



R h o d e s 1 9

Fleet 5 Newsletter

www.r19fleet5.org / www.rhodes19.org

July 2013

GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ

I love this fleet. Here we are, nine MRA Saturdays into the summer with nine different winners for each day. Participation has been fantastic with several days seeing one boat shy of 20 starters. I remember having to go to regattas to see that many Rhodes in one place! It gets better. At press time, we are 32 boats registered for Race Week. That's twice the size of any other fleet with the exception of the J105s (who are at 17 boats). Amazing.

I wanted to kick things off and thank **Jill and Peter Weise** for a phenomenal season kick-off party. WOW what a great night, wonderful location and gracious hosts. Thank you both. Next, thanks go out to the **Casslers** for hosting the annual 4th of July party. Attendance was lower than usual this year, likely due to a late day finish. We'll have to look at the timing of this annual event and see what we can do about getting a better turnout. As always, thanks go to **Jim Raisides** for getting the fleet bar to the parties.

The next stop on the fleet bar tour is **Jennifer and Steve Uhl's** annual race week party this Thursday night at 6:30. This is one of my favorites – long day of sailing, a lot of war stories, an amazing view and a lot of people to debrief with. After Thursday's race the Uhl's is the perfect place to relax.

The East Coasts this year is now in the books. Our hosts, Hull Yacht Club, served up fantastic conditions that left everyone with huge smiles and sore body parts each day. 20+ knots of breeze with gusts over 35 knots made for some pretty exciting racing and I got a front row seat to see what it looks like when a Rhodes 19 "death rolls" – youch! Fleet 5 held down the podium with **Pendleton/ Raisides** edging out team **Richardson** in the last race of the regatta for the top spot. In third overall, team **Pandapas** sailed a great regatta and nipped local **Dave Nelson** (who had Marblehead Rhodes legend **Frank Heart** as crew). **Dru Slattery** sailing with **Linda Epstein** rounded out the top five. With that depth of top finishers, Fleet 5 took home **Bill Bradford's** beautiful fleet trophy. Awesome job.

So this season has been a weird one. No sea breeze (sound familiar) and unlike last year (remember all the North Easterlies?) we've seen a variety of west-based breezes. Crazy. Needless to say it has been puffy and shifty and FRUSTERATING! But, I love some of the stories that are developing. The **Martinis** won the first twilight series – nice work! **Hourihan/Frisch** are leading the road to the cup with some recent help from their mystery guest driver, **Bill Kaul** – I love to see new people reeling in the cup. We're seeing some teams pop up and climb that next rung on the ladder like **Dru** and **Mazareas/Fava** these guys are flying. The freshman fleet is showing strength as well with **Breslin/Thornton** and team **Dailey** (I love another husband wife team!!) showing they are the real deal.

Best for last: Race Week. I have my fingers crossed that we see some conditions that let us go out and compete on a (mostly) level playing field. Heading in to Race Week, it feels like it's *anyone's* game. Seriously, who would you bet money on and feel 100% confident? Given past trends we'll likely see a range of conditions and at least one race where the fleet will invert. What I like about Race Week is that four days is a good filter and also insulates against a bad weather day. It's the toughest regatta you can do in a Rhodes. I can't wait.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all out on the racecourse on Thursday and better yet, seeing you in person at the Uhl's Thursday night. Here we go!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Race Week and Party!
Thurs July 25th through
Sun July 28th The hardest 4 days of sailing you can do in a Rhodes – period. After the first day of racing on Thursday, July 25th 6:30 PM - head over to Jennifer and Steve Uhl's house for an phenomenal harbor view and potluck dinner.

David J Smith Trophy –
Tentatively August 18th
This regatta features some atypical racecourses and a lot of fun. Bring your smiles a beer or two and maybe someone you don't sail with often.

Labor Day Party August
31st A great way to wind down the season. Join the Pendletons for the last party of the racing season. The grill will be going strong along with the fleet bar. Kids welcome.

