



R  
h  
o  
d  
e  
s  
19

**2020: A Year Like No Other**

The Japanese have Bonenkai (‘year forgetting parties’) each December, which sound a lot like the ‘airing of the grievances’ at Festivus. As 2020 winds down, we could combine the two and have a worldwide, days long, doozie of a party. Back in early March Fleet 5 was planning to hold a spring clinic in April, start MRA racing in May, and host the Nationals in August. Just a few short weeks later we were instead dealing with a global pandemic, that would infect millions, kill hundreds of thousands and create economic, educational, and sociological havoc. It quickly became obvious that indulging our sailboat racing habit was not going to happen in the form that we have all taken for granted for so long, and just when we were going to need it more than ever. Luckily, good regional leadership (along with social distancing and wearing masks) got us over at least the first hump of the virus, and our sailing community leaders pulled together to give us opportunities to go boat racing.

We cannot express our appreciation often enough to **Mark Toso** and his harbor wide cadre of MRA and Race Committee volunteers for all the time, energy, and creativity that they put into providing racing for us that was different, but still fun, safe, and responsible. Every one of them deserves a masked nod or an elbow bump and a Thank You from each and every one of us. What they managed to make happen was extraordinary given the challenges that they had to deal with. Well done, team!

It is no secret that participation in sailboat racing faces challenges at all levels, and with that in mind I think that there is a lot to we can learn from our ‘covid enforced’ year off. Back in April, Craig Leweck wrote a great piece in Scuttlebutt on the ‘State of the Sport’, available at <https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2020/04/16/the-state-of-the-sport-in-2020/>. If you have already read it, read it again. He starts off with three primary observations:

- *When the cost in time and money to participate exceeds the pleasurable benefit, people seek alternative activities.*
- *Better isn’t always best, as the natural inclination for improvement slowly eliminates those that choose not to chase the rising bar.*
- *We are capable of evolving toward extinction.*

I’m so old that when I first started racing here in Marblehead, we did one race per day around government marks that gave a variety of course types. In the decades since, we have evolved to multiple races each day that are all W/L sausages around drop marks with offsets and gates, and starts that are often delayed until the RC can set a dead square

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Virtual Awards Party:**  
Thursday, Oct 29, 7PM

**2021 Season (Covid willing)**

**Spring Regatta (Memorial Day Weekend):** Sat/Sun, May 29-30

**MRA 1<sup>st</sup> Series:** Should start Sat, June 5

**East Coasts:** Manchester Yacht Club, dates TBA

**Race Week:** Our toughest event of any year; Thurs July 22 - Sunday July 25

**Nationals:** Here in the ‘hood, Corinthian YC, August 16-20, 2021

\* \* \*

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:  
Marth Martini  
[martini1466@gmail.com](mailto:martini1466@gmail.com)

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

Social:  
Larry Ehrhardt  
[larry.ehrhardt1@gmail.com](mailto:larry.ehrhardt1@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:  
Stefan Thibodeaux  
[sjthibodeaux@gmail.com](mailto:sjthibodeaux@gmail.com)



**October 2020**

[www.r19fleet5.org](http://www.r19fleet5.org) / [www.rhodes19.org](http://www.rhodes19.org) / [www.facebook.com/r19fleet5](https://www.facebook.com/r19fleet5)

**Page 2**

starting line. I'm not saying 'get off my lawn' and that it was better back then, because it wasn't, but that racing was different, and it was fun that way, too. In the same vein, in our 2020 Covid races we were fine with a top mark with no offset and a bottom mark with no gate, and while we truly appreciate our big committee boats with their cannons and flags and big crew of valued volunteers, we had no issues with two race officers in a skiff starting races with mechanized horns. Further, I heard no beefs after a couple of race days with unstable breezes when the RC deemed it better to let the starts go with a skewed line than have everyone reach around waiting for perfection. Perfection is not a requirement in order for weekend warriors to have fun racing on a Saturday afternoon.

Another take away for me from our Covid year was that the racing felt different with the reduced emphasis on scoring. MRA published just one overall season score, and Fleet 5 only counted participation and some race places, but no cumulative series or season scores. This clearly reduced the intensity of the racing, and I think that it helped get boats to the line that might not have come out in a normal year. When points for multiple series and trophies are on the line, the starts and leeward marks are much more intense, and this can be a turn off for those not in the running for yet another pickle dish. This reduced emphasis on series scores also speaks to Craig's points about participation costs and what amounts to the sailing version of the Peter Principal. The harsh facts are that fresh sails, a faired underbody and skilled, regular crew can get you around the track faster, and the bigger the emphasis on scoring, the bigger the contrast between those racing for series scores, and those racing just to do the best that they can on that particular day. Competition is part of the fun, of course, and Fleet 5 manages to strike a pretty healthy balance on this, but the different feel to our 'no scoring' year is a reminder that we need to keep the cost, time commitment and complexity/complication thresholds for our racing at levels that the whole fleet can be comfortable with in order to keep solid numbers of boats on the line.

