

To All Area Sailboat Racing Enthusiasts

Welcome to one of the best sailing areas in the country! CMCS is dedicated to hosting and promoting sail race events to encourage participation, have fun, and learn more about your boat and hone your sailing skills. There have been several changes in the race calendar and I wanted to clarify how we hope to engage more boats, and how events are changing!

We need to step back in time to get the full perspective. First we needed to align our racing calendar with area clubs. The association that organizes all racing on the West Coast of Florida is called the West Florida Performance Handicap Racing Fleet, or WFPHRF. Their calendar runs with the Florida weather and begins in September and ends in May. So the first change is for us to align ourselves from a racing standpoint with the 20 or so other sail clubs in West Florida! This doesn't really change very much, but it does mean that annual signups for racing will take place in September, not January.

Area Sailing Club Coordination and Combined Events

Next initiative was to coordinate with the area sail clubs to make sure that our races were jointly organized and/or coordinated. Many of our skippers already travel to the big races in Punta Gorda, Burnt Store, Naples, and Marco Island, but there were often conflicts and race attendance and competition suffered. So we now have one area Boat of the Year (BOTY) where we combined forces with 4 other Naples area clubs to share the hosting duties for the race events.

The New Winter Series

The last initiative was to take advantage of the exceptional sailing weather in the height of season and run a weekly beer can series. For people familiar with racing, other sailing clubs will have a Wednesday night series, or a Sunday series, where they run weekly races for 5 to 8 weeks in a row. The Davis Island Club in Tampa Bay are running a Thursday Night Series RIGHT NOW in the month of November meaning the start times are after sunset! And they had 49 boats participate! So our first series will be known as the "Winter Series" and be five Saturday mornings in late January early February. All the snowbirds will be here, the weather will be fantastic, and our objective is to beat Tampa and get 50 boats participating! There will need to be a separate signup for this series, and the price will be \$85. (single \$20)

So here is the new calendar complete with the old, the new, the changes, and the vision.

Racing Calendar

BOTY - Sunnyside - October 6/7/8, 2017 and October 5/6/7, 2018

The first race of the season! Still a buoy race, a distance race, and a special Sunday race for the legends of CMCS to come forward and have a friendly race with their cruising boats.

BOTY - Naples Commodore's Cup - November 4, 2017 and October 27, 2018

The second race of the season and sponsored by the NSYC. This is an additional race for our calendar and part of our coordinated BOTY

BOTY - Festival of the Islands - November 11, 2017 and November 17, 2018

The third race of the season and sponsored by CMCS. This is our traditional race that has run for years. We added a well-attended after party at Salty Sam's in 2017 and it was a great success.

BOTY - Naples to Fort Myers Offshore - December 9, 2017 and December 8, 2018

The fourth race of the season and replaces our traditional Commodore's Cup. (Don't worry the Commodore's cup is still happening later in the schedule) This is distance race from here to Naples with a big event planned for the sailors in NYC. This is truly a distance race.

BOTY - GCSC New Year's Cup - January 6, 2018

This is the fifth race of the season and is a buoy event off the coast near the Naples pier.

Coordinated - The Burnt Store Golden Conch Regatta - January 13, 2018

Not part of our BOTY racing series nor sponsored by us, however lots of our racers will attend!

Chili Cook Off Skippers Meeting - Sunday January 21, 2018

This will be the skippers and crew meeting to kick off the Winter Series, a 5 race, 5 week beer-can race series featuring WFPHRF classes and an amateur class promoting sailing participation.

Winter Race #1 - January 27, 2018 - Near the Fort Myers Beach Pier

Winter Race #2 - February 3, 2018 - Near the Fort Myers Beach Pier

BOTY - CMCS Commodore's Winter Cup (and Winter Race #3) - February 10, 2018

This will replace the Edison Gulf Regatta and was renamed to highlight our New Winter Series. All area racers will be here and hopefully a collection of new sailors who have been attracted to our Winter Series.

Winter Race #4 - February 17, 2018 - Near the Fort Myers Beach Pier

Winter Race #5 - February 24, 2018 - Near the Fort Myers Beach Pier

Coordinated - The Punta Gorda Conquistadors Cup - March 3, 2018

This is a great event sponsored by the Punta Gorda club. It is not part of our BOTY series.

BOTY - Naples to Fort Myers Offshore - March 10, 2018

This is the seventh race of the season for BOTY and is the reverse of the offshore distance race in December. Starting in Naples and arriving here in Fort Myers ending in a big after party event. In future years we hope to incorporate our famous Shrimp Boil as the sailor's party, but unfortunately calendars could not be coordinated for 2018. Since Naples is having a dinner at the NYC, we will need to show them our hospitality for the after race event. More details coming.

BOTY - GCSC Classic - March 24/25, 2018

Formerly this was known as the AVOW Cup and is one of Naples biggest events. It includes two days of racing and will be well worth the trip south to participate in the eighth race of the season.

BOTY - SAMI Bud Light Regatta - April 7/8, 2018

Another two-day event this one held closer to Marco Island and is our ninth race.

BOTY - NSYC Messmer's Cup - April 28, 2018

The tenth race of the season.

Cancelled - the San'Tweenie race and cruise has been cancelled - April 29, 2018

Free Race - The Estebal Pim Memorial Night Race - May 5, 2018

This is a club classic and a very special event. The course will depend on wind, but the objective is to have a wonderful reaching leg, watching sunset, surrounded by other sailboats. The next morning is the Bloody Mary Breakfast.

BOTY - Fort Myers to St. Pete's - May 18/19, 2018

This will be a great sailing challenge with about 90 miles distance to be sailed over night. Arrive at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, the oldest and most traditional club in West Florida and enjoy the party.

BOTY - St. Pete's to Fort Myers - May 25/26, 2018

The twelfth and last race of the season. There is an effort to coordinate this with the Davis Island Yacht Club Race which is also on this weekend and sailing the same course, more on this as NSYC finishes the plan.

Free Race - The Kayusa Cup - Sunday, September 16, 2018

This race will be slightly modified to reverse direction and happen on the Sunday! Why?? Because racing back after a weekend cruising is really easy to coordinate, it's a great challenge and lets everyone enjoy the weekend in South Seas for the cruise!