



## NOTICE OF RACE AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### SAIL GI presents the **Summer Rum Races** (formally known as Sunday dacron races)

"Dacron Class" and "Fancy Pants Class" will be offered

**When?** *The following Sundays: 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12*

**Why?** *For those new to this business, a little history:*

Since the beginning of time, when ever two sailing vessels were in sight of each other, it was a race. There were several motives for this. The biggest one was when the chase boat (the "behinder" boat) caught up to the "ahead" one, it got to shoot cannon balls at them. Great fun. Since carrying cannon balls around a pitching deck was extra work for the crew, The British Royal Navy found that RUM was a great motivator. This is still very much the case today.

To keep with tradition, RUM will be involved in the Dacron and Fancy Pants races. Cannons and cannon balls are allowed as ballast only. You must finish with the same number of cannon and cannon balls you started the race with.

**Who?** *Any vessel propelled by wind power... don't worry, we will get you a rating!*

This is Jib and Main racing only. The Dacron Class was formed a few years ago with the intent of letting people with conventional sails race amongst themselves. They had so much fun that the folks with FANCY sails, made from unpronounceable materials wanted to join in, and now there is the Fancy Pants Class for those boats.

The initial ratings are based on Lake Erie PHRF handicaps for Jib and Main racing. You do not need a PHRF certificate- in fact, it will do you no good- more on that later!

People who do not come out to race generally cite the following reasons: aggressive, crowded starts; their boats are older; their boats are set up for cruising; lack of full racing crew; uncertainty about racing rules; blood and guts competition;

The intent of Rum Races is to get more boats out on the water for friendly competition. Rum Racing is not blood and guts racing and removes most of the obstacles listed above.

#### **What's different?**

Rum Races **DO NOT**:

- Have congested start lines
- Take place in ridiculous weather conditions -(eg. too little or way too much wind)
- Involve SHOUTING (much...)
- Require a "crack crew" with 12 extras to sit on the "high side" ( a little clarification for newbs: "crack crew" is NOT meant to be taken literally, and with the legalization of Cannabis, crew on the "high side" should probably stay ashore)

## Rum Races **DO**:

- Follow the basic sailing Rules of the Road.
- Loosely follow the Racing Rules. If necessary, rules can be discussed between boats during the race. Failure to come to an agreement might result in a protest. The race committee has ZERO interest in hearing such protests and therefore no forms or red flags are needed. Unresolved matters will be decided by Nerf Guns at 10 paces or a long game of Monopoly.
- Use the WNATR buoys and only 3 course options.
- Use Staggered or "Chase" starts. The boat's handicap is applied to its starting time, not the finish time. Boats start sequentially, based on their current handicap, fastest boat last. Each boat is responsible for keeping track of their start time. Horn and Flag signals are ONLY given when the start sequence begins. There are no signals for each individual boat's start. A countdown timer is useful for keeping track of the individual boat's starting time.
- Start times are based on the boat's rating (in seconds per mile) times the length of the race course. The start times will be published in the sailing instructions available to the skippers. Check the published start times, **THEY CAN CHANGE WEEK TO WEEK!** (see why below). Start times can be confirmed by calling the committee boat via VHF Radio, Channel 71, **BEFORE** the start sequence is begun.
- Dacron and Fancy Pants Classes are independent, even though they are on the course at the same time. (Read- there are TWO bottles of RUM involved)
- The GOOD News: the first boat in each class to cross the finish line gets a bottle of RUM.
- Now for the bad news: The first and second boats to finish get their handicap adjusted to make it tougher for them to win next time. Also, the last and second to last boats have their handicap adjusted to allow them to do better in the next race. These handicap adjustments mean that for the next race, the starting sequence of boats may be different.
- These adjustments, in seconds per mile, are applied after EACH race:
  - 1st place finisher, 10 seconds are subtracted from the current rating
  - 2nd place finisher, 5 seconds are subtracted from the current rating
  - Last place finisher, 10 seconds are added to the current rating
  - 2nd from Last place finisher, 5 seconds are added to the rating
- For new boats coming out to race, the ratings may be adjusted, at the discretion of the race committee, to get the boats competitive. This adjustment would be made after the first several races. The adjustment will be based on finish time differences compared to the rest of the fleet.
- To qualify for the Dacron Class, the boat must sail with all Dacron or Pentex sails: No Kevlar, Carbon, Dyneema, Technora, Spectra, etc. fibers.
  - Note: If you show up with Egyptian Cotton sails, I will personally buy you a bottle of RUM, and yes, you can race "Dacron" class.
- Additionally, Dacron Class boats must meet at least 2 of the following 5 criteria:
  1. Roller furling with Sunbrella cover
  2. Fixed Prop
  3. Full Interior with Galley, Head, Bunks with Cushions
  4. Anchor on bow roller
  5. Seriously look the part of a cruising boat (per the Race Committee's best judgement)