



www.r19fleet5.org / www.rhodes19.org / www.facebook.com/r19fleet5

Fleet Captain & Scorer: Kim Pandapas
kpandapas@comcast.net

VP: Jeff Shoreman
jshoreman@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dave Reynolds
reynolds.davide@gmail.com

Secretary: Jim Gabriel
james.s.gabriel@gmail.com

Web Site: Nat Taylor
nattaylor@gmail.com

Social: Rich & Rosy Denton
richardsdenton@gmail.com

rosy.denton@gmail.com

Measurer: Stefan Thibodeaux & Jim Taylor
sjthibodeaux@gmail.com

Fleet 5 Newsletter

March 2026

GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ



Holy crap, it's March and I haven't done a thing yet to get ready for the season. But since everything is still buried in snow, maybe it's okay to put it off a while longer. I have plenty of time, right? No worries.

Okay, you're right. You got me. I'm full of it. Anyone who knows me knows that I started getting ready for the 2026 season last fall. I made lists, ordered parts, replaced halyards, took in a couple of sails for some TLC, and so. Call it sailing OCD, and here's a new flash – it's fast. It's a competitive advantage. If you're one of those procrastinators who waits until the last minute to frantically do this stuff, I've already beaten you. Boat prep is paramount. You think you'd ever see **Jud Smith** sailing a boat where every detail wasn't nailed down? Well, he might miss one or two things, but the point is that systematic, methodical boat prep is part of the game. Buffing the bottom, lubricating blocks, replacing old lines, checking the standing rigging, making sure your hiking straps are secure, going on a weight witch-hunt, pulling apart your boom to make sure the outhaul is in good shape, and so on. Fast boats are fast for a reason. When was the last time you saw one of the fast guys sail in early with a breakdown? Enough said.

And speaking of fast guys, I'm just giddy with excitement to share with you that two of the fastest guys to ever grace our line are back. You'll find a more formal welcome below, but this is surely worth two mentions. *Charlie Pendleton and Jim Raisides are back.* They have acquired 1680 and will be back on our line this season. How awesome is that? Never have I so looked forward to getting my ass kicked. But they're a lot more than just an awesome team. They were huge contributors for years and a big part of the heart and soul of Fleet 5. Their return both elevates our racing and enriches our culture. As you can tell, this totally thrills me and has me ginning ear-to-ear.

Finally, alert fleet members may have noticed that February came and went without our traditional winter party. The unfortunate truth is that we couldn't nail down a host. Crazy right? In years past, we had fleet members lining up for the privilege of hosting a fleet party. Sure, a lot of people travel north on winter weekends to assault their knees. And others travel south to golf, sail and assault their livers. So I get it – we're all over scheduled. But tradition matters,

and spending time together matters, and we're not going to let this happen again. So, if you'd like to give back to the fleet by hosting a future Fleet party, let me know and we'll add you to the list.

Well, that's about enough from me. Suffice it to say that our season starts on May 23rd, which is a mere 12 weeks from now. In the [eloquent words of Samuel L. Jackson in The Hitman's Bodyguard...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

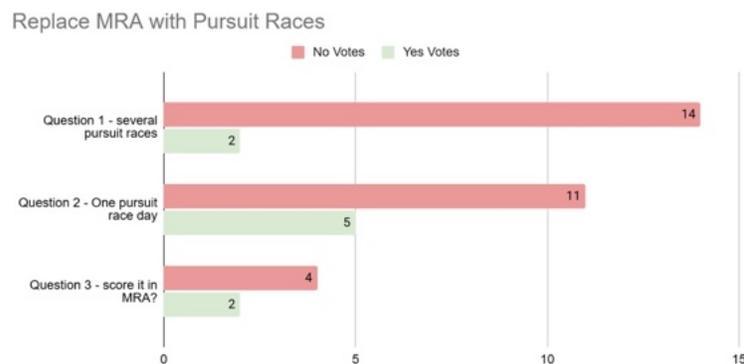
At the bottom of this newsletter is a draft 2026 calendar of events. We'll provide an updated draft in the April newsletter and hopefully deliver the final in May. The first near-term event you should know about is the spring meeting.

