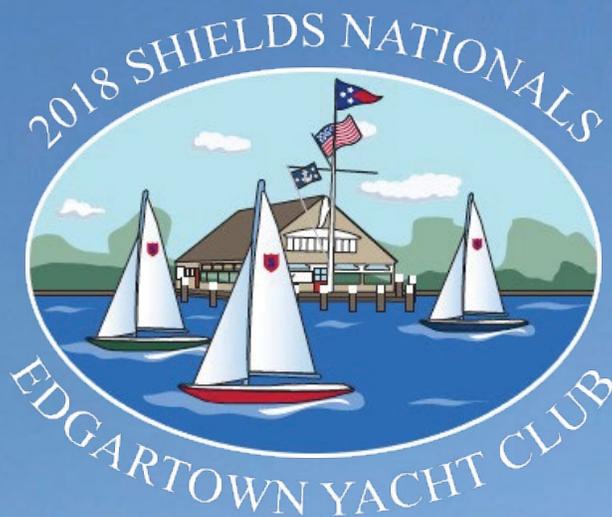


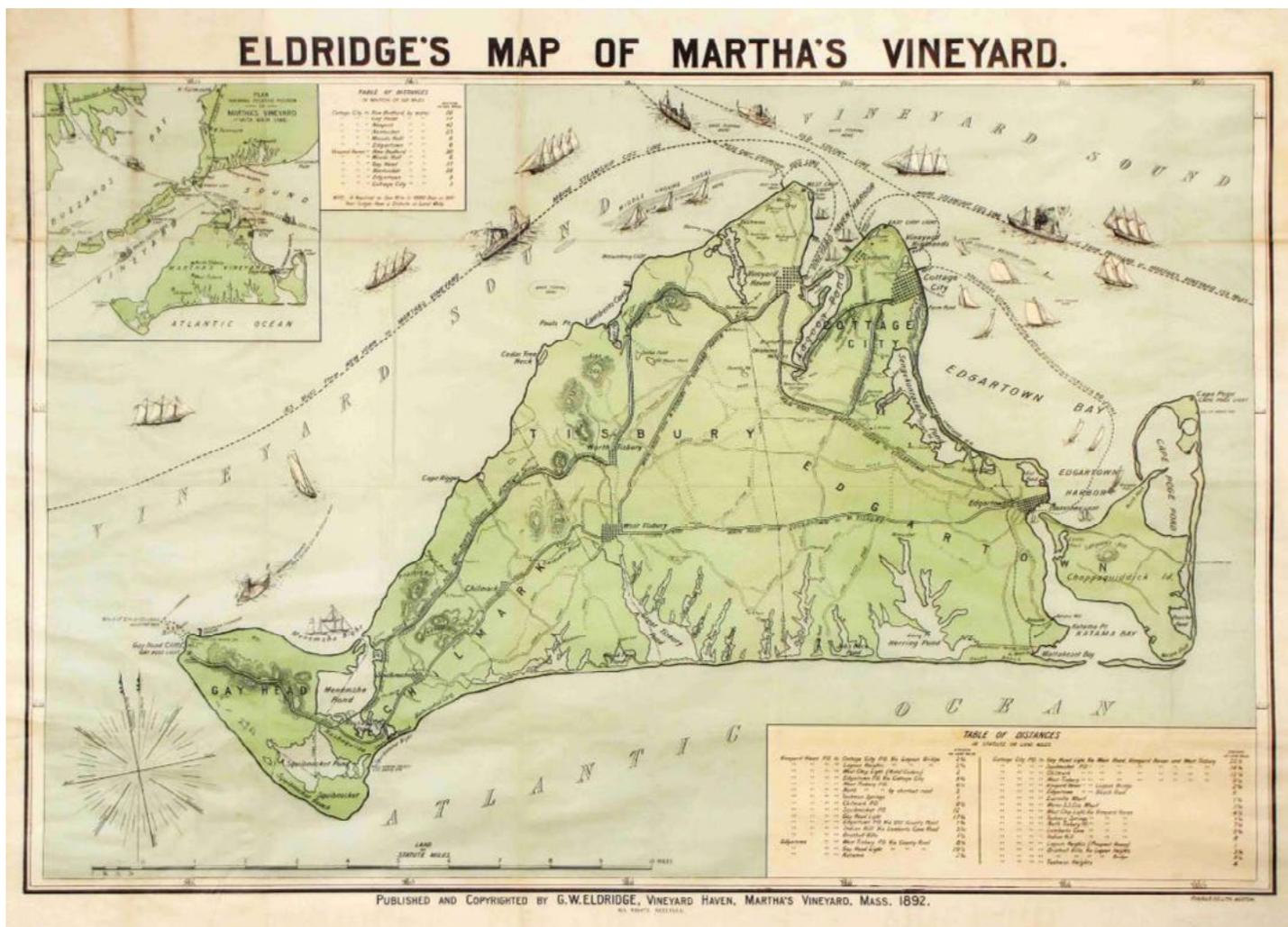
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHIELDS CLASS SAILING ASSOCIATION

