

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Course Ahead

M Knowledge, preparation and evaluation are common traits for good sailors and organizations. You as competitor and Great South Bay Yacht Racing Association as race manager plan for the course ahead with awareness and make adjustments. GSBYRA reviewed statistics gathered over the last four years that revealed several trends: fleet racing within clubs is strong; Friday junior regatta attendance is high; GSBYRA championship attendance grew slightly; and weekend Invitational attendance varied. GSBYRA dialogued with sailors regarding their needs and from this broad input heard several reasons for fluctuating attendance: race events that conflicted; too many successive days of lessons and racing for juniors; and other family obligations. GSBYRA explored several ideas to increase both junior and senior attendance at GSBYRA Invitational Regattas. With discussion among its member clubs completed, GSBYRA alerts competitors to adjustments for the course ahead.

Preparation for everyone begins with the schedule and standard entry forms for Friday Junior Regattas, Invitational Regattas, Race Week, and GSBYRA Championships available at www.gsbyra.org. Sailors, instructors, and parents should download entry forms for each event ahead of time and bring completed forms with them. This speeds registration and provides standard, accurate information. For Race Week take advantage of the entry fee discount by mailing the entry form before the July 18 deadline. A discount for the barbeque fee is also offered with early payment. Include the skipper's date of birth on the entry form. It's a necessity for awarding the age and performance related Delafield and Fauth Trophies, and an additional new Senior Trophy. And last, anticipate high attendance at the GSBYRA men's and women's championships, as the Area B and US SAILING national championships for each are all sailed in the Flying Scot for 2009.

Specific to junior sailors are several items to note. Competitors at the Wet Pants and the Bay Shore Junior Regattas will have their overall finish position from Friday carried over as the first race position at the respective Wet Pants and Bay Shore Invitational Regattas on Saturday. Junior classes will have one throw-out race on Saturday, and will race only Saturday at these two events as

GSBYRA experiments to increase attendance at those Regattas. The joint Narrasctuck and Unqua Corinthian Yacht Clubs Junior Regatta is also a fund raiser for Diabetes Research this year. Next, runner-up sailors from GSBYRA Junior Championships are invited to represent GSBYRA at a new Junior Challenge at SUNY Maritime. The Junior Challenge organized by Fran Graham and Dianne Schmidt includes three other sailing associations. Fourth, female junior sailors may enter the 2009 US SAILING Leiter Cup hosted by Westhampton Yacht Squadron in July. And last, junior sailors should apply for grants. US SAILING offers new Sailability grants to juniors who attend championships, while GSBYRA offers Sailing Grants to those sailors who are accepted for post secondary education. Download the GSBYRA Sailing Grant application form now to keep a record of sailing event participation every year!

Specific to PHRF sailors are several events that increase interclub race opportunities, for which a South Bay Cruising Club handicap is required. Download the SBCC handicap form from www.gsbyra.org and mail it to Kevin Reagan, SBCC Delegate. GSBYRA negotiated with SBCC to open their weekend races and after parties to PHRF boats from all GSBYRA member clubs. SBCC's West Island Race will be scored as part of 2009 Race Week, hosted by Sayville Yacht Club. SBCC's East Cup Race is included for the Wet Pants Invitational Regatta. Skippers by finish position receive keeper trophies, however only SBCC members qualify to win perpetual trophies.

GSBYRA applauds younger generations taking the helm within fleets, committees and clubs: Austin and Hunter Hulse, Middle Atlantic Midget Champions pictured on the cover with the Great South Bay Bowl; Andrew Baransky, DRI fund raiser organizer; Gretchen Stang, newly appointed member to the GSBYRA Scholarship Committee and developer of the sailing program at Seaview Sailing Yacht Club; Jim Koehler, chairperson of the Area B single-handed championship.

Enrich your life with the lively camaraderie of sailing, and enjoy the course ahead!

MaryAnn Deering