



Under the Rock

Fall 2020

The Newsletter of the Marblehead Yacht Club

MYC Fall Calendar

Launch Schedule:

Sept 21 to Oct 12	Closed 10:00am to 6:00pm	Mon. & Tues. Wed. through Sun. and Columbus Day (Oct. 12)
Oct 13 to Oct 18	Closed 10:00am to 6:00pm	Tues. through Thurs. Open Fri. through Sun. Last Day is Oct. 18

Annual Meeting

Sunday November 15 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Message from the Commodore

While we never like the summer boating season to end, there is a feeling of relief as we round the final mark and head to the finish line for the year 2020. What a year! The year started out with a new and eager MYC board planning for another season of entertainment, regattas and events. We were

excited about the MYC floats that were being rebuilt and the fresh coat of red trim paint planned for the clubhouse. Then Covid-19 hit.

My initial reaction was to wait and see, as I thought it would blow over come spring – wow, was I wrong! We started by canceling events one by one, still hoping things would change for the better. We held smaller spring work parties and saw the arrival of our ‘new’ tables and chairs that ended up being stacked in the Cliff Room. The board met regularly to plan how to salvage the season as we all learned about social distancing, signage, hand-washing, mask wearing and contact tracing. Rear Commodore Jane Clayton formed and headed up our Covid Advisor Board to discuss and recommend actions. With the creativity of Bill Kilham, we created traffic patterns on the deck and clubhouse, taped off safe zones on the launches, and created limited seating on the decks and we later offered galley service. Come June, we seemed to be pulling off a boating season, and by July we were running things in a limited but socially responsible fashion. The launch drivers religiously wiped down the launches, members wore their face masks, and things started to become the ‘new normal’ by August. The social event of the season was the ‘Parking Lot clean-up’, and the regatta committee ran the Bakers Light time trial and Downeast Challenge races with resolute participants. In August, members were relaxing on the upper deck, eating with friends on the main deck, and boating more often. By Labor Day, things were running about as well as we could expect, and we even hosted a small BYO wine tasting event, complete with commemorative wine glasses and Covid-masks.

I want to thank Bill Kilham and the entire waterfront staff for all of their work keeping things running, Kim Diamond and the galley crew for giving members a social place to enjoy a nice meal on the harbor, and the MYC board for making lots of tough decisions to balance safety with convenience. But most of all I want to thank the wonderful membership of the MYC for making it all happen. With the potential for lots of mishaps, complaints and problems, the MYC members kept their cool, respected the

rules and adapted to the situation at hand. From the bottom of my heart..."THANKS"!

As the September winds blow and the boats thin out of the harbor, we can all give a big sigh of relief and say (while knocking on wood) "we made it through 2020" and hope for better 2021!

John Murray
Commodore

Manager's Minit

This boating season has been like none other that I have worked through! Late starts, traffic patterns, masks, sanitizers– you name it. Thankfully, we've all pulled together to get through it to this point.

I would like to thank the MYC Flags, Board of Directors and general membership for all the hard work and understanding that enabled us to have a season as successful as we have had so far.

With the waterfront hours winding down and shorter days with cooler temps approaching, I once again want to remind all to check your boat every time you visit to insure against possible storm damage that is far more likely to occur this late in the season. We still have a few weeks of boating and possible good (and bad) weather ahead. We should all be ready to embrace both when they arrive. As always, check our website, webcam and your email for Waterfront updates and conditions.

Here's to a fuller and less anxious 2021!

Bill

MYC Covid-19 Update

We are happy to report that Marblehead Yacht Club, with one exception, had no reported Covid-19 cases. The one incident, when a guest at the Club later tested positive, was quickly communicated and all those who came in direct contact were notified and tested. Congratulations and thank you to all who followed the procedures and protocol!

We are on the home stretch and understand that Covid-19 weariness is kicking in but it is important that we continue our successful practices through the end of the season. As a reminder:

- Members and guests, please continue to sign the log every time you come to the Club and remember legibility counts.
- Wear a face covering before coming thru the entry door.
- Stay home if not feeling well or a family member is ill.
- Use the Club provided hand sanitizer freely!

If you or a family member tests positive for Covid please report to Bill Kilham or Jane Clayton. We will insure and respect confidentiality but this will allow us to notify Club members and staff that were potentially exposed at the Club. The value of the log book was very clear in dealing with the one incident earlier this month.

