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Fleet President  
Jim Taylor  
[ajtaylor8@verizon.net](mailto:ajtaylor8@verizon.net)

Vice President:  
Elise Mazareas Nash  
[elise.mazareas@gmail.com](mailto:elise.mazareas@gmail.com)

Treasurer:  
David Reynolds  
[reynolds.david@gmail.com](mailto:reynolds.david@gmail.com)

Secretary:  
Jeff Shoreman  
[jshoreman@gmail.com](mailto:jshoreman@gmail.com)

Scorer:  
Kim Pandapas  
[kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net)

Social:  
Larry Ehrhardt  
[larry\\_ehrhardt11@gmail.com](mailto:larry_ehrhardt11@gmail.com)

Web Site:  
Nat Taylor  
[nattaylor@gmail.com](mailto:nattaylor@gmail.com)

MRA Reps:  
Kim Pandapas  
[kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net)  
Jim Taylor  
[ajtaylor8@verizon.net](mailto:ajtaylor8@verizon.net)

Measurer:  
Peter Sorlien  
[psorlien@gmail.com](mailto:psorlien@gmail.com)

**GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ:**

Before we get started, I am saddened to report the passing of **Maura Power**. Maura was a long time fleet member who volunteered countless hours to support sailing here in our harbor. In addition to crewing for Steve Uhl and others, she was a dedicated member of the CYC Race Committee, running many Thursday night races and taking care of behind-the-scenes things, such as filing the paperwork with Coast Guard that allows us to host our regattas. An active member of MRA, where she served as Secretary-Treasurer for many years, she also volunteered her time for Mass Bay Sailing. Her presence will no doubt be missed.

**WHY FLEET 5 THRIVES!**

I sail Rhodes 19's strictly for fun, but as a boat designer I 'mess about in boats' for a living, and I have always kept a finger on the pulse of our sport. Since I've been doing it for almost 45 years, all of them based here in Marblehead (save a 2-year San Diego America's Cup sabbatical), I have a perspective on sailing here in the 'hood that has been decades in the making. A century ago, Marblehead did have a legitimate claim to being the 'Yachting Capital of the World', with 700 boats in dozens of classes hitting the line for what became Marblehead Race Week.

I'm not quite THAT old, but early in my days here you could go racing 6 days out of every 7. Back then dozens of IOR offshore boats routinely sailed two-day weekend events all summer long. Now clubs typically run one day events for a handful of old PHRF boats. In the '70's MRA had starts for a lot of classes (Lightnings, J-24's, Corinthians, J-22's, Shields) that are no longer with us, and some of the classes that do race today struggle to get a half dozen boats to the line. With participation in our sport continuing to decline, the Rhodes 19 and Fleet 5 continue to thrive. Why is that?

The first and perhaps most obvious reason is the boat. The Rhodes 19 was designed over 60 years ago, but what it may lack in current day sex appeal, it more than makes up for in more enduring virtues. It is one of the easiest, most stable, and most comfortable boats around to take out for a family day sail, but it is seriously challenging to sail consistently fast, and to get on the podium. You can buy a competitive boat for about 20% of the cost of a J-70, it is easy to trailer (for dry sailing or away regattas), and it is inexpensive to maintain. And we sail just 2-up in all of our local racing, which is HUGE, because it makes it easy to get the right number of people aboard on race day, and because there is always more than plenty for both of them to do.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Spring Clinic** –Fleet 5 will host a clinic on crew skills and priorities @7:30 PM (Date TBD)

**MRA:** Debuts with Spring OD Reg, May 25-26

**Twilights** –Start May31

**Fleet party** - June 1: **Rebecca and Larry Ehrhardt** will host at their home on Ballast Lane

**MRA 1st Series:** Four race days, June 1, 8, 17 & 24

**East Coasts** – Possibly hosted by the Manchester Yacht Club; stay tuned

**MRA 2nd Series:** Four race days, June 29, & July 6, 13 & 20

**Race Week:** Our toughest event of any year; Thurs July 25- Sunday July 28

\* \* \*



Yet, as anyone who has been to one of our fleet parties, (or eagerly awaits each Sunday's Road to the Cup) knows, it is as much the people as it is the boat. Fleet 5 remains strong as we have a long tradition of keeping our social connections strong via scheduling a number of parties (typically 5) throughout the year. No matter what the boat size or type, the racing classes/associations that endure are always those that maintain member connections off the water. We do need to do a better job of giving non-sailing significant others a reason to join us sailing loonies (they don't care about jib halyard tension, and they REALLY don't want to hear about that leeward mark rounding – again!), but in terms of keeping Fleet 5 strong, continuing to stock the Fleet Bar bar (Thank You, **Larry Ehrhardt!**) and host these parties is one of the most important things that we do every year.

