

New Castle Sailing Club

NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Ernest Russell

Commodore's Corner

So normally our April Newsletter is full of stories showing eager anticipation for imminent launch later this month. I still believe that day will come in 2020, just delayed to perhaps June (or July?)—after all, even if all restrictions are lifted in May, it will take time to ready the Fleet. But in the meantime, we will be monitoring the situation and making the best decisions we can—the Board



is committed to keeping membership informed, safe and engaged along the way. I very much appreciate that our membership has stayed away from the Club and Sail houses. My wife and I do Meals on Wheels a few times a week (using gloves, face masks and social distancing) out of the New Castle Senior Center on South Street, so I can tell you as an eyewitness that the City has blocked off Battery Park parking—only local residents are allowed use of the park. This is a serious situation so please do keep you and your families safe over the next few weeks

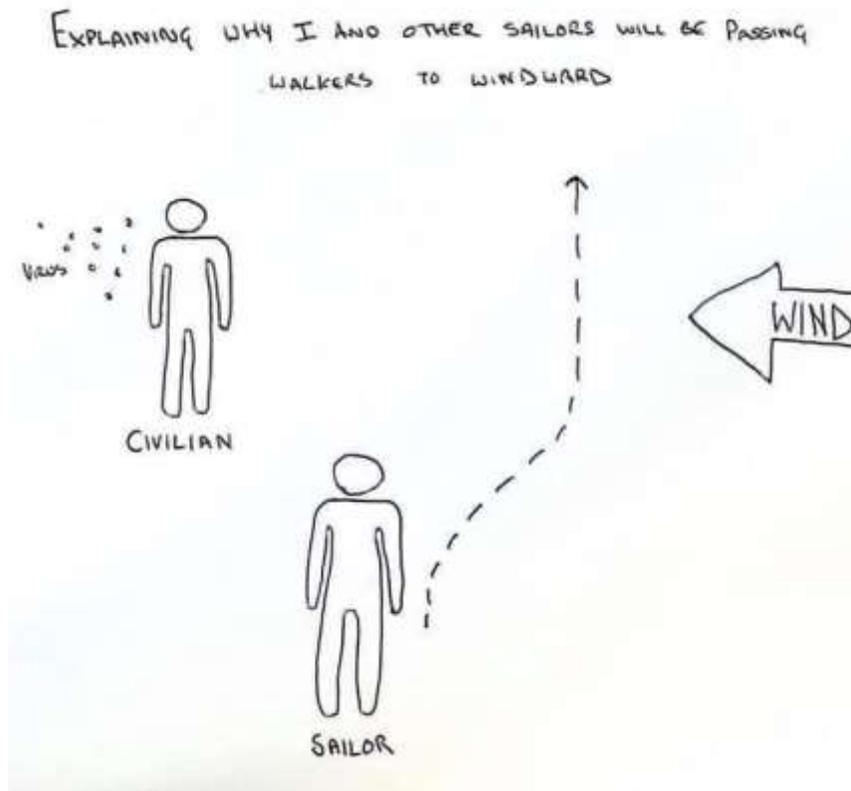
Big kudos need to go to Clay Greer and the various presenters who have stepped forward to do virtual instruction through Zoom every Saturday at 10:30 am. These have been well attended, and even well seasoned keyed members have attended a few. It is a good way to stay connected to your fellow sailors.

Until fairer winds are blowing...

Steve Constable
Commodore
New Castle Sailing Club

From the Fleet

I am pretty confident that we are all in the same boat insofar as we're absolutely itching to get out on the water to hone our sailing skills. While we are all being quite responsible and vigilant in practicing isolating and social distancing, it is nonetheless somewhat disheartening to really want to be out on the open water with the wind in our sails and the spray in our faces. I have posted a few funny videos on the New Castle Sailing Club FaceBook page regarding creative tacking practices, but below please find another more serious, detailed overview of tacking. Online instruction is being provided on Saturdays throughout the next few weeks and will also cover boat handling more pertinent to Thistles and Scots. As always, many thanks for all the help you are giving the club, which for now translates into waiting patiently for the all-clear and staying as healthy as possible!



Detailed Overview of Tacking: <https://sailzing.com/the-body-mechanics-of-tacking/>

