



ROAD TO THE CUP – WEEK 10 – RACE WEEK EDITION

7/27/26

What You Need To Know

- Twilights resume on Thursday July 30th with Series 2, Race 2.
- MRA resumes on Saturday Aug 2nd with Series 2-5.
- EYC holds Race 3 of its Pursuit Race series on Friday evening July 31st.
- Nationals starts in Chicago on Wednesday Aug 19th.

Fleet 5 Race Week Party – Before we get started, I’d like to thank **Jennifer & Steve Uhl**, who on Thursday evening opened their home and treated us to their gracious hospitality - *again!* They have been hosting our signature RW party for longer than I can remember, and as usual, they completely outdid themselves. We couldn’t be more appreciative. Many thanks to them, as well as to our Fleet 5 social team of **Rich & Rosy Denton**, not just for stocking and delivering the bar, but massaging it into a truly robust and delightful experience. Did you try Rosy’s blueberry mojitos? Delicious!

Last Week’s Racing

Junior Race Week – As we always do in this Race Week edition, we’ll start with Junior Race Week. Close to 150 junior sailors racing 100 boats, including 420s, Lasers and Optimists Dinghies, descended on Pleon Yacht Club last Sunday for Marblehead Junior Race Week, the centerpiece of the junior racing schedule. The three-day event ran Monday through Wednesday.

Usually, the fleets are split into four lines, including 420s, Opti Greens, Opti Champs and Lasers, run respectively by the race committees of EYC, BYC, CYC and MYC (Manchester Yacht Club). But this year, with only five Lasers registered, they collapsed it to three. Between the race committees, safety boats, coaches and onshore staff, there were no fewer than 50-60 volunteers contributing to this event, many of whom from Fleet 5, including your Fleet Captain who served as PRO for the Lasers and Opti Champs. The 420 fleet was again the largest at 49

boats split between 420 Champs (35) and 420 Greens (14). Optis totaled 46 boats (21 Opti Champs and 21 Opti Greens).

Several Fleet 5 spawn competed in the event, including **Calvin Gabriel** (17th) in Opti Greens, **Ben Shoreman** (4th) in Opti Champs, **Charlie Shoreman** (14th) in Opti Green, **Ben Gabriel** sailing with **Irma Dressel** (20th), **Ben Fava** sailing with **Sage Wadlow** (9th), and **Jack Gabriel** sailing with **Maggie Svencer** (1st) all in the 420 Champs. Congrats to all. You'll find the complete scores [here](#).

Race Week – Another Race Week is in the books. As I've mentioned before, as the only four-day regatta on our schedule, Race Week has always delivered the full range of emotions from crushing pain to unbridled jubilation, and this year was no different. We typically lose one of the four days to weather, but not this year as we got in all four, which has to have helped Advil sales.

21 boats registered, which earned us bragging rights for the largest class in the regatta. In addition to the usual suspects, teams included a few notables. 2002 RW Champ **Katie Bloxham** made her first appearance in a while, sailing with **Debbie Noble**. A warm welcome back to her. Welcome also to **Noah Robitshek** and his crew **Rob Dexter**, who joined us sailing 1790, which Noah chartered from **Stefan Thibodeaux**. Those guys are good and I'd like to see a lot more of them. **Team Hooks / Pascal**, a bit MIA so far this season, hit the line in mid-season form. **Bill Colehower** sailing with his **cousin Kurt**, finally made it out, as did **Team Rubin**, who we haven't seen for a while, as well as **Anne Marije Veenland**, who it seems simply has too many boats competing for her time. Also joining us was old friend **Dave Hickey** from Cottage Park, who braved rain, lightening, thunder and swarms of locust to sail here from Boston Harbor.

We regrettably lost one boat before the regatta started. **Elise Nash** broke her shoulder practicing with the CYC team for the Team Racing Worlds in J80s down in Newport, which left **Joe Fava** crewless the day before the regatta. Though he turned that lemon into lemonade in multiple ways (see below), my heart goes out to both, as I know they were looking forward to it. It's our loss too as their presence on our line elevates the level competition and always ups my game.

Race week has always been a cooperative effort, and in fact before we began collaborating with our friends from Sailing World so many years ago, the three clubs collaborated on everything from RC to the parties to the awards. This year, that spirit was in full force on Thursday, when some uncontrollable circumstances prevented the BYC RC from fielding a full team. A huge shout-out to the EYC, who stepped in to help, contributing ETO, several RoboMarks, patrol boats and RC team members. Additionally, **Joe Fava**, who as mentioned was sidelined from racing, jumped aboard as well, piloting CYC's two RoboMarks. And CYC RC chair **Dan Himes**, fresh from three days on the water for Marblehead Junior Race Week, piloted a CYC patrol boat as well. The combined RC, led by PRO (and BYC Vice Commodore) **Kate Ferris Richardson**, flew the BYC burgee from ETOs mast, and together delivered a fantastic day of racing. Aren't we lucky to be part of a harbor collaborative whose members have each other's backs and pitch in to help each other? A tip of the cap to all of them, and to the leadership and membership of their respective clubs, who make all of this possible.

