



Rocky Fork Sailing Club

THE JIBSHEET

July 2026

In This Issue...

- Notes from the Commodore
- New Details on Events from Marcia
- Racing Stuff
- Two articles from Peter Larson with pictures.
- A Sort of a Joke

July Calendar:

- **Our Country's 250th Birthday, July 4th, 2026.**
- **National Birthday Dinner, Saturday July 18, Amvets on North Shore Dr. 6:00 p.m.**
- **Mooring Ball Removal, Tuesday July 14**
- **Rumble in the Hills, July 18 & 19**

August Calendar:

- **2026 Steak and Lobster Dinner, Saturday 15 August, Marshall Community Center, Social Hour 5PM, Dinner 6PM.**
- **Scrabble Run,, Sunday 16 August, 12:30 Skipper's Meeting.**

The Commodore's Corner from Drew Hadley



Ahoy Rocky Fork Sailors!

Summer has settled in, and with just over three months behind us, it's been encouraging to watch the marina slowly fill with masts and to see strong attendance at our social events—especially given the ramp and launch challenges we've faced.

A big thank-you to our Social Committee, and especially Tonya Larson, for putting together a fantastic Pirate's Potluck at the Sycamore Shelter. Congratulations again to Cliff Watkins for delivering an award-worthy pirate impression.

We'll soon be trying out our new social venues. Join us for the **America 250 Luau** at the AMVETS facility on North Shore Drive on **July 18**, followed by **Steak and Lobster** at the Marshall Community Center on **August 15**. These are signature club events, and your participation helps make them special. Invitations for Steak and Lobster will be arriving shortly.

As many of you know, the **Rumble in the Hills** hydroplane races have been rescheduled for **July 18–19**. A small team will remove the mooring balls the week of July 13, with plans to reinstall them by July 24.

Launch access and getting boats in the water has continued to be a hot topic. ODNR recently completed work to remove the shoal and fill the scoured area at Fisherman's Wharf, and we've successfully launched several larger, deeper-keel boats over the past couple of weeks. At this point, it appears that all but the very largest boats can launch and retrieve at Fisherman's Wharf, though space and mast-raising remain tight. We've asked ODNR to pause further work there and instead focus on long-term improvements at East Shore to allow **all** club boats to launch safely and make full use of our mast crane. ODNR expresses commitment to a solution there, and we're pushing for close involvement in the design phase. The next month will be critical to ensuring construction can be completed this winter. We may need additional member outreach to support this effort – stay tuned!

On a lighter note, the new **Dockside** restaurant held its official ribbon-cutting last week, and it's already buzzing with activity. I've enjoyed a great meal there myself, and it's wonderful to see fresh energy at East Shore. Dockside is proudly displaying an RFSC sticker on the door—and hopefully soon a club burgee (thanks, Bob Inkrot). Be sure to stop in and give it a try! See you at the lake!

— Drew



Social Notes from Marcia Lehar

Greetings Sailors,

Our July dinner this year is a 250th birthday party for the U.S.A. (July 18, 6PM) It will be held at the Amvets Post at 11541 N Shore Dr, Hillsboro, OH 45133, about 10 minutes from East Shore. There are two entrances, but we will have decorations outside of the door to use for entry. The theme will be Americana, and I am asking you to find pictures you particularly have liked of parades, floats, yard decorations, or scenes from national parks, that kind of thing. Just photos that celebrate America and our country's birthday. Please email them to me at le-harmf@gmail.com, preferably in jpeg format. I will print them out and we will use them for decorations. If you are

listed to volunteer, please do.

We are starting to organize for Steak and Lobster Dinner on August 15th, and invitations will come out at the beginning of August. This dinner requires a large group of volunteers, so please let us know if you volunteered and can't make it. Those steaks and lobsters don't cook themselves. Not all of us can sail, but we can still socialize. I look forward to seeing all of you!