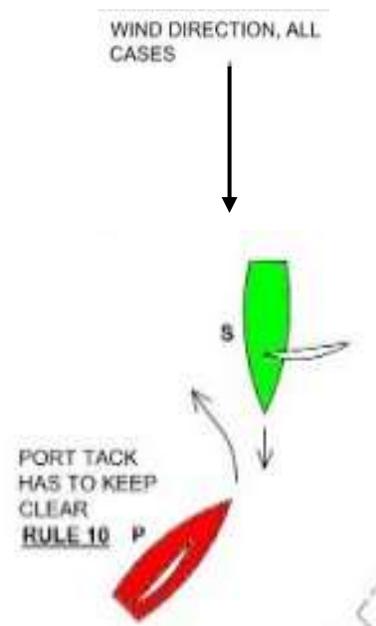
Meg Farrugia
Fleet Captain

Racing

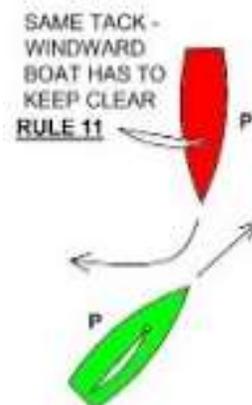
At this point in the season, I would ordinarily be previewing the Boat Captains Race that marks the start of our racing season, and I would be recruiting folks for the race committee. I very much hope that I will be doing this in next month's newsletter. With the current social distancing pause, I thought I would take a few minutes to consider right-of-way on the downwind leg of a race. For some reason, I find the downwind situations a little harder to figure out during a race. This review of the most common downwind close encounter situations may help us all.



A first common situation is shown to the right where Green has just rounded the windward mark and encounters Red sailing in the opposite direction. Under Rule 10, when boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat (Red) must keep clear of a starboard-tack boat (Green).



Now consider the situation where Red has rounded the mark and has already jibed to port. Under Rule 11, when boats are on the same tack and overlapped, the windward boat on port (Red) must keep clear of a leeward boat on port (Green).



Likewise, if Green is on starboard, the port tack boat Red must still keep clear under Rule 10. So if you round the windward mark and jibe to port tack, know that you need to be extra careful to avoid boats approaching in the opposite direction.

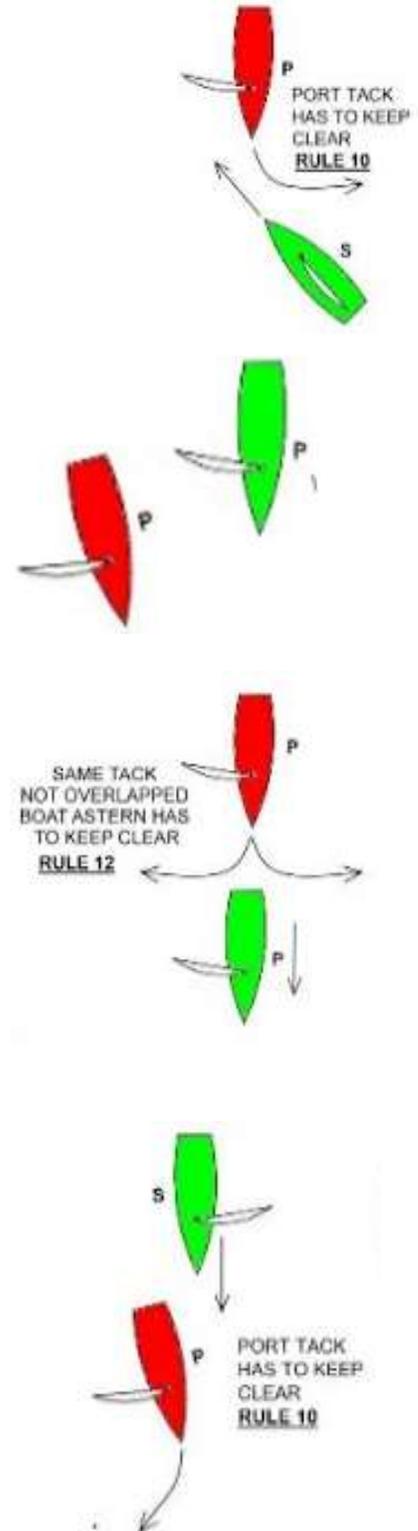
If Green and Red are both heading downwind on the same tack and are overlapped, the windward boat (Green) must keep clear of a leeward boat (Red). As Chuck Shorten pointed out to me, if your boom is sticking into the other boat next to you, that means you are the windward boat and need to keep clear.

If two downwind boats are on the same tack but are not overlapped, Rule 12 provides that when boats are on the same tack and not overlapped, the boat clear astern (Red) must keep clear of a boat clear ahead (Green).

But, if two downwind boats are on opposite tacks, then under Rule 10, the port tack boat (Red) must keep clear of the starboard tack boat (Green).

If you know how to apply the rules in these common downwind situations, you will be prepared for the downwind close encounters most likely to arise.

Tom Gorman
Racing Director



Membership



Please welcome our latest member, Joan Adelman of Wilmington. Joan has some sailing experience and has joined the Sails team.

Good to see newer members attending our Zoom instruction sessions. If you have not been invited and would like to attend please reach out to me or to Clay Greer.

Best,
John Harder
Membership Director

Property

Greetings all,

Well, this stay at home order is certainly challenging. I spend most days outdoors under normal circumstances, but I am glad to comply as I believe it is for the greater good and will in the long-run reduce the loss of life from this terrible virus.

As you can see in the photo, Rebecca and I have been brushing up on knots. The clove hitch is a simple knot once you know it, but like all knots it can be puzzling when forgotten. Bob C. uses a quick release hitch that I look forward to relearning when we are back on the water. Until then my friends, stay well.

Best,
Scott Andrews
Property Director

