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## Fleet 5 Newsletter

## March 2025

### GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ



I don't know about you, but March always sneaks up on me. One minute you're skiing and watching the Superbowl, and the next the clocks are springing forward and it's time to start digging into boat lists. Believe it or not, our first gun is in just 12 weeks. 12 weeks! So it's time to get our acts together.

Huge thanks to **Anne Marije Veenland & Bryan Lee** for hosting the winter party again this year. Though I couldn't be there, I understand it included a nice mix of folks who all had a great time. I understand also that the event featured our first Fleet 5 signature drink, created by **Rosy Denton**. How awesome is that? Thanks to Rosy for that, and to both **Rich & Rosy** for toting the bar.

Next up will be the spring meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and spring clinic on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Both are previewed below, and we'll provide more detail in the April newsletter. For now, please circle the dates. Also coming up is MRA's Sail 25 Kickoff Party on Friday evening May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the CYC, and you surely won't want to miss that.

Finally, as in years past, I've taken the liberty of pulling together a complete schedule of events that includes most everything you'll need to know about the upcoming season. It's still draft as we'll continue to tweak it until the season starts.

That's it for now. Get to work on those lists! First gun is in three months.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

A draft 2025 calendar of events is below. It will remain draft until MRA finalizes its schedule, but for now should serve as a reasonable planning tool. Here are a few near-term events you should know about.

**Spring Meeting - Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – This year’s spring meeting will be held on Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the home of **Christina & Kim Pandapas**. We’ll discuss racing, scoring and social details of the upcoming season, and vote on a few things, while enjoying hors d’oeuvres, the fleet bar and each other’s company. We’ll also have a laptop to help you register, courtesy of **Timmy Dittrich**.

**MRA Kick-off Party – Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>** The MRA will kick off the season with a party at CYC on Friday evening May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details to follow.

**Fleet 5 Spring Clinic - Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>** Fleet 5’s Spring Clinic will be at 7pm on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> at the CYC, and will feature a panel discussion of the new rules. Details below.

<u>Fleet 5 2025 - Schedule of Events <i>DRAFT</i></u>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Cup Scoring</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Expected Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wed April 23		Fleet 5 Spring Meeting	6:30 PM	Home of Christina & Kim Pandapas
Friday May 2		Sail 2024 - MRA Kickoff Party	6:30 PM	Corinthian Yacht Club
Thur May 8		Fleet 5 Spring Clinic	7:00 PM	Corinthian YC, Fantail
Sat May 24	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 1	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Sun May 25	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 2	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Thur May 29	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 1	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat May 31	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 3	1:00 PM	North Line
Thur June 5	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 2	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat June 7	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 4	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Thur June 12	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 3	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat June 14	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 5	1:00 PM	North Line
Thur June 19	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 4	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday June 20		EYC Pursuit Race 1	TBD	TBD
Sat June 21	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 1	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Sat June 21		East Coasts - Day 1	12:00 PM	Cottage Park Yacht Club
Sun June 22		East Coasts - Day 2	11:00 AM	Cottage Park Yacht Club
Thur June 26	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 5	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat June 28	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 2	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Sun June 29		Fast Mermaid Pursuit Race	TBD	TBD
Sat July 5	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 3	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Thur July 10	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 6	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat July 12		MRA Series 2 - Day 4	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Thur July 17	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 1	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat July 19	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 5	1:00 PM	South Line
Thur July 24	x	Race Week Day 1	TBD	North Line
Thur July 25		Race Week Party	6:30 PM	Home of Jennifer & Steve Uhl
Friday July 25	x	Race Week Day 2	TBD	North Line
Sat July 26	x	Race Week Day 3	TBD	North Line
Sun July 27	x	Race Week Day 4	TBD	North Line
Thurs July 31	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 2	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday Aug 1		EYC Pursuit Race 2	TBD	TBD
Sat Aug 2	x	MRA Series 3 - Day 1	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Thur Aug 7	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 3	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday Aug 8		EYC Pursuit Race 3	TBD	TBD
Sat Aug 9	x	MRA Series 3 - Day 2	1:00 PM	South Line
Thur Aug 14	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 4	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Thurs Aug 21		R19 Nationals - Practice Race	2:00 PM	TBD
Friday Aug 22		R19 Nationals	12:00 PM	TBD
Sat Aug 23		R19 Nationals	11:00 AM	TBD
Sunday Aug 24		R19 Nationals	11:00 AM	TBD
Thur Aug 28	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 5	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat Aug 30	x	MRA Series 3-Day 4	1:00 PM	North Line
Sun Aug 31	x	MRA Series 3-Day 5	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Monday Sept 1		Around Misery Island Race	TBD	Twilight Line
Mon Sept 1		Sail Salem Charity Race	TBD	TBD
Sat Sept 6	x	MRA Fall Series 1	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Sat Sept 13	x	MRA Fall Series 2	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Sat Sept 20	x	MRA Fall Series 3	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Friday Oct 24		MRA Awards Party	6:30 PM	BYC
Sat Nov 8		Fleet 5 Awards Party	6:30 PM	Home of Christina & Kim Pandapas

