

Potomac River Sailing Association

Notice of Race

Laser Winter Series for 2005-2006

Washington Sailing Marina, Alexandria, VA

off of the GW Parkway between Old Town Alexandria and Reagan National Airport

RULES: The races will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.

ENTRY FEE: No entry fee, but PRSA membership for 2005 (which is valid through March 2006) is strongly encouraged: \$60. (We have to pay for insurance, slips, motor maintenance, etc. and we'd like to save for a new outboard motor too!) The launch fee to the WSM is half price to PRSA members on race days: \$3. The membership application is on the website along with instructions for where to send the form and check.

SCHEDULE: 16 Sundays from November 20 through March 19, excluding December 25 and January 1 (but see NOR for Hangover Regatta on January 1). Skipper's meeting at 12:00 noon and the first warning signal @ 12:30 pm. The RC will attempt to run 4 or more races each day. The 5th or subsequent race of the day shall not be started after 3:30 p.m.

AWARDS: At the end of each race day, a prize bag will be given to the participating sailor whose name is drawn at random from a hat.

We'll score and give awards for the full 16 Sunday series. To qualify you must *sail* in 50 percent (rounded up) or more of the races.

A special award will be given to the skipper who sail the most races during the series. In case of a tie, the skipper with the lowest series average score will get it.

SAILING AREA: It'll either be in the cove or out on the river in the vicinity of the power plant. The choice will depend on the tide and wind.

COURSES: The RC will use a course board to announce the course before the race, and the choice of course is always at its discretion. The sailing instructions will the details.

STARTING SEQUENCE: We use a two-minute sounds only sequence---no flags. Here is how it goes:

- 5 blasts to warn racers the sequence is about to begin
- 2 minutes to the start---two long blasts
- 1 minute and 30 seconds -- one long and 3 short blasts
- 1 minute, one long blast
- 30 seconds---3 short blasts
- 20 seconds---2 short blasts

- 10 seconds--1 short blast
- 5-4-3-2-1-start---one blast each.

PENALTY: The 720 penalty is shortened to a 360 because our races are short. (If you take a chance to get ahead but end up fouling someone, please admit it to yourself and do the penalty.)

RACE COMMITTEE DUTY: We have a long tradition of inviting sailors down who do not own Lasers, yet. As a result, we do not have to assign sailors with boats to a race committee duty day. Instead, the sailors without boats launch the whaler, set the course, and score the first race. In return, sailors with a boat take a turn on race committee for approximately one race each day, which gives those sailors who got the races going the opportunity to race. On days with few competitors taking more than one turn may be necessary. On days with many competitors a few sailors may be able to avoid doing any RC, but should be sure to take a turn on at the next opportunity.

RECORDING FINISHES: Note that because we swap boats so often, we have to score races by name, not by sail number. Although the RC person can record finishes using sail numbers, they need to add the names of the skippers in borrowed boats before starting another race. Also, it is important for the RC person to note anyone who did not finish (DNF) because DNF and DNS get different scores.

SERIES SCORING: To qualify in the series you must *sail* in 50 percent (rounded up) or more of the races. (Your turns on RC don't count, so you need to be out there for more than the minimum 50 percent.) Your score will be the average of your best 50 percent of races in the series. The more you sail, the more of your bad races will be excluded. The low point average scoring system will be used. Averaging scores instead of summing them allows us simply to assign a blank for RC duty and a blank for DNC.

WINNER-OF-THE-DAY SCORING: It is fun to know who won each day and how close or far you were from the winner. Plus, for the privilege of humiliating us, we'd like the winner to send the group an email on Sunday night or Monday with some thoughts and why the day went well for him or her. If there are 6 or more races in a day, a competitor's worst race will be excluded. Otherwise, all will count. Also, you need to race half the races + 1 to qualify for winner of the day.

RACE SCORING: If you start and finish a race properly, your score is your finish position. Other scores depend on the number of qualified finishers. Qualified finishers excludes OCS, DSQ, and RAF. DNF and OCS will be the number of qualified finishers + 1. DNS, DSQ, and RAF will get the number of qualified finishers + 2. Note that to get a DNS you must have started at least one race on that day.

INFO & ADVANCE ENTRIES: Jennifer Parrow (niff1975@yahoo.com)

DIRECTIONS: Go to www.potomacsailing.org and click About PRSA.