And speaking of people, another important reason that Fleet 5 keeps on rolling while other classes have faltered is the time and energy that our own members put into pushing it along. I am in no way patting myself on the back here; I've been 'bowling alone' in this fleet for decades, and only recently ran out of excuses for not contributing much beyond some occasional help with Class Rules and measurement issues. My own ratio of hours volunteered vs days raced is pretty pathetic over all these years, but the rest of your current leadership team has that ratio very much the other way up. **Kim Pandapas** rarely misses a race, but the time that he puts into his weekly 'Road to the Cup' newsletter has to at least match his time on the course. **Jeff Shoreman** has served as both Fleet and Class secretary for years, and his #722 partner (and current Fleet Treasurer) **David Reynolds** has faithfully tended our Fleet Bar, but together they were only able to make it to the line on two MRA days, plus Race Week. **Peter Sorlien** spent a lot of hot days in the sun helping us stragglers to measure in, and his limited reward on the race course included having to sail Woodstock singlehanded after Steve Uhl leapt overboard at a finish line. **Joe Fava** (past Fleet Treasurer, current CYC Sailing Cmte Chair) could only find time to sail Race Week, and his #1316 partner **Elise Nash** (long time Social Chair and current VP) never made it to the race course all season long. (She was hard at work developing an ultra light 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Hingham Nationals this year, of course).

A good boat and a lot of good parties, all supported by a cadre of great hardworking people. It is no wonder the Fleet 5 continues to thrive.

#### **2019 MRA ISSUES:**

- They will changing their registration system from Regattaman (that had some security challenges) to toolbox for 2019. Fleet 5 plans to stay with Regattaman for now, so we will register for Fleet and Class Assoc. there, and MRA separately. Details to come.
- It appears that MRA has decided to drop the Fall Series, just as they did the Spring Series last year. Sad to see it go, but hard to argue with the decision given the sparse entries.
- Kim and I are our Fleet 5 MRA rep's, and at least one of us will be going to the first MRA meeting, coming up soon. They love to hear specific feedback from their fleets ('everything is OK' isn't too helpful) so if you have any thoughts and comments that you would like to pass on, be sure to get them to us: [ajtaylor8@verizon.net](mailto:ajtaylor8@verizon.net), or [kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net)



### **FLEET 5 GOVERNANCE:**

We have had two Fleet 5 Leadership Meetings, one on November 28, and another on January 21, both chez Taylor. Kim recorded meeting minutes, and an edited/augmented version follows:

**Attendance:** Jim Taylor, Peter Sorlien, Jeff Shoreman, Dave Reynolds, Larry Ehrhardt and Kim Pandapas. (Elise was forced to miss because she was 'stuck' in Florida. Life is harsh).

**Leadership:** We had a short conversation to finalize current leadership. Jeff is staying on in the role of Secretary one more year, and Dave is up and running as Treasurer. So, 2019 leadership includes:

- President – Jim Taylor
- VP – Elise Nash
- Secretary – Jeff Shoreman
- Treasurer – Dave Reynolds
- Measurer – Peter Sorlien
- Social – Larry Ehrhardt
- Scorer and MRA – Kim Pandapas
- Web – Nat Taylor

### **Regattas:**

*Nationals* - Because Hingham's August 21-24 dates fall on the Ted Hood Regatta 'no MRA' weekend, there will not be any impact of our MRA scoring. Hingham is considering the 2 v 3 crew issue, but there has been no update on the official status. It appears likely that we will sail their event with 3.

*East Coasts* – Still no word on who will host, although Manchester has been mentioned as a possibility.