On behalf of Bill and the staff we are all so grateful for the membership's cooperation and are hopeful we will finish the season with everyone healthy!

MYC Board and Officers

Regatta Update

The Covid-19 restrictions limited sailboat racing this season, especially in the first half of the summer. In June, boats could only have people from the same household on board, with no organized racing allowed per order of Governor Baker.

The MYC Regatta Committee lead by Eliot Shanabrook and members Tom Anderson, Campbell Seamans, Marcel Nyffenegger and John Murray came up with a new event, that was not a race, called the Baker Light Time Trial. Boats would sail a predefined course from Marblehead around Bakers Island, and record their own times. They could start anytime, sail in either direction and with a legal crew of household members or solo, and do the sail as often as they liked. There was no cost, no race committee and no awards; it was just a reason to get out on the water. We had 13 boats from the Marblehead community participate.

With the racing restrictions still in place around July 4th, the Regatta Committee decided to cancel the annual Clemson Chase Race which was planned for July 5. However, as Covid-19 cases continued to drop in early July, the Governor allowed sailboat racing to resume with a restriction of 3 crew members per boat and masks required while sailing. This was good for smaller boats with a crew of 2 or 3, but many of the larger boat races, with boats that require bigger crews and more hands to handle the sails, saw participation drop off. Also, no post-race parties were held due to social gathering restrictions.

By early August, the 3 crew restriction was lifted, and MYC was able to host the Downeast Challenge from Marblehead to Boothbay Maine. There was a complication as Maine required visitors from Massachusetts to either be Covid-19 tested prior to entering the state, or to quarantine for 2 weeks. This restriction saw several boats withdraw from the Downeast Challenge days before the race, but we were able to get 10 boats off the

starting line at noon on Friday August 7 with special thanks to Dick Steadman's *Eider* and the race committee.



The race had extremely light wind and fortunately the race instructions included an alternative finish line allowing skippers to record their finish time as they crossed a specific latitude in the middle of the Gulf of Maine. This shortened course allowed boats to finish the race far from Boothbay, turn on their engines and to make Boothbay Harbor before Saturday evening. Most boats arrived Saturday between 4pm and 8pm. There were countless whale, porpoise, and ocean sunfish sightings and Eliot Shanabrook saw (and video-taped) a 20+ foot great white shark swim right by his transom.



The awards party at the Hodgdon Marina was complete with blowing of foghorns all night (the trophies) along with plenty of Rumson's Rum and Rising Tide Beer for all. MYC's **Eliot and Reid Shanabrook** won the Shorthanded division in *Hafa Adai*, **Benoit Molinie** won the Spinnaker Division in *Jericho*, and **Paul Leddy** won the Jib and Main division in *Sea Glass*. **Tom Ajamian** on the shorthanded boat *Rockit 2.0* was awarded the Broken Spreader Award for repairing the broken auto-pilot system using zip-ties and parts from a red solo cup.

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions and reduced racing season, with some creativity and enthusiasm, MYC was able to host and pull off two successful sailing events.

Club Membership

The final 2020 MYC membership as of September totaled 318 with 258 Active Members, 6 Life Members, and 54 Associate Members. While 19 new members joined the Club, the overall membership declined from 338 to 318 largely due to the Coronavirus.

Save the Date, MYC 2020 Annual Meeting

The date of the MYC Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday November 15 from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

This is the Club's business meeting and the agenda sets the course for the next season. In this Covid-19 environment the meeting will likely be held electronically. While not ideal this will provide the broadest approach to allow members to hear from and vote for the incoming MYC officers and board members proposed by the Nominating Committee, hear the reports of the various committees and most importantly to vote on matters like the annual budget that come before the membership for approval. Members will receive a formal notice of the Annual Meeting in the weeks prior to the event with the full agenda for review.



An ominous end to a summer weekend

Gratuity Fund

Dear Boating Members:

All will agree that this has been an unusual season and that our Launch Drivers have met the challenge of providing excellent launch service while maintaining the necessary Covid-19 safety protocols. It is not too early to start thinking of rewarding the waterfront staff with your support of the 2020 Annual Launch Driver's Gratuity Fund. It has been a long tradition that our members show their appreciation of the excellent performance of our waterfront staff with a donation to this fund and this year certainly warrants a generous recognition.

A gratuity fund letter will be sent to all boating members shortly.

Sincerely,

MYC Flag Officers & Board of Directors