# MASTHEAD

Summer 2018



*Crossing Vineyard Sound  
to Edgartown*



Class Membership -Dues are payable by June 1 each year. If you are affiliated with a Shields Fleet or Yacht Club, please pay your dues through your fleet treasurer. If you are an owner or crew not affiliated with a fleet, please join at [www.shieldsclass.com/join/index.php](http://www.shieldsclass.com/join/index.php) or contact the Class Secretary.

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On the Cover: Edgartown YC from the sea, Photo by John Wilson Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/125284680817417](http://www.facebook.com/groups/125284680817417)



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# Class Acts

## A Message from the President

2018 promises to be one of the finest Shields Racing Seasons in recent memory. We officially kick off our season with the Ocean-Great Lakes Challenge Cup in Newport. Co-chairs Ted Slee and John Burnham have endeavored to produce a regatta worthy of the event's historical significance and its elegant 100+ year-old trophy namesake. Projections are for 9 boats, representing 8 fleets.



The class next heads to Marion, MA on August 3-5 to compete for the New England Shields Championship at the Buzzard's Bay Regatta. The BBR has seen a pleasant uptick in Shields participation in recent years and Beverly Yacht Club is always a welcoming place for visitors. Make your plans to join some of the finest sailors in the class.

We conclude our year with the Shields National Regatta in Edgartown on September 5-8. A major remodel of the iconic EYC clubhouse has been delayed to accommodate our championship. Per the custom for mainland Shields traveling to the Vineyard, the coveted Tiffany Bucket Race will be contested on Sunday September 2 and awarded to the first Shields arriving into the harbor. Bob Hurst and his committee members of Fleet 8 have worked very diligently for over a year to ensure this unmissable event will live up to our high expectations.

Under the leadership of Fleet 10's Ken Deyett, the National Regatta Attendance Committee (NRAC) began meeting in November to consider options aimed at improving attendance at Nationals. The committee had representation from 5 fleets who had recently hosted or were scheduled to host this event. They presented the Governing Board a slate of four actionable ideas which could be implemented this year. These include the Twenty-Something Grant, the Newcomer Grant, personal phone and email outreach to likely entrants and the publication of the e-Masthead. A fifth initiative, to contest our championship regatta in a Friday-Sunday format beginning with Chicago in 2019 was also approved. Specifics for these programs can be found in our February Class Minutes and in April's e-Masthead. I am grateful to Ken and the members of his committee for their energy and commitment on this effort for everyone's benefit.

I was pleased to attend the Fleet One Annual Dinner in January. It was great to see so many friends from the Shields sailing community. This was a fantastic evening all around and it was very well attended. Among the highlights were new Fleet Captain Doug Millar's installation, Fred Werblow honored as Fleet Champion and Roland Schulz for his community outreach efforts! Pete McWhinnie was regaled with the Larchmont version of the Take-a-Bow Trophy for his foray into international yachting by purchasing a French-designed JPK-1080. Pete extracted a bit of revenge by winning the Round Antigua Race this past April, just weeks after assuming title. However, this wasn't Fleet One's only podium appearance on the global stage as Shields mainstays John Mawe, Tim Walsh and Roland Schulz won the Marion Bermuda Founders Class A Division aboard Cynthia – Grand Soleil 46.

Whether on the starting line or at the bar I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones in Newport and Edgartown this summer. Thank you to all our skippers and crews who work hard to keep our local fleets strong.

