



ROAD TO THE CUP – WEEK 16 – FINAL EDITION

9/7/26

Before we get started, huge thanks to **Lisa & Frank McNamara** for opening their home to us for the Fleet 5 party. Nearly 70 folks from both Fleet 5 and the Etchells fleet joined the festivities, and from all accounts, this was the place to be. Thanks also to **Rosy & Rich Denton**, who did the heavy lifting of stocking and delivering the bar, as well as most of the food. Here are a couple of shots. If anyone has more, please feel free to post.



What You Need To Know

Congratulations to our 2026 winners!

2026 Fleet 5 Winners

Twilight Series 1	Walter Colsman
Twilight Series 2	Walter Colsman
Twilight Series Overall	Walter Colsman
MRA Series 1	Team Lane / Heffernan
MRA Series 2	Team Taylor
MRA Series 3	Team Pandapas
MRA Series Overall	Team Pandapas
Race Week	Team Pendleton / Raisides
The Cup	Team Pendleton / Raisides
The Goat	Team Colsman
Sportsmanship (spins)	Teams Colsman, Noble & Martini
Hacker	TBD

- The Fall Classic season championship will be Saturday September 19th. For more information, contact **Joe Fava** at joseph.c.fava@gmail.com.
- MRA awards party will be Saturday September 19th at the CYC.
- Fleet 5's awards party will be Saturday November 7th at the home of **Christina & Kim Pandapas**.
- Next year's slate of Fleet 5 officers will be published in the November newsletter, which will go out on or around November 1st.
- Hingham/H Fleet 46 will host the 2027 Nationals. Dates are still being worked out.

Last Week's Racing & Season Results

Twilights – Conditions for our final Twilight of the season were characteristically light. **Steve Uhl** provides the update.

*"We had a light southeasterly - just enough to race in but no excess. The RC smartly kept us close, first around the nun and then around the close can, twice around, though second lap abbreviated to nun only. It was one of those days where the rich got richer, which helped me, followed by **Walter Colsman** (sailing solo) and **Anne-Marije Veenland** (also sailing solo) in that order at the finish. I believe five boats were out including **Liza Clinton**."*

Well, abbreviated but to the point. Honestly, it was a drifter, so what more is there to say? Anyway, congrats to **Steve Uhl** on the bullet, **Walter Colsman** in 2nd and **Anne-Marije Veenland** in 3rd. Honorable mentions to **Team Martini** in 4th and **Team Clinton** in 5th.

So just like that, Series 2 is in the books. We got in five of the seven scheduled races, which was enough to enable a throw-out, which shuffled the deck a little from last week. Congratulations to **Walter Colsman**, who won the series on a tiebreaker with a 1-2-DNC (8)-DNC 4-2 for 9 net points. Well done! Taking 2nd, also with 9 points was **Anne Marije Veenland** (aka **Team**

AMV), who put up a line of DNC (5)-1-3-2-3. And taking 3rd with 10 points was **Team Uhl**, with a line of DNC 5-DNC (6)-1-3-1. Honorable mentions to **Team Martini** in 4th with 12 points, and **Liza & Jack Clinton** in 5th with 16 points. Congratulations to all. The full Twilight Series 2 results are below.

Twilight Series 2 - Final

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Score</u>
1st	Team Colsman	1210	9.00
2nd	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	9.00
3rd	Team Uhl	2585	10.00
4th	Team Martini	1466	12.00
5th	Liza & Jack Clinton	1686	16.00
6th	John Casler	1775	17.00
7th	Team Taylor	1926	18.00
8th	Jay Wager	1219	19.00
9th	Team Dittrich	1217	20.00

So, finishing Twilight 2 locks in the Twilight overall results. Congratulations to **Walter Colsman**, who got the job done with 19 net points, earning him the 2026 **Charlie Barr** Trophy and a year of Twilight bragging rights. Congrats Walter. Congrats also to **Team Martini** in 2nd with 22 points, and **Team AMV** in 3rd with 26 points. Honorable mentions to **John Casler** in 4th with 29 points, and **Team Uhl** in 5th with 31 points. The full season results are below. Thanks to all who competed in Twilights this year.