So let's get straight to the bottom line. Congratulations to our 2026 Race Week winners **Charlie Pendleton & Jim Raisides**, who for the fifth time, take home the coveted Spittoon. They sailed consistently all four days, winning the day Friday, trailed after Saturday and then buckled down on Sunday to get her done. They put up a line of 4-2-9-1-2-11-1-2-2-3 for 37 total points, beating **Team Ehrhardt / Malcomson** by 10 points. Just a super impressive performance.



And by the way, this brings to five the number of time **Team Pendleton / Raisides** has won the Spittoon. However, it brings to six the number of times Charlie has won it, as he won his first sailing with **Jon Cressy** back in 2007, which puts him in a 3-way tie. Can you guess the others? (Answer below)



Taking 2nd on a tiebreaker was **Team Ehrhardt / Malcomson**, who put up a line of 7-1-1-4-11-10-8-3-1-1 47 points. They sailed exceptionally well, were sneaky fast, and won 4 of the 10 races. Well done.



Finishing 3rd was defending champs **Team Taylor** with a line of 2-10-2-2-8-1-4-7-5-6, also for 47 points. These guys also sailed really well. They started well, were fast and had a knack for always being in the right place. Well done.



Honorable mentions go to **Team Hooks / Pascal**, who took 4th with 49 points, and **Team Kaznoski** in 5th with 64 points. Congratulations to all. You'll find the final results [here](#).

As to the perpetuals, **Team Merlin** of the J105 fleet won the Cressy Award, and **Bill Widnall** took home the **Leonard Munn Fowle** trophy for his long and significant contributions to the IOD fleet and Marblehead sailing. Well deserved. Congratulations to all.

Race Week Recap - Day 1

The Thursday forecast was for an up-and-down northwesterly what would eventually give way to a sea breeze, and that's what happened, though the convergence didn't happen until the leeward mark in the 3rd race, with the predictable results, but I get ahead of myself.

We got in three races. Races 1 & 2 were classic Marblehead northwesterly conditions, with up-and-down pressure with big shifts. Climbing the ladder up the middle has never been an effective strategy in a northwesterly, and it wasn't on this day either. Money was made by having the courage to bet on a corner and win your side. Choose well and you look like a hero. Choose poorly and do the walk of shame.

Race 3 was a different story. It was a 3-legger intended to finish us upwind closer to home, but downwind became upwind, and as can happen when two breezes converge, things got a little whacky. Boats flew chutes going into the leeward marks, until they couldn't. Then they hurriedly dropped the chutes and hoisted jibs to round the leeward mark, and then hoisted chutes again for the 3rd (and final) leg. Astute sailors with their heads out of the boat got out in front of all that, while many of us with our heads inserted elsewhere didn't fare as well.

None of this complexity mattered at all to **Team Ehrhardt / Malcomson**, whose heads were clearly not elsewhere, finishing 1st on the day with a 7-1-1 for 9 points. Super job. Taking 2nd was reigning champ **Team Taylor**, who rolled a 2-10-2 for 14 points. And finishing 3rd was **Team Pendleton / Raisides**, with a 4-2-9 for 15 points. Honorable mentions go to **Team Lane / Heffernan**, who finished 4th on a tiebreaker with an 11-5-4 for 20 points, narrowly edging out **Team Shorman / Reynolds** in 5th with a 10-4-6, also for 20 points.



Race Week Recap - Day 2

Friday's forecast was for light and variable, giving way to a sea breeze in the afternoon. The RC hoisted AP ashore at 9:30, affording competitor time for an extra cup of coffee. Here's a shot of **Team Martini** ready to go and waiting patiently.



The sea breeze began filling about 11, built to into the 8-10 knot range and settled in quite nicely. We had an outgoing tide until about 2. So sunny skies, a 10-knot sea breeze and flat water, giving us what I used to call a **Bill Heffernan** day, because he was practically unbeatable in those conditions.

We shared the line with the Lightnings and 110s, which was a personal treat for me as the 110 is the first one design I ever raced. If you've never experienced going to weather in 15 knots in a 110 with the crew on the trap, give it a try sometime. Of course, I'm romanticizing as there is no way I'd be able to get under the boom at this stage, but I digress. PRO **Don Miller** and the BYC RC set up seaward of Satan's, and ran two races for each fleet.

