

# FLEET 15 ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR 2007 RACING SEASON

## Richard C. Payne, Fleet 15 Secretary

At the first-ever Annual General Meeting of Fleet 15, which was conducted in Mechanicsville, Virginia, on 13 January 2007, Fleet Captain David Clark led a discussion of the Fleet's plans for the upcoming racing season. As the issue has been discussed among the Fleet's members since our inaugural Special Meeting in September, a consensus has emerged that Fleet members want to pursue a "two-track" approach to the 2007 racing season: continue to race PHRF in the "A" Fleet of their respective yacht clubs, and get together for sanctioned one-design events at the three regional big boat regattas conducted over the course of the summer.

The first of these regattas is **Southern Bay Race Week**, which in 2007 will be hosted by Hampton Yacht Club on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June first through the third. The skippers' welcome and registration party will be the preceding evening, Thursday, May thirty-first. Fleet Secretary Rich Payne provided some details of the event for the membership, based on his previous experience of the event and recent conversations he has had with Leigh Morgan, who is the event chair for Hampton Yacht Club.

Racing at the three-day event is conducted at two separate venues, both located in the Chesapeake Bay, just outside the entrance into Hampton Roads. "Venue 1," which is managed by a consolidated race committee from Hampton Yacht Club and Cruising Club

of Virginia, is located on the south side of the ship channel, just offshore from the Ocean View Fishing Pier. Venue 1 will feature a drop mark course, probably windward- leeward, and probably featuring a leeward gate. This venue hosts the PHRF and one-design classes (including our J/105 one-design). "Venue 2," managed by the Old Point Comfort Yacht Club race committee, features a Government marks course for non-spinnaker and cruising classes, and is located north of the ship channel, just off Buckroe Beach.

As in the recent years, the plan is to conduct two races per day at both venues, with the warning for the first race scheduled for ten o'clock. There is a contingency to relocate both venues inside the more sheltered waters of Hampton Roads in the event of high winds and waves. At the end of each day's racing, there will be a daily awards party in a tent outside Hampton Yacht Club, and on Sunday, overall awards for the regatta will be presented.

David Clark stressed to the membership the importance of everyone turning out for the event, since the race committee will probably require that at least five boats be registered in order to conduct a one-design start. Southern Bay Race Week is the biggest regional regatta in CBYRA Region IV, but it is also the hardest for Fleet 15 to do, since most of our boats are located at Fishing Bay Yacht Club, 40 miles away. As the local "Region IV South" representative, Rich Payne will provide assistance and

local information for other members as required. The Fleet 15 website also has a link to the Black Seal Cup/Southern Bay Race Week website, which has a lot of information on things like housing and dockage in the Hampton, Virginia, area (and parties!).

David then went on to outline the remainder of the Fleet 15 Southern Chesapeake Bay One Design Series, which also includes the two Fishing Bay Yacht Club hosted regattas, **Southern Chesapeake Bay Leukemia Cup** on July 7 and 8, 2007, and the Labor Day Weekend **Stingray Point Regatta**, which this year will be conducted on September first and second. Finally, David passed out copies of the draft Fleet 15 Sailing Instructions, which are designed to supplement the Sailing Instructions for the three regattas, primarily on one-design issues, and also outline scoring for the 15-race one-design series for Fleet 15 members. These sailing instructions will be posted to the Fleet 15 website once they have been coordinated with the regatta race committees.

Prior to the discussion of the Fleet 15 one-design racing program for 2007, Fleet Treasurer Strother Scott led a discussion of membership categories and dues for Fleet 15. The major points of this discussion are as follows:

- Annual dues for Active Membership in Fleet 15 are set at \$35 per year, which includes membership in the national J/105 Class Association.
- Active Members must be J/105 owners or co-owners, and are the only voting members of the Fleet. Active membership is required to participate in J/105 Class Association one-design events.

- Crew who act as helmsmen during J/105 Class Association events must be Associate Members of the J/105 Class Association. They are assessed the same dues as Active Members.
- Both Active Members and Associate Members of the J/105 Class Association have access to the “members only” section of the J/105 Class Association website.
- Annual dues for local membership in Fleet 15 only (not including the national J/105 Class Association) are \$10 per year. This reduced membership rate applies to:
  - Active Members of other J/105 Fleets or unaffiliated Active Members of the J/105 Class Association.
  - Crew, family, or other supporters of Fleet 15 who do not act as helmsman.

In the course of this discussion, Strother collected dues from the members who were present. He will follow up with current and potential members who were not present at the meeting, consolidate member data into a central official database, and provide both dues payment and updated member information to the national J/105 Class Association. In other business, the quorum of voting members present voted to reaffirm the provisional Articles of Association and slate of officers for Fleet 15, which were adopted at the organizational Special Meeting of Fleet 15 on 16 September 2006.