Twilight Overall

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>TW1</u>	<u>TW2</u>	<u>Overall</u>
2nd	Team Colsman	1210	10.00	9.00	19.00
1st	Team Martini	1466	10.00	12.00	22.00
3rd	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	17.00	9.00	26.00
4th	John Casler	1775	12.00	17.00	29.00
5th	Team Uhl / Uhl	2585	21.00	10.00	31.00
6th	Team Lane	2623	18.00	21.00	39.00
7th	Team Taylor	1926	21.00	18.00	39.00
8th	Team Gabriel	1137	19.00	21.00	40.00
9th	Jay Wager	1219	22.00	19.00	41.00
10th	Team Dittrich	1217	22.00	20.00	42.00
11th	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	21.00	21.00	42.00
12th	Liza & Jack Clinton	1686	34.00	16.00	50.00

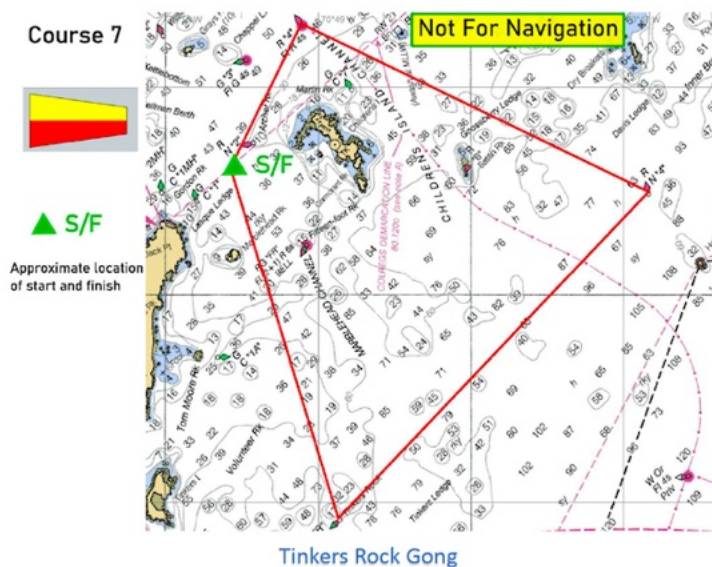
MRA – Out on the MRA line, what used to be called our Labor Day Regatta is now simply the final two days of Series 3. However, MRA chose to shake things up a bit by abandoning the usual WL format on Saturday and introducing a pursuit race format instead. Though this change was on the MRA calendar all summer, it dropped off everyone's radar, including mine, and then caused a bit of stir on the various fleet and MRA chat sites. In the end, it all worked out, and kudos to MRA for wanting to try something different.

MRA published the ratings assigned to each class, two possible courses and three sets of start times: one for the first race and two for the second. Here is the table for Race 1.

Class	PHRF	Course 5	Course 7
R19	234	13:00:00	13:00:00
Sonar	171	13:05:02	13:06:56
IOD	144	13:07:12	13:09:54
Etchells	120	13:09:07	13:12:32
J/70	117	13:09:22	13:12:52
Viper	99	13:10:48	13:14:51
J/105	90	13:11:31	13:15:50

So in case you've never sailed PHRF, the way this works is that the faster boats owe the slower boats time, as measured by seconds per mile. For example, the Etchells (120) owe the Rhodes (234) 114 seconds (or just under 2 minutes) per mile, so their start is delayed by 114 seconds times the number of miles of the course. MRA's short course was about 4.8 miles, so for that course, the Etchells would owe us 9 minutes 7 seconds for the race, and therefore start that much time after us. Theoretically, if the ratings are accurate, all boats should finish at the same time, but of course that depends on points of sail, wind pressure, etc. How are ratings determined? Well, that's complicated, and I'm sure **Jim Taylor** could expound for hours. But suffice it to say ratings are a topic about which reasonable people can (and often do) disagree. How fair or how accurate they are depends on who you ask and whether they like their rating, but let's not go there. Suffice it to say 114 second a mile over the Etchells seems pretty reasonable to me. But I digress.

So the Saturday forecast was for NE 10-12, and that's not at all what we got. By game time, the pressure was NE in the mid-to-high teens, and built from there over the first couple of legs of the course, churning up some pretty impressive seas in the 5-6 foot range. Ten Rhodes teams came out, which I'm sure made us the largest fleet, but I didn't bother counting. They ran Course 7 (below) which was a beam reach on leg 1, a beat on leg 2 and then two downwind/reaching legs back to the finish.



I looked around for the overall results but couldn't find them, though I heard that four fleets were represented in the top four finishers, which speaks well to the fairness of the ratings. MRA's and Fleet 5's scoring was based on finishing order, disregarding the other fleets, so first Rhodes to finish gets a 1, etc. So congrats to **Joe & Ben Fava**, who sailed their butts off in that sporty condition and finished 1st. Well done. Taking 2nd was **Team Pendleton / Raisides**, and finishing 3rd was **Team Lane / Heffernan**. Honorable mentions go to **Team Noble** in 4th and **Team Colsman / Lane** in 5th.