So this day bore out the old Marblehead – *“left in the morning and right in the afternoon.”* A left shift in leg one rewarded those who protected that side. And similarly, we got a 15-20 degree right shift during the first leg of race 2 with similar results. All of this made complete sense to **Team Pendleton / Raisides**, who put up a 1-2 for 3 points to win the day. Just like old times. Finishing 2nd was **Team P.**, who rolled a 3-1 for 4 points, and finishing 3rd was **Team Kaznoski** with a 5-4 for 9 points. Honorable mentions go to **Team Taylor** in 4th with a 2-8 for 10 points, and **Team Hooks / Pascal** in 5th with a 6-6- for 12 points.

So at the end of Day 2, it's déjà vu all over again as **Team Pendleton / Raisides** take the regatta lead with 18 points, leaving them the last boat with no double digit finishes and bumping **Team Ehrhardt** into 2nd with 24 points, tied with **Team Taylor** in 3rd, also with 24 points. Results as of the end of Day 2 are below.



Bow #	Sail Number	Boat Name	Boat Type	Owner/Skipper	Total	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5
Division: One Design										
Rhodes 19										
1.	1680	Bad Hombres	Rhodes 19,	Charlie Pendleton / Jim Raisides	18.0	4.0	2.0	9.0	1.0	2.0
2.	USA 2435	Rallie	Rhodes 19,	Laurence Ehrhardt	24.0	7.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	11.0
3.	Uni 1926	Jabberwock	Rhodes 19,	Team Taylor	24.0	2.0	10.0	2.0	2.0	8.0
4.	USA 982	Mohotta Mobetta	Rhodes 19,	Kim Pandapas	29.0	8.0	3.0	14.0	3.0	1.0
5.	USA 1683	The Mighty Rhodes	Rhodes 19,	Matt Hooks	33.0	1.0	8.0	12.0	6.0	6.0
6.	USA 2648	Sundance	Rhodes 19,	Wilson/Pete Kaznoski/Kaznoski	34.0	5.0	15.0	5.0	5.0	4.0
7.	USA 1790	Salsa Dog	Rhodes 19,	Noah Robitshek	40.0	3.0	11.0	8.0	8.0	10.0
8.	USA 2623	Harm's Way	Rhodes 19,	Mike Lane	41.0	11.0	5.0	4.0	14.0	7.0
9.	722	McLovin	Rhodes 19,	Jeffrey Shoreman	45.0	10.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	18.0
10.	USA 2585	Woodstock	Rhodes 19,	Stephen Uhl	46.0	6.0	9.0	11.0	11.0	9.0
11.	USA 1210	Tahoot	Rhodes 19,	Walter Coisman	48.0	14.0	7.0	3.0	9.0	15.0
12.	2495	David Rose	Rhodes 19,	Mark Rubin	60.0	9.0	13.0	10.0	12.0	16.0
13.	1466	Il Prete Rosso	Rhodes 19,	martha Martini	67.0	13.0	6.0	16.0	19.0	13.0
14.	USA 1217	Hijinx	Rhodes 19,	Timothy J. Dittich	70.0	15.0	14.0	22.0/RET	16.0	3.0
15.	1137	EVE	Rhodes 19,	Jim Gabriel	73.0	22.0/RET	22.0/DNS	7.0	10.0	12.0
16.	2651	Loki	Rhodes 19,	Anne Marije Veenland - Lee	76.0	12.0	16.0	15.0	13.0	20.0
17.	USA 1782	Peppermint	Rhodes 19,	Debbie Noble	79.0	17.0	12.0	13.0	18.0	19.0
18.	Uni 1316	Dinner Out	Rhodes 19,	Marine Regnault	85.0	16.0	17.0	18.0	17.0	17.0
19.	2324	Strawberry Bitch	Rhodes 19,	Dave Hickey	86.0	22.0/RET	22.0/DNS	22.0/DNS	15.0	5.0
20.	1341	Epictetus	Rhodes 19,	William Colehower	87.0	18.0	18.0	17.0	20.0	14.0

Race Week Recap - Day 3

Saturday of Race Week has always been a make-or-break day, as it represents the last opportunity to establish your position in the rankings going into the final, typically shorter day. Race Weeks are often won on Saturday and lost on Sunday. Sunday is typically a high-pressure day for the leaders, where teams stay close to those around them in the standings, take more risks than usual, all the while trying hard to avoid shooting themselves in the foot. But Saturday is the day to get it done.