Racing Notes

The sad fact is that racing has been suspended while the club gets more boats in the water. It would be helpful to the Race Committee if you would let them know if you have a boat in the water and want to race by emailing Rob Alpern at robalpern@gmail.com. Early Notice: The Racing Committee WILL host the traditional Scrabble Run on Sunday, August 16th, and encourages participation by 100% of floating boats! Come out for a fun afternoon of sailing and social time. This event doesn't require racing knowledge (you can even use your "iron genny"!), and a prize is awarded for the best scrabble word. Skippers Meeting at 12:30 to get your initial letters. We hope to see you there! If you are interested, just stay tuned to the club email for more details when they are available. Meanwhile,

here are some racing links to keep you thinking about it: <https://youtube.com/shorts/Xx4zLCAfSGs?si=w-XvA84Z8BG9B7gi>

<https://youtu.be/6YLntQUoCf0?si=3bETCnZL5sxLd4QB>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Q-kwDnpwqMA?si=iOmVKiqMHDZeNt->



Viewing the Tall Ship Parade From One World Trade Center by Peter Larson

Beth and I were privileged to watch the Tall Ship Parade in New York Harbor from the 70th floor of the One World Trade Center in Manhattan, where my son works for Celonis, a German tech firm. More than 30 sailing ships sailed under the Verrazano Bridge, past the Statue of Liberty and into New York Harbor where they docked for several days. The tall ships were escorted by two aircraft carriers and other U.S. Navy ships, in addition to 200 aircraft that flew overhead to celebrate the Fourth of July and 250 years of America's independence. It was the largest array of tall ships in modern history and included naval training and goodwill vessels from around the world including Italy, Portugal, Peru, Mexico, Norway, France and Germany. The ships were sailing close into the wind that day, so most of them were assisted by engine power. Here are a few pictures:





Exploring the Erie Islands By Peter Larson

After five years of sailing the protected waters of Rocky Fork, I decided it was time to venture out into the wide world and attempt a voyage on the Great Lakes. Accompanied by my son, John, we hitched up the Aeolus, our 24-foot Neptune, and headed north to explore the Erie Islands. I am including marina locations and costs for those who might be interested in an Erie trip.

We arrived at Catawba Island around 4 p.m., a bit later than planned. After some initial problems finding a place to launch, we ended up at the West Harbor Public Boat Launch. For a modest fee of \$10 we were able to use the launch ramp and leave our pickup truck and trailer in the parking lot.

It was the first time I had attempted a mast-up without the help and expertise of other club members and I wasn't sure the two of us could do it by ourselves. However, we managed just fine and got the rigging all squared away after only two attempts.

Because it was late in the day, we didn't bother hoisting sail but motored to Kelley's Island where we rented an overnight "transient" slip for \$55 at Seaway Marina. It is an excellent facility equipped with a store, restaurant and shower rooms. After a dinner of fried perch and walleye sandwiches at The Pump restaurant, we bunked down for the night - the first time we had ever slept on the Aeolus. We were kept awake briefly by the squeaking of our rubber fenders against the dock but were able to remedy the situation with ear plugs.

The next day we sailed around the three Bass islands before docking for the night at Miller Marina on the island of Put In Bay. The docking fee was \$50, which included access to the bathrooms and showers. Exploring the town, we discovered it was Pirate Festival weekend, with crowds of people dressed as pirates. We hoisted a pint at the Put In Bay Brewery and Distillery before having dinner at The Boardwalk, a historic pier that features at least four or five different restaurants.

After dinner, we hiked to a colossal column that marks the Admiral Perry's victory over a British Fleet at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. At 352 feet, it is the largest Doric column in the world, taller than the Statue of Liberty. Unfortunately, the monument was closed for repairs so we were unable to ride the elevator up to the observation deck that overlooks Lake Erie.

The following day we had some great sailing, with winds gusting at 12 or 13 miles per hour. It took a long time to exit the Put In Bay harbor as we tacked back and forth on a close reach, trying stay in the channel. After five hours of sailing, we headed back to West Harbor to pull the boat out of the water and head home.

The only problems we encountered were a "check engine" light that began blinking and a jib sail that broke loose from the sheets. Fortunately, both of these problems occurred near the end of our trip and did not ruin the voyage. Now that I've had a taste of the Great Lakes, I am already planning to return again in August for another adventure. Our two-day voyage was a definite learning experience and confidence builder for future trips to Lake Erie and beyond. In the words of my dear friend Howard Staley, former owner of the Aeolus, the opportunities for sailing are unlimited!



Joke of the Month:

How many boaters does it take to change a lightbulb?

None, because:

- the right size bulb isn't on board,
- the local marine-supply store doesn't carry that brand
- and the mail-order house has them on back-order.