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Fleet 5 Newsletter

November 2025

GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ



Yet another season behind us. It's always shocking to me how quickly it goes by. Blink and you miss it.

But turning the page is a natural part of New England life, and probably one of the reasons we choose to live here. We like the change of seasons, the leaf peeping, brisk dog walks, Friday night lights, corn mazes, frost on pumpkins, roaring fires, white Christmases, and so on. Hey, if we wanted to sail all year, we'd probably live in the Caribbean. Of course, that doesn't sound terrible either, but the bottom line is that our season is over and it's time to move on.

But before we do, just a couple of thoughts. First (and not to be preachy), fall is the best time to make your spring lists. Best to write everything down while it's still fresh and before your mind gets cluttered with holidays and playoff football. Another key benefit of doing it now is that you'll have all winter to figure out which amazing new low-stretch, light-weight line you want to use to replace your main halyard. If you're anything like me, you enjoy lingering over those decisions without being rushed.

Second, as hopefully you know, our season ending awards banquet is coming up on Saturday night November 8th at my house. *Don't even think about missing this party.* It will be fun and entertaining, and of course feature the **Rich & Rosy**-enhanced fleet bar, not to mention your creative potluck contributions. More importantly, it will be a chance to get together with Fleet 5 friends, talk with your hands, rehash the season and start looking forward to the next. And of course, we'll celebrate this season's winners, including the awarding of our perpetual trophies.

As we do every year, we'll also select the winner of the 2025 *Fleet 5 Hacker Award*, which celebrates that person who somehow manages to distinguish him or herself doing something funny, dumb or goofy (often all three). As you probably recall, I don't pick the nominees or the winner - you do. Of course, I have a couple of thoughts, but you should show up with your own ideas about who might be worthy, and why. Put another way, come prepared to throw someone under the bus. As she has the last several years, **Elise Nash** will officiate. Elise, you may recall,

along with skipper **Joe Fava**, is our reigning ‘hacker’ for what has come to be known as the ‘bat incident.’ Remember this?



That just never gets old.

Anyway, as we do every year, we plan to end with a short business meeting to elect next year’s team. That proposed slate (below) includes several of the same bedrock volunteers who generously served this past year and, in many cases, longer. But it also includes a couple of new recruits.

First is **Jeff Shoreman**, who despite having devoted the last year chairing nationals, has agreed to join the team in the VP role, replacing **Elise Nash**. Elise has been nothing short of spectacular in her decades-long devotion to Fleet 5 (though as a card-carrying member of the **Elise Nash** fan club, I’m a bit biased). But bottom line, the bar is high, though as we all learned this past summer, whatever the challenge, Jeff is up to it. Welcome back Jeff.

We’d also like to welcome **Jim Gabriel**, who has generously agreed to take on the Fleet Secretary role, replacing the ever-enthusiastic **Timmy Dittrich**. Timmy, you might recall, joined our fleet on a Tuesday, and was tapped by former class president **Mike Lane** to be class secretary the very next day. No shame, right? At least give the guy a chance to find the bathroom. Of course, a few minutes later, and ignoring the unwritten rules of fair play, we pounced too, and Timmy generously agreed to take on our secretary job as well. We’re all greatly in Tim’s debt and thank him for his years of service. We’re also super excited to welcome Jim for his first tour of duty, and look forward to having him on the team.

Though the meeting is largely a formality, please show your appreciation and support for this slate by showing up Saturday night. The evite should be in your inbox, so please respond yes and come help us celebrate.

Finally, I'd like to say, 'Thank you!' Fleet 5 doesn't run itself. In addition to the leadership team, there are legions of people who contribute in a variety of ways, from newsletter contributors to party hosts to regatta organizers, and I'd like to thank each and every one of them for another great year. There are too many to name here, but trust that I'll let you know who they are on Saturday night. Hope to see you then.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fleet 5 Awards Banquet on Saturday November 8th - Fleet 5's 2025 Awards soiree will be Saturday evening November 8th at 6:30 pm at the home of **Christina & Kim Pandapas**. The event will be potluck and feature a fully stocked fleet bar. Bring your spouse, your crew, your crew's spouse and anyone else who should be there. Show your fleet spirit while supporting this year's winners. There also will be a short business meeting after awards to elect next year's slate of officers. Attendance is mandatory ☺. If you haven't already, please RSVP to the evite.