### **Spring Clinic:**

The topic will be crew skills and priorities, it will be coordinated by Elise Nash, and its date will be in early May. Watch this space for the time and locale.

### **Scoring protocol for 2019**

We agreed to one bye only for the EC's, and not a second one in addition to the routine MRA bye. Twilights to remain in RTTC, as they have been since inception of the Nick Nichols perpetual

### **Social Schedule**

*Winter:* Big Thank You to Kim & Christina!

*Spring:* June 1 Confirmed, chez Ehrhardt

*Porch socials:* 6/13 @ CYC & 6/20 @ EYC

*Race Week:* Confirmed, chez Uhl

*Labor Day:* Jim & Charlie w J-70s?

*Awards:* Sat Oct 19 (Site still to be confirmed)

Ideas discussed on how to attract/involve younger members and non-sailing significant others at our social events. More discussion needed.

### **Measurement**

Measurement sessions planned for **May 19** (before season) and **June 9** (before East Coasts). If you made any modifications to your boat over the winter or still don't have your measurement certificate, be sure to email Peter to set up a time.

### **Communication**

*Newsletters:* Planned for Jan, Mar & April

*Web page:* discussion with regard to ways to keep it current and interesting. Photos help!

*Alternative media:* discussion use of Facebook.

### **Suggestions & Feedback:**

Our next Leadership meeting is planned for Monday, February 25, again chez Taylor. If you have comments, suggestions, or feedback, be sure to send it to us at: [ajtaylor8@verizon.net](mailto:ajtaylor8@verizon.net)



### Trophies Still in Inventory:



The Fleet 5 trophy 'Shelf of Shame' is clearly dominated by the Kaznoski & Cooke collection, which continues to grow. In the future, we may not engrave any names on their trophies, so we can just give them to the next best finisher who comes to the Awards Party.



Additions have been made to the Dave Nelson collection as well, and awards for Bill Rothwell, Ben Richardson, and Team Martini are also on display. The red plate and silver spoon have been added after being left at fleet parties. All of this swag can be found at 8 Wyman Road, Marblehead.

#### **Spring Series - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	3.00	1
Team Pandapas	982	4.00	2
Larry Ehrhardt	2435	5.00	3

#### **MRA 1 - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Frisch/Hourihan	1210	14.00	1
Team Pandapas	982	15.00	2
Team Taylor	1926	17.00	3

#### **MRA 2 - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Taylor	1926	32.00	1
Team Pandapas	982	37.00	2
Steve Uhl	2585	41.00	3

#### **MRA 3 - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Frisch/Hourihan	1210	1.00	1
Team Pandapas	982	2.00	2
Steve Uhl	2585	3.00	3

#### **MRA 4 - Labor Day**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Pandapas	982	11.00	1
Larry Ehrhardt	2435	12.00	2
Team Lane/Heffernan	2623	14.00	3

#### **MRA Overall - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Pandapas	982	65.00	1
Team Taylor	1926	104.00	2
Steve Uhl	2585	104.01	3
Team Frisch/Hourihan	1210	117.00	4
Team Cooke/Kazoski	2648	121.00	5

*As we all look forward to next season, it's always (or at least sometimes!) fun to look back at how folks did last year.*



**Fall Series - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Pandapas	982	5.00	1
Team Lane/Heffernan	2623	6.00	2
Team Taylor	1926	10.00	3

**Raceweek - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Dave Nelson	3172	16.00	1
Team Pandapas	982	38.00	2
Team Cooke/Kazoski	2648	44.00	3

**Twilight Series 1 - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
John Casler	1775	10.00	1
Team Sheldon/Sousa	1398	12.00	2
Steve Uhl	2585	14.00	3

**Twilight Series 2 - Final**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Pandapas	982	12.00	1
Team Colzman	2561	13.00	2
Team Martini	1466	18.00	3

**Twilight Series - Overall**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Walter Colzman	2561	28.00	1
Steve Uhl	2585	33.00	2
John Casler	1775	33.00	3