Rhodes 19 Nationals –
Oct 15th – 18th
Yeah... this one is a hike, but worth it. New Orleans is a crazy fun place to sail and you have not seen night life like this in your life. Race against some of the best on Lake pontchartrain.

End of season Awards
Party This one is a blast!! Elise Mazareas and Mike Nash will host the closing ceremonies in their new home. Always a night of laughs and awards – both serious and gag/funny. Date is TBD.

Fleet Captain:
Charlie
Pendleton
(781) 631-8409

Vice-President:
Jeff Shoreman
(617) 833-3498

Treasurer:
Doug Trees
(978) 468-4551

Secretary:
Steve Uhl
(781) 631-4430

Scorer:
Pete Kaznoski
(781) 704-4184

Social:
Jim Raisides
(781) 639-1602

Web Site:
Rick Berliner
(781) 321-0457

 **SHORT TACKS**

Got News? Let's hear from you. Send your gossip, rumors and embarrassing tidbits to pendletons@gmail.com. We'll get the word out.

These guys are nuts! Ok, call them the "Iron Men of Fleet 5" (actually, if you see Eric up close, he is an iron man). **Rob Breslin** and **Eric Thornton** are out of their minds. They spent 5 days at Block Island Race Week and, without taking a day's break, they sailed the East Coasts. Yeah, that was a relaxing regatta. This past Friday Rob sailed in the Beringer Bowl Overnight Race. Saturday, Eric got up before 5:00 AM and drove a powerboat to P-town to get Rob, so they could sail MRA. Now THAT is dedication! All those skipping race days, take note!

Top five names for Ian's boat! Sorry Ian, had to do it:

- 5) Banana Peel
- 4) "Wait, Epoxy isn't 3 to 1?"
- 3) Blow Hole
- 2) D-lam-ian-ation
- 1) Separation Anxiety

Rear Traveler Trend: After we turned our boom into a pretzel at the East Coasts, I've started to notice others follow in **Ben's Richardson's** footsteps with the rear traveler setup (vs the bridal). **Dru** has one. So do **Breslin/Thornton**. None of these three are bringing up the rear of the fleet and I don't see any of them bracing their boom in their trailer frame once or twice a year to bend/straighten their boom out. Ben says the setup weighs three pounds. Hmmm, maybe these guys are on to something. Signed, mid-boom traveler guy.

 **CAUGHT IN THE ACT**

Thank you Karen Lubeck for this one... Captions anyone? Send them in – best one get's drinks on me after an MRA Saturday of your choice.



Got a picture that belongs here? Someone "caught in the act" of racing, having fun or causing a little trouble? Send your pictures to pendletons@gmail.com.

 **FLEET PROFILE – Q&A WITH ROB BRESLIN**

by Christina Pandapas

It's been hard to miss the "new" 1819 this season. For one thing, she is all spiffed up with that distinctive orange hull color paying bright homage to the many, many years previous owner, Henry Peper, raced her.

And then there's the fact that 1819 has been consistently in the mix of top boats, so much so, that we've started overhearing people between races asking, "Who is that in 1819?" The answer: It's Rob Breslin and Eric Thornton. Eric purchased the boat last year and then Rob and he spent much of the winter giving her lots of TLC. Rob has been skippering, and once you learn a little more about his racing background, you'll know why "Chili" is bringing the heat.

What was the first boat you ever sailed?

The first boat I ever sailed was a Sunfish or a Mercury out of the Bristol Yacht Club. My family raced a lot, and I've always liked boats, so I was probably three or four when I got my feet wet for the first time.

Had you sailed a Rhodes before getting into 1819?

Yes, I had sailed Rhodes 19s before this summer. I am a strong supporter of the Courageous Sailing Center in Charlestown, and they have a great frostbiting fleet that I have sailed in during the last two winters. So, I was familiar with some of the "uniqueness" of a Rhodes before my first races in Marblehead.