Sunday's format for this final day returned to the usual WLs, and the forecast called for a 10-12 knot northeasterly giving way to a 5-10 easterly in the afternoon. The RC set up just far enough out to give us a decent weather leg to seaward of Satan's. Eight teams sailed out to the gradually moderating northerly, only to see the breeze crap out when we got there. The RC hoisted AP at 1pm, and gave it until 1:30 before towing us all in. So with that, our season sputtered to an unceremonious and anticlimactic close. Taking 1st on the day was the IOD fleet on the South Line, who were more patient than the other fleets and managed to get in a race or two.

So taking 1st in MRA Series 3 was **Team P.** with 22 net points. Finishing 2nd just 2 points back with 24 points was **Team Lane / Heffernan**, and taking 3rd on a tiebreaker was **Team Dittrich** with 27 points. Honorable mentions go to **Team Colsman / Lane** in 4th, also with 27 points, and **Bill Colehower** in 5th 28 points. Congrats to all.

MRA 3

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Sail #</u>	<u>Points</u>
1st	Team Pandapas	982	22
2nd	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	24
3rd	Team Dittrich	1217	27
4th	Team Colsman / Lane	1210	27
5th	Bill Colehower	1341	28
6th	Team Martini	1466	31
7th	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	31
8th	Jane & Parker Moore	1435	32
9th	Team Rubin	2495	34
10th	Team Regnault / Thibodeaux	1316	34
11th	Team Fava / Nash	2485	37
12th	Team Pendleton / Raisides	1680	38
13th	Debbie Noble	1782	40
14th	Sarah Sheldon / Ann Sousa	1398	43

As to MRA overall, congrats to **Team P.**, who managed to eke out a 5-point win with 69 net points. Finishing 2nd with 74 points was **Team Colsman / Lane**, and taking 3rd was **Team Lane / Heffernan**, with 86 points. Honorable mentions to **Team AMV**, who took 4th on a tiebreaker with 90 points, narrowly ending **Team Martini** in 5th, also with 90 points.

2026 MRA Overall

Team	Sail #	MRA 1		MRA 2		MRA 3		Overall	
		Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank
Team Pandapas	982	12	2nd	35	6th	22	1st	69	1st
Team Colman / Lane	1210	17	4th	30	2nd	27	4th	74	2nd
Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	12	1st	50	16th	24	2nd	86	3rd
Anne Marije Veenland	2651	26	10th	33	4th	31	7th	90	4th
Team Martini	1466	19	6th	40	8th	31	6th	90	5th
Team Pendleton / Raisides	1680	14	3rd	41	10th	38	12th	93	6th
Team Shoreman / Reynolds	722	19	7th	34	5th	45	15th	98	7th
Team Rubin	2495	26	10th	38	7th	34	9th	98	8th
Team Taylor	1926	26	10th	28	1st	45	15th	99	9th
Team Dittrich	1217	25	9th	47	14th	27	3rd	99	10th
Team Kaznoski	2648	24	8th	32	3rd	45	15th	101	11th
Bill Colehower	1308	26	10th	48	15th	28	5th	102	12th
Team Regnault / Thibodeaux	1316	26	10th	46	13th	34	10th	106	13th
Jane & Parker Moore	1435	26	10th	51	17th	32	8th	109	14th
Team Fava / Nash	1308	26	10th	46	12th	37	11th	109	15th
Team Denton	2003	26	10th	40	9th	45	15th	111	16th
Team Gabriel	1137	26	10th	41	11th	45	15th	112	17th
Team Uhl	2585	19	5th	51	17th	45	15th	115	18th
Team Noble	1782	26	10th	51	17th	40	13th	117	19th
Sarah Sheldon / Ann Sousa	1398	26	10th	51	17th	43	14th	120	20th
Team McNamara	1939	26	10th	51	17th	45	15th	122	21st
Team Hooks / Pascal	1683	26	10th	51	17th	45	15th	122	21st
Eric Thornton	1819	26	10th	51	17th	45	15th	122	21st
Tim McCaffrey	1925	26	10th	51	17th	45	15th	122	21st
Larry Ehrhardt	2435	26	10th	51	17th	45	15th	122	21st

The Cup - So, in Cup competition, congratulations to **Team Pendleton / Raisides**, who manage to stay perched atop the standings with 176 points, on the strength of their outstanding Race Week, supported by six MRA days, earning them in their first summer back our season championship and the coveted **Nick Nichols Trophy**. Well done. Finishing 2nd with 185 points was **Team Taylor**, also on the strength of their RW performance and a mere three MRA race days. And taking 3rd for the season with 194 points was **Team P**. The complete season results are listed below.

