



ROAD TO THE CUP – WEEK 9

7/19/26

What You Need To Know

- **Race Week Starts July 23rd** – RW will start Thursday July 23rd and run through Sunday July 26th.
- **No Twilight this week** – Instead, we'll be attending our annual...
- **Race Week Party on July 23rd** – Our annual Race Week party will again be generously hosted by **Jennifer & Steve Uhl** on Thursday evening July 23rd.
- **Twilight 2-2** will be Thursday evening July 30th, first gun at 6pm (*note change of time*).
- **MRA 2-5** will be on Saturday Aug 1st, and is expected to be on the North Line.

Last Week's Racing

Twilights – We lost the first race of Twilight Series 2 due to weather. They blew this one off before 5pm with a broadcast email from Town Class Fleet Captain **Bart Snow**. *“Right now, it is blowing a steady 24 at Children's Island with gusts to 28. The forecast is for thunderstorms between 6PM and 8:30 PM and for these reasons the twilight races tonight are cancelled.”* Good decision, I think. At least I didn't hear anyone complain.

So our seven-race series is down to six, and we'll have to wait until July 30th for the next race.

MRA - Out on the MRA line, another sporty forecast from the NWS, and I quote, *“Small Craft adv starts at 11. SSW wind 5 to 10 kt increasing to 11 to 16 kt in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 27 kt. A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2pm.”* This is toned down from what it said Friday, which prompted MRA to issue this change.

“The current forecast for tomorrow shows the weather conditions for racing going downhill in the afternoon. In an effort to salvage this day of racing, we are moving the start time up to a first warning at 12:00 noon.” Smart. Tip of the cap to them for being on top of it. Conditions proved to be pretty darn good up until about 2-2:30, with an up-and-down southwester that

backed to SSE. Pressure stayed in the 10-15 range during racing and built later in the afternoon, underscoring the wisdom of the EYC RC's decision to start earlier.

Six teams made it out for this last practice before the 'big enchilada, including several fashionably late teams making their season debuts, including, **Bill Colehower**, **Team Taylor** (at full strength), **Team Gabriel** (at full strength) and **Team Fava / Nash**, to whom I would say, it's about time. **Team P.** was otherwise occupied so today's (very thorough) summary is courtesy of **Nat Taylor**.

*"The day started with a steady eight to nine knots, punctuated by slightly higher puffs. The sky presented a bizarre, monochromatic scene as smoke aloft grayed out the clouds and completely obscured the sky. On the water, a strong incoming tide created a significant current right across the starting line. Everyone managed a strong start with the pin end of the line favored. **Gabriels** bailed out early to head toward the right side, while Dinner Out pushed out to the left. The bottom right third offered current relief. The breeze built all beat, peaking around 14 knots.*

*"The **Taylors** capitalized on the favorable conditions to lead the fleet to the first windward mark, followed by Dinner Out and Hombres. The subsequent downwind run proved relatively uninteresting, with the **Taylors**, Dinner Out, and Hombres leading the pack at the first leeward gate. On the second upwind leg, the breeze built even further, demanding full hiking from the crews—including **Team Taylor**, who continued to stretch their lead. After an uneventful top mark rounding and another clean downwind run, the Taylors secured the win to wrap up the first race of the day with **Fava / Nash** second and Hombres third.*

*"By the start of the second race, conditions had stabilized somewhat, settling back down to around 11 knots. The starting line was evenly matched this time, with the **Taylors**, **Fava**, and **Hombres** starting down toward the pin end. Early in the beat, **Fava** peeled away from the **Taylors**, forcing the **Taylors** to head toward the right side of the course. Shortly after, the race took a critical turn as the wind shifted 10 to 15 degrees to the left and locked in, bringing significantly more velocity to that side of the course. Because of the shift, the order at the first windward mark reshuffled to **Hombres**, followed by **Fava**, **Gabriel** and the **Taylors**.*

*"The ensuing downwind leg was mostly straightforward, though the waves had built enough to allow the boats to surf a bit. However, drama unfolded at the leeward mark when **Team Fava / Nash** went shrimping, a costly mistake that ultimately forced them to drop out of the race. The second upwind beat remained largely uneventful until the very end, when the Etchells fleet intersected with the racers near the top mark. **Gabriels** lee-bowed the **Taylors** 10 lengths from the mark, but an approaching Etchells crossed and tacked directly ahead, blanketing both boats. The loss of clean air stalled the **Gabriel's** momentum entirely, allowing the **Taylors** to successfully fetch and round the mark while **Gabriels** fell short. From there, the fleet sailed another uneventful downwind run to the finish line, concluding a great, competitive day of two races on the south line and everyone in the mix including **Coltsman** and **Colehower**.*

*"**Taylors** won the day with a 1-2, followed by **Hombres** 3-1 and **Gabriels** 4-3 with an honorable mention to the prawn lovers with a 2-RET."*

Thanks Nat. Nice write up. So congrats to last year's Race Week winner **Team Taylor**, showing midseason form in conditions very much to their liking, putting up a 1-2 for 3 points to win the day on their first day out together. I'm pretty sure they'd be quite pleased with four days of 15+ for Race Week. Well done to **Team Pendleton / Raisides**, who as Nat said, took 2nd with a 3-1 for 4 points, and to **Team Gabriel** in 3rd with a 4-3 for 7 points. Honorable mentions to **Team Fava / Nash** in 4th on a tiebreaker with a 2-RET for 9 points, and **Team Colsman** in 5th with a 5-4, also for 9 points. Congratulations to all.