The Saturday forecast was a rinse-and-repeat of Friday – another postcard sea breezy kind of day. Regrettably, the forecast proved optimistic, as the sea breeze never really got going until mid-afternoon. Old friend **Jeremey Bloxham** called this one in a text earlier in the day.

“Unfortunately, not looking too good for a decent sea breeze today. Warm air aloft suppresses the sea breeze development.” And he was right, that’s how it went.

A modest easterly eventually developed though never quite reached our line. The RC had again set up just seaward of Satan’s, effectively in a hole about ¼ mile shy of where the easterly petered out, and that made for a long afternoon of bobbing around, with many teams grabbing lobster buoys and dropping sails. Here’s a shot of **Pete Kanoski** supervising some bottom cleaning and a shot of **Nat Taylor** taking a swim.



Race Week Recap - Day 4

The Sunday forecast was for NNE 5 to 8 kt, becoming E in the afternoon, and sunny, which marks the first time in a long time that we've gotten four straight days of sunny conditions. But the weatherman whiffed on the pressure. Sure, as we sailed out, it was light and setting up to be light and lumpy. But by game time, it was blowing a solid 15, and aside from the occasional lull, it stayed NE 15-17ish for the rest of the day, which was sufficient for the RC to get off three. Not everyone was enthusiastic about that, as a couple of boats headed in after a race or two. But most of us, tired of the light air thing, reveled in two butts on the rail, crowded and chaotic mark roundings and surfing downwind. It was fun. It was one of the best days of sailing we've had in a long time.

Of course, not everyone was excited about finishing the regatta with three tight races. The leaders had their work cut out for them, challenging those ahead and fending off those behind. For them, it was all business, with focus, adrenaline and a perhaps a bit of nerves driving their performance. Starts were crowded and contested, tacks were quick and opportunistic, crossings were tight and honestly, I didn't see anyone give an inch. Great tight racing.

So taking 1st on the day was the very consistent **Team Ehrhardt / Malcomson**, with a 3-1-1 for 5 points. Fishing 2nd was **Team Pendleton / Raisides**, who rolled a 2-2-3 for 7 points, and taking 3rd was **Team Hooks / Pascal**, with a 4-6-2 for 12 points. Honorable mentions go to newcomer **Noah Robitshek** in 4th sailing 1790, with a 6-4-4 for 16 points, and **Team Uhl** in 5th with a 1-10-5 for 16 points. Congrats to all.



Final Thoughts

My choice of Race Week MVP is **Joe Fava**. In addition to jumping on the RC boat and piloting RoboMarks on Thursday, he also offered his boat to **Team Gabriel** mid-way through Day 1 after they suffered a breakdown. No hesitation. Pretty amazing, right? I may just have to endow a 'Spirit of Fleet 5' award just so he can be properly celebrated. Huge thanks to Joe for reminding us what really matters and what Fleet 5 is all about.

So finally, a few random thoughts in no particular order. * The Yacht Scoring system and website couldn't be less intuitive. Thanks to **Dave Reed** and the team for patiently helping frustrated sailors navigate that. * I was heart-broken to hear about **Elise Nash's** injury and that it would keep **Team Fava / Nash** off the line. Just rotten luck. * How about that **Joe Fava**. If his good deeds on Thursday doesn't exemplify the Fleet 5 spirit, I don't know what does. * I can't remember the last Race Week we got four straight chamber of commerce postcard days. How lucky are we? * Those guys on 1790 were good. We need to find them their own boat. * So great to see **Katie Bloxham** back out there. Now if only we get **Jeremy Bloxham** to finish up that boat, we'd finally have **Team Bloxham** back in the fold (at least for a while before they sail around the world). * We had three Commodores on our line this week, including EYC's **Larry Ehrhardt** and CYC's **Karl Renney** and **Steve Uhl**. * I'll be honest. I'm not crazy about no throw-outs. I know all the arguments supporting it, but the truth is that we all make stupid mistakes, like being OCS or committing unintended fouls, and it can be disheartening and simply less enjoyable knowing that your stupid mistake on day 1 will likely torpedo your entire regatta. * Along the same lines, I am particularly not a fan W2s in a no-throw-out regatta, for obvious reasons. * I am appreciative of all RC members who volunteer their time so we can play. So it's with peace & love that I say, if you keep us out past Satan's until 5pm in a dying breeze, it would be nice if you offered us a tow. * Boy it's great to have **Jim & Charlie** back.



So, in Cup competition, Race Week always results in a lot of reshuffling, and this year is no exception. The top 10 are listed below.

