

Sailing Weather Forecast
2018 Race Week at Newport
Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound
Issued 0530 EDT THURSDAY 19 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: The northerly gradient that was in place yesterday is still over Newport this morning, but it is considerably weaker. High pressure that was over the western Great Lakes and Michigan yesterday is moving slowly east and will dominate the northeast US today. The center of the high is over NYS this morning, and is expected to move into southern New England this evening.

As the high moves east, the gradient will gradually weaken. Thermal conditions are expected to be good today with plenty of mid-summer sun, so a transition to a S/SSW sea breeze is expected in the afternoon. The time of transition from N'ly gradient to S'ly sea breeze will depend on the strength of the N'ly gradient the morning - a stronger gradient will result in a later sea breeze. A lighter N'ly wind in the morning will lead to an earlier sea breeze.

Current expectation is for the offshore breeze to ease and die first on the offshore course area - allowing a sea breeze to develop between noon and 1300. Winds will ease on the bay late morning as well, but it may take 1-2 hours longer for the sea breeze to develop there. S'ly winds should be building on the bay 1400 or so.

FORECAST DISCUSSION: NE/N at first this morning 5-10 and possibly 10-15 at times - especially on the offshore course area. This wind will peak by 0800-0900 then slowly start to ease off, with a more rapid decrease in pressure late morning through mid-day.

A S/SSW sea breeze is likely to develop on the offshore course area around noon. This breeze will build relatively quickly into the low-/mid-teens for the afternoon. The sea breeze will take 1-2 hours longer to fill up into the bay, but will be 8-12 there for the mid-/late-afternoon.

WEATHER: Some patches of fog early this morning. Otherwise mostly sunny and a little warmer. There will be a few thermal cumulus developing onshore and north of the bay in the afternoon.

AIR TEMPERATURE: Cool near 60F this morning warming to around 80F then cooling on the PM Sea breeze.

SEAS: Narragansett Bay - Generally less than 1 ft.
 Rhode Island Sound - Up to 1 ft chop this morning. Swell 2 ft. Chop increasing to 1-2 ft on the PM sea breeze.

Detailed Wind Forecast for TODAY - NARRAGANSETT BAY:

Time (Local)	Wind Direction (Magnetic)	Most Likely Shift	Shift Type	10M TWS (Knots)	COMMENTS	Potential Gust
19-Jul-18 08:00	010 - 040	▶	Oscillating	05 - 09	Gradient and drainage. Possibly stronger at 1st	10
19-Jul-18 09:00	350 - 020	▼	Oscillating	03 - 07		8
19-Jul-18 10:00	325 - 355	▼	L Persistent	03 - 07	Big holes developing. Easing through th emorning	8
19-Jul-18 11:00	310 - 340	◀	L Persistent	02 - 06		7
19-Jul-18 12:00	265 - 295	▶	L Persistent	00 - 04	Light and variable	5
19-Jul-18 13:00	265 - 295	▶	L Persistent	01 - 05	Watch for S'ly filling up bay as sea breeze	6
19-Jul-18 14:00	195 - 225	↙	L Abrupt	04 - 08		9
19-Jul-18 15:00	185 - 215	↙	L Persistent	08 - 12	Building sea breeze	14
19-Jul-18 16:00	175 - 205	↗	Oscillating	08 - 12	Peak wind	14
19-Jul-18 17:00	175 - 205	↗	Oscillating	08 - 12		14
19-Jul-18 18:00	180 - 210	↗	Oscillating	06 - 10		12

Detailed Wind Forecast for TODAY - RHODE ISLAND SOUND:

Time (Local)	Wind Direction (Magnetic)	Most Likely Shift	Shift Type	10M TWS (Knots)	COMMENTS	Potential Gust
19-Jul-18 08:00	025 - 055	▶	Oscillating	09 - 13	Gradient and drainage accelerated out of bay	15
19-Jul-18 09:00	025 - 055	▶	Oscillating	07 - 11		13
19-Jul-18 10:00	010 - 040	▶	Oscillating	05 - 09	Thermal developing causing unstable/easing	10
19-Jul-18 11:00	020 - 050	▶	Oscillating	02 - 06		7
19-Jul-18 12:00	330 - 360	▼	Random	00 - 04	Light and variable; Sea breeze transition	5
19-Jul-18 13:00	170 - 200	↗	Abrupt	03 - 07	Sea breeze initiates	8
19-Jul-18 14:00	190 - 220	↙	Oscillating	07 - 11	Quick build to light-moderate strength	13
19-Jul-18 15:00	195 - 225	↙	Oscillating	08 - 12		14
19-Jul-18 16:00	200 - 230	↙	Oscillating	09 - 13	More right offshore	15
19-Jul-18 17:00	200 - 230	↙	R Oscillating	09 - 13		15
19-Jul-18 18:00	200 - 230	↙	R Oscillating	08 - 12		14

HEDGE: 1) Forecast Confidence: AVERAGE.

Models are in good agreement that sea breezes will eventually build on both bay and offshore courses. There is some disagreement on timing and peak strength of the sea breeze. Stronger N/NE winds this morning will likely delay the sea breeze 1-2 hours. Alternatively, lighter winds this morning could see the sea breeze developing as early as 1100.

2) A longer transition between gradient and sea breeze is expected on the bay, so a extended period of light and variable is possible there late morning into early afternoon. When the sea breeze arrives, it will build steadily up the bay.

3) A quicker transition to sea breeze is expected on the Rhode Island Sound course areas. Peak winds later afternoon on the sea breeze. Watch for winds tending right from S/SSW to SSW/SW later PM.

.

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): Forecast change from yesterday. Deepening upper level low over the Great Lakes may cause a coastal low to develop on the mid-Atlantic and move northern toward NYC. This will likely support a moderate onshore SE gradient flow.. E/SE 5-10 early morning tending SE and building quickly to 10-15. Gradient holding steady and possibly building 14-18 later afternoon. Increasing cloud. Chance of rain developing.