Eric Anderson, #191

(Right: Tiffany Bucket and Bermuda Champs)



## An Interview with EYC Commodore, Paul Mitchell by John Wilson

*In lieu of the traditional welcome from the host club we elected to interview Commodore Paul Mitchell of the Edgartown Yacht Club. In addition to leading the club through some significant and exciting changes he is also the skipper of Shields 251, Amusing. As I am also a member of his crew I took it easy on him. The following interview has been lightly edited. Questions are in black and Commodore Mitchell's answers appear in red.*

Put on your best salesman hat for someone sitting on the fence about coming to the Shields Nationals. Why are the Shields Nationals in Edgartown, this September, an event not to be missed?

We have the best weather of the season in September. Beautiful warm sunny days, cool evenings, the boat traffic visiting Edgartown harbor dies down and there's plenty of water for the racing circles within close proximity of the yacht club. Within just a few minutes sail we are able to run race circles in the lee of Cape Pogue with the southwest breeze. We have relatively flat water and it's perfect for racing.



(Above: Commodore Mitchell - Below: Mitchell on #251, Amusing)

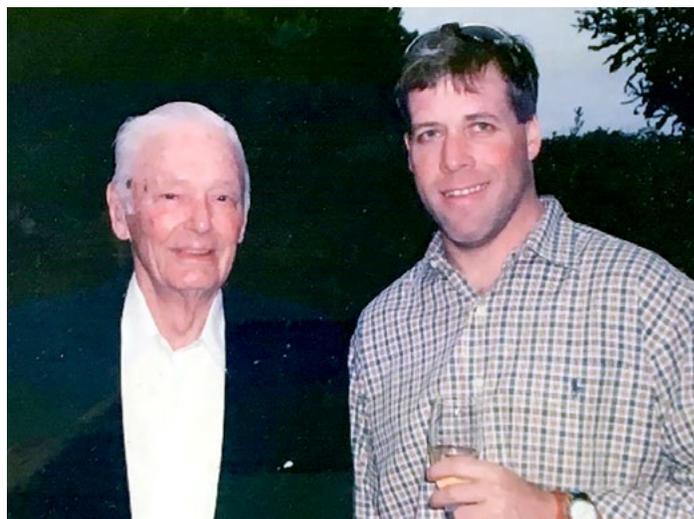


The town is spectacular and the club is located right at the foot of Main Street, on Dock Street. We have perhaps the nicest views of the harbor. The pre-and post-racing activities are always well attended and tons of fun. The town itself is still active. Many of the summer visitors have gone home, so there's plenty of room for people and we are very lucky to be able to offer housing to almost all visiting sailors that time of year. Sometimes when we hold regattas, including National Championships in the summer, that's a challenge for us. However, in September it's pretty easy to put together. That's something we're happy to do and we find this very attractive for visiting racers when we do it in the fall we see that the numbers of participants increase and we have strong, consistent winds and really good sailing.

In your dual roles as Commodore and competitor, how do you envision your ability to balance the two? I'm biased. I sail with you so I know how much time and care you put in the boat and how competitive you are. How do you balance the competitive side with your role as host and kind of the primary representative of the yacht club?

The yacht club is very well organized. We have an active and committed board of trustees who hold true to the mission of the club, which is to promote and encourage sailing and yacht racing. We try to commit to as many significant national events that we can do each year. The yacht club is really committed to putting on world class racing events. These include the Shields Nationals as well as our own Edgartown Regatta, which includes big boats as well as a junior racing event, and our 12-meter event. So we as a club are committed to hosting the best events we can.

In terms of my own boat, I race Shields #251, Amusing. I'm very fortunate to have a committed crew over the last seven or eight years. That's made a huge difference in the amount of time that it takes to prepare the boat properly and to get everyone on the same page to be fast. And that's something that we have really been able to do well the last couple of years. So it hasn't taken too much additional effort on my time. Having the same crew really has been the key.



(Above: John Wilson and Olin Stephens in Auckland, NZ during America's Cup)

I'm doing a little piece on why I sail the Shields. If you look at the history of one-design sailing in Edgartown, you've seen lots of boats come and go. The 110 was the hot boat and now people are moving to another high-performance boat in the J-70. What is it about the Shields that keeps you coming back to this boat?