Our Covid year also emphasized a lot about what is unique and right with Rhodes 19's and Fleet 5, of course. While several MRA fleets chose to sit the 2020 season out, our numbers were strong given the constraints. Kim's RTTC tally showed that Fleet 5 boats crossed starting lines 281 times in 31 different races, which works out to just over 9 boats per race, including Twilights. Our consistent double digit number of starters in the 22 MRA races run was especially encouraging and impressive since most of them were in August, when participation typically goes light after Race Week, and in September, when small numbers in previous years led to MRA dropping the Fall Series. The fact that several skippers sailed all of their races, Twilight and MRA, single handed says all that you need to know about how much they valued and enjoyed racing their R19.

Another observation from our Covid year was that Twilights consistently had the biggest number of participants in memory. Part of the reason for this was no doubt that racing didn't start until mid-July, so people wanted to take full advantage of the remaining opportunities, and maybe folks were just desperate to get out of the house. Whatever the reasons, the no spinnaker, low key flavor of Twilight racing is another reminder of how much fun different racing formats can be. The starting line is always the same no matter what the wind direction, there is a picket fence of moored boats to pick your way through, and the typically light and variable (and/or dying?) breeze often scrambles the leaderboard partway through the race. The Misery Island Race (inspired by Bart Snow and started from the CYC booth) on Labor Day weekend was yet another example of how many different ways there are to enjoy sailboat racing, how simply it can be done, and how much flat out fun it can be. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to **David Graham** and his 'Booth Team' for making these races happen, and for continuing a 100+ year old tradition of races run from that bump on the CYC porch.



---

---

**October 2020**

[www.r19fleet5.org](http://www.r19fleet5.org) / [www.rhodes19.org](http://www.rhodes19.org) / [www.facebook.com/r19fleet5](https://www.facebook.com/r19fleet5)

**Page 3**

So, the 2020 sailing season is a wrap, and we hope and pray that 2021 is a big improvement in terms of both community health and sailing. One thing that 2020 did give Fleet 5 is an opportunity to step back and think through what may be most important to us, and how best to get the most out of the time, money and energy that we all bring to going boat racing. We have a great mix of people, including ex college sailors, at least four women skippers, a wide range in age, and best of all, a healthy number of multi-generational boats, so the future of Fleet 5 looks bright.

One final, and personal note: Leading the way to wherever Fleet 5 goes next will be Elise Nash, who has graciously agreed to take over for me as President. I've had a fun three year run, and I appreciate all the help and support all of you have given me. I will stay involved, I'll continue to help where I can, and I can't wait to go sailing next year.

## **2020 Awards Party**

Like the 2020 sailing season, it will be different this year. First, it will have to be virtual (As noted above, **Thursday, October 29 at 7:00PM**), and second, we won't be giving out our normal batch of awards! We agreed early on not to do series and overall season scoring, which means that we can't use our normal standards for some of our perpetual awards, and if we can't give those, it would seem a bit odd to award some but not the others. So, in the end we agreed to just give out one year only (we hope!) **Covid Awards**, inspired mostly by Elise and the leadership team, as follows:

### **Walter Cronkite Journalism Award:**

To those who reported all the racing news that was fit to print. One winner, two honorable mentions.

### **Rod Serling Twilight Zone Award:**

Most Twilight races sailed in 2020, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Michael Phelps Aquatics Award:**

One winner, one runner up for just looking like they swam ashore

### **Joshua Slocum Singlehanded Award:**

Most 2020 races sailed single handed, Twilight and MRA; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards

### **Dustin Pedroia Rookie of the Year:**

There can only be one.

### **Woody Allen '80% of success is just showing up' Award: (The big one!)**

To the diehards and/or Covid refugees who just couldn't get enough R19 racing. Note that the winner only missed 6 races out of the 31 offered all season long. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes given.

### **Hacker Award:**

As always, this prestigious award is left until last. Nominations are taken from the floor, and detailed descriptions of each nominee's malfeasance are recited. The final winner is awarded based on readings taken from the 'Hack-o-Meter', that is carefully recalibrated annually in advance of the party.



October 2020

[www.r19fleet5.org](http://www.r19fleet5.org) / [www.rhodes19.org](http://www.rhodes19.org) / [www.facebook.com/r19fleet5](https://www.facebook.com/r19fleet5)

Page 4

## Trophies in Inventory:



Space on 'The Shelf' is now dominated by the **Team Colman Collection**. Items from the **Pete, Wilson & Evan Collection** are also on display, along with some from **Hooks & Pascal**. The substantial **Dave Nelson** Collection was swept clean in 2019 in a direct handoff after Race Week, but it bumped up again last fall with a RW keeper for his 'oh, so close' tiebreaker 2<sup>nd</sup> place. **Kim Pandapas** generously donated some vintage pieces last winter, that will take some research to attached to a winner. The delinquency record is now held by Jamie Holley, who isn't even sailing in our fleet at the moment.