Winter Party – Date & location are still being worked out but will most likely be a Saturday evening in late January.

SHORT TACKS

Fleet Feedback – What did you like this year? What did you hate? What can we do better? Any thoughts on the web site? Did you find WhatsApp helpful? How did you like the Spring Clinic? Any suggested topics for next year? Shall we try the Summer Clinic again? Were there enough parties? Did you like the locations? What's on your mind? Let's hear from you. Email kpandapas@comcast.net.

East Coasts Headed Back to Padanaram – The 2026 East Coast Championships will be hosted by the New Bedford Yacht Club in Padanaram next June 27th-28th. Circle the dates.

Nationals In Chicago – The 2026 Nationals will be hosted by the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club from Wednesday through Friday, August 19th – 21st. Circle those dates too.

Rhodes Invited to 2026 Newport Regatta – The Rhodes have been offered a start at the 2026 Newport Regatta, which will be held July 11-12 in Narragansett Bay. Organized by Sail Newport, the Newport Regatta is a mainstay of the Newport One Design calendar, typically averaging 14 one design classes across four lines. Circle the dates and stay tuned for more info.

Leftover Nationals Swag – Regatta Chair extraordinaire **Jeff Shoreman** still has a few hats and hoodies from Nationals, that could potentially be launched into the crowd at the awards party.

PROPOSED 2026 FLEET 5 SLATE

The fleet will hold a short business meeting after the awards presentation on November 8th to nominate and elect the 2026 slate listed below.

Fleet Captain Kim Pandapas

VP	Jeff Shoreman
Secretary	Jim Gabriel
Treasurer	Dave Reynolds
Social	Rich & Rosie Denton
Scorer	Kim Pandapas
Webmaster	Nat Taylor
Measurer	Stefan Thibodeaux & Jim Taylor

2025 SEASON RESULTS

Our 2025 season ended with a grand total of 443 possible points (i.e. DNCs for everything). Congratulations to **Team Lane / Heffernan** who finished with just 146 of those, earning them the **Nick Nichols** season championship trophy for the second straight year. Finishing a distant 2nd was **Team P.**, who put up 197 points, and taking 3rd was **Team Taylor**, who finished with 204 points. Honorable mentions go to **Team Uhl / Lane** who took 4th on a tiebreaker with 218 points, and **Team Cooke / Kaznoski** in 5th, also with 218 points. The complete list is below. Congratulations to all.

2025 Cup Finals

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Points</u>
1st	Team Lane	2623	146.00
2nd	Team Pandapas	982	197.00
3rd	Team Taylor	1926	204.00
4th	Team Uhl / Lane	2585	218.00
5th	Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	218.00
6th	Team Gabriel	1137	224.00
7th	Larry Ehrhardt	2435	228.00
8th	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	229.00
9th	Debbie Noble / Adam Roberts	1782	230.00
10th	Doug Morgan & Bill Rothwell	1210	291.00
11th	Team Fava / Nash	2485	296.00
12th	Bill & Susan Colehower	1341	300.00
13th	Stefan Thibodeaux / Jack Field	1790	317.00
14th	Team Dittrich	1217	329.00
15th	Team Rubin	2495	330.00
16th	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	338.00
17th	Team Hogue	1228	340.00
18th	Team Denton	2003	352.00
19th	Sarah Sheldon / Ann Sousa	1398	365.00
20th	Team Regnault / Thibodeaux	1316	372.00
21st	Team Martini	1466	377.00
22nd	Eric Thornton	1819	402.00
23rd	Frank McNamara	1939	420.00
24th	Team Hooks / Pascal	1683	430.00
25th	John Casler	1775	433.00
26th	Jay Wager	1219	434.00
27th	Team Colsman	2561	443.00
28th	Tim McCaffrey	1925	443.00
29th	Chris Remeka	1680	443.00
30th	Ianchulev	1645	443.00
31st	Conway & Alex Felton	1299	443.00
32nd	Rob Ferro	243	443.00

NOTICES

Doyle One Design Fleet Discount – Doyle One Design has issued its Fall Discounts. Orders receive by Nov 29 will be discounted 15% and by Dec 31, 10%. The order form is attached, or you can contact onedesign@doylesails.com.