I grew up sailing on Cape Cod, in Harwich Port, racing Flying Scotts, Wiano Seniors and J/22s. After I got married we came over to Edgartown where my wife's family was, and we were alternating weekends between Cape Cod and Edgartown. Once we committed to Edgartown, I started looking around to see how I could get involved in the local sailing scene. We joined the yacht club and my first experience was when someone asked me to go out with the race committee one day. I went out with Brock Callen, the race chair, with a white shirt without epaulettes and white pair of pants. I went out and I had fun, but I realized that's not where I wanted to be. I hadn't sailed in a Shields before, but I knew the boat.

When you look around a beautiful harbor like Edgartown you see a lot of Sparkman and Stephens designs. What just strikes me every time I see it, especially from a distance, is the beauty of the boat, the low profile on the waterline, the sloping transom, the gentle entry of the bow whether she's at a mooring, or loaded up and going up wind. It's really just a beautiful, beautiful boat.

Tim Bryan offered me the opportunity to sail with him and it was lots of fun and a number of additional things really struck me about the boat. Number one, it's a relatively small boat. However, it feels like a much bigger



boat, especially when you're at the helm. Number two is that is driven by a big keel and a big rudder. The rudder can be a challenge to handle in a big breeze and the main has a lot of sail area. When you're in a big breeze, it really is fun and it's not just fun for the skipper - it's fun for the entire crew.

What I quickly learned is that it takes a team effort to make the boat go fast. Every person who is a part of the crew contributes. When everyone is contributing she really goes fast. In addition our local fleet is competitive. Our numbers have gone up and down, as have most fleets in the Shields Class. It does come back and on any given weekend we have some very competitive racing. It is just a fun group of people and competitive on the water. When we get back to the clubhouse, sometimes the stories get even better.

My favorite moment on the Shields is in a breeze going downwind when the boat sinks a bit deeper in the water and starts that gentle speed roll. Everyone has to be dialed in, as the gentle roll is one mistake away from being a death roll. It is an invigorating experience. Do you have a favorite moment or condition on the boat? (Above: #219, Trouble, Right: Tim Bryan)

Downwind is definitely exciting in a big breeze. It certainly is fun because sometimes it's real, real fast. My favorite part, though, is in the first three minutes after the start. The start in these boats is like a chess game and there are several ways to do it. I'm not sure there's any best way.

It depends on the breeze and the angle of the line. It depends on the number of boats, and who the other

skippers and crews are out there. Some people are more aggressive, others are not as aggressive on the starting line; but it's always a ton of fun for me to figure out where we're going to be, where we want to be on that line, and then to try to figure out where we want to be on the windward leg. As we're approaching the line and the person in the number one spot closest to the bow is calling the line position of the other boats. I'm trying to concentrate on the trim and the speed and we try to hit the line at the gun, as close to full speed and full power as possible. It's the next three or so minutes that I think are really, really

fun as a skipper. You want to have full speed and you want to be trying to climb as much as you can hopefully to have fresh air. That really sets up the rest of the race. So I find that the most strategic and kind of intense part of the race and the part of the race where I am just concentrating on the feel of the boat, what it sounds like, what it feels like and what the breeze feels like.



When you look at fleets around the country, Newport being the primary example, the Shields Class attracts some really top-notch sailors. What is it about these boats, that attracts such a high level of racer?

I think it's probably a few things. Number one has to be the cost of entry. It's not a super expensive boat to get into, the maintenance costs are reasonable and people can work on the boats themselves. I think the class has

done a good thing by permitting owners to only purchase one sail per year. This limitation keeps us from getting into an arms race. (Right: DeJa Vu at Weather Mark Rounding)

On a light day three competent people can sail the boat and on an average to windy day four or five people are required. For a group of competent sailors there are enough things on the boat to tweak and play with them and to make it go fast. On our boat, we encourage a lot of discussion. We want everyone to participate in, talk about trim and adjusting things to make the boat go faster. The other thing is that the clubs in the area are really committed to one-design racing. The local clubs that have Shields fleets besides Edgartown are Beverly in Marion and of course down in Newport. They are all clubs committed to the boats and it's because of that, the people seem to flock to the boats.

What kind of opportunity is it for the local fleet to have the Nationals here?

Edgartown is a tremendous place to sail. One of the challenges that we have is that it's a little bit harder to get to than other sailing venues, not only for racers, but also for people that live here. Because of this, some people say it's a little bit nicer. That may or may not be true, but it is definitely harder to get to. Our sailing really doesn't begin until the very end of June and then it wraps up a typically by Labor Day, so it's a short season. We often think it's hard for folks on the Vineyard to participate in other events, so we are excited to host national events like the Shields Regatta. It's an incredible venue. This will be a world-class event. (Below: Overlap at the Weather Mark)



This will be the last event before the club is renovated and raised to protect against more frequent flooding.