## SHORT TACKS

***Fleet 5 Spring Clinic - Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>*** Fleet 5's Spring Clinic will be on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the CYC, and will feature a panel discussion of the new rules. Our panel this year will be a real treat and is among the more impressive we've ever assembled. Panelist will include former BC sailing team star, CYC team racing skipper and perennial club champion **Will Bailey**, EYC Sailing Dean and former MIT Sailing Master **Franny Charles**, and 2-time Olympian in the 49er, **Tim Wadlow**. They'll discuss the new rules in the context of areas of the course: pre-start / start, upwind / weather mark, and downwind / leeward mark. You won't want to miss this one. As usual, admission is free and open to all. Cash bar will be available. Circle the date.

***Fleet 5 On-the-Water Clinic*** – As we did last year, the fleet will again hold an on-the-water clinic, led by **Joe Fava**. Dates and details are still being worked out, so stay tuned.

***2025 East Coasts in Boston Harbor***– The East Coasts will be in Boston Harbor on June 21-22. The event will be hosted by Fleet 45 and the Cottage Park Yacht Club. We'll let you know when the NOR is posted, and keep you updated on details as they are worked out.

***2025 Nationals in Marblehead*** – This year's Nationals is coming back to Marblehead on August 21-24. The event will be hosted by Fleet 5 and the Eastern Yacht Club. The event chair is **Jeff Shoreman**, who has provided this preliminary schedule.

Thursday, August 21st: Practice Race and Annual Meeting

Friday, August 22nd - Sunday, August 24th: Days 1-3 of Racing

Jeff wrote in with this quick update. *"I am excited to announce that **Bill & Darthea Collins** have signed on as judges and that **Jud Smith** will be our PRO for the event. Jud will be running some MRA races for us to tune up."* How awesome is that? **Bill & Dar Collins**, you'll recall, were judges at last year's Race Week, and Bill also was outstanding as our 2024 nationals PRO. And securing 2-time Rolex Yachtsman of the Year **Jud Smith** to serve as our PRO is simply terrific. How lucky are we?

Several people have stepped up to help out on this regatta, including **Stefan Thibodeaux** and **Jim Taylor** on measurement, **Steve Uhl** on Website and racing documents, **Elise Nash** on logo and swag, **Mark & David Rubin** on fund raising, **Dave Reynolds** on trophies, **Tom Dailey** on housing and **Matt Hooks**, **Timmy Dietrich**, **Bill Colehower** & **Kim Pandapas** pitching in where they can. If you'd like to join the team, contact Jeff at [jshoreman@gmail.com](mailto:jshoreman@gmail.com).

We'll keep you posted on details as they become available.

