



ROAD TO THE CUP – WEEK 15

8/30/26

8 Bells – Before we get started, I'd like to pause to remember long-time fleet member **Dr. Bruce Bolen**, who died August 16th at the age of 77. Bruce's association with the fleet began well before I arrived, and it would take someone like **John Casler** to put a date on it. But suffice it to say that Bruce was a fixture. An EYC member, Bruce was a consummate gentleman, active racer and very much a Fleet 5 culture carrier. He campaigned his powder blue Quadruce (#1392) most weekends and won his share of races. He always found ways to contribute, including opening his home for fleet parties. Although Bruce sold his boat several years ago, he lives on in our collective Fleet 5 memory, and will be missed. You'll find his obituary [here](#).

What You Need To Know

- Our final Twilight of the season will be on Thursday September 3rd.
- Our final MRA racing of the season will include Series 3-4 on Saturday September 5th and Series 3-5 on Sunday, September 6th.
- Our combined Fleet 5 / Etchells Labor Day Party will be Saturday September 5th at the home of **Lisa & Frank McNamara**. Details below.

Last Week's Racing

Twilights – Thursday's forecast called for a fresh southerly that would moderate as the evening wore on. But at around 4pm, PRO **David Graham** was concerned with the 23 knots he was seeing on Children's Island. The Townies were wavering (and eventually cancelled), and he put in a call to Fleet 5 to see where we stood. Many thanks to him for reaching out, and even more thanks for running the race. Sometimes these decisions can seem obvious in retrospect but are tougher in the moment. Thanks to David.

So, as you'll see in a second, three teams made it out. Our summary today comes from **Jim Taylor**.

“An hour before this week’s Twilight race, conditions looked to be decidedly sporty. Sustained wind speeds were recorded at Children’s at 20 kts+, which led to some of the usual R19 suspects taking a pass and the Townies to cancel. Luckily, the TWS dropped right down to a quite benign 10-12 by the 6:06 start, with none of the six available Taylor butt cheeks ever having to be dropped over the rail, even in the puffs.

*“In the best tradition of Twilight-ing, the night was a full-on family affair, with two generations of **Uhls**, two of **Veenlands**, and three of **Taylors** (young **Ellis Taylor** enjoyed his 2nd ever yacht race) battling it out on a quite square W/L course to Mark 28, close to the now famous Gray’s Rock. (We all managed to miss it).*

*“The short story is that the start and the square run were both quite even, with **Team Veenland** rounding Mark 28 ahead of **Team Uhl**, with **Team Taylor** right on their transom. The two lead boats went inshore to the right on the beat, while **Team Taylor** went left where it seemed like there should be more wind. There was, there were shifts to play, and the finish went Taylor 1st ahead of Veenland over Uhl, overlapped at the line.*

*“Much more important than any play-by-play was that the race embodied the essence of Twilight racing so completely. In addition to the generational mix, at the finish grandson Ellis’ response to his ‘Did we win?’ question (the answer was ‘yes’, but sailboat racing is rather opaque, what with ‘virtual’ start and finish lines, etc.) was to give enthusiastic high fives all around, which were witnessed (and amplified!) by an appreciative crowd on a powerboat moored near the finish pin. Anne Marije and Steve both made a point of congratulating the young man after the finish (unsurprising and classy moves), and on a whim after putting the boat away, **Team Taylor** dropped by the booth to see if winner glasses were still a Twilight thing. **David Graham** was still there, finishing up his weekly routine. He demurred briefly on the glass issue, but then with a sly smile he ordered us to sit on a bench and disappeared. He came back after a few minutes and made a big and good-humored show of awarding a 1st Place CYC glass to Ellis while officially congratulating him for his win on behalf of the CYC. **David Graham** is a club treasure, full stop.*

“On any one night, it would be hard to imagine weaving more threads into the fabric of what is so enduringly cool about Twilight racing.