Yup. That's a big deal. The Shields is one of the significant one-design fleets in our club's history. We have members who are directly connected to the design of the Shields, so we feel a special bond with the class. For us to host the nationals that will be the last significant sailing event held at the Edgartown Yacht Club on the old coal pier. It is significant that the next time you all visit here for Shields Nationals or another sailing event, the club will be about two feet higher. There will be a wider deck around the outside with a floating dock system. In terms of history and tradition, this is a special event for the club, something that we adjusted our construction schedule around because we want to host it here before the project begins. We're very happy to welcome the Shields Class, the sailors and all the people that come along to view it!



# Looking Back at the 2004 Edgartown Shields Nationals

## FINAL RESULTS

1.	Jonathan Pope	220	Madam X	8
2.	Chuck Allen	226	Ultimate Pressure III	15
3.	William Berry	239	Syrinx	18
4.	Brandon Flack	224	Virginia	19
5.	Jamie Hilton	217	John Dory	24
6.	John Burnham	107	Grace	30
7.	Charlie Shoemaker	245	Hawk	35
8.	Kevin Teborek	150	Yankee Girl	37
9.	Graham Quinn	235	Nimrod	38
10.	Robert Labdon	252	Janel	49
11.	Reg Willcocks	61	Whistler	56
12.	Dan Goodwin	248	The Grinch	60
13.	Mike Carr	221	Cornelia	67
14.	Robin Monk	160	Diversion	70
15.	Larry Hall	244	Nuts	70
16.	Platt Johnson	101	Rajah	71
17.	Tim Bryan	223	Aileen	77
18.	Skip McGuire	182	Lure	79
19.	Robbins/Robbins	238	White Rabbit	84
20.	Clare Gesualdo	229	Flyer	84
21.	Mark Adams	6	Anduril	84
22.	John Gowell, Jr.	58	Gem	91
23.	Tim Klein	11	Déjà vu	96
24.	George Gardner	8	Goodnews	111
25.	Phil Smith	230	Bolero II	118
26.	Green/McCabe	94	Aletor	122
27.	Jonathan Schwartz	90	Red Feather	126
28.	Jeff Randall	219	Trouble	128
29.	Paul Mitchell	251	Amusing	133



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Tuesday, September 4, 2018

1400-1700	Early registration/housing assignments	EYC
1830	No-host Welcome reception	EYC

### Wednesday, September 5, 2018

0900-1700	Registration and housing assignments	EYC
1100	Skippers' Meeting for Practice Race	EYC
1300	Practice Race	
1800	Reception and Casual dinner	EYC
1900	Shields Class Annual Meeting	EYC
1930	Skippers' Meeting for National Regatta	EYC



### Thursday, September 6, 2018

0730-0830	Continental Breakfast	EYC
1030	First Warning Signal	
1830	Reception for racers, families & volunteers	TBD

### Friday, September 7, 2018

0730-0830	Continental Breakfast	EYC
1030	First Warning Signal	EYC
	Crews free for dinner in town	

### Saturday, September 8, 2018

0730-0830	Continental Breakfast	EYC
1030	First Warning Signal	
	No Warning Signals after 1400	
1800	Awards Dinner	EYC

## How do I get my boat there? What about my car? Where will we stay? What's the big deal about sailing through Woods Hole?

Bringing a Shields to Martha's Vineyard on the ferry can be very expensive and it can be difficult to make a reservation during high season for a vehicle with a large trailer. We recommend that everyone launch their boats from the mainland and sail to Edgartown. Three yards have offered special rates to launch and haul for our event. MacDougall's of Falmouth will charge \$500 (plus an estimated \$100 for parking). Burr Bros of Marion and Cape Cod Shipbuilding have both offered a \$300 package including parking. Further details can be found on the regatta website link provided below.

The April edition of e-Masthead provided links to the many passenger ferry options available to reach the island. The Steamship Authority ferry from Woods Hole is the only option for bringing a vehicle. Many of these ferries require advance reservations.

Housing will be available for visiting crews. The housing request form can be found on the link provided below. The deadline of housing requests is August 1st.

