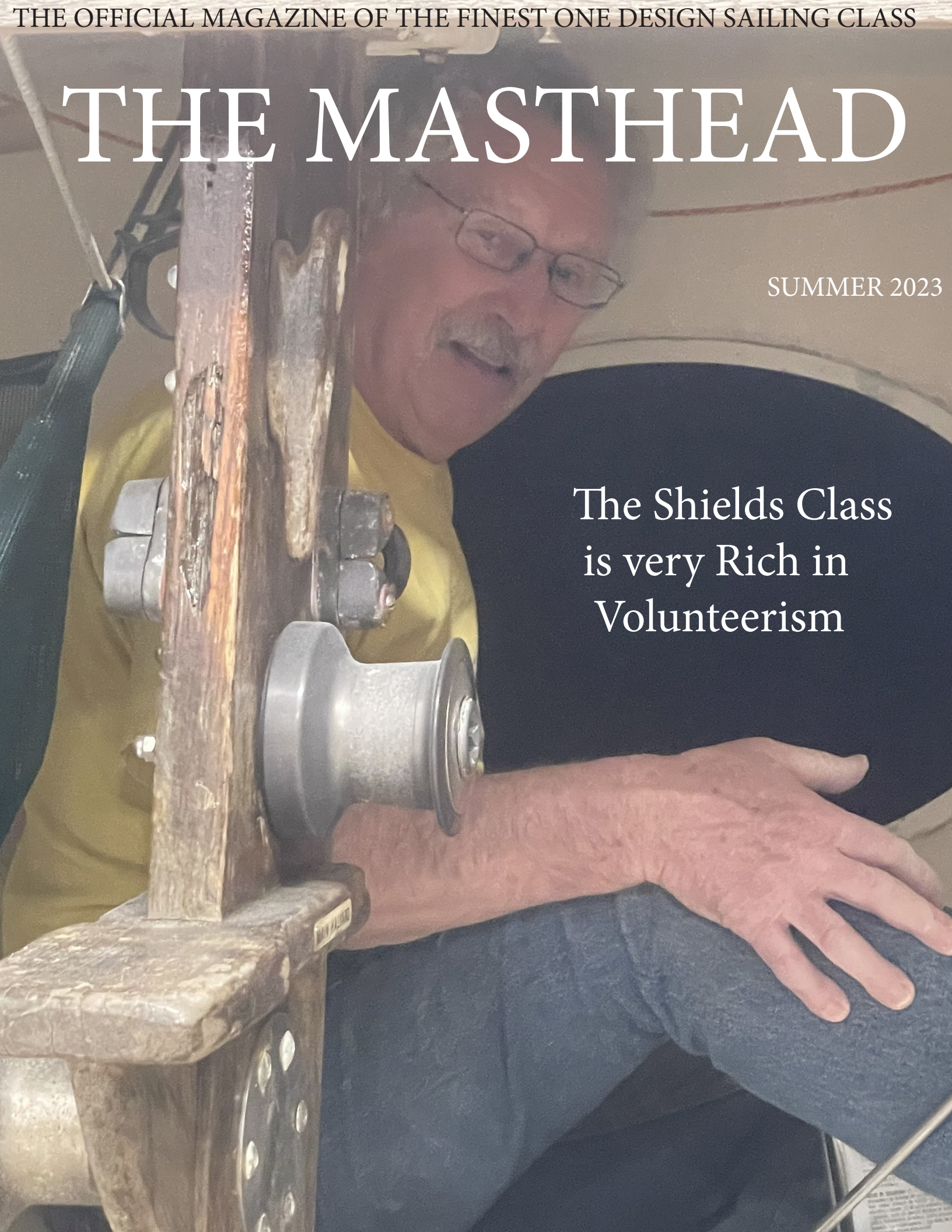


THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FINEST ONE DESIGN SAILING CLASS

THE MASTHEAD

SUMMER 2023

The Shields Class
is very Rich in
Volunteerism



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Also see the class website www.shieldsclass.com

Cover Photo: Super volunteer Rich Robbins volunteering his time and talents to fix up #183 for use this year by a Larchmont YC junior crew

Photo Credit: Kenneth Deyett

Inside Cover Photo: Lee Reichart congratulating Al Burnett, champion of July 2022