*“A final note: I was amused when Twilight stalwart (and valued competitor) **Martha Martini** pointedly raised an eyebrow when at the pier head I mentioned that I was planning to race with Ellis, who just turned six. It was still breezy and puffy at the time, and I wondered whether she was going to drop a dime on me for child endangerment. ;-) Happily, everything turned out better than fine on the night.”*

Thanks, Jim - well written. It’s nice sometimes to stop, contemplate and appreciate the many enduring positives of this thing we do. It’s definitely not all about winning, and as you’ve said before, it’s also not about glasses and pickle dishes. That said, congrats to **Ellis Taylor** on his first glass.

So, with one Twilight left in Series 2, here is where things stand, with the reminder that next week's race (if held) will be the fifth of the series, enabling a Series 2 throw-out. **Team AMV** holds a 3-point lead.

Twilight Series 2 (as of 8/30/26)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Score</u>
1st	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	11.00
2nd	Team Martini	1466	14.00
3rd	Team Colzman / Lane	1210	15.00
4th	Team Uhl / Uhl	2585	15.00
5th	Liza & Jack Clinton	1686	16.00
6th	John Casler	1775	17.00
7th	Team Taylor	1926	20.00
8th	Jay Wager	1219	20.00
9th	Team Dittrich	1217	20.00

And for the Twilight overall, take a look at the table below. In contrast to this point in the series over the last few years, this is tight at the top.

Twilight Overall (as of 8/30/26)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>TW1</u>	<u>TW2</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1st	Team Martini	1466	10.00	14.00	24.00
2nd	Team Colzman / Lane	1210	10.00	15.00	25.00
3rd	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	17.00	11.00	28.00
4th	John Casler	1775	12.00	17.00	29.00
5th	Team Uhl / Uhl	2585	21.00	15.00	36.00
6th	Team Lane	2623	18.00	23.00	41.00
7th	Team Taylor	1926	21.00	20.00	41.00
8th	Team Gabriel	1137	19.00	23.00	42.00
9th	Jay Wager	1219	22.00	20.00	42.00
10th	Team Dittrich	1217	22.00	20.00	42.00
11th	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	21.00	23.00	44.00
12th	Liza & Jack Clinton	1686	34.00	16.00	50.00

MRA – Out on the MRA line, the Chamber of Commerce dialed up a simply spectacular, postcard kind of day, with sunny skies, warm temps, a stiff outgoing tide and a moderate oscillating southeasterly that generally behaved itself. The pressure was up-and-down, and the seas were a bit lumpy, so gear shifting and keeping the boat moving was the name of the game. Eight teams showed up, including **Tim Guy**, who made his Rhodes debut skippering **Bill Colehower's** boat. Tim is an MRA regular, though usually in his J70. Huge welcome to him.

We had one combined line for five fleets, including Etchells (13), J105s (3), IODs (6), Vipers (3) and Rhodes (8). Our RC for the day, which was a combination of BYC and CYC, set up just outside the **Tom Moore's** Rock can on the old Tinkers line. It was so great not to sail halfway to the Flemish Cap to go racing, though I also was reminded of two downsides to Tinkers – motorboat wake and unpredictable current direction. Still, it made for a short commute, which was a huge positive. Our PRO for the day was **Jay Watt**, who did an outstanding job. His communications were crisp and clear, the courses and starting line were generally square all day (despite the oscillations), and he got off three races for five fleets while generally keeping each fleet out of the other's way. If there were an MRA PRO of the year award, I'd nominate Jay. Tip of the cap to him.

So taking 1st on the day with a 1-1-2 for 4 points, was **Team P**. Finishing 2nd on a tiebreaker with a 3-5-1 for 9 points was **Team Lane** (Mike & Kathleen), and taking 3rd was **Timmy D.**, who rolled a 2-2-5, also for 9 points. Honorable mentions go to **Team AMV** in 4th with a 4-3-6 for 13 points, and **Tim Guy** in 5th with a 7-4-4 for 15 points. Congratulations to all.

