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## Fleet 5 Newsletter

## May 2026

### GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ



The lights dim, the crowd roars and the band takes the stage. That's about where we are, right? It's May. The curtain is about to rise on yet another season, and not to understate the optimism, it's all in front of us. Opening day is in just three weeks, which will kick-off another sun-drenched, fun-filled summer of racing. That will include our core MRA, Twilights and Race Week, not to mention a bunch of other events, from pursuit races to the new Fall Classic Season Championship (and other new stuff) that **Joe Fava** told us about last month. And let's not forget all the post-race social and fleet parties, starting with our summer kick-off party after racing on May 30<sup>th</sup>, which will be hosted by **Brook & Matt Hooks**. The schedule is just packed, reflecting a ton of planning by an army of devoted volunteers. In the insightful words of **Don Henley**,

*"Now it seems to me some fine things have been laid upon your table"*

Some fine things, indeed. Honestly, how lucky are we? Huge thanks to everyone who put in time over the winter to put this season together. Now let's show our appreciation by getting out there and taking it for all it's got.

As I've mention before, we plan to lean more heavily into WhatsApp this season with the hope that it promotes more direct communication between fleet members, gets more people sharing their plans for specific events, and generally builds momentum heading into race day. This, of course, was originally evangelized by **Tom Dailey** (thanks Tom), and more recently by **Jim Gabriel** (thanks Jim). And old friend **Stefan Thibodeaux** is stepping up to make sure we all use it (see QR Code below - thanks Stefan). He plans to get conversations started heading into race day that could include everything from the forecast to who is planning to sail to who needs crew. *Please use this*. The more people who use it, the more valuable it will be.

One other thought today. There are a lot of folks interested in sailing Rhodes, but don't have a boat (or a mooring or a dry sail spot, etc.). Certainly, many of the better sailors at CYC (i.e. sailing team members) fall into that category. Wouldn't it be great to get some of them out on our line from time to time? So, to that end, I'd ask that if you plan not to sail on a given

weekend, please consider lending your boat to someone for the day. Adding boats to the line makes for better racing, and it also introduces new folks to our boat and our fleet. Certainly, you can do that by posting RTTC by emailing [kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net), but honestly, WhatsApp is perfect for that. Please consider it.

A reminder - registration is open for pretty much everything and you'll find the links below, so get it done. As you know, Chicago Corinthian is hosting nationals this year, and that registration is open as well. The only registration not yet open is East Coasts, but the link is below so just check it occasionally.

Thanks to everyone who attended the spring meeting. In addition to catching up over a beer, we resolved a few outstanding questions, the specifics of which are detailed below. Huge thanks to **Rich & Rosy Denton** for toting the bar and making sure no one went thirsty.

Three weeks boys and girls. Just three weeks!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

At the bottom of this newsletter is our fully fridge-worthy, color coded, 2026 Fleet 5 calendar. The first near-term event you should know about is opening day.

- ***MRA Series 1 - Days 1 & 2*** – Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> marks the official start of our 2026 season.
- ***Twilight Series 1 – Day 1*** – Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> – You'll find the SIs [here](#).
- ***MRA Series 1 – Day 3*** – Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>
- ***Season Kick-off Party*** – Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> after racing at the home of **Brook & Matt Hooks**.

## SHORT TACKS

**2026 Registration** – All registrations are open except East Coasts.

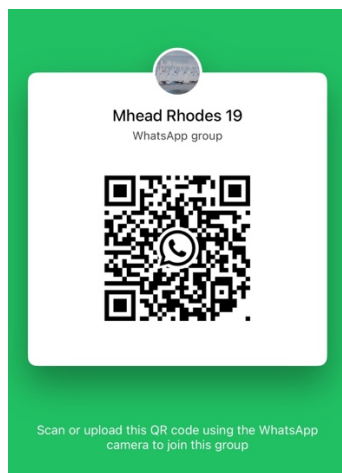
- ***Fleet 5 & R19 Class Association*** – Register for Fleet 5 and the R19 Class Association [here](#). This link will take you to Regattaman where you can register for both Fleet 5 (\$80) and the R19 Class Association (\$35). You'll find the class renewal by clicking 'My Account' (at top right), then 'Memberships' tab if the system doesn't automatically take you there.
- ***MRA Registration*** – Register for MRA [here](#).
- ***Race Week*** – Register for Race Week [here](#). No registration fee required for MRA members.
- ***East Coasts*** – You'll find the registration link [here](#). The link isn't active just yet, but it should be soon.
- ***Nationals*** – Register [here](#).