***Class Rules Eligibility Proposal*** – Attentive class members may have noticed that a rule change proposal appeared in their inbox recently, and we encourage you to support it. Here's the gist. Our class rules rightly seek to prevent pros with no prior association with our class from parachuting into and winning our sanctioned regattas (i.e. ECs and nationals). And the rules have done a pretty good job of that. However, on more than a few occasions, they've also snagged non pros who are just getting started with us, effectively prohibiting new recruits from

sailing ECs or Nationals. This proposed amendment is intended to fix that by focusing the language on pros only, allowing us to continue to be the welcoming, friendly inclusive group we aspire to be. So please vote yes.

***Helly Hansen - Sailing World Sets Regatta Schedule*** – The [HH regatta schedule](#) is set, and as usual, includes Race Week, which will be held July 24-27.

## SCUTTLEBUTT

***Hitting the Slopes*** – Members of **Team Lane**, **Team Uhl** and **Team Pandapas** spent a week in Sun Valley Idaho together last month. Pictured below is a shot of them outside the Seattle Ridge lodge on the only sunny day they had together, as it snowed the rest of the time. Accumulation over the week totaled more than three feet, challenging the group with miles of powder, deep crud and endless soft, fluffy bumps. No groomers were to be found. As you might expect, the relative skill and ability of the group in those conditions was not consistent across the group. Form, technique, endurance and grace were at their highest with the young lady in the maroon pants at the right in the picture below, and declined from right to left.



## MAIL BAG

January's newsletter generated a few gripes, most regarding the '*GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ*' column. Let's start with this from my brother **Jim Raisides** who called me out on my woefully incomplete list of women Fleet 5ers.

*"MY BROTHER KIM. Although I don't usually like to call out my brother and favorite Rhodes 19er, I can't help but point out how you forgot to mention two-time National Champion **Elise Nash** or multiple Race Week and Season Champion **Christina Pandapas** in your list of accomplished women sailors of Fleet 5. Ouch! I will chalk it up to the poetic license of not wanting to mention all the talent we are lucky to see out on the water on any given Saturday. Lucky Fleet."*

Guilty as charged. Yes, we have an embarrassment of riches, and how lucky are we?

Another gripe came in from Fleet Treasurer **Dave Reynolds**, who also took issue with lists.

*“If it takes 30 years to join the ‘old timers’ club, is it possible you would be willing to share the official Fleet 5 definition of ‘younger?’ Notice I didn’t make that list either, and wondering if I failed for just one or both of the criteria you listed. And please file under Gripes, regardless of your answer :-).”*

Finally, we got this from old friend **Forbes Barber**, who suggested the Hacker Award election was rigged.

*“The fact that you can brag about your 30+ year history in the fleet, plow your boat into Bowditch ledge at 3 knots, then get the Fleet to give a hack award to ANYONE else (let alone such hard-working competitors as **Joe Fava** and **Elise Nash**) is a real testament to you **Mr. Pandapas!** Congrats on having them right where you want them. May nature be as fortuitous for you this ski season as it was that day in July!”*

Thanks Forbes, and from the looks of it, Elise agrees with you.



As to the skiing hex you laid on me, all I can say is, see Sun Valley picture above. Of course, it's maybe worth mentioning that later that day after an epic day of skiing, the gods paid me back by causing me to slip on the ice in the parking lot and break a rib, ending my ski season and handing Elise & Joe the payback you suggest they so richly deserve.

#### **RACERS RESOURCE BOARD**

**Alcole Marine** – **Luke Andrews** (978-500-1505) and **Renato Qarri** (781-470-4550) do high quality fiberglass repair, gelcoat & Awlgrip and boat detailing. Email [alcole.marine@gmail.com](mailto:alcole.marine@gmail.com).

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**Stuart Marine** - **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.

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

#### NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Fleet 5 newsletters are distributed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, March, April, May and November. The Road to the Cup mailings are distributed weekly starting one week before the season with the 'Week 0' edition, and continuing through the end of the season, typically on Sunday mornings, unless there is racing on Sunday, in which case Monday mornings.

#### COMPLAINTS DEPARTMENT

**Got Gripes?** Don't be shy. Unload at [kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net). The buck stops here.