Top 10

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Points</u>
1st	Team Pendleton / Raisides	1680	99.00
2nd	Team Taylor	1926	106.00
3rd	Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	126.00
4th	Larry Ehrhardt	2435	131.00
5th	Team Pandapas	982	132.00
6th	Team Hooks / Pascal	1683	133.00
7th	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	144.00
8th	Team Uhl / Uhl	2585	149.00
9th	Noah Robitshek	1790	153.00
10th	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	154.00

Week 11 racing will include Twilight Series 2 race 2 on Thursday and the 2-3 races of MRA Series 2-5 on Saturday.

The G.O.A.T. - The G.O.A.T. (Goes Out All the Time) tracks the number of race days each team sails over the course of the season, including MRA, Race Week and Twilights. The winner will be appropriately recognized at our year-end awards. As of the Monday July 27th, of 21 scheduled race days (nine MRA, eight Twilight and four Race Week), **Team Colsman** holds a 3-point lead over **Team Martini**. The top 5 are listed below.



The G.O.A.T.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Race Days</u>
1	Team Colsman / Lane	1210	15
2	Team Martini	1466	12
3	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	11
4	Team Pendleton / Raisides	1680	8
4	Team Taylor	1926	8
4	Team Pandapas	982	8
5	Team Gabriel	1137	7
5	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	7
5	Team Dittrich	1217	7

If You Spin, Send It In – As you'd expect, there were several spins this week, but we only heard about three, including **Team Colsman / Lane**, **Team Hooks / Pascal** and **Team Rubin**. Thanks to them for leaving it on the course.

2026 Spin Tracker

<u>Team</u>	<u>Foul</u>	<u>Hit Mark</u>	<u>Resigned</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Team Martini		1		1
Team Dittrich	1			1
Team Colsman	2			2
Team Hooks / Pascal	1			1
Team Rubin	1			1
	5	1	0	6

A reminder that if you spin, please let me know at kpandapas@comcast.net with the subject line 'Spins.'

Notices

Need Used Main – **Jay Wager** is still looking to acquire a used main. Contact Jay at jtwager@live.com.

O'Day 2253 For Sale – Thanks to Nat Taylor who sent this is. Looks like a good deal.



Wootzel For Sale – Old friend **Eric Cressy** sent in this opportunity to purchase Fred Brehob's boat, which has been reconditioned by Trading Company. *"I am trying to help **Ralph Anderson** find a home for Fred Brehob's old boat. It has recent awlgrip topside job and race bottom. It needs deck repainted and new sails. Comes with a trailer. Ribs look pretty good. Perfect for young kid willing to do some work. Boat is currently inside at the lower yard."*

If you'd like to learn more, contact Eric Cressy at ecressy2003@yahoo.com, or call Ralph Anderson at Trading Company at 781-631-0994.

Mail Bag

Old friend **Joan Thayer** got a kick out of **Team Fava / Nash's** shrimping incident. *"LOL on the shrimping! Thanks for the report, Nat. I enjoyed the humor and good will that came along with it. Afterall, this is a game for our enjoyment and sometimes lets us laugh about ourselves."*

How could anyone disagree with that. And in case you missed it, the incident was documented by an alert photographer on the scene, who provided this completely un-doctored photo.



And speaking of **Elise Nash**, she apparently was feeling chatty last week, sending in several comments, starting with this expression of disappointment in my failure in last week's edition to provide Race Week predictions. *"No Race Week predictions? That was always my favorite – 'Team Fava / Nash' - they could be good if they ever showed up"* 😊. Sorry about that, but I started feeling guilty about putting the hex on people.

She also posed this question. *"Curious actually how many different RW Champs are currently racing in the fleet? Quite a few I think. Would be an interesting stat."*

Well, we aim to please, so we went to the record book and came up with the following, with no guarantee that we haven't missed someone.

<u>Active Race Week Winners</u>		
<u>Winners</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Years</u>
Renee Heffernan (w husband Bill)	1	1994
Mike Lane	1	1996
Katie Bloxham (w husband Jeremy)	1	2002
Pete Kaznoski (w Evan Cooke)	1	2011
Adam Roberts & Alden Reid	1	2024
Matt Hooks & Rob Pascal	2	2019, 2023
Nat Taylor (w Jim Taylor)	2	2022, 2025
Jim Taylor (last 2 with Nat)	3	1979, 2022, 2025
Jim Raisides (w Charlie Pendleton)	5	2009, 2010, 2012, 2016, 2026
Charlie Pendleton (1st w Jon Cressy)	6	2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2016, 2026
Kim & Christina Pandapas	6	2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2021

As mentioned, this year's win puts Charlie in a 3-way tie for 1st for RW wins, tied with **Team P.** and **Norm Cressy**.

Complaints Department

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