President's Message



The Shields Class DNA

This issue's cover features a familiar face to nearly everyone remotely familiar with our class. Rich Robbins is a longtime owner and uber supporter of our activities classwide. He regularly travels to away regattas and he diligently shows up each week to support our local fleet races. He serves as the volunteer webmaster for our professional looking class and foundation sites. He is a past class measurer and regular attendee at technical committee events. Rich is a generous giver of his time, know-how and financial support to help, usually without prompting, members of the fleet, class and foundation. The cover photo was taken after he just re-finished and re-installed the teak floorboards in Foundation Boat #183. The next time you see Rich please buy him a drink and tell him "Thank You" for being a **Dedicated Noteworthy Achiever**.

Once upon a time, Black Rock Yacht Club had the biggest Atlantic fleet in the country. Now it is a prime location for our newest Shields fleet! With a pier and mooring field sitting at the mouth of Black Rock Harbor, sailors and boaters have immediate access to their vessels and are on Long Island Sound enjoying the surrounding waters in no time. Black Rock Yacht Club (BRYC) has a vibrant racing and cruising community. They enjoy a calendar of on-water opportunities all season long with Wednesday Night Racing around the buoys and a Friday evening social Chowder Race. Welcome BRYC, our **Desirable New Accommodation**.

A quick tease for our annual **Definitely Nostalgic Attractions** -

The Edgartown Regatta is turning 100 years old. The regatta first took place in 1924 and was run from a rented cottage on the waterfront at the Harborside Inn. This year Shields, Wianno Seniors, J/70s, Rhodes19s, and Herreshoff 12 1/2s will be competing July 15 and 16. Only the Shields will compete all three days for the Shields New England Championship July 14-16. Please consider joining this very significant event and enjoying the legendary EYC hospitality.

The 2023 Oceans-Great Lake Challenge will again be hosted by Larchmont Yacht Club. Bring your team and sails. Shields Fleet #1 will provide boats/lodging for all. Please email Doug Millar at dougmillar567@gmail.com to plan your weekend trip on July 28-30.

Shields Fleet 10 and the Beverly Yacht Club are excited to host the 59th Shields National Regatta September 27-30, in Marion, MA. Thank you to our sponsor **Burr Brothers Boats, Inc.** and the planning committee for organizing what promises to be a terrific event. Yes, it is a possibility to have 30 Shields in Marion! Help make this happen by signing up and visiting the most traveled fleet in the Shields Class.

Lastly, I want to recognize a crew who **Deserve Nice Applause**. Eric Anderson(Chair), Ed Cassidy, and Kevin Hynes have stepped up to help on the class officer nominating committee. This will ensure our class leadership is strong for the next two years. Please let this team know if you are interested in serving the Shields Class. Thank you, Eric, Ed and Kevin, for taking on this important task!

You can find me wherever Shields are racing....

Ken Deyett
Shields Class President

Burr Brother's is Excited to Sponsor Shields Nationals 2023

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NYYC Annual Regatta - Shields Division by Lindsey Turowski



The NYYC Annual Regatta took place on June 9-11 in Newport, RI, where the Shields fleet had 14 registered competitors. Seven of those competitors raced on Friday in the navigator style race as an alternative to an around Conanicut Island format the other classes used during the 169th running of the Annual Regatta.

On Friday, competitors were met with a long postponement due to a lack of wind which didn't fill in from the south until 2 p.m. The Shields fleet took the water around that time for a scheduled starting time of 3:39 p.m. While our team aboard 181 Helen didn't compete on Friday, we are able to report that 107 Grace, John Burhman won the race with 169 Sirene, Chris Ringhdahl in second for the day. The format of the Annual Regatta is such that Friday and the weekend races are scored separately.

On Saturday, the Shields fleet was assigned to the red circle and was given an hour postponement due to the light morning winds. This gave the fleet just enough time to enjoy a coffee at the top of the hill at Harbor Court, catch up with some friends, and head out to our course between Rose Island and Conanicut Island. [Above Right: NYYC](#) [Below Left: Helen Close-Hauled](#)

The Shields fleet shared the red circle with PHRF 1 which was scheduled for navigator races throughout the weekend, so they were quick to start PHRF 1 and then move on to running 3 rapid fire races for the Shields fleet on Saturday, with the first race starting at 1:35 p.m. in the building sea breeze.

