



PROGRAM GUIDE

Complete guide to RNSYS swimming and sailing programs for all ages.

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RNSYS.COM

NEW
After Care
Program for Kids
See Program
Guide
for details

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SQUADRON

Our calendar is jam packed with social and sailing events for all members.

Our weekly e-blasts highlight what's happening at the Squadron for the coming weeks, while our Lifeline Newsletter stretches our news to the coming months.

To subscribe, contact Mikela Sani at communications@rnsys.com

MARCH CALENDAR

Clubhouse Closed

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Admin Open 9-5pm | Dining Closed

Steak Night!

* Purchase 4 steaks, all at once or over the next few Thursdays, and receive a complimentary pitcher of beer*

Every Thursday | Clubhouse @ 5pm

Prime Rib Dinner

Every Sunday | Clubhouse @ 5pm

Film Night

March 6th | Dining Room @ 7pm

Bingo Night

March 13th | Clubhouse @ 7pm

St. Patrick's Day -

Club Open for Lunch

March 17th | Clubhouse @ 12pm

Taste of Vietnam Week

March 18-20th | Clubhouse

Trivia Night

March 20th | Clubhouse @ 7pm

Hors D'oeuvres Night

Sponsored by Senior Members Andrew & Odette Murphy

March 27th | Clubhouse @ 6-7:30pm



Commodore Edward Steeves

Despite Mother Nature trying to hold us back, there has been lots of activity going on around the Club. The Squadron's hard working staff members have just finished putting down our seventh pallet of road salt across the property compared to the one pallet used for all of last winter...

Last month, I had the honour of representing the Squadron at the Rolex Sail Canada Awards where I accepted two awards on behalf of our Club and enjoyed watching two of our members accept their own personal recognition for outstanding achievement.

The first award was accepted on behalf of the High Liner Foods IFDS

Worlds Organizing Committee for the Regatta of the Year. In addition, RNSYS member Paul Tingly and his crew walked away with the Male Athlete of the Year award. It was a very proud moment for our Club to be recognized for the success of organizing this regatta but more importantly, it was a tribute to the amazing character and spirit of the athletes who participated. Unfortunately, many of you will also be aware that sailing has recently been excluded from the 2020 Paralympic Games. After witnessing the positive contribution that disabled sailing has had on our Club and the sailing community in general, I encourage you all to help support the reinstatement of sailing back into the Paralympic Games (See recent Email Blasts that highlight how you can participate).

The second award I accepted was the William Abbott Sail Training Program of the Year. Last season, our Sail Training Program successfully delivered over 550 training sessions. This continues an amazing upward trend in annual registration, which has been up over 42% since 2011!

The RNSYS Sail Training Program for 2015 has just been released and registration opens March 16th. I encourage those of you with children, grand children, nieces and nephews, or even your neighbours to consider the sport of sailing this summer. Don't forget, our Sail Training programs are also available for adventurous adults - it's never too late to get involved!

The RNSYS sailing program is developing the next generation of RNSYS members, and it is important for us to continue to support the Program so athletes like Antonia Lewin-LaFrance, who was named Youth Female Athlete of the Year at the Rolex Sail Canada awards, can continue to shine.

As I write this, the Squadron trailer, boats, coaches and athletes are in Florida training hard. I remain hopeful that all of this snow and ice will eventually melt and our sailing team will be back in full force to resume training on the Halifax Harbour in April. Until then, we better be prudent and have the General Manager order another pallet of road salt for the yard.



2015 Sailing Schedule Notes from the Sailing Committee

In contrast to 2014 with the IFDS, Metro and other mid-summer regattas, 2015 is a more standard year. As always we are responding to what we see on the water and the feedback we get at the club and so a couple of changes have been made to the schedule and also to the flavour of the events.

Feedback from racers indicates that many enjoy the longer, single race per day format and so that is going to be incorporated in to more events. The RNSYS Opening Regatta will be dedicated to such a format with two races over two days, starting at 1pm and with courses that cover much of the harbour. Some of the challenges of preparing a boat and crew for racing early in the year should be lessened by this format. A regatta scheduled for later in the year will accommodate those that prefer the windward/leeward racing with multiple races each day.

Wednesday nights are starting a little later in the year, the first week of May, and will consist of three series rather than the four of the last few years. Unless we have an exceptional spring, getting boats ready to race in April is difficult if not impossible and, indeed, last year the first two weeks were cancelled for that reason.

There will also be a break in August for Chester Race Week, making a neat transition between series II and III and allowing everyone, including the RC team, to enjoy the racing in Mahone Bay. Our apologies to the six boats that usually come out for that race.

Some events have not been included this year, such as the BORC and women's racing due to a lack of demand. However we are more than happy to put on regattas, series and events for members if they can come up with an idea and at least five boats who want to take part. One design nights, ocean races, rendezvous, charity races or any other boating event are all possible. The club has the staff, equipment and knowledge to run anything, we just need enthusiastic people to take part. Details on the technicalities of creating an event will be available shortly and the Race Director is always available to discuss possibilities.

Vice Commodore Sailing
Dr. John Grantmyre
vcsailing@rnsys.com

Race Director
Luke Porter
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SUMMER CRUISE

The Summer Cruise planning meeting was held on Feb 19, a very snowy evening, with 7 boats represented. A few decisions were made:

- 1 The Cruise will start on Sat July 18
- 2 First anchorage Rogues Roost
- 3 La Have River Yacht Club
- 4 Explore Mahone Bay
St Magarets Bay
- 5 Hubbards for lobster supper
- 6 Duggars Arm

The Summer Cruise is open to all of our boating members. Sailors and power boat owners alike are encouraged to bring the family for some cruising fun! We also have members who join us by road at many of our destinations!