Spring Meeting - Thursday April 16th This year's spring meeting will be held on Thursday April 16th at the home of **Christina & Kim Pandapas**. We'll discuss racing, scoring and social details of the upcoming season, all 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 **Jim Gabriel**

SHORT TACKS

Fleet Survey – In January's newsletter, we asked you to complete a short survey focused on what we could do to improve your Fleet 5 experience. So far, not a ton of responses but the [survey](#) is still open if you have suggestions. Or simply email kpandapas@comcast.net.

2nd Fleet Survey – Our friends at the MRA reached out to the one design fleets wondering if racers might enjoy mixing things up by adding pursuit races to the mix. We sent out their questions to a list of last year's MRA registrants, and the answer was a resounding 'no.' Here are the stats, courtesy of Fleet Secretary **Jim Gabriel**.



2026 Registration Already? –**Jim Gabriel** and **Dave Reynolds** have teamed up to get the registration process cranked up on Regattaman. Register [here](#) for Fleet 5 and the R19 Class Association. Jim provides these directions.

“Please register for both Fleet 5 \$80 and the R19 Class \$35. Class renewal can be found by clicking 'My Account' (top right), then 'Memberships' tab if the system doesn't automatically take them there.”

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. If you’ve never sailed there, it’s awesome, so make you plans early. They haven’t got the [web site](#) up yet, so for now, 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. Fresh water, Chicago restaurants, genuine Midwest hospitality... what more can I say? They’re still pulling stuff together so keep an eye out for information [here](#).

Helly Hansen - Sailing World Regatta Schedule The [HH regatta schedule](#) is set, and as usual, includes Race Week, which will be held July 23-26. You’ll find the [NOR](#) here.

Better Get WhatsApp – Fleet 5 is planning to lean into WhatsApp this season, with the goal of promoting better and more timely communication between all of us.

- *“I’m racing Twilight’s tonight. Who else is coming?”*
- *“MRA is considering canceling due to conditions, so if you haven’t launched or rigged yet, you may want to hold off for a few minutes.”*
- *“Who’s up for a beer after racing this afternoon?”*
- *In case you missed it, they just moved our line to Brimbles for today.”*

And so on – you get the idea. So if you haven’t downloaded the WhatsApp app yet, do it now. The current Fleet 5 chat is *Mhead Rhodes 19*.

G.O.A.T. Trophy – This season, Fleet 5 will introduce the G.O.A.T. Trophy (Goes Out All the Time). Sure, G.O.A.T can sometime stand for something else, but that’s just a fortunate coincidence. Anyway, we plan to track the number of race days each team sails over the course of the season, which will include MRA, Race Week and Twilights. We’ll show you the top 5 standings each week in the RTTC, and honor the winner with a suitably appropriate G.O.A.T. Trophy at our Fall awards party. Who will be the G.O.A.T.?

All About Current – How many times have you limped in after a day of slogging through a 3-4 knot current in 5-10 knots of air? More often than not, especially in light air, current is the most impactful condition on our racecourse, and it can be mystifying. **Dave Dellenbaugh** is running a new Webinar series called *All About Current*, which will air over two 90-minute sessions on Monday on March 9th and Monday March 16th. The price for the series is \$35, though just \$25 for R19 class members, and that includes: 1) two live webinars, 2) unlimited access to the replays of both sessions, 3) all pre-read materials sent out before each live webinar, and 4) a link to a Google document with all the webinar Q&As. Given where we sail, you can’t afford to miss this. Register [here](#).