2026 Fleet Championship Overall

Rank	Team	Sail #	MRA 1	MRA 2	MRA 3	RW	Twilight 1	Twilight 2	Points
1st	Team Pendleton / Raisides	1680	14	41	38	37	25	21	176
2nd	Team Taylor	1926	26	28	45	47	21	18	185
3rd	Team Pandapas	982	12	35	22	79	25	21	194
4th	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	12	50	24	82	18	21	207
5th	Team Colman / Lane	1210	17	30	27	117	10	9	210
6th	Team Kaznoski	2648	24	32	45	64	25	21	211
7th	Larry Ehrhardt	2435	26	51	45	47	25	21	215
8th	Team Hooks / Pascal	1683	26	51	45	49	25	21	217
9th	Shoreman / Reynolds	722	19	34	45	81	21	21	221
10th	Team Uhl	2585	19	51	45	76	21	10	222
11th	Noah Robitshek	1790	26	51	45	69	25	21	237
12th	Team Gabriel	1137	26	41	45	110	19	21	262
13th	Team Rubin	2495	26	38	34	133	25	21	277
14th	Team Martini	1466	19	40	31	167	10	12	279
15th	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	26	33	31	186	17	9	302
16th	Team Dittrich	1217	25	47	27	166	22	20	307
17th	Team Regnault / Thibodeaux	1316	26	46	34	163	25	21	315
18th	Bill Colehower	1341	26	48	28	175	25	21	323
19th	Debbie Noble	1782	26	51	40	173	25	21	336
20th	John Casler	1775	26	51	45	220	12	17	371
25th	Jane & Parker Moore	1435	26	51	32	220	25	21	375
21st	Team Fava / Nash	2485	26	46	37	220	25	21	375
22nd	Team Denton	2003	26	40	45	220	25	21	377
23rd	Jay Wager	1219	26	51	45	220	22	19	383
24th	Liza & Jack Clinton	1686	26	51	45	220	25	16	383
26th	Sarah Sheldon / Ann Sousa	1398	26	51	43	220	25	21	386

The G.O.A.T. – In our inaugural competition for the G.O.A.T. (Goes Out All the Time), which tracks the number of race days each team sails over the course of the season, including MRA, Race Week and Twilights, congratulations to 2026 winners **Team Colsman / Lane**, who made it out 23 times out of 33 scheduled race days (15 MRA, 14 Twilights and four Race Week). Good job showing us all what participation is all about. Finishing 2nd in the competition was **Team Martini**, just one point behind. 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	23
2	Team Martini	1466	22
3	Team Lane / Heffernan	2623	16
4	Anne Marije Veenland	2651	14
5	Team Pandapas	982	11

If You Spin, Send It In – We had a pretty modest number of penalty turns this year, which perhaps reflects lower attendance or perhaps we didn't hear about all of them. In any event, we finish with a 3-way tie for the pie between **Team Colsman**, **Team Noble** and **Team Martini**, who in all likelihood will each be awarded their very own pie at our awards in November. Thanks to all of them for their sportsmanship, and to all who left it on the course. 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 Colsman	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

And just like that, our 2026 season draws to a close. It goes by so fast, doesn't it? Week 1 racing is expected to include the first two days of MRA Series 1 on Saturday May 29th and Sunday May 30th, 2027. Have a great offseason.

Other News, Notices & Miscellaneous Scuttlebutt

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.

Hacker Nominations – It’s that time again to consider who has distinguished him or herself in the most embarrassing or unflattering way. Come to the Fleet 5 Awards prepared to let us know your choice for hacker and why they are deserving. Attendees will make the final selection.

New Slate of Officers – The fleet’s nominating committee will propose its 2027 slate of Fleet 5 leadership in the November newsletter. Keep an eye out and plan to attend the awards party to support the slate and thank them for stepping up.

Boat For Sale - Tim McCaffrey has decided to sell Action. *“I am putting my Rhodes 19 up for sale. It has been lightly used and is just a mooring saver at this point.”*

Details: #1925 Action. Lightly used racing main and jib. New, lightly used cruising main with reefing. All standing rigging replaced. Keel, deck to hull joint, cuddy cabin repaired and in great condition. Trailer in very good condition. Asking \$10k

The Last Word

Finally, as I mentioned last week, after 17 years of writing RTTC, today’s edition will be my last. I began writing RTTC in 2010 and have been writing it ever since. It started modestly as a weekly one-pager with a few scores, and gradually evolved into what it has become, which is part racing narrative, part Fleet 5 journal and part gossip column. I’ve generally worked to keep it positive, though with occasional stumbles, but have always been honest. The focus has always been to reinforce our community. It’s been a labor of love and a lot of laughs. I mean who could possibly forget this?