The Cup - So, in Cup competition, with one twilight and two MRA days left, **Team Pendleton / Raisides** continue perched at the top on the strength of their outstanding Race Week. Nipping at their heels is **Team Taylor**, also on the strength of their RW performance. 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	176.00
2nd	Team Taylor	1926	178.00
3rd	Team Pandapas	982	190.00
4th	Team Cooke / Kaznoski	2648	204.00
5th	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	206.00
6th	Larry Ehrhardt	2435	208.00
7th	Team Hooks / Pascal	1683	210.00
8th	Team Colzman / Lane	1210	211.00
9th	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	214.00
10th	Team Uhl / Uhl	2585	218.00

Week 16 racing will include our last Twilight of the season - Twilight Series 2 race 7 this Thursday September 3rd, and our final two MRA days as well, including Series 3-4 on Saturday September 5th and Series 3-5 on Sunday, September 6th.

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 Sunday August 30th, of 30 scheduled race days (13 MRA, 13 Twilights and four Race Week), **Team Martini** cuts even further into **Team Colzman** /



Lane's lead. So the GOAT is still up for grabs. It's a two-horse race with three race days left. Who will be the GOAT? 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 Colzman / Lane	1210	20
2	Team Martini	1466	19
3	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	14
4	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	11
4	Team Dittrich	1217	10

If You Spin, Send It In – **Martha Martini** wrote in to let us know that she hit a mark on Saturday and did her spin. Thanks, Martha, for letting us know, and also of course for your sportsmanship. The 2026 spin totals are below.

2026 Spin Tracker

<u>Team</u>	<u>Foul</u>	<u>Hit Mark</u>	<u>Resigned</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Team Colzman	2			2
Debbie Noble	1	1		2
Team Martini		2		2
Team Dittrich	1			1
Team Hooks / Pascal	1			1
Team Rubin	1			1
	6	3	0	9

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

Other News, Notices & Miscellaneous Scuttlebutt

Labor Day Party – Don't even think about missing this year's Labor Day soiree, which will be generously hosted by **Lisa & Frank McNamara**. This year's party will bring us together with our friends from Etchells Fleet 4. **Rich & Rosy Denton** will make sure the bar is stocked, and in all probability, invent her next signature cocktail. The fleet also will provide burgers, and other grilled fare. Please feel free to contribute a salad, app or dessert, but don't sweat it if you're pressed for time. More details are below.



Nominations for Outstanding Crew – The **Richie Santos** Outstanding Crew trophy is awarded annually to that crew who has demonstrated excellence over the season in a crewing capacity. Nominations for this award must be in writing to the Fleet Captain, usually, but not necessarily, by their skipper. Nominations will be carefully considered by a super-secret jury, who will weigh the evidence and select the winner based on merit, a bit of subjectivity and the humor and persuasiveness of the nomination letter(s), which will almost certainly be read aloud at the awards banquet. Nominations will be accepted until October 15th. Send your nomination to kpandapas@comcast.net with the subject line *Outstanding Crew Nomination*. Do it today!

MRA Awards - The 2026 MRA awards will be Saturday September 19th at CYC, and start at 6:30 pm. No details yet, so for now, circle the date.

Fleet 5 Awards - The Fleet awards “banquet” will be Saturday November 7th at the home of **Christina & Kim Pandapas**. The event will be potluck, and feature both the fleet bar, as well as the final installment in **Rosy Denton’s** season of signature cocktails. Circle the date and keep your eye out for the evite.

New Slate of Officers – The fleet’s super-secret nominating committee will propose its 2027 slate of Fleet 5 leadership in the November newsletter. Keep an eye out and definitely plan to attend the awards party to cast your vote.

RTTC Farewell Notice –Next week’s RTTC – Week 16, will be my last edition. I began writing RTTC in 2010, and after 17 years of spending summer Sunday mornings chained to my Mac, it’s time for a break. Your incoming Fleet Captain and 2027 leadership team may choose to continue RTTC (or something similar), not continue it, or do something completely fresh and different. Whatever they choose, it will be great.

Mail Bag

Steve Uhl wrote in with comment on our brief coverage of Nationals and 2026 national champ **Bob Bernstein**. *“Kim, your congratulations to **Bob Bernstein** stating that he ‘has been hanging around the hoop for a while now’ understates things a tad, in my opinion. Bob's first Rhodes 19 Nationals was in 1973! He's been a fixture in Chicago racing and numerous Nationals around the country since then, always in the mix for victory. FYI one of our prior Mainsheets did a member profile on him that can be found [here](#).”*

Complaints Department

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