For 181 Helen this was our first race together as a team. Caila MacDonald, owner, assembled a fantastic group of former and current college sailors, Fleet 9 members, and family to crew which included Emily Babbitt, Heather Shaver, Lindsey Turowski, Sophia Rey (Saturday) and Gigi Shaver (Sunday) to compete as a team this weekend. The goal was to go fast and have fun (with an emphasis on the latter). It was mentioned a few times over the weekend that if racing isn't fun, then why bother? For us "weekend warriors", sailing is a sport we've enjoyed for many years but is always in competition with work, family and home commitments. We invest our time because it's a sport we love, and we were not disappointed this weekend!

Race 1 for the Shields fleet was a W4 with an offset and leeward gate. For our team, race 1 was a blast as we started to learn how to best communicate with each other in our roles and positions on the boat as the sea breeze started to build out of the south. Those



NYYC Annual Regatta (Continued from previous page)

that are familiar with racing in Narragansett Bay will know that tide is a major factor in the vicinity of Rose and Jamestown. On Saturday, the high-tide was at 2:03 p.m. which was critical information for us as our windward mark for the majority of the weekend was tucked just inside and north of the Dumplings. This location causes the incoming tide to bend around the Dumplings, creating some current relief upwind and generally favoring the right side of the course.

Right: Helen and Apollo 11

Moving into race 2, our team on 181 Helen was already starting to settle in our roles and meld as a team. Eyeing the moored boats along Conanicut showing ebbing current, we identified our game plan: to start at the boat end of the line, which was about 5 degrees favored, and then head right for current relief and the eddy of favorable current along the shore of Jamestown. As we approached the boat end of the line with under 1 minute to go, it became apparent we were set up too early for the start, which would normally result in serious panic. We were fortunate to have an "out" and tacked to port. A slow turn and gybe set us up perfectly to be the first boat to start at the boat, and also the first boat to tack out right, which was our game plan. From then on, we put the pedal down, focusing on speed and talking as a team about small tweaks and improvements to increase our boat speed. Sailing clean and some loose coverage of the fleet resulted in a commanding win and horizon job!

Left to Right Gigi Shaver, Emily Babbitt, Caila MacDonald and Lindsey Turowski

Moving into race 3, the last race of Saturday, the wind was building closer to 10-12 knots and was a stronger sea breeze. We didn't land another bullet in race 3, but were able to finish mid-fleet with the same strategy. Race 3 was won by 59 Jade, the ultimate 2nd place finisher.





NEW YORK YACHT CLUB

169th NYYC ANNUAL REGATTA

June 9-11, 2023

Newport, Rhode Island

Sunday, while similar, was also a different day. High tide was at 3:02 p.m., 1 hour later and started without an on-land postponement. The race committee for the red circle did a fantastic job all weekend and had set out on Sunday to try and run 1 race for the Shields fleet in the dying northly. Unfortunately, that didn't happen but the race committee was able to get 4 races off once the sea breeze filled in rather early around 11:20 a.m. Our team had expected the sea breeze to fill in stronger as the day progressed, which didn't quite happen, but the breeze did slowly increase in velocity as the day went on. On Sunday we also saw the breeze shifting course right early with a correction back left for the final race of the day.

Throughout the weekend, competition was at a very high level, with 6 of the 14 boats in the fleet winning 1 of the 7 races! 107 Grace won the regatta convincingly with 18 points in 7 races, highlighting the success of a long established crew and fleet member John Burnham. However the points spread between 2nd place and 6th place was only 9 points, which is really a testament to all of the fantastic competitors that participated in the Shields fleet during the 169th running of the oldest annual regatta in North America. We can't wait for next year!



