

# Chicago Yacht Club

Belmont Station

## 2010 Wednesday Night Beer Can/Rum Race Series

### Notice of Race and General Sailing Instructions

#### **WHERE**

Immediately outside the Chicago Yacht Club, Belmont Avenue Station, harbor mouth, in the vicinity of the Red Nun Buoy.

#### **WHEN**

The series begins May 26, 2010 and continues on every Wednesday through September 30, 2010 with an occasional interruption for those serious folks who have regattas they feel (and rightfully so) are more important than our drinking rum and enjoying an evening sail and/or to allow the race committee running those events time to relax and take a breather.

#### **THE BOATS**

Boats shall be properly maintained, clean and ready for guests before 6:30 each race day.  
Boats shall be fully manned by capable, fun people and carry plenty of ice.  
Boats must be properly equipped with cup holders and be capable of heeling without spillage.  
Boats must be equipped for sailing at night and must comply with USCG regulations.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

All participants must be able and willing to have a good time, enjoy the company of others, know how to swim, and if not, wear a life jacket, have enough time to stick around afterwards for the real reason we are here each Wednesday – the camaraderie. In addition, entered yachts shall be owned, chartered or skippered by a Chicago Yacht Club member in good standing

#### **ENTRY FEE**

The entry fee for all sections will be \$75.00 for the entire season and must be submitted along with the Belmont Wednesday Night Beer Can/Rum Races Entry Form available at [www.chicagoyachtclub.org](http://www.chicagoyachtclub.org). Please submit, as instructed on the form, prior to participating in your first race.

#### **NOTICES**

The Race Committee will communicate on VHF channel 71 when necessary. Announcements may also be made at the Belmont clubhouse prior to departing.

In the interest of better communications, especially for weather concerns, please monitor your radio before departing for the racecourse. The Race committee will attempt to notify competitors of any changes or cancellations between 6:00 and 6:20pm of each race day.

## **RULES**

All races will be governed by the “rules” as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Notice of Race, these General Sailing Instructions and any amendments as made at the whim of the Series Chairman or the Belmont Handicap Committee.

Boats must be properly equipped for sailing at night and must comply with all United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations.

Boats must be equipped with a VHF radio capable of broadcasting and receiving VHF Channel **71**. Said radio shall be on at all times while the boat is outside of the harbor.

**NO** boat is to leave the racecourse after starting without communicating to the Race Committee, either visually or by radio. The Race Committee accounts for all boats and offenders **shall** have their racing privileges terminated **without redress!!**

As they do not understand the concept of Beer Can /Rum Racing, please give the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club racers the right-of-way and do not interfere with their racecourse.

Each yacht shall be properly stocked with fluids capable of sustaining life after working hours and are subject to inspection and sampling of those fluids by the Series Chairman, Belmont Handicap Committee and/or anyone else so designated by the Chairman.

No boat shall continue “racing” after a mark rounding without first administering to each crewmember a fresh round of those “fluids”, whether it is rum, beer, wine, pop, water or other.

All crews are required (ok, encouraged) to return to the clubhouse after each race and attend the awards ceremony. The series Chairman or Belmont Handicap Committee reserves the right to heavily penalize any boat that violates this provision including, but not limited to, losing the possibility of receiving and enjoying awards on future race dates. Come enjoy some good times with your fellow racers and support **your** club

## **PROTESTS**

This is supposed to be fun and safe racing - there shall be **NO** protests - which modifies some rule in the RRS; look it up if you are so inclined.

A boat may request a “hearing” **only** if there is contact which causes major damage or serious injury. Said “hearing” shall be for fact-finding purposes only and will be held by an “advisory” committee that will investigate the factors involved in the collision.

Skippers are responsible for knowing the racing rules (RRS) and the general “rules of the road” for being on the water. For our newbie’s, a simplified summary of some basic rules is available.

Flagrant offenders of the rules, **the spirit** of the Wednesday Night Series, or any un-sportsmanlike conduct, may be uninvited from future races.

## **HANDICAP SYSTEM**

The handicaps will be based on a modified PHRF (seconds per nautical mile allowance) to be known as the Belmont Beer Can/Rum Race Rating System, as amended, possibly weekly, hourly, or ?? by the

Series Chairman and the Belmont Handicap Committee - consisting of your bartenders, Belmont manager & servers (so be nice to them) and/or others as determined by the Chairman. All participants may receive some sort of credit, as determined by the Belmont Handicap Committee, for each person aboard over and above the normal crew limit for the vessel, as well as possibly penalized should those crewmembers fail to attend the weekly awards ceremony. Normal PHRF handicaps will apply for the overall Season Awards.

## **COURSES**

The Race Committee will let you know the course when you get out there. It will probably be out and around a crib, or a mark or two and then back home, maybe. Always check the blackboard on the RC boat for the course before you proceed and please note that the each section may sail a different or shorter course than the other sections.

