



Rocky Fork Sailing Club

THE JIBSHEET

May 2026

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May Calendar:

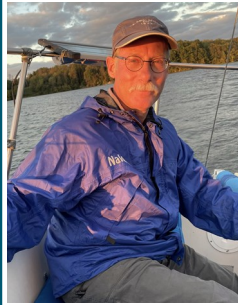
- **Mother's Day, Sunday May 10**
- **FUN RACE CANCELLED Saturday May 16.**
- **Cheeseburgers in Paradise, Saturday 16 May 2026 Sycamore Shelter, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Memorial Day , Monday 25 May 2026**
- **Two Fun Races, Saturday May 30, 12:30PM**

June Calendar:

- **Races 1 & 2, Saturday June 13 (with the first race being the Shockey Memorial Race and a new winner is guaranteed because Juno will be the Committee Boat!) . 12:30PM**
- **Pirate Potluck Picnic, Saturday June 13, Sycamore Grove Shelter 6:00 p.m.**
- **Father's Day, Sunday Jun 21 2026**
- **Night Sail and Raft-Up Swim Area Saturday June 27, 8:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday Jun 28 Races 3 & 4 12:30PM**

The Commodore's Corner from Drew Hadley

April 30, 2026



Ahoy 2026 Rocky Fork Sailors!

Welcome to May and our 2026 RFSC sailing season! It's great to see leaves out, warmer weather (well, mostly), and masts beginning to appear at the docks. I look forward to the lake level coming up, being on the water and seeing everyone at upcoming social events. 2026 has continued as a year of change and challenge at the Lake, and thanks to EVERYONE for flexibility, creativity and patience as we together navigate

those waters.

We've had two successful mast-up days at Fisherman's Wharf, proving we can safely launch shallower draft boats there, even with the lake well below normal. A HUGE thanks to our Rear Commodores for all the planning and work to make the alternate launch spot work, and to all the volunteers who have helped make the mast-up days successful. Thanks also to our Social Committee for providing donuts, along with coffee and lunch on April 26th. It was great to have the refreshments for volunteers, especially out at Fisherman's.

Work is proceeding with the East Shore ramp project, and opening is scheduled for the afternoon of May 22nd. We'll have our last Club mast-up for the season at the East Shore ramp on June 6th.

Looking forward, needed maintenance is planned for the Rocky Fork dam next Fall – Spring, and we've been working with Cory Cover at the State Park to understand the schedule and share our Club needs. Based on the current plan it appears that the lake level will be maintained at full pool through the end of October, so we would not have the feared shortened season this year. It feels a bit dynamic with construction planning right now, and I'll continue to talk with Cory to insure we have the best info through the season.

With opening of the Overlook as a commercial restaurant (also on track for ~ May 22nd), our Social Committee has locked down some alternate locations for Club events. Running our events remotely will be a learning process, and I look forward to trying the new locations. Our first social event is fast upon us with Cheeseburgers in Paradise scheduled for May 16th – hope to see many there!

Please check the dates for which you have volunteered to help – our Club events depend on the "many hands make light work" model, so please make sure you pitch in to make our activities successful.

Thanks again for your continued involvement and help – that's what makes RFSC such a great group!

Drew



Social Notes from Marcia Lehar

We have finalized locations for our upcoming events!

- May 16th Cheeseburger in Paradise at the Sycamore Shelter located near the East Shore Marina
- June 13th Pirates Potluck also at the Sycamore Shelter
- July 18th Luau at the AMVETS #61 at 11541 N. Shore
- August 15th Steak & Lobster at the Marshall Community Center on #124

Our member volunteers make these events fun for everyone. And if you are one of our newer members, please introduce yourself to our committee and we'll find a way to get you involved! Email me at leharmf@gmail.com if you are interested. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up!



Racing Notes from Rob Alpern

Ahoy fellow Sailors! It's a bit of a slow start this year, our boat is not in the water yet either. Note that the fun race tentatively planned for May 16 is canceled due to so few boats launched yet, but we'll have a couple fun races on May 30. This is a great time to join and test out your racing skills. We really want to make this fun for all participants. I have been racing off and on for a few years now and I feel I have learned a lot from watching what the other skippers are doing, and sometimes taking a different tack can really pay off! It's a great way to explore all facets of your sailing skills.

