

The 2019 PCYC Sailboat Racing Program

The purpose of all club sailboat racing is to **have some fun and sharpen your sailing skills.**

There is no prior racing experience required to get involved and I assure you that **you will have lots of fun.** You also don't need to have a sailboat; every sailboat captain is always looking for crew and actually racing as crew is better than owning a boat. You have the fun without the maintenance costs!

You also don't need to know how to sail; I have an amazing crew of 9 on my boat and only 2 of them had ever been on a sailboat prior to joining my team. They have become excellent sailors, and always looking to squeak another half-knot out of the boat.

It does not matter what type of sailboat you have or how fast it is. All boats that race in our sailing program will be professionally handicapped using the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) method. That means the faster boats have their racing time corrected (time added to their race time), **so it is sailing skill and tactics, and not a fast boat that wins.** If fact in light wind or heavy winds, the slower boats actually have an advantage, we all are stalled in no wind, and we all have to reef in high winds, but the slower boats still get the corrected time on the faster boats.

Once we start racing, we will have three racing groups, Cruiser (Division III), Non-Spinnaker Class (Division II), and Spinnaker (Division I). That means you can start racing in the Cruiser class and move up to other racing classes when you feel ready.

To get all our sailors and future sailors ready to have some fun this spring/summer 2019 season will be offering three integrated programs to get you out on the water and having some fun on a sail boat. There will be:

- 1) Saturday morning Racing Rules and Tactics training,
- 2) Wednesday night informal "Beer Can Racing" and a
- 3) PCYC Summer Solstice Weekend Regatta at the club.

To get the racing program going again, I really need your help. This entire program is open all club members, but you can bring your teenage children, friends and neighbors. If they have fun, maybe there will consider joining the club. For sailors and non-sailors, sailboat racing is the best way to improve you sailing skills, while having fun.

Saturday Morning Racing Rules and Tactics Training

Learn the Racing Rules of sailing, practice sailing starts, discuss tactics
Second Saturday of the Month, 10 AM until Noon
March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, June 8th

Sign up in Advance by replying to this email or at the Tiki Bar, if possible. Preregistration helps us gauge the number of people attending, but is not mandatory.

This is a free event for members and guests. Bring a friend if they love sailing or want to learn about sailing.

Wednesday night informal “Beer Can Racing” Series

Three informal races where you record your own start and finish times, then come up to the club for food, drinks, and bragging rights as you compare your adjusted times with others.

At the end of the three-race series, choose your best race to compete for the Trophy. The three-race series will begin Wednesday March 13th, with the second race April 10th and the final race May 8th.

Start your race anytime on those racing Wednesday's, but be back at the club before 9:30. The club will stay open late on these race nights. You will be able to get food and drinks at the club as long as you are in before 9:00 PM.

The actual course to be sailed on each race night will be emailed to all members, by the PCYC Secretary on the day of the race. We need to wait until race day, so that we have some idea of the wind direction for the evening race. Races typically start to windward whenever possible.

This is a free event for members and guests. Bring a friend if they love sailing or want to learn about sailing.

Summer Solstice Regatta Friday June 21 thru Sunday June 23, 2019

We want to start off easy, so we will have only one large regatta this 2019 racing season. If you have attended the race training and the Wednesday night beer can races, you will most likely be very excited to finally put it all together. This will be a three-day event with a Tiki Party Skippers Meeting Friday Night, two ocean races on Saturday followed by a Saturday night Tiki Party and a single race on Sunday. Awards Ceremony on Sunday Afternoon.

A Notice of Race (NOR), racing rules, and additional information will be posted to the website.

All Racers must have a valid PHRF rating from First Coast Sailing Association (Adam Norwood Chief Rater 904-398-7343 ahnorwood@comcast.net). No other PHRF rating will be accepted. I would suggest you go ahead and get rated ASAP, the rate is only \$30.00 before March 1, 2019 and after March 1, it goes up to \$35.00. Having a correct rating, prior to the Beer Can Race Series, assures you get the proper correction, this is especially important if you have a slower boat.