What made you decide to start racing Rhodes this year?

Well, I had just moved to Salem and didn't know many people in the North Shore. I was told that the Rhodes 19s not only had the best racing fleet in the area, but that the people who raced the boats were "extremely" friendly and inviting. As it turns out, that was some very good council. I've met many new friends, and am learning a lot from all of the sharp racers I get to see and race against every weekend. So, I definitely made the right decision.

What's surprised you most about the Fleet?

Well, the thing that first surprised me about the fleet was its depth of talent. I optimistically thought I was going to jump right into the boat and start winning right away. What a rude awakening I had during my first few weeks racing here! You can be in 10th place, look around, and see All-Americans and other sailing champions all around you. That, and the fact that everyone is so fun off the water, was a welcome surprise.

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RACER'S RESOURCE BOARD

Chris Small – Full restorations and glass work-
csmall9021@yahoo.com, (978) 500-9021

Andy Flaherty – Marblehead Composites. Keel, hull and rudder fairing. Contact Andy: andrewpflaherty@gmail.com

Benjamin Parker - Aequoris Yachts, all varieties of glass work and boat repair. Contact Ben benjamin.parker@aequorisyachts.com or at 58 Gregory Street, Marblehead (207) 319-3583.

Kenny Harvey – Rigging kenny@harveyrigging.com, (781) 883-4496

Dave Whittier of Stuart Marine in Rockland Maine is the exclusive builder of Rhodes 19s: 207-594-5515 new boats, used boats, repairs and parts.

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

Cape Cod Shipbuilding, makers of the Zepher extrusions provides a full range of mast and boom hardware & fittings. **Dick Landis** at (508) 295-2240.

"Phil's Foils" We've built a couple of dozen Rhodes 19 rudders over the past few years under our "Phil's Foils" brand name and feel we build a very high quality product. **Phil Locker** www.fastcomposites.ca (613) 599-6951

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

Neal Lewanda – repairs, fiberglass/gel coat, rudders, keel work, etc. - neallewanda@msn.com, (508) 264-7973

Doyle Sails at (978) 740-5950 for fast Rhodes 19 sails

Sailor's Tailor www.sailortailors.com for boat covers, rudder bags and any other marine stitching need.



NOTICE BOARD

Rhodes 19 O'Day Hull #1252, built 1968 Name: The General E. Lee. 5th in the 2006 nationals (and doubtless numerous other successes under Zane Yoder). Situated Rockport, MA. Hull condition: good, ribs replaced, could use paint and polish beneath the water line. Interior and rigging condition: fair. Sails: Main and Jib nearly new, Spinnaker fair. (Various used sails in addition.) Trailer condition: fair – needs paintwork attending to. Email: Tim Parker parkerdtim@gmail.com

Rhodes 19 #2335 Full "Waterline" process with on bottom and keel. VC Offshore bottom paint finished to mirror smooth. Ribs replaced and boat is strong with no soft spots. Tapered mast and all running rigging for racing. All Doyle sails. New, unused jib; 2006 main, spinnaker (2). Triad trailer, excellent condition. In Hingham. \$8,750. David Blanchard 617-759-9230 dblanchard30@verizon.net

1968 Rhodes 19 O'Day - "Rhodester" - Sail #1799 - Excellent condition. Completely renovated, rigged for racing and ready to race this season. Tapered mast, extra set of standing rigging (new and unused). Two sets of sails - Brand new 2013 Doyle Racing Main and Jib (never used). Second set of Doyle Sails (Main and Jib) and a spinnaker. Trailer, "On the Road", with 6 pads, road worthy and in very good condition. Photos: <http://goo.gl/jesNM> Mooring gear incl. Located in Norwell, MA Asking \$8,500 swchis7@gmail.com

Wanted: Used Rhodes – Holly Giannino holly.giannino@bos.frb.org

Sails Wanted

- Will purchase immediately Stefan Ianchulev (From Marblehead's Fleet 5) at sian66@yahoo.com
- Will buy: Alex Arnold at aarnold@dmcos.com
- Donations - Dave DiLorenzo at dave@couragoussailing.org
- Will buy: mariannechinkle@gmail.com
- Will buy: dave@bayislandyachts.com
- Sails wanted please contact jjbrady219@comcast.net
- Sails wanted please contact tcremer@optonline.net



GO FAST TIP

Visualize. This one sounds very Zen-like but it works.