Due to the expectation that some boats won't be able to float until June with the lake level issue, the Rocky Fork Cup Racing Series won't start until mid-June. Nevertheless, for those whose boats are ready, we're going to have

one day of fun races in late May. They'll be the same or similar to our Cup races, but the results won't count toward the Cup.

- All of our race days start with a Skippers' meeting at 12:30pm at the bottom of the steps, you can race with your own boat or you can crew on one of the other boats.
- As always, racers need to sign up to serve one race as Committee Boat. The list is posted on Groups.io in the Racing folder. Email robalpern@gmail.com to request one of the yellow-highlighted slots. At this time, we're most focused on getting sign-ups for **June 13** and **July 11**.
- The racing rules will be the same as last year. They are posted on Groups.io site. As recommended to do at the start of every season, please read them.

Our first three racing dates for 2026 will be:

- **Saturday May 16 – CANCELLED**
- **Saturday May 30** Two Fun Races
- **Saturday June 13** Races 1 & 2 (with the first race being the Shockey Memorial Race and a new winner is guaranteed because Juno will be the Committee Boat!)

For 2026, the Racing Committee is composed of Ken Berger, Marcel van Nimwegen, Cliff Watkins and Rob Alpern. We look forward to your participation, so come out and give it a try!



Mast-Ups 1 & 2 from Tim Stone

Well with the challenges of low water, chilly mornings, and small parking lot full of fishing boats we have managed to pull off our first two mast ups. See the attached pics.

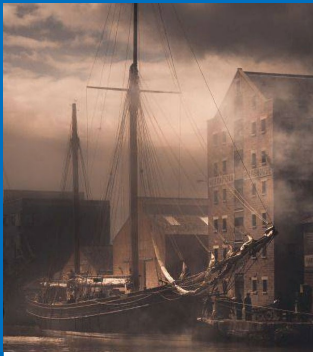
Hats off to Stephan Louis for repeat on the Eager Beaver and willingness to be our Guinea Pig first boat to try the Fisherman's wharf ramp.

The rear commodores did restrict the size to 24' and below swing keel and rudder up.

Between the two mast ups April 11th and 26th there has been 7 club boats launched. Other than a couple of motor problems everything went fairly smoothly. Many thanks to the volunteers who came out to help (we had more help than boats).

As we approach the upcoming opening of the East End Marina ramp in later May, we would like to know if another mast up at Fisherman's Wharf would interest you? Please reach out to any of the Rear Commodores and let us know. Keep in mind the 3rd and last mast up isn't scheduled until June 6th. If you have questions or information, you can contact me at pstone3756@yahoo.com.

2026 Rear Commodores: Ken Berger, Tim Stone, Willard Crabtree, Phil Hort, Cliff Watkins



Scrivener's Screed

Greetings Fellow sailors, Like many of you, I am old. I wanted to say Getting Old, but that ship has sailed. It has occurred to me that there are probably things I could do to better configure additions to the boat and equipment to make it easier, and safer, to sail. Obviously, other people have had this thought before me, and they are available on the Internet. I went out and looked around at what might be available. I looked at some articles and videos to kind of weed-out the ones that aren't helpful, and am listing the links below.

I purposely didn't use articles that are from a particular hardware supplier, as we all know we can spend a lot of money we don't have on electric winches to make it easier. It has been somewhat hard to exclude the sources that deal completely with disabled sailors, worthy as that is, because we are hoping to be able to sail without benefit of a lot of outside help., and we do still have abilities.

The biggest change that will make your sailing easier and safer is to take on crew; ideally, younger crew. There are many of us who enjoy going out solo, but as we age, we move slower and with less confidence, and it only takes one lee lurch or big puff while going forward to risk a regrettable incident. Obviously, leading everything to the cockpit is always safer, single-handed or not. Here are the links I have so far, will add more if I find them:

5 Best Old Fart Tips:

<https://www.practical-sailor.com/safety-seamanship/five-best-old-fart-tips/>

5 mistakes sailors make over 50:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OTJGyzC9TY>



Joke of the Month

Two sailors talking, the first one says, "My girlfriend just sailed to the Caribbean."

"Jamaica?" The other one asked.

"Heck no! She'd been wanting to go for a long time."

The Jibsheet is a monthly publication of the Rocky Fork Sailing Club during the sailing season.

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