the defending champion, having squeaked into the finals based upon a strong late season showing and then won the winner-take-all final race to capture the \$2M first place prize.

Two new teams (Italy and Brazil) have joined the ranks, bringing the total to twelve, which makes for tight racing and crowded mark roundings. The Brazilian boat is helmed by Olympic medalist Martine Grael, marking the first time that a woman is skippering. The Italians are led by Ruggero Tita, the reigning Olympic champion in the foiling Nacra 17 class.

The two new teams, despite extensive practice and simulator time, finished at the bottom of the standings.

The series now moves to Auckland, New Zealand for racing January 24-5. The French, who had to sit out Dubai because their new boat wasn't ready, will return and all teams will have new T-shaped foils to replace the L-shapes used in Seasons 1-4. More details can be found at <https://SailGP.com>.

Vendée Globe – the Ultimate Sailing Race



There are long sailboat races from the 239 mile Port Huron to Mackinac to the 2,200 mile TransPac from Los

Angeles to Honolulu and there are grueling

singlehanded races in boats that range from tiny Optimist dinghies to larger offshore boats, but there is little doubt that the Vendée Globe is the ultimate sailing race:

- **Singlehanded** in semi-foiling IMOCA 60s;
- **Around the world** from Les Sables d'Olonne in France, 24,000+ miles passing the three Great Capes: Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin (at the SW corner of Australia), and Cape Horn, known for its ferocious winds and treacherous seas;
- **Non-stop**; and
- **Unassisted**. The competitors must carry with them all their food, tools, spares, and even first aid equipment. They receive weather information, but must choose their own routes.



The boats are fast and are lifted partially out of the water by immense slanted daggerboards, but are punishing to ride in as they overtake and slam into the immense waves of the Great Southern Ocean between the Cape of Good Hope and

Cape Leeuwin.

Forty skippers crossed the starting line on November 10, including ten women. The winning time is expected to be 75 days or less and several skippers have already broken the 24 hour distance record for monohulls. Right now, the record stands at 615.33 nautical miles or an average of 25.6 kts. Although Charlie Dalin (FRA) was the first to pass the Cape of Good Hope, he is closely tailed by a half dozen boats and has since been overtaken by Yoann Richomme.

Among the women skippers, Samantha Davies (GBR) is in 10th, 1,176 nm behind the leader, Justine Mettraux is in 11th, 1,250.7 nm in arrears, and Clarisse Cremer is in 12th, 1,272.6 behind Richomme.

As of 1-Dec, the leaderboard is:

Pos	Skipper	Dist to Finish (nm)	Dist to Leader (nm)
1	Yoann Richomme	16,449	0
2	Charlie Dalin	16,454	4.4
3	Sebastien Simon	16,472	22.5
4	Thomas Ruyant	16,562	112.9

The race is also described as “one lap around Antarctica” and the sailors must not enter an iceberg exclusion zone pictured below in gray. Safety thus makes the passage of Cape Horn particularly difficult since there is so little room for error.



Vende Globe fleet on Day 19 (November 29) when the first boat (Charlie Dalin (FRA)) passed the Cape of Good Hope

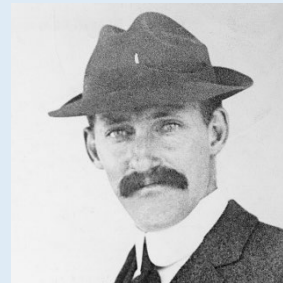
Fast Tango Black Friday Sail

Bayview’s Tim Prophit and a hardy (or foolhardy) group of friends continued a ten-year tradition by sailing the NA 40 Fast Tango on the Friday after Thanksgiving in the midst of freezing temperatures and snow squalls. They sailed from the head of the Detroit Rive to Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, and returned to Bayview Yacht Club.



Intrepid members of the Fast Tango crew on Friday November 29 on Lake St. Clair.

Sailing Heroes



Can you name this sailing hero? He designed a “brutally fast” 52 foot sailboat when he was still a student at Harvard. From a yacht designing family, he turned his attention to aviation. He started his

own aircraft company, and became among the first pilots to take off and land on the water. In 1915, he was awarded aviation’s most prestigious award, the Collier trophy.

He designed the America’s Cup defending J-boats Enterprise, Rainbow, and Ranger in the 1930s. A pioneer in the usage of aluminum, he joined the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) and moved to Bath, Maine to develop the usage of corrosion-resistant alloys for boats and ships.



In the automotive world, he helped his friend Buckminster Fuller design the groundbreaking

Dymaxion, whose body was built largely of aluminum over a framework of ash wood. He is William Starling Burgess (1878-1947) Philippines