In the shower, or while you're eating lunch, or while you're driving to work. Go through a race in your head. The starts, the mark roundings, the sets, the tacks, the gibes, winning.

It's a crazy simple thing but this works! It's kind of the same as going over a trip on a map before you head out the door. You know where you're going, you don't miss a turn and.... guess what? You get there without making a mistake. Mental preparation works – try it.



2013 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This is the *official* scheduled calendar for 2013

Event	Date	Home of
Winter Party	January 12 th	Christina & Kim Pandapas
Registration Meeting	April 25th	Lynn & Jeff Shoreman
Post-MRA Race Party	June 8th	Jill & Peter Weise
4th of July Cookout	July 6th	Jane & John Casler
Race Week Party -	July 25th	Jennifer & Steve Uhl
Labor Day Party	August 31st	Sloan & Charlie Pendleton
Awards Party	November TBA	Elise Mazareas & Mike Nash

FLEET PROFILE – Q&A WITH ROB BRESLIN *Continued*

Who is your crew?

My crew and boat owner is Eric Thornton, who is also relatively new to the Marblehead area. He and I first met when we both worked at Merrill Lynch. I was looking for a new place to go racing, and he was an incredibly enthusiastic novice sailor who wanted to develop his racing skills and get good as quickly as possible. Well, as we became better friends we both decided that committing to a R19 program this summer would be fun for both of us. To date Eric has only raced in one official R19 regatta and sailed on three MRA Saturdays. I am really impressed at his dedication to the sport, and can see that with some more experience he will continue to get better and better.

What is your favorite non-sailing activity?

Reading books on military history

What do you do for work?

Financial services

What is your most memorable sailing moment?

My best moment, or most influential moment, was way back in high school. I was a junior on our team and we qualified to race in the High School New England Championships at the Coast Guard Academy. Our "A" fleet guy, who was way better than me, was sick, so I had to sail in his place. At the time I was not very confident in my ability, and was wildly intimidated by the other big name teams at the event. To make a long story short, I ended up winning the regatta by a wide margin, and got five firsts in the last five races. It was at that moment that I first found my confidence, and learned to trust my sailing judgment.

What is the biggest bonehead thing a crew of yours has ever done during a race?

This one is easy! I was a college freshman sailing in a major regatta at Navy during my first semester, and I was having a good race. Unfortunately, my crew was luffing the jib on our downwind legs and really not paying any attention to anything going on around us. We started losing places, lots of them, and I started to scream at him to tighten up his game. It was only after we were on land after sailing that he let me know that he thought he could "pee" in the bailer downwind without me noticing, which he did, and that he was sorry he lost us all those boats. Well, I did notice, and he never sailed with me after that. What a bonehead!

What is the biggest bonehead thing you've done during a race?

This one is hard because I have done every bone-headed thing (except "see above") you can do in a boat. Possibly the most embarrassing thing I ever experienced was me trying to impress a new girlfriend's father and his racing buddies with my sailing prowess, only to put the spinnaker up sideways in a race we were winning. You can bet I paid dearly for that one. Bonehead!

What's the best tip you could give someone who is sailing a Rhodes for the first time?

My tip would be to ask lots of questions of the best people in the fleet, and try not to reinvent the wheel. Also, enjoy the R19 "scene" that has been developed over the years. The quality of the racing on the water, and the quality of the people off the water, should not be taken for granted. Its a rare fleet that enjoys spending so much time together, so make sure you embrace it for as long as you can.

