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# N.M.Y.C. NEWS

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## The Club Mark-Set Boat is Under Construction

Holland, Michigan June, 2019...

NMYC Sailing Director **Jack Knoblauch** has started construction of a new catamaran. The hull model was a Soling 1M and Jack built a female mold first, then laid up two fiberglass hulls. Both hulls will be connected with a bridge that will hold batteries, radio equipment, GPS and camera.

The goal for this boat is to give Race Directors the ability to set a "perfect" course with the starting line 90 degrees to the average wind.



Jack made the following comments at our March 17th board meeting. "Why is a good starting line important anyway? On a 50 foot starting line, a 10 degree skew to the line gives a 2 1/2 boat length advantage to the favored end and a 20 degree skew gives a 5 boat length advantage. A skewed line results in a barging cluster at the starboard end, or worse yet, a port tack barging cluster at the pin end. It creates collisions, bad feelings, disregard for the rules and reinforces bad habits". The mark-set boat will be able to quickly and easily move marks into position. We will still have permanent marks to provide good courses for a variety of wind conditions. Dave Boulanger has built a similar camera boat and will assist Jack in the development of our club mark-set boat.

The club mark-set boat should be ready to deploy in November, 2019. The estimated cost for the boat is \$600. to \$800.

## Tips From Your Sailing Coach, Words Matter...

by: **Denis Blaise**

In R/C sailing, there is no such thing as left or right when talking about a boat: only PORT and STARBOARD, always. *[In the early days of boating, boats were steered with an OAR lashed to the right side. After a series of name changes, the right side became known as the STARBOARD side. Not wanting to crush the steering oar against the dock, the helmsman always tied up the left side when in port: the PORT side. And there you have it: PORT and STARBOARD.]*

You should talk about objects off the boat in relation to the boat: an object is off your port or starboard side. *[Technically, objects are located clockwise: on the bow (in front), off the starboard bow, off the starboard beam, off the starboard quarter, or astern (behind).]* Since buoys are round, they have no sides, no right or left. So, you leave a buoy off your port side, or, you round a buoy port side to.

And one last thing about **tacks** and **sailing by-the-lee**. For convenience and simplicity, we tend to describe a tack by the side of the boat hit by the wind (the windward side). However, this description is incorrect for a boat sailing by-the-lee. For instance, a boat running with the wind and the mainsail on the port side (both on the same side = by-the-lee) is actually on starboard tack, even though the wind is hitting the port side.

The technical definition of a tack has nothing to do with the wind hitting the boat. The USCG COLREGS (*Collision Regulations*) state that **“a tack is called for the side opposite to that on which the mainsail is carried.”** So, if the mainsail is over the starboard side, you are on port tack; if the mainsail is over the port side, you are on starboard tack.

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## Send us your pics

Randy Williams shared this picture of his back yard in Brewster, MA. It looks lush and cool. Summer arrived early in Naples this year and we have temperatures in the mid-nineties every day.

Send us your pictures - who knows...you might be featured in this newsletter!



# Topics Under Consideration by Your Board

Your Executive Committee continues to work on club business during these summer months. Here are some of the topics we are working on currently.

- We have just added the NOR (Notice of Race) for the **STAR 45** to our web site. Now sailors can sign up at our website for this National Championship Regatta to be held at our pond November 2-4 2019.
- Commodore **Gerhard Kelter** and Secretary **Larry Brannan** met recently with park staff from North Collier Regional Park. Parks Superintendent Rich Garby agreed to check if the weeds could be cut directly in front of our canopy. Since the weeds act as a filter for the pond, they cannot be removed or cut lower than the pond water level.
- We are testing various ways to gather input from our members on what you would like to see in the coming racing season.
- We are looking at creating a Bronze Fleet for new members. This fleet would have training requirements before being promoted to White or Red fleets
- We have closed Pond #2 at Dick's Sporting Goods on Naples Blvd. for the summer, but continue to discuss possible uses for this pond in the fall and winter series
- We are reviewing moving DF95 racing program to Thursdays. This would allow DF95 sailors to attend regional events around Florida that are usually Friday/Saturday races. The EC-12 fleet could sail Thursdays at Pond #2.
- We are making progress in better understanding our members and what they like and do not like. The membership questionnaire will help us to develop programs, both racing and non-racing that appeal to members.
- The criteria for choosing participants in the Red and White Fleets is under study and will be publicized by October 1, 2019.
- If you have ideas that you would like to share, please send them to Commodore Gerhard Kelter at [vikingrcteam@gmail.com](mailto:vikingrcteam@gmail.com)