Woods Hole is the passage that runs between Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound. Currents typically run up to four knots at max flood or ebb. Many consider sailing through Woods Hole to be a bucket (Tiffany Bucket) list item, but you want to do it at slack water, preferably with an assist boat standing by. The best experts for transiting the Hole

are the Beverly sailors, and they are recommending mid-afternoon on Sunday, September 2nd as the best time for sailing through prior to the regatta. Let us know in advance if you plan to make this journey and we will have a power boat standing by to assist you in the event of no wind. Boats sailing to Edgartown from Marion and Wareham via Woods Hole are also eligible and encouraged to compete in the Beverly Yacht Club Tiffany Bucket. Contact Ken Deyett [Unlimitedvisions@comcast.net](mailto:Unlimitedvisions@comcast.net) for details.

[https://www.edgartownyc.org/club/scripts/library/view\\_document.asp?NS=PR&DN=SHIELDS](https://www.edgartownyc.org/club/scripts/library/view_document.asp?NS=PR&DN=SHIELDS)

## Fleet News

### Fleet 1 Larchmont, NY

Although spring arrived with an Easter Blizzard, Fleet One has started to get the covers off and bottoms prepped for the 2018 racing season.

This year we are pleased to announce

that Nate Burbank and Paul Flannery who chartered #38 Talisman last year are now her proud owners. We are also excited that #23 Rascal, will be racing actively with Mike O'Connor as skipper, and that Shields #70 and #16 will be back on the line this season

as well. A running question for this season remains: Will Fred Werblow and #25 Checkmate's outstanding three year winning streak be extended? Following 2017's strong competition from Mike Carr and the Azzaretti brothers on #221 Cornelia, who finished in 2nd place, and team #183 Alice in 3rd (with #106 Lady and #176 Katherine close behind), this season promises to be as competitive as ever.

Our season begins in earnest with the Memorial Day Regatta on May 26 - 27 and continues through to our Season Finale on September 29 & 30.



In addition to the 120th Larchmont Race Week on July 14-15 and 21-22, Fleet One will also be hosting the Western Long Island Sound Districts Championships on the same weekend of July 14 & 15. Please join us for both Race Week and Districts, there will be wonderful festivities ashore as well. We hope to have a few boats stopover to compete in the New England Shields Championship – Buzzard Bay Regatta while on our way to Edgartown Yacht Club for the 2018 Shields Nationals. Five Fleet One boats have already committed with the expectation of few more to follow. (Left: John Mawe and Eric Anderson at Fleet 1 Dinner)

After Nationals, Fleet One (LYC) and Fleet Two (IHYC) are jointly offering a fall program for any Shields traveling along the I-95 corridor and looking to continue "away game" racing. The IHYC Classics Regatta will be held September 15 & 16 (with post Nationals/pre-regatta launching and moorings at Indian Harbor available), followed by a short tow or sail to LYC for our One-Design Season Finale September 29 -30. The parties ashore at both clubs could be as memorable as the racing...

In addition to our busy racing schedule, Fleet One will be offering non-competitive Friday Night Racing

to get new Shields sailors out on the water. We are looking forward to getting our covers off, the boats in the water and hope you will join us this year for some exciting racing and festive revelry ashore.

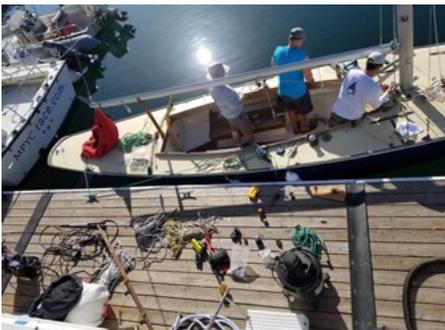
Douglas Millar  
Fleet Captain

### Fleets 7 and 12 Monterey, CA

Our combined Monterey Bay Shields Fleet is extremely proud to announce that we have recently initiated a Junior Shields Sloop Racing Team (SSRT) which kicked off in April. This program will be run by current Shields sailor and "fast" sloop racer Dave Morris. Our Shields fleet goal is to get a core group of enthusiastic sailors together to practice and compete during our local weekly Wednesday night series as well as within our monthly One-Design series. As of my writing of this article, the junior team has finished their first Wednesday night racing event finishing a respectable third, but not without getting the attention of the Shields locals by rounding the windward mark in first place!!! I guess we can say that "age and treachery" overcame "youth and skill" that time!

