



April 7, 2020

The best laid plans...

I have often joked that sailing is a disease, for which there is no known cure. What we are all facing together now is no joke. Sailing may be an antidote for cabin fever, but it is no match for COVID-19, and there is no way to make it compatible with social distancing, the primary tool that we currently have for limiting the scope of the pandemic. One of the things that we enjoy most as a fleet is being able to share our experiences on the water (chats at the hoist, greetings on the way out, exchanges?! at the leeward mark, beers on the porch after), all of which implies groups of us spaced less than 6 feet apart. Being a data driven sort of a guy, I was interested and encouraged this morning to see plots suggesting that our collective 'stay at home' efforts may keep hospitalizations and deaths near some lower projections, and that they might both approach zero sometime in May. However, we can't even begin to relax our collective efforts unless and until it is clear that we have gotten to and can maintain that near zero level, so some tough decisions have to be made.

Things that we know for sure:

- Our planned spring clinic in the CYC fantail cannot happen.
- Our planned April 1 startup for Fleet 5 registration has been postponed until further notice.
- MRA registration is on hold, with more guidance likely after an MRA meeting scheduled for April 14.
- The Manchester YC has postponed their East Coast regatta until 2021.
- Kim plans to start up his Road to the Cup weeklies soon, to keep us all connected.

Things that remain TBD:

- MRA start up; No one has given up on the season, but my own guess is that it will be shortened.
- Our May 30 short course racing/clinic day and party chez Pandapas after. Uncertain, so stay tuned.
- Race Week; As of March 31, Sailing World still planned to hold MRW on schedule. Again, stay tuned.
- 2020 Nationals, hosted by Fleet 5 and CYC; Planning and preparations by Kim's regatta committee continue for a great event, but there are a lot of moving parts and obvious uncertainties that are well beyond our control. Check upcoming issues of RTTC for updates.

Things to do now:

- Get the winter cover off, and start work on all those boat prep and deferred maintenance projects that last fall you swore you would get to before this season.
- Stay connected with other Fleet 5 members. It's what we do.
- Check out the Fleet 5 website <https://r19fleet5.org/> for enhanced, revitalized content (more photos, videos, links to sailing games, etc). And help out with this process by visiting the site and by sending in photos and suggestions as to how better to keep us all involved and connected.