***It's Party Time*** – Fleet 5's busy social calendar is taking shape. Details to follow. Many thanks to our hosts, and to **Rich & Rosy Denton** for pulling it all together.

- Season Kickoff      Sat May 30<sup>th</sup>      Home of **Brooke & Matt Hooks**
- Race Week Party      Thurs July 23<sup>rd</sup>      Home of **Jennifer & Steve Uhl**
- Labor Day Party      Sat Sept 5<sup>th</sup>      Home of **Lisa & Frank McNamara**

The Labor Day party, by the way, will combine Fleet 5 folks with our friends from the Etchells fleet. Should be fun. Details as we get closer.

***Time To Get WhatsApp*** – Another reminder that Fleet 5 will lean into WhatsApp this season, with the goal of promoting better and more timely communication between all of us. **Stefan Thibodeaux**, who has volunteered to be our WhatsApp czar, will be our source of all WhatsApp related info. He has made it a no brainer to get on the Fleet 5 group by scanning the QR Code below. Any question, call or text him at 317-372-4689.



### ***MRA Stuff***

- *2026 Harbor Calendar* – You'll find the 2026 harbor calendar [here](#).
- *MRA NOR & SIs* – You'll find those documents [here](#).
- *Promoting Porch Time* - MRA has provided the following instructions to each of the three Race Committees. *“Please note that post-race activities (such as hauling boats) take time. If possible, PRO's should avoid starting races late in the day, especially after 4pm.”*
- *Somerset and Mid Summah Regattas* - When you are making your summer calendar, include June 6 and July 11 as 'must sail' days. In conjunction with the normal MRA Saturday sailing, these 2 days will also be scored as one day regattas and finish with awards and drinks (all included in your MRA registration) at the CYC following sailing.
- *Finishing at the Harbor Mouth* - Expect this season's SIs to contain a provision to allow the final race of the day to finish at the mouth of the harbor.

***East Coasts In Padanaram*** – The 2026 East Coast Championships will be hosted by Fleet 9 and the New Bedford Yacht Club in Padanaram June 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. Registration isn't open yet, but keep an eye on the New Bedford Yacht Club [website](#).

***Sail Newport Regatta*** – Sail Newport is offering R19s a start at their 2-day Sail Newport Regatta on July 11-12. Old friend and class president emeritus **Mike Hebert** holds the distinction of being the first (and so far only) to register. You'll find more info [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.

***Nationals In Chicago*** – The 2026 -Nationals will be hosted by Fleet 12 and the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club from Wednesday through Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Register and download the NOR [here](#). Here are the details.

Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>: Registration and Measurement  
Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>: Practice Race and Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>: Days 1-3 of racing  
Regatta Website: <https://racing.corinthian.org/regattas/r19nationals/2026/>  
Regatta Chairperson: Stan Knapczyk ([ccim296@yahoo.com](mailto:ccim296@yahoo.com))

***Refreshed Class Website*** – Congrats to **Tod Riedel** and his team for a well-done refresh of the class website. Check it out [here](#).

***Class Association Survey*** – **Tod Riedel** and the rest of the class association leadership team are pushing hard to move the class forward. To that end, they've surveyed the membership and arrived at some conclusions. You'll find those results, their recommendations and next steps [here](#).

## **SPRING MEETING MINUTES**

The fleet held its spring meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The agenda included the season calendar (sailing and social) and voting on three scoring questions. The fleet resolved the following:

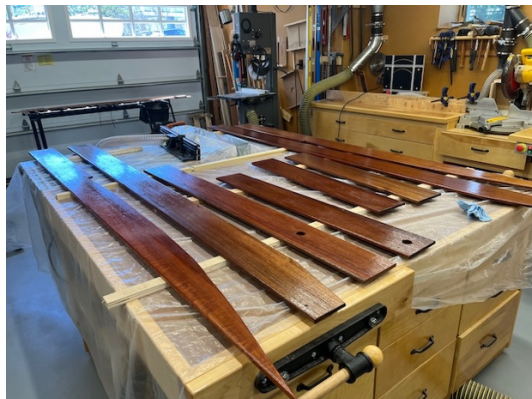
1. MRA Series 2 Day 2 on June 27<sup>th</sup> (during East Coasts) will not be scored, either for MRA or fleet scoring.
2. Twilight Series 2 Day 5 on Aug 20<sup>th</sup> (during Nationals) will be scored as usual.
3. MRA Series 3 Day 2 on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> (during nationals) will not be scored, either for MRA or fleet scoring.