MAIL BAG

Our brief editorial in the final Road to the Cup about declining participation generated a couple of emails. First was from old friend **Tom Dailey**.

“Kim - thank you again for RTTC. I am struck by an indelicate thought - the editorial printed is insufficient to the moment. Reading your opening re no attendees for fall season, I was looking forward to your prescriptions for the sport - here is Kim, our leader with a view from above for XX years - what say he? This is a burden unfairly bestowed upon you. But bestowed it is.”

I agree that responsibility for getting boats on the line lies with the fleets and their leadership. So clearly, we have some work to do. It shouldn't shock anyone that I'd run through a wall to get boats on the line, and I regard low turnout as a personal failure. Maybe that's a bit narcissistic, as this problem is a confluence of several trends outside of my or Fleet 5's control. Still, it's our job to work on it, and that's what we'll do. You can rest assured this will be front and center for me and the leadership team this winter.

The second was from **Jim Taylor**, ever thoughtful as usual, in his analysis of the situation.

“I share your concern about MRA numbers, especially since the problem now extends to Fleet 5, that has bucked the trend for a long time. Two somewhat related thoughts:

*WRT the **Nick Nichols** award; it is supposed to reward participation across a full season, and the fact that Nat and I finished third despite sailing exactly one MRA day (5 year old parenting) and zero Twilights (weather and circumstances) is a travesty. Maybe the way to score it is to count a boat's place not for each race, but for each day, still including Race Week. I expect Mike and Renee would win anyway, as they should, but we would get pushed way down the list, as we should. This approach would give a lot of other boats who actually do show up regularly a chance for some recognition.*

*WRT MRA and Fleet 5 numbers both being dramatically down; a primary reason is that the 'two sausages only' racing is flat out boring, and the whole experience is focused too narrowly on scores and trophies rather than fun. **Franny Charles** had a lot of creative ideas (eg finish the last race of the day off the light house), but he was cut off at the knees and instead we got a bewildering collection of new course configurations that never get used. (In fairness, we also got new race areas and far better communication, which are big steps forward).*

WRT the fun factor, at every level of sailboat racing that I've ever been involved with (which is a lot!) it is the back third of the fleet that determines its success/viability. The top third will show up because they get most of the pickle dishes, the middle third comes out because they have a shot at one now and then, but the back third never has that chance, so they need some other reason to keep schlepping out to the line. Beyond being boring, twice around W/L racing puts a

huge premium on good sail handling and crew work, and while that should be rewarded, those that don't have it are always spit out the back and need some other reasons to give up a Saturday afternoon that they could choose to enjoy some other way ...adding new blood to back fill the other end of the fleet is far more important to Fleet 5 viability. I am as certain of all this as I can be, and as evidence I offer the strong Twilight turnout. That racing is less skill and crew dependent, the courses present some navigational challenges and aren't W/L sausages, the mooring field adds some amusing randomness, and there is a social opportunity after the race. Perhaps most importantly, they are a chance to enjoy some pleasant time on the water with something resembling a boat race added for some interest and spice. What a concept!

You know what they say about doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome...

Thanks Jim. If anyone else has thoughts about this, bring it on (kpandapas@comcast.net).

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.

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

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

Doyle Sails - Call (978) 740-5950 for new sails, sail repairs and all variety of canvas work, including boat covers, rudder bags and marine stitching.

Neal Lewanda – Repairs, fiberglass/gel coat, rudders, keel work, etc. - neal@lewandamarine.com, or call 978-525-2700

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

Seacoast Specialty Marine - Call **Greg Dolan** at 978-255-2769, click on seacoastspecialtymarine.com, or visit on Facebook @seacoastspecialtymarine.

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 1st 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. The buck stops here.