169th NYYC Annual Regatta Result - Shields Division

1.	107	Grace	John Burnham/Reed Baer	2	4	4	2	3	2	1	18.0
2.	59	Jade	Josh Gilchrist	6	13	1	1	2	3	7	33.0
3.	258	Tinky	Clayton Deutsch	1	3	2	3	6	7	12	34.0
4.	17	Weetamoe	Peter Fernberger	7	9	6	5	1	5	5	38.0
5.	237	Bit~O~Honey	Ken Deyett	8	2	5	8	8	6	2	39.0
6.	181	Helen	Caila MacDonald	11	1	7	6	5	4	8	42.0
7.	11	Apollo 11	Joe Bardenheier	5	8	10	7	9	1	3	43.0
8.	226	Ult. Pressure III	John Ingalls	3	12	9	4	4	8	6	46.0
9.	109	Helm of Awe	Malcolm Gefter	12	6	3	12	12	11	4	60.0
10.	121	Mahi	David Bush-Brown	4	7	11	11	7	12	9	61.0
11.	166	Tantrum	Jonathan Hough	9	10	8	10	11	9	13	70.0
12.	238	White Rabbit	Richard Robbins	10	5	15	9	10	13	11	73.0
13.	169	Sirene	Chris Ringdahl	13	11	12	14	13	14	10	87.0
14.	158	Glory	Ron Oard	14	14	13	13	14	10	14	92.0

2023 Shields Racing Calendar



Click EYC Burgee Below to
View Event Website



Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup
July 28-30
Larchmont Yacht Club



Shields Nationals

Beverly Yacht Club, September 27-30

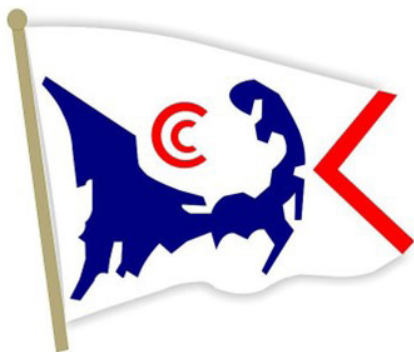


Thank You to generous sponsors: Burr Brothers Boats, Sperry Sails, Cape Cod Shipbuilding, and Buzzard's Bay Brewing for supporting what promises to be a legendary weekend of championship racing and fun



[Click on BYC logo to view Notice of Race and visit Event Website for Details](#)

SPERRY SAILS



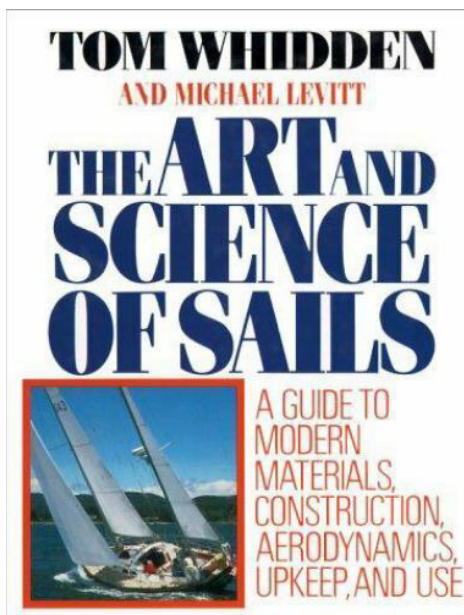
An Ode To Sailcloth

by Tom Evans

For this edition of the Masthead I was tasked with the job of writing about sailcloth since I'm in the textile realm, professionally.

And for better or for worse, that was all the guidance I was given. For those of you now perched on the edge of your seat eagerly looking forward to a technical expose on sailcloth manufacturing from soup to nuts, I'm sorry.

While I know many of our class are "engineering inclined" and would find such an article 'sexy' and 'interesting' there are two things preventing me from heading down that road. First, I cannot do the sailcloth manufacturing process justice in the limited space this column provides and second, there are many books out there already that provide detailed insight. If you are now disappointed because this sort of topic revs your engine, I highly recommend picking up a copy of Tom Whidden's "The Art and Science of Sails". There are other source materials out there as well, which I'm sure will dominate your targeted digital marketing zone once you search for or even purchase Mr. Whidden's book. Fabio Fossati has a nice section about sail design and performance in his "Aero-Hydrodynamics and the Performance of Sailing Yachts", for example. Resources like these will provide you with all the details I am unable to cram into this Masthead edition. Please note that I do find my job fascinating and would likely ramble on about fun terms like "denier", "slashing" and "scouring" until many of you were comatose given the opportunity.



So I'm not going to tell you how sailcloth is made. Might I tell you WHICH sailcloth to purchase? Sadly, I won't be doing that either. This is not because I know the secret "go-fast sailcloth that guarantees you a Nationals Title" and I'm keeping it to myself to ensure my boat's journey to glory at SHIELDS NATIONALS 2023 IN MARION, MASSACHUSETTS, but instead because the class is essentially on level ground when it comes to sailcloth.

