

Dear Bullseye Sailors,

The Sandy Bay Yacht Club in Rockport, MA is excited to welcome you for the 58<sup>th</sup> Bullseye Nationals and super excited to be resuming some of our long delayed traditions. We first hosted the Nationals in 1969, and this will be our fourteenth time as hosts. We welcome you to a club that was established in 1885.

This year, Covid is foremost in everyone's minds. SBYC is fortunate to have held a full racing program last summer, so many of the safety protocols are well established, if still needed. These included things like masking on the dock and in the launch, limiting passengers in the launch to those for one boat. Right now, in mid June, no restrictions are in place. The Town has had no cases for over a month and the overwhelming majority of SBYC members have been vaccinated. We would know exactly what to do if the Town and the SBYC Board needed to reimpose safety protocols, but they didn't limit our enjoyment of racing last year and won't this year.

We had asked participants to reserve space in an inn or B&B , but we are now confident that we can provide some housing in members' homes for hosts and guests who have been fully vaccinated (if they are eligible for a vaccine).

Now, back to the important stuff!

To sail in Sandy Bay is to sail in a relatively protected bay because the outer breakwater, about three miles out, was built in around 1900 to create a harbor for Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet. Inside the outer breakwater, the current creates gentle swirls, a subject of constant debate. Racing outside the breakwater puts us in significant current and ocean swells, sometimes allowing us to race to Thacher Island (yes, a relative of our own Joan Thacher Tiffany) which sports restored lighthouses, keeper's houses, and opportunities for thousands of kayakers, campers and overnight guests throughout the summer.

Our club has all the simple amenities needed for an active sailing and social program –a snack bar, an outside grill area, and a fabulous view from the rocking chairs on our porch. Our hoist is essential to sailors; dropping your boat in the water is a simple procedure at any tide. We will arrange storage for your trailers.

Rockport has a long history as an artists' colony and a small walking town with many historic homes and interesting shops. It is increasingly well known as a music center, in part because of the opening of the Shalin Liu Performance Center five years ago. It is the home of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival as well as jazz, folk, pop and world music concerts throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the Nationals.

**Details for those registering:**

We are planning for a 5-race series. We made this decision based on challenges due to Covid and the fact that we have an older fleet and want as many as possible to participate.

Skippers wishing to request a loaner boat are encouraged to pay by Pay Pal on their BSA member page at [www.bullseyesailing.org](http://www.bullseyesailing.org) , notify Laura by email at [laura.hallowell37@gmail.com](mailto:laura.hallowell37@gmail.com) and send

the paperwork along, either scanned or by US.Mail. That will ensure timely receipt of their request. Loaner boats are assigned on a first come, first served basis, once we have received full payment. If you can't come because no loaner boat is available, we will refund your registration fee in full. *Since Pay Pal keeps a percentage of each payment, we ask that others write a check.*

You may want to book a reservation at an inn or B&B etc. Rockport was a popular spot last year, and we expect it to be again this year. The Nationals are occurring at the height of our tourist season, so we advise you to book a spot promptly that could be cancelled later. The Rockport Innkeeper Association maintains this website, [www.innsofrockport.com](http://www.innsofrockport.com), and Gloucester has the website [Inns & B&Bs Archives - Discover Gloucester](#). Of course, you may find additional listings some other way. You do not want to stay further away than Gloucester.

Jo-Ann Lavigne, 978-546-2071, [lavigne34@msn.com](mailto:lavigne34@msn.com)  
Laura Hallowell, 781-799-5988, [laura.hallowell37@gmail.com](mailto:laura.hallowell37@gmail.com)  
Nationals Co-Chairs