**2018 Rhode to the Cup Final Scores**

Name	Boat #	Points	Finish
Team Pandapas	982	146.00	1
Team Taylor	1926	239.00	2
Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	245.00	3
Frisch / Hourihan	1210	263.00	4
Steve Uhl	2585	268.00	5
Larry Ehrhardt	2435	276.00	6
Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	297.00	7
Team Heffernan	2692	311.00	8
Dave Nelson	3172	335.00	9
Conway & Alex Felton	1299	335.00	10

**2018 Fleet 5 Perpetual Awards**

For those who could not make it to our Awards party last year (a huge Thank You to **Wendy and Peter Frisch!**), here is a list of our ‘beyond race results’ Fleet awards, along with some of the reasons they were deserving winners:

**Rookie of the Year: Jocelyn Cook**

She took on a huge challenge with a new old boat, went to the EC’s, did Twilights, etc. Watch out for ‘Most Improved’ next year, when she gets a headstay that’s long enough! No contest.

**Most Improved: Team Rubin**

Moving up the ladder in the RTTC scoring might be a good comprehensive measure of the most improved team, but in looking over the 2017-2018 scores, we noted that Team Rubin had moved up 4 places in the 1st series, 7 places in the 2nd, and 6 in Race Week. They had some great single digit finishes, and they were ‘in the mix’ much more consistently in 2018. They are among our most consistent long term participants, and it is high time that they were recognized for their progress.



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January 2019

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### **Richie Santos Crew: Jim Taylor**

Nominations are supposed to come from a skipper, and this one did. Your Prez obviously recused himself from this one, but after weeks (maybe hours) of deliberations, Jeff Shoreman reported that white smoke was seen from the chimney, and we had a winner, who is appreciative and humbled.

### **Hallawell Family: Hoguet's**

This family may have been the best story of Fleet 5's entire year. The kids were on the helm in our David Smith clinic and in Race Week, in among the sharks, never looking the least bit overwhelmed. They didn't see the podium this year, but they will if they stick at it. They are exactly what the Hallawell Family Trophy is all about, and we hope to see more of them next year!

### **President's Trophy: Peter Sorlien**

Nobody works harder on behalf of Fleet 5 than **Kim Pandapas**. **Christina** works at least as hard as Kim (she does the hiking for the family!) **Steve Uhl** has hosted Race week parties forever and was Class prez, for years. **Jeff Shoreman** responds to e-mail even when doing business in India and has served as our Secretary for years. But all these deserving people have won this award before, and I (this is the President's Award, after all!) wanted to recognize the contributions of someone who had not been recognized before. Peter has been associated with Fleet 5 for decades, he works tirelessly to keep old boats viable, he has been an experienced and skilled crew for multiple skippers, he appreciates and preserves our history and culture, and most importantly, he actually volunteered to be our Fleet Measurer, and so take on what has to be our most difficult and thankless job!

Thank you, Peter, for all that you do and have done!

## **2018 Fleet 5 Hacker Award**

The concept of our Hacker Award was shamelessly stolen from the Pleon YC, where for decades kids have been gleefully trolling their peers for unusually embarrassing and/or stupid mistakes they may have made during the season. As with the Pleon original, we bestow this honor at the end of our Awards party. Nominations for candidates deserving of credit (or abuse) for their malfeasance are taken from the floor, (with the Fleet Bar open), and their exploits are described in detail by those supporting their nomination. The nominations are scored based on readings taken from our carefully calibrated 'Hack-o-meter', also cribbed from Pleon. (You have to see it in operation to understand it).

Since our 'Hacker of the Year' honoree is not known until our awards night, the Hacker perpetual trophy (lovingly crafted by Fleet 5 artisans) cannot be engraved with the name of the offending party until the following year, when a suitable 'keeper' can also be presented. **Jeff Shoreman** was dishonored as the recipient of our inaugural Hackers Award in 2017, after being thrown under the bus by his own boat partner for a memorable hiccup in boat set-up that only emerged as problematic when too late after leaving the float. This meant that the first Hacker order of business this November was to award Jeff (in absentia) his keeper, that was custom crafted using Fleet 5's **Felton Lumber Inventory**.

Having availed ourselves of the opportunity to abuse Jeff two years in a row (the Hacker Award is a gift that just keeps on giving!), we moved on to identifying those most deserving of recognition for the 2018 season.