Consider cruising with the Squadron for your summer vacation!

Please let us know if you would like to take part in the RNSYS Cruise. The next meeting will be held mid-March and will be announced in a weekly E-Blast!

Hon. George Archibald
Past Commodore RNSYS
Nonsuch 36 Magical



MARINE SURVEY

We encourage all sailboat and powerboat owners alike to take a few minutes to complete our Boatyard Survey. The forms are available online in a pdf document, which you can print and mail directly to the RNSYS or email it to dockmaster@rnsys.com

The co-chair of the 2015 edition of the Marblehead to Halifax Ocean Race, David Stanfield likes to call this ocean race 'the Grand-daddy of them all'. Stanfield is referring to the fact that MHOR goes all the way back to 1905, a year before the Newport Bermuda Race started and several decades before races like the Fastnet or Sydney-Hobart were conceived.

'When I talk to people about ocean racing, it always seems with sailors, it comes down to the classics,' says Stanfield. 'Those other races have their challenges - the weather between Sydney and Hobart, the Gulf stream on the Bermuda race.' But he likes to point out the Marblehead to Halifax course has multiple challenges too.

'The Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world and you have to be able to get across the Gulf of Maine to Brazil Rock (a shoal off the tip of Nova Scotia) without being sucked up into the Bay. Then there's a whole different kind of coastal racing that goes on up the coast of Nova Scotia. You can almost always count on the fog appearing somewhere along the way. If you want to get challenged, this is the race that has it all,' according to Stanfield.

Stanfield plans to be in a familiar role when the race starts in Marblehead next July 5th. He is a watch captain on Airborne IV, a Beneteau 50 owned by Halifax businessman Bill Greenwood.

This year's field is building. Since registration opened in January, the entrants include a Volvo 60, skippered by Canadian sailor Derek Hatfield, and Actaea, a modified Bermuda 40 cruising yawl that won its division on the Newport to Bermuda race last year and was a class winner in MHOR 2013.

Airborne IV is also already registered for the race. Greenwood chaired the Race back in 1981 and he has also overseen it as a former Commodore of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron.

He looks back with pride on winning his class in 2011, the same year the very first-ever Canadian-owned boat won the IRC honors, Will Apold's Valkyrie.

MARBLEHEAD TO HALIFAX THE 'GRAND-DADDY' OF OCEAN RACES



By: 2015 MHOR Committee Member, Kathy Large

'We want to do well again this year,' Greenwood says. 'We make sure the boat is competitive every year by adding new sails, new equipment. We work on the bottom paint, ensure the rig is tuned properly, watch for the weight on the boat...all those are major factors that come in to it when you want to be competitive.'

He sees the race as a true test of seamanship - 'So many different things can happen at sea. You can be sitting in light winds and sunny conditions and 24 hours later, you can be in a nor'easter and thick 'a fog.'

Greenwood has done a lot of ocean racing over the years including two Newport to Bermuda races. He remains a fan of the Marblehead to Halifax Race because of the natural linkages between Halifax and Boston. 'I've been going there for 50 years...I have made many friends in Marblehead and it's a beautiful place to visit. The international factor is a big one for me. I enjoy going to the US - and our American friends enjoy coming to our country. Socially, you get to meet a lot of interesting people. You meet some of the best sailors in the world in this race and have a rum and coke with them at the Boston Yacht Club.'

A lot has changed since he did the race for this first time in his high school years. In the early days, it took most crews five days of hard sailing to get to Halifax. The current course record was set in 2011 by Jim Grundy's 75-ft Bella Pita at 30 hours, 46 minutes and 52 seconds in ideal sailing conditions. As for navigation, most vessels now download the information needed. When Greenwood first saw on-board navigation systems, the components were the size of a big suitcase.

One of the crew members had a PhD. in physics. 'Dr. Ernie Guptill would take about twenty minutes to get a fix on an oscilloscope screen. And prior to that, sailors had to use dead reckoning.' As for the clothing, he laughs as he talks about wearing old rubber boots and sou'westers instead of the Gortex and insulated boots that are common today.

The Marblehead to Halifax Race is a tradition now. He remembers sitting at the Squadron clubhouse with another former commodore discussing the race. 'Well Bill, he told me, why wouldn't you do it? When we're 80 years old in our wheelchairs...we don't want to be sitting here saying to each other - I should have done that race!' He won't miss it unless there's a pressing reason to keep him away.

And Greenwood says he has the crew to keep going, including his three sons. 'I have a group of young guys who are keen at two in the morning to run this boat. As long as they are there, we'll keep racing.'

The 363-mile race is sponsored jointly by the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron and the Boston Yacht Club. The lead up events in Marblehead this year will be capped off with Independence Day fireworks over the harbour, the night before the race starts.

Greenwood says he learned a lot about racing from other skippers, especially through a mentoring program that was available the first year he did the Newport to Bermuda Race which paired him with an experienced skipper. He is more than willing to share his knowledge of the Marblehead to Halifax race with anyone who is considering entering.

'It is important to focus on seamanship and learn about your vessel and the people with you. Completing this race is a real accomplishment. Once you've done it once, you will understand that.'



TAKE THE HELM
MARBLEHEADTOHALIFAX.COM
YACHTSCORING.COM



2015 PARKING STICKERS

Parking Stickers are available in the Admin building next to the Saraguay House, Monday-Friday, from 9am-5pm. In an effort to ensure parking at peak times is available for members, our Parking Policy will be implemented this Spring. Please visit the members only section of the RNSYS website to review our Policy.