## **THE START**

Start between the Race Committee boat (the big steel thing that **will** hurt your boat if you hit it) and some floating object somewhere near the Race Committee boat.

**Please identify yourselves to the Race Committee before proceeding in the race.**

Be considerate to others and do not take a head start, wait until it is your time to start and then go have some fun. If you take a head start (are over the line early) the Race Committee and your friends may yell at you, but keep going and make it up to them at the bar.

## **SECTION BREAKS**

Section One	One-Design Boats	Numeral 1 Pennant
Section Two	Jib and Main (JAM)	Numeral 2 Pennant
Section Three	Tartan 10's	Numeral 3 Pennant
Section Four	Offshore Boats with Spinnakers	Numeral 4 Pennant

## **STARTING TIMES**

Starting sequence shall begin at 6:55 with some sound signal and a flag - it will go something like this:

6:55 - Warning for Section One

6:56 to 6:59 - some other signals that if you are paying attention to means you are being too serious for Wednesday Night Racing, but that is the way the RC does it.

**7:00 - Starting Time for Section One - the One-Design Boats.**

7:01 to 7:04 - some more of those signals for the serious group

**7:05 - Start for the Jib and Main Section**

7:06 to 7:09 - have you figured out those extra noises or flags yet?

**7:10 - Time for the T-10 Class to get involved with the fun**

7:11 to 7:14 - more of those confusing sounds and flag signals

**7:15 - Offshore with Spinnaker boats finally get going**

7:16 to ??? - finally, time for the Race Committee to enjoy themselves

## **THE FINISH**

The official finish location shall be the bar on the second level of the Chicago Yacht Club Belmont Station. Please identify yourself to the person behind the bar to receive a proper finish time. However, on your way please also pass between that floaty thing in the water and the Race Committee boat.

All boats shall proceed directly into the harbor upon passing the floaty thing or shall notify the Race Committee if you have other intentions – we don't want to worry the bar staff if you don't show up or are late.

## **TIME LIMIT**

All boats shall finish before **9:00pm** allowing everyone time to eat a little something and enjoy some time with your fellow competitors before returning to the real world.

## **PRIZES/AWARDS**

Prizes will be awarded at the completion of each night's racing, but not until sails are properly flaked and the boats cleaned up - put them away, then come to the club! Recipients must be present to receive an award. Daily awards may or may not have anything to do with who won the races that day – that is reserved for the Season Awards. They will typically be presented to those teams that support the Yacht Club and the Staff and will be awarded solely at the discretion of the Regatta Chairman and the Belmont Handicap Committee – show up to see who really wins.

We remind everyone that “awards” are not to be consumed in the Clubhouse! They should be properly aged for one week and opened next Wednesday to greet your crew and guest as they arrive for another fun evening on the water.

Season trophies including glasses, Bras Flags and other items will be presented to the top boats in each section at the **Offshore Fleet Awards Dinner** to be held at the Monroe Street Station on October 8, 2010.

## **SCHEDULE**

Racing shall start on Wednesday May 26, 2010 and continue every Wednesday thereafter until the final race on September 30, 2010. **Except for the following dates, when no races will be held:**

**July 21 and July 22** - due to the Mackinac Race

**September 15** – due to the J105 NA Championship

## **ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD AND DRINKS**

For all participants there will be a discounted Beer Can Buffet and drink specials after each Wednesday night race.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Please note that the clubhouse, docks and parking lots will be very full and possibly inaccessible on the above dates when the Wednesday Night Series is on break.

All racers with engines (that are operational) are encouraged to assist your fellow competitors. Please look around when you leave and/or return to the dock to see if a one-design boat or other may need a tow - we don't want them to miss the start, but more importantly the finish.

Wednesday Night Beer Can/Rum Races are intended to be fun and exciting for all participants. Relax and have a good time, but please do so safely.

**In all seriousness folks, just go out there have a good time and be SAFE.**

Neither the Chicago Yacht Club, the Race Committee or any other Committee, or any Officer or Director of the Club shall be liable for any injury or damage whatsoever to persons or property whether caused by or resulting from their act, omission, or alleged negligence, or from weather or sea conditions, or any acts, omissions, or alleged negligence of other participants, which may occur during or arising out of or in connection with any race, regatta, cruise, spectacle, or yachting marine activity sponsored or aided in whole or in part by Chicago Yacht Club. Notice is hereby given to all participants (which include spectators, officials and others) that they participate in such events solely at their own risk.

By elective to participate and in consideration of such participation, each participant shall be deemed to have agreed to the foregoing conditions.

Question or comments should be directed to Mark D. Norris, Offshore Fleet Chairman, [mnorris343@aol.com](mailto:mnorris343@aol.com), cell phone 847-942-7601 or CYC Race Coordinator, [racecoordinator@chicagoyachtclub.org](mailto:racecoordinator@chicagoyachtclub.org), office 312-861-7771

Look forward to seeing everyone on the water.