**Team Felton** was nominated for managing to turn a podium finish into a DNF when the wind died, the course was shortened (very late in the game!) and chaos ensued. At what turned out to be the finish line, this exchange (not involving Team Felton) was ample evidence of the general confusion: "What



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**January 2019**

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just happened?" "We finished." "Oh, good, so we beat you!"

A second nomination worthy of recognition involved spinnaker handling aboard **Eric Thornton**'s handsome red *Chili*. It seems that a brand spanking new chute encountered something sharp on the way up, and came down in tatters, reportedly without ever filling once in its tragically short life.

A third nomination went to class stalwart **Steve Uhl**, at another MRA finish line. It seems that he was so aggressively seeking every possible series point (he ended up getting crushed by **Team Taylor** for the MRA season by 0.1 point- seriously!) that he leapt out of his boat as he crossed the line, presumably to push his bow forward a few extra feet. This left Peter Sorlien to finish the race and douse the chute single handed, and wait while the aforementioned Team Taylor fished Steve out and delivered him back to *Woodstock*. Not surprisingly, Steve's extra effort pinned the Hack-o-Meter, possibly damaging it in the process, and he is the hands down winner of Fleet 5's 2018 Hacker Award.

### **Alex & Coni Collection**



In addition to donating the **Felton Lumber Inventory** mentioned above, **Alex and Conway** have now offered to add some early O'Day vintage original Rhodes 19 hardware (suitable for Hacker Award keepers) to the lumber and bulkhead access panel cover already in inventory. We are forever in their debt.

### **Sunday AM Racing in '19:**

Last year, the Townie class was nice enough to invite us to join them for racing on Sunday mornings, and we plan to offer it again in 2019. The no-chute format is the same as what some enjoy on Thursday nights. Our Saturday afternoon MRA spinnaker racing is what most of us can't wait to get back to, and some of us who can't get enough on Saturdays do Thursday evening races as well. However, others actually prefer the lower key Twilight races, and no doubt part of the appeal is the no spinnaker format. Two sail racing opens things up to a different crew pool, that can include significant others who aren't interested in (or up to) spinnakers, and more importantly, it can be perfect for young kids, as the races are short, the pressure is off. They could be a perfect 'next step' for the CYC's Sunday morning 'Family Sail' activity that our own **Joe Fava** has championed. Also, while the Thursday evening start times work great for those of us who live and/or work here in the 'hood, they don't work well for kids, or for those who work in the city or live further away.

### **Fleet 5 News & Notes:**

Our own **Shan McAdoo** authored a nice piece entitled '*Why Those Old Boats Matter*' that was published in the January 7, 2019 issue of Scuttlebutt. After watching the J-70 Worlds here in September, and noting some of their \$1m budgets, he says "*remembered all of the cheap old boats I had bought, fixed up, and raced. I was heartened to find there are still classes of boats that are somewhat stable in design and evolution, and that I can afford to buy and campaign.*" Sound like a boat that we know?



Shan is a sophisticated sailor who appreciates progress, including *“foiling and how this is impacting the sport on every level, but I am concerned about the influence this has on a decreasing population of people getting into the sport.”*

Shan closes by saying that *“The good old boats that have stood the test of time deserve continued support as we go forward. Millennials have lots of choices, so let’s try to guide them towards sustainable choices by supporting those good old boats and making them cool again.”*

Thanks, Shan! Couldn’t be said any better; Ed

### New Boats:

**Jeremy Bloxham** swears that his boat is almost done, that the fun part (laying out the hardware) is next, and the he and **Katie** should be on the line by Race Week. That would be great, but Jeremy has been saying that for years.

**Peter Sorlien** has his boat in a nice heated garage, and says that he is in the home stretch as well. We hope that he doesn’t tow it very far very often with that Miata, which can’t weigh much more than the boat and trailer!

### Upcoming Newsletter Highlights:

**March;** David Reynolds intends to edit a piece on annual maintenance priorities

**April;** Larry Ehrhardt will share his experiences with and suggestions for sailing with kids. The Rhodes 19 is the only boat in town when it comes to getting kids involved in racing.