The newly formed SSRT program is using a race-ready Shields Class sloop that is being leased for our Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club (MPYC) Juniors

by the Monterey Youth Sailing Foundation. The beautiful dark blue colored Shields, sail number 69, named "Mokey" came from the Midwest. She began her career in Chicago and then spent some time within the now-deactivated Fleet 18 in Holland, Michigan. Her most recent stop before arriving in Monterey was on Madeleine Island in Lake Superior. Mokey was "splashed" a month ago and is docked right alongside the MPYC clubhouse... which is perfect for us Shields "old timers" to keep an eye on them "youngsters" as they develop their skills with this new racing team both on and off the water!!!



(Above: The "Old Guard": Eric Anderson, Dave Morris, and me, working on Mokey and getting her ready with all kinds of "secret Go Fast" equipment for competition by the MPYC Junior team.)

Michael Polkabra  
Fleet Captain

### Fleet 10 Marion, MA

In early May we are just beginning to see Spring weather so it has been difficult to imagine the warm summer days and sea breezes which will soon be upon us. Nevertheless, we have put together a busy and Summer schedule.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day we will have a weekly Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon

series. In addition we have special races such as the Van Rensselaer Race which is a handicapped pursuit race open to all Buzzards Bay yachts, and multiple regattas including the Ocean Great Lakes Challenge Cup, the Edgartown Regatta, and the Shields Nationals in Edgartown where we will be well represented. We will be hosting the Buzzards Bay Regatta in Marion August 3,4,5, and this will also be the New England Shields Championship, so we are hoping to get a good turnout of visiting Shields. Also if you are attending the Shields Nationals in Edgartown you may wish to launch from Marion and can join us for racing September 1 before sailing over to Edgartown. (Upper Right: Sunset on Buzzard's Bay)

Bill Berry  
Fleet Captain

### Fleet 17 Coasters Harbor Navy Yacht Club, Newport, RI

Three Fleet 17 boats were launched the last day of April and skippers will have them ready for the first race with Fleet 9 on May 9. We have one new group of co-skippers this year. LT Shawn Henry, USN and LT Teddy Coombs, USN will be racing #163 Ann. Shawn and Teddy are both stationed at Naval Station, Newport. Ron Oard in #158 Glory plans to participate in the Ocean-Great Lakes



Challenge hosted by ILYC and we hope to see many of you in town for that event. Fleet 17's annual George Winslow Regatta is scheduled for 7/23. We had a large turnout last year and we look forward to another one from Fleet 17 and Fleet 9.

Harold Belson and Dean Schofield will be out racing again this season in 14 Vindex. They are probably setting some sort of record with an average Shields crew age that is rapidly approaching 70. Fleet 17 welcomes all active-duty military personnel who race in the Newport area to get involved, as the fleet of boats was donated by Cornelius Shields and John Nicholas Brown in the 1960s with this purpose in mind.

Ron Oard  
Fleet Captain

### Fleet 21 Oxford, MD

Our spring season has started out with light winds. The first weekend we got off four races for the spring series. The next weekend was canceled due to too much wind. You guys up north probably think we are wimps. Our next outing, the weekend of May 5-6 was a new event for us. The Jim Thompson Cup, Match Racing Championship, in honor of Jim, as he was the founding skipper of TAYC's thriving fleet of Shields. He has been a member of the club for fifty years and has been sailing for over fifty years. This was a whole new gamut for our race committee

Fleet News, continued from Page 11

and for us, this would be a trial run for all involved. Plans are to make this a yearly function with a perpetual trophy in honor of Jim Thompson. We had eight boats signed up for this event and hopefully this will be a sign of a great Shields Fleet racing season. The conditions were favorable at the start of the first day and all went pretty well. Conditions turned light at the end of the day

and it was decided to start the semi-finals the next day. With light winds the match racing was not completed. The finals will be held at a later date.

We are very pleased to host the Shields Nations in 2020. (Right: Ed Cassidy #98 and Jim Alpi #160 on Tred Avon River)

Harry Seemans  
Fleet Captain



The Shields Class Thanks  
Quantum Sails for their  
Sustained Support of our  
National Championship Regatta



**QUANTUMSAILS™**  
TO THE NEXT CHALLENGE.