Awards for **Ben Richardson** have remained on display for several years, as have the red plate and silver (ish) spoon that were left at fleet parties. All of this swag can be viewed at 8 Wyman Road and collected by appointment.

## Fleet 5 Governance

Elise has put together the following team, that will be presented (virtually) at our fall Awards Party, to be held virtually at **7:00 PM on October 29:**

- President:** Elise Mazareas Nash
- Vice President:** Steve Uhl
- Secretary:** Martha Martini
- Treasurer:** David Reynolds
- Social:** Larry Ehrhardt
- Scorer:** Kim Pandapas
- Measurer:** Stefan Thibodeaux
- Webmaster:** Nat Taylor

## Looking Forward; Fleet 5 Hosts the 2020 2021 Nationals:

Elise Mazareas Nash and Kim Pandapas are co-chairing the event, to be hosted by the CYC on August 16-20. They have assembled a terrific team that was off to a great start in 2020 and has plans to pick up where they left off starting in January 2021. Their goal is a provide spectacular regatta that will attract as many as 50 boats. An NOR is already available on line at the following link: <http://2020nationals.rhodes19.org/2019/09/30/2020-nationals/> Among the many challenges will be finding housing and charter boats for some out the out-of-towners. The event leadership is grateful for the support of the volunteers that have already stepped up, but in the end the effort will definitely require our entire 'village' to help with greeting, measurement, on site logistics, registration, etc. Please reach out to Kim [kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net) or Elise at [elise.mazareas@gmail.com](mailto:elise.mazareas@gmail.com) to find out what their needs are, and how you can help.





(I know it's not March, 2018, but I'll be damned if I can get Word to let me fix it. Ed)

## **2020 'Covid Year' Participation Scores and Race Places**

<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail Number</u>	<u>Races Sailed</u>	<u>MRA Days Won</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Spins</u>
Steve Uhl	2585	26		6	6	3	
Timmy Dittrich	1217	25		0	2	0	
Team Sorlien / Thibodeaux	41	24		1	0	1	
Team Taylor	1926	22	1	4	4	2	1
John Casler	1775	22		0	0	1	1
Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	20	1	3	5	6	1
Jocelyn Cook	1686	20		0	0	0	
Team Martini	1466	18		1	0	1	
Frisch / Hourihan / Burke	1210	16	3	6	3	6	
Eric Thornton	1819	16	1	2	0	2	1
Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	11		3	1	3	
Team Colman	2561	11		0	2	3	
Sarah Sheldon / Ann Sousa	1398	11		0	1	2	
Team Noble	1782	9		0	0	0	
Larry Ehrhardt	2435	8	2	4	3	0	
Tim McCaffrey	1925	8		0	0	0	1
Team Pandapas	982	6		0	3	0	1
Team Hooks / Pascal	1683	2		1	0	1	
Team Fava / Nash	1316	2		0	0	1	
Team Berliner	2590	2		0	0	0	
Rob Ferro	769	1		0	1	0	
Team Shoreman / Reynolds	722	0		0	0	0	
Tom & Kathryn Dailey	1015	0		0	0	0	
Chris Adam	1137	0		0	0	0	
Hoguet/Honos	1228	0		0	0	0	
Team Felton	1299	0		0	0	0	
Ben Richardson	1343	0		0	0	0	
Chris Small	1680	0		0	0	0	
Team Cormier / Dalton	1790	0		0	0	0	
Steve Sovis / Stefan Ianchulev	1645	0		0	0	0	
Frank McNamara	1939	0		0	0	0	
David Rubin	2495	0		0	0	0	
Anne Marije Veenland	2651	0		0	0	0	
Dave Nelson	3172	0		0	0	0	



## 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 [seacoastsspecialtymarine.com](http://seacoastsspecialtymarine.com), or visit on Facebook [@seacoastsspecialtymarine](https://www.facebook.com/seacoastsspecialtymarine).

**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.

**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.

## DOYLE ONE DESIGN FALL DISCOUNT

Doyle Salem is offering a 20% discount on sails ordered before Thanksgiving. The discount then drops to 10% for orders placed by Christmas. For details, contact Doyle Salem Manager Lindsay Smith at 978-740-5950 ext 225

[HTTPS://DOYLESAILS.COM/ASSETS/CMS/IMAGES/R19ORDERFORM.PDF](https://doylesails.com/assets/cms/images/R19ORDERFORM.PDF)

## 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.

\* \* \*

*The next Fleet 5 Newsletter will likely appear in early 2021. All of our publications are distributed by email. To request being added to (or removed from) Fleet 5's distribution list, please contact Marth Martini at [martini1466@gmail.com](mailto:martini1466@gmail.com). To respond with comments, suggestions, news, and/or complaints, email Ed at [ajtaylor8@verizon.net](mailto:ajtaylor8@verizon.net)*