The class is 99.9% North Sails and that means that 99.9% of Shields in any given race all have the same cloth in the same design already. There may be differing thoughts on whether this is good or bad situation to be in as a class, however that sort of talk is best left to the drinks tent. So what am I going to talk about? What's left as far as sailcloth goes?

Well.... what do you DO with your sailcloth? We all know that we are limited as far as new sail use each year based on our

sail points total. This makes these marvels of textile technology all that more important and valuable to us as Shields class sailors. While we are spared the arms race that some classes endure when it comes to new sail purchases, the flip side of that coin means that we need to protect our investments. Below I will outline some thoughts on cloth care.

Continued from previous page

These thoughts and opinions are my own. I have witnessed first hand (on my own boat even!) the passion that people have for their particular sail care methodology.

And so know this: I'm not trying to convert you nor am I trying to shame you. I simply have been assigned some space to fill and this is how I'm doing it.

Mainsails- to roll or not to roll? The choice to me is obvious: roll that fatty right! Line up your leech so your battens all align straight and flat, move aft from the mast as you roll so that the leech "stacks" on itself and the luff spirals. You may flop the head over pre roll, you may not. This is a personal preference. But either way you go, rolling with your homies at the end of the day is the sure way to take care of your sail, keep it smooth avoid those hard creases. At the end your sail is secured to the boom and out of the way as you clean up the boat and gesture at one another about what might have been (aka Bar Karate). As for flaking, it must be said that it only serves to sow discord and open the door for potential hard creasing or even tearing your sail. "No. YOU pull YOUR end. I'm ALREADY pulling my end. See the crease? What flake are you on? Ohhhh just start over." etc. and provide the neighboring boats with some post race soap operatic entertainment. Generally it ends in grumpiness and something odd and asymmetric looking hanging off your boom that is to be quickly covered with the boom tent. It may be "easier" to hoist a flaked sail, but at what cost to your dignity?

Jibs- does anyone do anything but roll a jib? Points to you if you have a new method. Please share!

Spinnakers- Should be left stuffed in the launch bag until next use. Tapes run if you're on your game/had a good day and love your future self. A hot jumbled soggy mess that is tomorrow's (or next race day's) problem if you had some rough results, high seas, big breeze or a combo of all 3 and you're out of liquids and need to get to the club or home fridge pronto. If you must take spinnakers home to tend to them don't put them in a washing machine or a dryer. A light freshwater rinse followed by some time near a dehumidifier in a closed space is all you need. No dehu? No underground sail drying lair to utilize? Then you may lay it on a clean grassy surface on a breeze free day to dry in the sun. but please get it out of the UV ASAP once dry. No field? no Sun? Blowing dogs off chains? See option 1. She'll dry when she's up and if you don't start the regatta with a wet spinnaker it will get wet soon enough so what's a leg or two difference?

Have you torn your sails? Best bet: take them to the loft. Second runner up: "Sticky back" repair tape until you get to the loft. Use Insignia cloth if it is a spinnaker. Apply when dry and clean for proper bonding. No sticky stuff? Duct tape can be your savior (Mains and Jibs only). You can try to use your kids' Hello Kitty sewing machine, or the household sewing machine. but if you do, be prepared to then have a torn sail AND a broken sewing machine to contend with.



Continued from previous page

Forewarned is forearmed and it's always good to keep some nice shears (scissors to the layperson), sail repair tape, and insignia patches at the ready, especially at away regattas like, I don't know, 2023 SHIELDS NATIONALS IN MARION, MASSACHUSETTS. If you have a local loft they may be able to sell you some pieces. If I recall correctly, West Marine sells a kit. SailRite also has very good repair kit options. If you purchase one of these kits do not expect it to work well after getting soaked for 3 seasons on the shelf behind the seats onboard. Best place for it is in a dry box or at home where effective repairs can be made.



I think I've hit my word limit. So take care of those sails. Roll 'em if you 've got 'em. And I will see you in September in Marion where we can compare notes and bar karate our way to retrospective glory in alternate universes where we DID tack on THAT shift and chose THAT side of the course and of course port tacked the fleet at the start.