Additionally, the fleet voted to participate in the newly minted Fall Classic Season Championship on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The brainchild of **Joe Fava**, this will be a one-day regatta sailed in Sonars in which the top two teams from each MRA fleet will compete for harbor bragging rights. Team selection must be made by July 27<sup>th</sup>, and we're still working to figure out how precisely how those selections will be made. If you have any suggestions, drop a line to [kpandapas@comcast.net](mailto:kpandapas@comcast.net).

## SCUTTLEBUTT

***Fleet 5 Getting Bigger*** – Rumors are flying that **Wyn & Evan Cooke** are expecting. How awesome is that? Congrats to them. Our sources suggest a due date of July, which means Evan is likely to be fully engrossed in new-dad mode. Could also mean that **Wilson Kaznoski** might be skippering with his dad for Race Week and after.

***982 Gets a Buff*** - **Team P.** decided that, after years of pushing their boat hard, it was time to do a little cosmetic work, starting with the floorboards. Take a look.



## NOTICES

***For Sale*** – Race ready boat for sale. Calgon (1686) was campaigned from 2018 to 2021 after a ton of work, including keel, bottom, new lifting rings, floorboards, etc. The package includes boat, trailer, and multiple suits of sails, including a new lightly used set. Contact **Jocelyn Cook** at [jocelyn.n.cook@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyn.n.cook@gmail.com).



***Race-Ready Rhodes for Sale*** – Old friend **Ian Peebles** is selling O'Day #2688. The boat is optimized and turnkey – ready to race. You'll find more information [here](#).

***Need Used Sails*** – Old friend **Eric Cressy** has an old Stuart R19 centerboard and is looking for someone willing to sell a lightly used Doyle main and jib. He's also looking for a rudder if you have an extra. Contact Eric at [ecressy2003@yahoo.com](mailto:ecressy2003@yahoo.com).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:neal@lewandamarine.com), or call 978-525-2700

**Sailor's Tailor** [www.sailortailors.com](http://www.sailortailors.com) for boat covers, rudder bags and marine stitching.

**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.



**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
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 Summer Kick-off	5:00 PM	Home of Brooke & Matt Hooks
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) / Somerset 1-day
Sat June 6		MRA Party	5:00 PM	Corinthian Yacht Club
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	All day	Padanaram
Sun June 28		East Coasts - Day 2	All day	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 1 - Day 7	7:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday July 10		EYC Pursuit Race 2	TBD	TBD
Sat July 11		MRA Series 2 - Day 3	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format) / Mid-Summer 1- day
Sat July 11		MRA Party	5:00 PM	Corinthian Yacht Club
Sat July 11		Sail Newport Regatta-Day 1	All day	<a href="http://sailnewport.org/calendar/26-newport-regatta/">sailnewport.org/calendar/26-newport-regatta/</a>
Sun July 12		Sail Newport Regatta-Day 2	All day	<a href="http://sailnewport.org/calendar/26-newport-regatta/">sailnewport.org/calendar/26-newport-regatta/</a>
Thur July 16	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 1	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 2	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Friday July 31		EYC Pursuit Race 3	TBD	TBD
Sat Aug 1	x	MRA Series 2 - Day 5	1:00 PM	North Line
Thur Aug 6	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 3	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 4	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Wednesday Aug 19		R19 Nationals	All day	Chicago
Thur Aug 20	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 5	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 6	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat Aug 29	x	MRA Series 3 - Day 3	1:00 PM	Brimbles Line (Short Course Format)
Thurs Sep 3	x	Twilight Series 2 - Day 7	6:00 PM	Twilight Line
Sat Sept 5	x	MRA Series 3 - Day 4	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Sat Sept 5		Fleet 5 / Etchells Labor Day Party	5PM	Home of Lisa & Frank McNamara
Sun Sept 6	x	MRA Series 3 - Day 5	1:00 PM	South Line (consolidated - all fleets)
Mon Sept 7		Around Misery Island Race	TBD	Twilight Line
Mon Sept 7		Sail Salem Charity Race	TBD	TBD
Sat Sept 19		Fall Classic-Season Championship	TBD	TBD
Sat Sept 19		MRA Awards Party	6:30 PM	Corinthian Yacht Club
Sat Nov 7		Fleet 5 Awards Party	6:30 PM	Home of Christina & Kim Pandapas