What book are you reading?

"A Bright Shining Lie," by Neal Sheahan.

Name one thing about yourself that fellow Fleet 5 members might be surprised to know about you.

I'll give you two: I've got a Masters Degree in History, and am the only boy sandwiched between four sisters.



 **BIG FLEET STARTS**

By Charlie Pendleton

So, as of press time, we're at 34 32 boats registered for Race Week. That's about twice the average we see during an MRA Saturday and it's going to be a BIG factor on the starting line. I promise you that there will be teams that tell stories about how they gave away their chance of winning Race Week on the starting line – I've been there. 32 boats means traffic and a starting line that will be a lot longer than most are used to. Some things to consider when starting as we all get ready for the main event this summer:

Orient and Plan: Once the Race Committee has set the starting line, get oriented to it. While there are several ways to do this, Jim and I like to do the very basic: Sail off the line on starboard near the boat, close hauled. We take a look at the angle and determine if there is any bias in the line – which end looks favored? Get a line site if there are objects on land, behind the pin, that you can use to judge how close you are to the line. This is important on long lines. Check for current and make sure you know how it will impact your approach to the line. Given the wind conditions, determine how much time you'll need to get the boat up to full speed. Will you need to sheet in and pull the trigger at 25 seconds? 15 seconds? Expect a lot of starting line slop with all the boat traffic and in light air, expect some big dead spots on the line with the blanket of sails circling around. You need to be at speed when the gun goes off to hold your lane. Be sure to talk the starting plan through with your team so you are all on the same page.

Learn the people, learn the fleet: Know thy neighbor – don't start to windward of a pincher or to leeward of someone that is going to roll over you. You know who they are! There are boats in this fleet that I try not to start near because I know I'll get killed off the line if I do. Think about who you are setting up next to and give yourself the best chance to get off the line with a clean lane. Also, learn the fleet's characteristics/personality. Where will there be traffic? Watch closely prior to the one-minute warning and you can see where it's going to be ugly - while you still have plenty of time to stay clear of the pile up. In big fleets, this is *really* important.

Watch the wind: You see boats going head to wind repetitively before the start. They're checking to see if the line bias has changed and they're also seeing if the windward mark is skewed. This season has seen really squirrely breezes. A boat end bias becomes a pin end favored line in the course of seconds. Additionally, pressure can drop or pick up within the last minute. Make sure you're watching and making adjustments.

Manage the traffic around you: Carving out your hole and holding it is tough in big fleets. Know how to defend your space. Watch for boats from behind and be aware of port tack approachers. Talk to the other boats if necessary. Here's an important tip: You don't need to 'take out' the boat to windward of you before the start. It's something I see from time to time, "small ball" tactics where a boat will slide really close to leeward of another boat on the starting line and pin them there dead in the water, killing that one boat's start. Sure, it's easy to do, but it won't earn you any friends/favors and it's just not necessary. Yes - you need to slow the boats to windward to make your hole, but you don't need to take them out of the race before it starts!

Race Committee Mechanics: Expect "I" Flags and maybe black flags. With 30+ boats on the line, it's hard to get everyone to start cleanly without some extra enforcement and our race committees are not shy about helping the fleet to behave. Watch for the RC to post these flags. Also, have your radio charged and on so you can hear numbers that may be called over. We're lucky that Marblehead Race Committees tend to be very communicative. But remember, if you're over, you're over and it's on you (not the RC) to know and clear yourself.

Know when to bail: I've done it. 55 seconds and I'm third row. I'll gybe out and look for a better lane. Don't force a start that's not going to work. Know where you are on the line and how much time you have. If it's not working and you have time, go to your next best option: A lane and clear air that's not necessarily where you wanted to start but is WAY better than second or third row.

Bottom line. Starts will be critical. Minimize mistakes. Be smart. Be conservative.