The Fleet Beat

Fleets 7 and 12

Naval Postgraduate School Foundation Yacht Club

Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club

by Jerry Stratton

We began sailing in February, and have enjoyed three almost four months of racing in a wide variety of conditions. We have only cancelled one Sunset Series race when the winds were well into the 20's with gusts in the low 30's! Some of our Wednesdays (Sunset Racing evenings) looked to be marginal, but as fleet captain, I waited until 5PM to make the decision not to race. This paid off nicely, as local wind patterns routinely demonstrate moderating winds from 5 PM

on. We have had some interesting "never before seen" wind directions that dictated creating some new courses, but all were well received with sailors complimenting the RC team at the bar after racing. Garth Hobson's Shields 103 has dominated the fleet, but as the season has progressed, it has not always been easy. We've routinely had 7-11 boats out on Wednesday evenings, with four different winners. [Above: Navy Sailing Crew](#)



Our weekend ODR races have been less well-attended, but again, Garth and Ashley's 103 has dominated. The true highlight of the spring series was the marriage of Ashley Hobson to Austin Book. They have purchased a Wilderness 30 and are prepping for sailing to Hawaii in the double-handed class!



We're running weekend clinics to increase proficiency of our newer sailors. In March we conducted a 2-day team racing clinic using 6 Shields. The clinic was well run by ex-Shields sailor Heidi Hall (#95 Patriot), and everyone came back to the YC for debriefing with big smiles on their faces. We followed that clinic with Racing 101 for folks who want to become Shields sailors. After 90 minutes in the classroom, we put 2-3 student-sailors on each Shields or Santana 22, along with a driver and coach, then spent the day first practicing sail trim on "snake" courses and mark roundings. We graduated to the race course and ran four very short W-L courses which the boats in close contact not only at the Start, but on the course and during roundings! [Left: Stillwater #103](#)

We're all looking forward to the warmer winds that come with July, later sunsets for longer courses, and getting more boats on the water.

Fleet 19 Mason's Island Yacht Club by Bob Banas

Fleet 19 was founded in 2001 with the intention of re-establishing adult one design racing at Mason's Island Yacht Club after a long absence. Eight club members and five Shields were all it took to get the ball rolling. Back then none of us envisioned how the fleet would look 23 seasons later or if it would even exist. Last evening, we had our spring business meeting and I am delighted to report Fleet 19 alive and well. Our skippers and crew are excited and enthusiastic about the upcoming season. Everyone's pumped to get their boats in the water and start racing. There is nothing like the start of the sailing season to make one feel 20 years younger. I would like to credit the dedication of our owners, skippers and crew, Mason's Island Yacht Club, and the support of the Shields Class Sailing Association for our success. Oh, and having chosen the most beautiful one design boat in existence also helped.



2022 results:

Last season we had all five boats on the line every Thursday evening. As a result, our racing was spirited and very competitive. Scott Parry and Tom Longo (former owners of #170 Chaste) teamed up and campaigned #89 Grand Biddles. They are both excellent sailors and it was great fun to have them back in the mix. Kudos to Ted Corning, winner of the Thursday August Series on # 7 RIP and Lee Reichart who almost made a clean sweep by winning the Thursday July Series, Soderberg Race and Commodore's Cup on #79 Rebel.

A question for Ken Deyette- Are you guys sharing speed secrets at the Board meetings because Lee has become almost untouchable since becoming VP representing Fleet 19!

Our 2023 season is shaping up thusly:

We will be racing every Thursday evening starting June 29 to August 31. The Soderberg Cup race will be held on July 4 and the Commodore's Cup will be awarded to the winning

Above Right: Chris Wick

Shields at the Mason's Island Regatta. Tony Halsey was a founder and Fleet Captain of Fleet 19, Commodore at MIYC and a friend to all who knew him. After a brief lapse we will revive the trophy given in his memory with a regatta on July 15th. Kevin Miller and Pam Gibbs will again head up our race committee. Dan Van Winkle, on his mark boat Queequeg, will ably assist them in setting fair courses. Once again, if any of you are in South-eastern CT this season, please join us to sail on beautiful Fishers Island Sound!

Left: Ted Parker and Scott Parry





The Shields Class
the Beverly Yacht Club
your fellow competitors
and your friends
are all waiting for you
in Marion this September
click **here** to register and
request housing