### January Party:



Huge thanks to **Kim** and **Christina** for hosting yet another January party. Lots of folks enjoyed it, including old (long time?) friend **Doug Trees**, **Jeremy** and **Katie Bloxham**, and newcomer **Dylan Nash**. **Nat Taylor** brought a growler full of his latest home brewed IPA, which went home empty.

### Challenges at Parkers:

Those who have dry sailed out of the town owned property know as ‘Parkers’ will likely have to find an alternative for at least the 2019 season. The Harbors and Waters Board has decided to upgrade/improve the property during the sailing season next summer, and its use by boat owners was complicated still further by the town having to comply with state regulations that only licensed personnel can operate a crane. (These regulations are intended to control the operation of huge construction cranes rather than small boat hoists, but the state legislature may have to unravel that, which will obviously take time).

The Marblehead harbormaster is aware of the challenges that these changes impose on those who have depended Parkers, and he is considering what alternatives (e.g. new string moorings?) that he and others might be able to provide. But we should be thinking of ways that we as Fleet 5 could help these sailors get to the line this summer.





## RACER'S RESOURCE BOARD

**Dave Whittier** of **Stuart Marine** in Rockland Maine is the exclusive builder of Rhodes 19s. Call Dave at 207-594-5515 for pricing on new boats, used boats, repairs and parts.

**Doyle Sails** at (978) 740-5950 for new sails and repairs.

**Chris Small** – Full restorations and glass work-  
[csmall9021@yahoo.com](mailto:csmall9021@yahoo.com) (978) 500-9021.

**Seacoast Specialty Marine** Call **Greg Dolan** at 978-255-2769, click on [seacoastspecialtymarine.com](http://seacoastspecialtymarine.com), or visit on Facebook [@seacoastspecialtymarine](https://www.facebook.com/seacoastspecialtymarine).

**Neal Lewanda** – Repairs, fiberglass/gel coat, rudders, keel work, etc. - [neal@lewandamarine.com](mailto:neal@lewandamarine.com), 978-525-2700

**Benjamin Parker** of Aequoris Yachts does glass work and boat repair. Contact Ben at 58 Gregory Street, Marblehead (207) 319-3583 or [benjamin.parker@aequorisyachts.com](mailto:benjamin.parker@aequorisyachts.com).

**Waterline Systems** provides a complete range of services. Call at (401) 682-1661.

**Cape Cod Shipbuilding** makes Zephyr extrusions and a full range of mast and boom hardware and fittings. Call **Dick Landis** at (508) 295-2240.

"**Phil's Foils**" builds Rhodes 19 rudders under the "Phil's Foils" brand name. Go to [www.fastcomposites.ca](http://www.fastcomposites.ca) or contact Phil Locker at (613) 599-6951.

**The Trailer Shop** – Located on 87 High St. in Danvers for any trailer repairs. Call **Dan Sullivan** at (978) 750-6799

**Sailor's Tailor** [www.sailortailors.com](http://www.sailortailors.com) for boat covers, rudder bags and marine stitching.

Seacoast Specialty Marine – Restorations, rigging and all variety of go fast work. Located in 5000 sq ft facility at 14 Graf Road, Newburyport. Email [info@seacoastspecialtymarine.com](mailto:info@seacoastspecialtymarine.com), or call 978-255-2769

## NOTICE BOARD

**Donate Your Sails** The Nahant Sailing Program (NSP) has 6 Rhodes 19s that are used to teach kids and a twilight program for adults. The majority of funding comes from an annual fund raiser by The Friends of Nahant Sailing. The Rhodes sails need replacement, so if you have or are purchasing new sails, please consider donating your old ones to "The Friends of Nahant Sailing." Not only will it help the program grow, but the donation is tax deductible. Please contact **Bob Cusack** at (781) 581-1159 or [rjcusack@verizon.net](mailto:rjcusack@verizon.net) if you are interested.

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*The next Fleet 5 publication will be the April Newsletter. All of our publications are distributed by email. To request being added to (or removed from) Fleet 5's distribution list, please contact Jeff Shoreman at [jshoreman@gmail.com](mailto:jshoreman@gmail.com). To respond with comments, suggestions, news, and/or complaints, email Ed at [ajtaylor8@verizon.net](mailto:ajtaylor8@verizon.net)*