



ROAD TO THE CUP – WEEK 0

2026 Preview - 5/17/26

What You Need To Know

- ***Time To Register*** – Registration is open for everything so get it done. Links below.
- ***MRA Opening Day – Saturday May 23rd*** MRA kicks off the 2026 season on Saturday and Sunday, May 23-24. Racing is scheduled for the South Line, and first gun is at 1PM. You'll find the SIs [here](#).
- ***Twilight Opening Day – Thursday May 28th*** The first Twilight of 2026 will be Thursday evening May 28th. First gun is 7PM. You'll find the SIs [here](#).
- ***First Party – Saturday May 30th*** The first party of the new season will be held after sailing at the home of **Anne Marije Veenland and Bryan Lee**. The invite went out on Friday.

Welcome Back

Welcome to another year of Road To The Cup. RTTC was introduced 16 years ago to provide a weekly snapshot of our racing, scores, upcoming events, and anything else that might brighten your day. Think of it as part racing recap, part newsletter and part gossip column. We gather racing information from first-hand accounts and score sheets, but rely heavily on you for news, scuttlebutt, and gossip, so don't be shy. If you have a funny picture, a bit of dirt, a news event or even something legit like a birth announcement, just lob it in to kpandapas@comcast.net and we'll do the rest.

RTTC is distributed by email every Sunday morning, unless there is racing on Sunday, in which case, Monday morning. If you don't get it, check your spam. If you want out, let us know and we'll take you off the list. And if you know someone who might want in, send us their email and we'll add them.

Cup Scoring Overview

Next Saturday kicks off our annual battle for the **Nick Nichols** Trophy, aka 'The Cup.' Below is a quick overview of the Cup, a little history, and a review of what scores will be included.

The **Nick Nichols** Season Championship Trophy is named in memory of long-time Townie and Rhodes skipper **Nathan ‘Nick’ Nichols**. It is among our most coveted prizes because, it’s not just about winning a day or a series, but about sustaining a competitive campaign over the entire season. To win the Cup, you need to sail just about every week and turn in consistently solid results. You don’t have to win every race, but you do have to show up and be competitive. We’ll use this soapbox each week to document the journey, with race day recaps and top ten rankings.

Don’t confuse Cup scoring with MRA scoring. MRA will crown a champion based on the aggregated results of the three MRA series. By contrast, Cup scoring includes the aggregated results of virtually everything. Our 2026 scored racing will include the following:

- MRA Series 1, 2 & 3
- Twilight Series 1 & 2
- Race Week

You’ll find all those dates on the calendar below, as well as on the [MRA schedule](#).

As to Twilights, there will be 14 scored Twilight Thursdays between Memorial Day and Labor Day, evenly split into the two series, as follows.

Series 1 – May 28, June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25, July 2, July 9

Series 2 – July 16, July 30, August 6, August 13, August 20, August 27, September 3

Please remember that first gun is at 7pm until Race Week and at 6pm after. You’ll find the SIs [here](#).

Also this reminder – we resolved the following scoring issues at the spring meeting:

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

Well, there it is. I’m ready, as is your entire RTTC team, which includes Twilight reporters **John Casler & Steve Uhl**, contributing photographers, including old friend **Bruce Durkee**, and of course, my life editor **Christina Pandapas**. They’re all here and ready to go. Let the games begin.

So, in Cup competition, we’re all tied up.

Week 0

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Points</u>
1st	Rob Ferro	243	0.00
1st	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	0.00
1st	Team Pandapas	982	0.00
1st	Team Colzman	1210	0.00
1st	Team Dittrich	1217	0.00
1st	Jay Wager	1219	0.00
1st	Team Hoguet	1228	0.00
1st	Team Regnault / Thibodeaux	1316	0.00
1st	Bill Colehower	1341	0.00
1st	Sarah Sheldon / Ann Sousa	1398	0.00
1st	Team Martini	1466	0.00
1st	Ianchulev	1645	0.00
1st	Team Pendleton / Raisides	1680	0.00
1st	Team Hooks / Pascal	1683	0.00
1st	John Casler	1775	0.00
1st	Debbie Noble	1782	0.00
1st	Eric Thornton	1819	0.00
1st	Tim McCaffrey	1925	0.00
1st	Team Taylor	1926	0.00
1st	Frank McNamara	1939	0.00
1st	Team Denton	2003	0.00
1st	Larry Ehrhardt	2435	0.00
1st	Team Fava / Nash	2485	0.00
1st	Team Rubin	2495	0.00
1st	Team Uhl / Lane	2585	0.00
1st	Team Gabriel	1137	0.00
1st	Team Lane	2623	0.00
1st	Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	0.00
1st	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	0.00
1st	Adam Roberts / Alden Reid	TBD	0.00

