

Sailing Weather Forecast
2018 Race Week at Newport
Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound
Issued 0530 EDT WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2018

NOTE: Please send feedback to feedback@sailwx.com. Thanks!

WARNING AND ADVISORIES: There are no warnings or advisories posted for the sailing area. Monitor NOAA All Hazards Radio for the latest official warnings and advisories.

SYNOPSIS: A cold front move through Newport overnight/early this morning and will clear east of Cape Cod and the Islands by mid-morning. There is a wave of low pressure on the front near Nantucket which is slowing it down a little bit, with some cloud lingering in the area early this morning. The next weather system is a pressure now over Lake Michigan and forecast to be near Detroit by this evening.

Gradients this morning are post-frontal NW/N and will likely be more controlled by the departing low pressure/front today than by the incoming high pressure. As a result, the wind will be a bit accelerated down the bay and offshore this morning. Temperatures

Strongest winds are expected from mid- or late-morning through on a puffy N'ly. This will tend to be strongest - but also most unstable - over the bay, and a little lighter on Rhode Island Sound. Winds will ease early to mid-afternoon as thermals attempt to develop a sea breeze. Right now, it looks like the sea breeze will be weak and probably fail to develop sufficiently enough to allow for a fair, stable, sailable breeze. N'ly winds will return in the later afternoon or evening.

FORECAST DISCUSSION: Becoming NW at sunrise or shortly afternoon, tending N through mid-morning. Building breeze after sunrise with mixing increasing winds to mid-/upper-teens and some stronger gusts. From about 1100/1200, easing and becoming more patchy. N/NNE easing 4-8 mid-afternoon on the bay. Chance of winds tending NE > E > SE > S mid-/late-afternoon on the offshore course area with a weak sea breeze component.

WEATHER: Fog and some lingering cloud this morning. The fog should lift as winds build a bit through mid-morning on mixing of stronger/lower humidity air aloft down to the surface. Clouds will clear and it will become mostly sunny. Some cumulus may develop inland and drift toward the bay/coast this afternoon. No rain is expected.

AIR TEMPERATURE: Near 70F this morning warming to around 80F.

SEAS: Narragansett Bay - Less than 1 ft building up to 1 ft for a time trough late morning. Subsiding under 1 ft again this afternoon.
Rhode Island Sound - 1 ft seas AM building 2 ft PM. Swell 2 ft.

Detailed Wind Forecast for TODAY - NARRAGANSETT BAY:

Time (Local)	Wind Direction (Magnetic)	Most Likely Shift	Shift Type	10M TWS (Knots)	COMMENTS	Potential Gust
18-Jul-18 08:00	350 - 020	▼	Oscillating	09 - 13	NW tending N at first	16
18-Jul-18 09:00	355 - 025	▼	Oscillating	13 - 17	Mixing causes build	21
18-Jul-18 10:00	355 - 025	▼	Oscillating	12 - 16		20
18-Jul-18 11:00	005 - 035	►	Oscillating	11 - 15	Gradually easing	19
18-Jul-18 12:00	355 - 025	▼	Oscillating	10 - 14	Very puffy and shifts	18
18-Jul-18 13:00	360 - 030	▼	Random	05 - 09	Big holes open with unstable direction	11
18-Jul-18 14:00	335 - 005	▼	Random	03 - 07		9
18-Jul-18 15:00	000 - 030	▼	Random	03 - 07		9
18-Jul-18 16:00	010 - 040	►	Random	05 - 09	Once past peak thermal, N/NNE gradient	11
18-Jul-18 17:00	350 - 020	▼	Oscillating	07 - 11	reaserts itself	14
18-Jul-18 18:00	000 - 030	▼	Oscillating	06 - 10		13

Detailed Wind Forecast for TODAY - RHODE ISLAND SOUND:

Time (Local)	Wind Direction (Magnetic)	Most Likely Shift	Shift Type	10M TWS (Knots)	COMMENTS	Potential Gust
18-Jul-18 08:00	350 - 020	▼	Oscillating	07 - 11	Building	13
18-Jul-18 09:00	360 - 030	▼	Oscillating	15 - 19	Strongest wind directly out of bay	23
18-Jul-18 10:00	000 - 030	▼	Oscillating	15 - 19		23
18-Jul-18 11:00	005 - 035	►	Oscillating	13 - 17		20
18-Jul-18 12:00	355 - 025	▼	Oscillating	12 - 16	Watch for easing trend	19
18-Jul-18 13:00	360 - 030	▼	Oscillating	09 - 13		16
18-Jul-18 14:00	010 - 040	►	R Persistent	04 - 08	Big holes with right trend	10
18-Jul-18 15:00	045 - 075	▲	R Persistent	04 - 08		10
18-Jul-18 16:00	065 - 095	◄	R Persistent	04 - 08	Very patchy	10
18-Jul-18 17:00	125 - 155	►	R Persistent	04 - 08	Weak, late sea breeze	10
18-Jul-18 18:00	170 - 200	▲	R Persistent	03 - 07		8

HEDGE: 1) Forecast Confidence: AVERAGE.

Models are consistent in keep winds directed offshore on the bay. There is a consensus of a late SE tending S sea breeze turn on RIS, but strength is marginal for sailing. I followed the high resolution model consensus closely in developing the forecast table.

2) Best sailing breeze will be this morning both on the bay and offshore course areas.

3) Afternoon winds much lighter and more patchy/unstable. Quite possible wind will nearly glass off on RIS in the afternoon before a weak SE/S sea breeze tries to fill late afternoon.

4) If wind dies completely on the bay, watch for a late sea breeze turn from SSE/S.

THURSDAY (19 JULY 2018): Another N'ly up to moderate strength in the morning. However high pressure spreading east from the great lakes will weaken the gradient and improve chances for a PM sea breeze. N'ly in the morning 10-15. Easing quickly at mid-day becoming S'ly early afternoon. Building from 3-6 on initial sea breeze development to 8-12 and possibly 15 max on the bay PM. Fine and seasonably mild weather.

FRIDAY (20 JULY 2018): High pressure over southern New England moves offshore during the day. A light S tending SSW sea breeze is forecast. Light and variable in the morning becoming S/SSW by mid-day, 4-8. Building SSW/SW increasing 8-12 through the afternoon. Some morning fog possible, otherwise mostly sunny.

SATURDAY (21 JULY 2018): High pressure off the east coast and low pressure over the Great Lakes. Warmer temperatures. Becoming S/SW early 5-10. Building S/SSW 10-15 early afternoon and possibly 12-17 through the afternoon. Fine weather. Chance of AM Fog.