So there was a bit of banter on WhatsApp about the shrimping incident, and I invite you to check that out. But to save you time, here are a couple of shots of the incident, courtesy of **Franny Charles**. This first was taken after a halyard snafu, about which **Elise Nash** commented, *"I had a knot the size of a small cat in the halyard. Pretty epic screw-up on my part. I wanted to get it out before race week."* Totally agree. Good to get that stuff out of your system.



And this second shot, which by the way, has not been doctored in any way, shows why they call it shrimping.



So in Cup competition, **Team Colsman / Lane** bounced the absent **Team P.** out of the top spot, and holds a tenuous lead heading into Race Week, which as we know tends to shuffle the deck.

Top 10

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Points</u>
1st	Team Colsman / Lane	1210	49.00
2nd	Team Pandapas	982	53.00
3rd	Team Taylor	1926	59.00
4th	Team Martini	1466	59.00
5th	Team Pendleton / Raisides	1680	62.00
6th	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	62.00
7th	Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	62.00
8th	Team Gabriel	1137	68.00
9th	John Casler	1775	71.00
10th	Team Denton	2003	72.00

Week 10 racing will include Race Week, which will start Thursday July 23rd and run through Sunday July 26th.

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 Sunday July 19th, of 17 scheduled race days (nine MRA, eight Twilight), **Team Colsman** opens up a 3-point lead over **Team Martini**, and as they say in the NFL, controls their own destiny. 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	11
2	Team Martini	1466	8
3	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	7
4	John Casler	1775	5
5	Team Pandapas	982	4

If You Spin, Send It In – There were no spins this week (that we heard of), so the totals again remain unchanged. 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.

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	1			1
	2	1	0	3

Other News & Miscellaneous Scuttlebutt

Nationals In Chicago August 17-21 – Class Association President **Tod Riedel** provides this reminder. *“**Stan Knapczyk**, the R19 Nationals Regatta Chair, is pleased to announce that registration for the R19 National Championship, hosted by R19 Fleet 12 and the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club, is open. This is the signature event for the Rhodes 19 Class and Stan and his team have been exceptionally busy organizing what promises to be a fun and highly competitive regatta. You can download the Notice of Race, review current entrants and register your boat [here](#).”*

Fleet 5ers Win Boston Harbor Ladies Challenge – Fleet 5 members **Ann Sousa**, Marine Regnault, Anne Marije Veenland and Liza Clinton raced out of Savin Hill Yacht Club this past Sunday July 12th in the Boston Harbor Ladies Challenge - the largest women's regatta in Boston. Ann and her team of Dirty Birds won the Thunderbird division and **Anne Marije Veenland** and **Liza** got a first in the JAM class. Congrats to them.



Notices

Looking for a Crewing Opportunity – **Ramey Kleinpeter** is looking for a crewing opportunity. *“I’m inquiring on if I could be added to an available crew list for your Thursday night races. I’m interested in getting back into sailing after years away. I completed the US Sailing Basic Keelboat program from courageous sailing in Charlestown about 15 years ago. I also have limited racing experience in both the Rhodes 19 (in Boston harbor) as well as bigger boats. In Maine years ago As a kid I owned a Vanguard 15 which I sailed regularly on local lakes. I’m now getting older and missing sailing. I’m a capable as a ballast at 6’7” 235lbs, and can also manage a headsail - but have no experience with flying spinnakers.”* Contact Ramey at rameyk@gmail.com, or call 617-285-5745.

Also Looking for as Crewing Opportunity – **Bettina Sluzar** is also looking to crew. She writes, “I am in Marblehead, have some boat skills but limited racing. Do you guys have anyone who is looking for crew like me, or know how to connect me?” Contact Bettina at bettina.sluzar@gmail.com.

Mail Bag

Martha Martini wrote in to alert me to a mistake. “Great RTTC with one reservation: **Team MARTINI** is second in GOAT competition!” Well, right she is. While ranking them correctly in the table, I messed up in the subsequent verbiage - a mistake apparently overlooked by our expansive team of editors. My bad. Apologies to **Team Martini**.

Old friend **Rick Myers** wrote in to chime in on the yacht Rebecca. “*Rebecca is a race boat as well. Here are pics of my pick for most beautiful yacht in the world in Newport doing a pretty good spinnaker peel and a shot of her at the St Barths Bucket.*”



Complaints Department

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