SCUTTLEBUTT

They're Back! – One of the greatest teams to ever grace our fleet is back in the fold. That's right, our wait is over. After several years of honing their substantial skills sailing the J70, the elite team of **Charlie Pendleton & Jim Raisides**, winners of multiple season championships, Race Weeks, East Coasts and Nationals, have purchased 1680 and plan to rejoin us in 2026. How awesome is that? Words simply fail me as I attempt to articulate just how much I look forward to once again crossing swords with (and getting my butt kicked by) this talented team. Welcome home Charlie & Jim.



Waiting For Gadot? – While on the topic of returning Race Week, East Coasts and Nationals champions, this could very well be the year that **Katie & Jeremy Bloxham** make their triumphant return. As you may have heard, they took their boat Persephone to the Caribbean for the winter and plan to leave it there this summer so they can return in the Fall and head through the Panama Canal and points west. That means that they'll have nothing but time this summer to get their immaculately restored Rhodes out on the line. I know, I know. They've been toying with us on this for well over a decade. But with no other floating distractions, this year is different. Fingers crossed that Gadot will soon be here.

MAIL BAG

Can you believe it? No mail.

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](https://www.facebook.com/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.



Fleet 5 2026 - Schedule of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cup Scoring</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Expected Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thur April 16		Fleet 5 Spring Meeting	6:30 PM	Home of Christina & Kim Pandapas
Friday May 1		MRA Kickoff Party	6:30 PM	Corinthian Yacht Club
Sat May 23	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 1	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Sun May 24	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 2	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Thur May 28	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 1	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat May 30	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 3	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Sat May 30		Fleet 5 Post Race Cocktail Party	5:00 PM	TBD
Thur June 4	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 2	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat June 6	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 4	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Sat June 6		MRA Party	5:00 PM	CYC
Thur June 11	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 3	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat June 13	x	MRA Series 1 - Day 5	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Thur June 18	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 4	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday June 19		EYC Pursuit Race 1	TBD	TBD
Sat June 20	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 1	1:00 PM	North Line
Thur June 25	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 5	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat June 27	?	MRA Series 2 - Day 2	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Sat June 27		East Coasts - Day 1	10:00 AM	Padanaram
Sun June 28		East Coasts - Day 2	10:00 AM	Padanaram
Sun June 28		Fast Mermaid Pursuit Race	TBD	TBD
Thur July 2	x	Twilight Series 1 - Day 6	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Thur July 9	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 1	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat July 11		MRA Series 2 - Day 3	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Thur July 16	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 2	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat July 18	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 4	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Thur July 23	x	Race Week Day 1	TBD	North Line
Thur July 23		Race Week Party	6:30 PM	Home of Jennifer & Steve Uhl
Friday July 24	x	Race Week Day 2	TBD	North Line
Sat July 25	x	Race Week Day 3	TBD	North Line
Sun July 26	x	Race Week Day 4	TBD	North Line
Thurs July 30	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 3	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday Aug 1		EYC Pursuit Race 2	TBD	TBD
Sat Aug 1	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 5	1:00 PM	North Line
Thur Aug 6	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 4	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat Aug 8	x	MRA Series 3 - Day 1	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Thur Aug 13	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 5	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Wednesday Aug 19		R19 Nationals	All day	Chicago
Thur Aug 20	?	Twilight Series 2 - Day 6	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Thurs Aug 20		R19 Nationals	All day	Chicago
Friday Aug 21		R19 Nationals	All day	Chicago
Sat Aug 22	?	MRA Series 3 - Day 2	1:00 PM	North Line
Thur Aug 27	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 7	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday Aug 29		EYC Pursuit Race 3	TBD	TBD
Sat Aug 29	x	MRA Series 3-Day 3	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Sat Sept 5	x	MRA Series 3-Day 4	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Sun Sept 6	x	MRA Series 3-Day 5	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Sun Sept 6		Around Misery Island Race	TBD	Twilight Line
Mon Sept 7		Sail Salem Charity Race	TBD	TBD
Sat Sept 19		MRA Awards Party	6:30 PM	CYC
Sat Nov 7		Fleet 5 Awards Party	6:30 PM	Home of Christina & Kim Pandapas