Week 1 racing will include the first two days of MRA Series 1 on Saturday May 23rd and Sunday May 24th. First gun is at 1pm.

Don't forget that Twilights start Week 2 on Thursday May 28th.

Other News, Notices & Miscellaneous Scuttlebutt

Time To Register – If you haven't registered yet, what are you waiting for? Here are the links.

- [Fleet 5 & R19 Class Association](#)
- [MRA](#)
- [East Coasts](#)
- [Race Week](#)
- [Nationals](#)

Race Week Registration Reminder – The Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta, will be Thursday through Sunday, July 23-26. Your MRA fee covers the entry fee, so you don't have to pay an additional fee, but you do have to register.

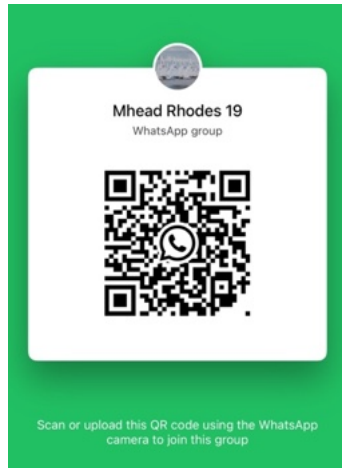
Fleet 5 Summer Kick-Off Party – May 30th - Our first party of the season will be generously hosted by **Anne Marije Veenland & Bryan Lee**. **Rich & Rosy Denton** will deliver a fully stocked fleet bar, so it's doubtful anyone will go thirsty. Rumor has it that Rosy is cooking up another of her signature cocktails, and of course, none of us want to miss that. The party will be potluck, so please let the hosts know what you plan to bring when you RSVP. The invite, which went out Friday, includes the details.

Introducing the G.O.A.T. - 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.?



Fall Classic Nominations - New this year on September 19 will be a Marblehead Harbor sailing championship, which will bring together the top finishers from each of the MRA fleets for a day of fleet racing in Sonars. The notice of race is [here](#). Fleets are asked to nominate two teams to compete in the event, and nominations are due by July 27th. The question is, what criteria should Fleet 5 use to nominate. Some options include, 1) top two in cup standings, 2) top two in Race Week, 3) top of the 'spin' rankings, 4) subjective vote of registered fleet members, or 5) just let the leadership decide. Send your thoughts to kpandapas@comcast.net.

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** has volunteered to be our WhatsApp czar, and 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.



If You Spin, Send It In – As in year's past, to promote fair sailing, sportsmanship and keeping it on the racecourse, we're continuing 'If you spin, send it in.' So, if you spin, please send an email after racing to kpandapas@comcast.net and let me know how many fouls you committed for which you exonerated yourself. I'll tally them up, give an appropriately laudatory sportsmanship shout-out, and also keep you apprised of the season totals. The season winner with the most spins will be appropriately recognized at the awards party this fall.

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.



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.

Mail Bag

No mail this week.

Complaints Department

Got Gripes? Don't be shy. Unload at kpandapas@comcast.net. The buck stops here. -kp

Fleet 5 2026 - Schedule of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cup</u> <u>Scoring</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Expected</u> <u>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 Anne Marije Veenland & Bryan Lee
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	sailnewport.org/calendar/26-newport-regatta/
Sun July 12		Sail Newport Regatta-Day 2	All day	sailnewport.org/calendar/26-newport-regatta/
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