It just never gets old. Anyway, thanks for indulging me all these years and giving me something fun to write about.

Before I go, and as I point out every year, I may write these but it takes a village to put them out. Huge thanks to **Walter Colsman**, **Steve Uhl** and His Eminence **John Casler** for keeping us informed about Twilights. Thanks also to photographer extraordinaire **Bruce Durkee** for sharing his excellence with us, as well as to all of you who contribute pictures and emails. And finally, thanks to my better half, **Christina Pandapas**, who for 17 years has given me the annoyed eye roll every time I intruded on her Sunday morning to do a quick proofread, but then did it anyway. I ask that they all accept an appreciative tip of my cap, and I urge you to thank them when you see them.

The next Fleet 5 publication will be the November newsletter (also my last), which should go out around November 1st.

Mail Bag

Old friends **Peter Sorlien** sent in this kind perspective on **Bruce Bolen**.

*“Kim, thank you for the generous words about **Bruce Bolen**. I feel shocked and deeply saddened - he was six months younger than **Jim Taylor** and I are. Bruce recruited me to crew in his dentist chair several decades ago. It’s hard to refuse such a nice guy poised with a drill over your mouth. My first few races were spent in the bottom of the boat, since he had **Bob Lakin** to crew for him. That year Bruce and Bob had sailed really well in Race Week. Once Bruce taught me the ropes, we had many pleasant outings together. Never any yelling, rarely any complaint (except when even aspirin and Coca-cola couldn’t tame the back pain that plagues everyone who spends his days leaning over reclining patients). As you note, he was always a gentleman on the racecourse and knew the rules well. I still remember one race, when we were on starboard, and from the boat approaching from port, **Kent Hallawell** kept yelling “Hold your course!” We replied ‘starboard’ several times but did as instructed, and our bow ended up in the cockpit of the offending boat. Ever the dental artist, Bruce filled the dent in **Quadrue’s** bow with dental epoxy. The wedge in his mast partner was always a toothbrush. Even when the fancy knot I had learned for the main halyard came undone, and we had to retire to the CYC dock at low tide to retrieve the halyard, Bruce remained calm and polite. Bruce introduced me to the camaraderie of Fleet 5, one of the best features of sailing in Marblehead. Now that the founding boat of Fleet 5, #41 ex Sea Fever, is retired with me on Lake Winnepesaukee, RTTC has been my primary means of staying in touch, and a spur to great memories. Thank you for your many years of witty writing.”*

Old friend **Rick Berliner** sent in this. “*Jess and I took a little cruise out to the lee of Misery as the racers were coming in and saw a sunfish / mola mola about halfway between the lighthouse and Gray’s on our way out. Went thru the usual 4-5 misidentification steps before seeing its eye.*” Thanks Rick. Too bad no picture, though they’ve definitely been around this summer, with one even reported in the harbor. Here is a shot of one we saw a few weeks ago near Marblehead Rock



A few of folks wrote in with comments on the last week's announcement that this edition of RTTC would be my last. First from **Kathleen Lane**.

"Kim, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your dedication to the RTTC newsletters, which you have faithfully executed for the past 17 years(!). Your unique wit and ability to highlight various Fleet fivers and other members have been a true gift to all of us, from Fleet 5 and beyond. While you have always kept us thoroughly well-informed of the standings for each of the series and the Road to the Cup, the RTTC newsletter has truly been so much more than just a stats update; it has been a vital part of our R19 sailing community and something we all look forward to reading each week. Thank you once again for your time and dedication and for sharing your talents with us all."

And from **Liza Clinton**:

"Hi Kim, gosh, I'll miss the email updates on Fleet 5. The updates keep the whole fleet cohesive even when we are all launching from different locations across Marblehead and Salem. Since we do not have the after-race camaraderie, I always look forward to the newsletters and the fleet parties. Thank you so much for all you have done for the fleet and generating the newsletters year in and year out. Much appreciated!!!"

Finally this from **Anne Marije Veenland**,

"Hi Kim, what do we do without you and the Fleet 5 newsletters... 🥺? Thank you again for everything you have done (and still do) for all of us and for the Fleet. 💕"

Complaints Department

Got Gripes? Don't be shy. Unload at kpandapas@comcast.net. The buck stops herefor two more months. ;) -kp

