

BLYC Racing 2022 Spring Newsletter

Greetings everyone from the BLYC 2022 race committee. With just about 30 days before the start (5-14) of the new racing season, the committee felt like we needed to reach out one more time to first and most importantly ask for your input and then discuss the new format that those suggestions have brought about so far.

The big news this year is the afternoon session that is a direct result of folks looking and asking for something different than what has been offered in the past. First and foremost, with the 2:30 PM start it's all about the afternoon breeze that should cater to a different type of event than the morning buoy races that are usually contested in much lighter conditions and have historically been shorter windward-leeward races. The PM session is all about a more laid back longer less intense format that hopefully will bring out a more diverse group of boats and crews looking for a different experience than the AM buoy races. Some folks have gone so far as to call these "Fun Races", well we think they're all fun. We know some boats will do both AM and PM, but many will pick just one session. The intent is to finish the AM session by 2:00 each day so there are a few minutes to grab a bite and a drink before the PM 2:30 start. A typical PM course might simply be to race down to SS mark (just past Gus's Point) and back, about 8.8 miles from the center start mark. With the afternoon breeze in effect that course could be finished in as little as two hours. Brian Bales and Mark Thompson have volunteered to be the fleet captains of the PM session and will be responsible for calling out the course each day. The course will be called out over VHF channel 6 at 2:15 with the intent of the fleet crossing the line at 2:30.

Also new this year is the 7:00 PM Ranger Deck gathering to announce the days' results, share a drink or a snack and badger your closest rival into buying you dinner.

Other exciting new stuff this year includes the return of Buster Pikes Farr 30 after a year on the East coast, two more Melges 24's and two Hobie Magic 25's will be new to the lake too. The three old guys will be back on their Ultimate 24 along with Brad and Tami Silver on their Ultimate 20. Aussie Ron is rumored to be buying some new sails for his SR 21 and Cohen's FT10 Cookie Monster is tuning up as well.

One last bit of business. We would ask that if you intend to race more than a few times you seriously consider the \$85.00 BLYC Racing season pass. It covers every race all year long including Sailfest and the Monster, otherwise it's \$15.00 each day for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Fees are to be paid at the end of each Skippers meeting.

One more last bit or two of business. It is super important to make the morning skipper's meetings even if you only race the PM session as it will be the best sign-up opportunity for the day. Skipper's meetings will always be at the Ranger Deck at 9:30 AM all year long for every race. All AM starts will be at 11:00 and any delays will only be called on the water in 10 or 15 minute intervals so it's important to get launched and on the water in time. Make sure your VHF radio is in order and working well as it is the primary form of race communication during the day.

The last bit, for now. Don't forget how crazy the ramp and parking lot can get on Saturdays later in the year, plan ahead. Better yet make a weekend out of it, launch Friday night and take out Sunday afternoon and utilize the end tie offer the park has made us during event weekends. \$25.00 each night

gets you into the park and an end tie, about \$20.00 less than a transient slip each day. There is a rumor running around that a number of folks would like to do Sunday AM racing too.