



**33rd. Biennial
2009 MARBLEHEAD-TO-HALIFAX OCEAN RACE**

5 July 2009

RACE ANNOUNCEMENT

Introduction

The Boston Yacht Club and the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron announce their plans for the 33rd biennial Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race. The race will be managed by the Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race Committee (MHORC) with the Boston Yacht Club managing registration and the start, and the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron the finish and scoring operations. The 360 nautical mile course from Marblehead to Halifax will start on July 5, 2009, and will be open to all yachts that meet the requirements published in the Notice to Race and that are accepted by the MHORC.

It is anticipated that the Notice of Race will be released in June 2008.

This race is a qualifier for the Northern Ocean Racing Trophy for IRC yachts and the New England Lighthouse Series for PHRF yachts. The Olin J. Stephens Trophy will be awarded to the yacht with the best combined ORR scoring performance in the 2008 Newport Bermuda Race and this 2009 Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race. This race also the qualifier for the combined award with the 2010 Newport Bermuda Race.

Rules

The race will be governed by: the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS); IRC Rule 2009; the 2009 Offshore Racing Rule (ORR); the 2009-2010 ISAF Offshore Special Regulations for Category 2; the Notice of Race; and the Sailing Instructions.

The race is designated as Category "C" under ISAF Regulation 20 (Advertising).

Divisions

Division 1. Measurement Handicap Scoring.

Division 1 will race under the IRC Rule.

Yachts may also elect to be dual scored under the ORR.

Division 1 is limited to yachts with IRC ratings of 0.900 or greater.

A valid Endorsed IRC certificate with Stability Index is required for all boats in this division and those electing dual scoring also require an ORR certificate.

Prizes will be awarded for winners under both IRC and ORR scoring systems.

Division 2. PHRF Racing

Yachts will race with PHRF New England, (PHRF-NE) Racing handicaps and be scored using the Time on Distance method. The allowed sail inventory is defined by PHRF-NE.

Division 3. PHRF Cruising

Yachts will race with PHRF-NE Cruising handicaps and be scored using the Time on Distance method. The allowed sail inventory is defined by PHRF-NE.

Division 4. Multihull

Yachts will race with New England Multihull handicaps and be scored using the Time on Distance method..

Multihull rating certificates will be subject to review by the New England Multihull Association (NEMA) for certification and normalization to their standards.

Division 2 and 3 entrants included in the valid Nova Scotia Yachting Association (NSYA) List or holding valid PHRF rating certificates from regional authorities other than Performance Handicap Racing Fleet of New England (PHRF-NE) will complete the PHRF-NE rating form (included with the official Notice of Race) and submit it with their entry form to support certification and normalization to New England standards by the PHRF-NE Handicap Review Committee.

Safety Requirements

Eligibility is restricted to yachts with a minimum length overall (LOA) of 29.5 feet (8.99 meters), except as specifically permitted by the MHORC

Yachts will be restricted to the use of sails permitted under the particular Measurement or Handicap rules.

All entries shall comply with the requirements of ISAF Special Regulations for ORC Category 2 conditions with defined exceptions.

Except for entries in the Double Handed Special Competition, the minimum number of crew (including the skipper) shall be four persons.

Trophies

The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 1500, Thursday July 9, 2009, at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron. The crew and their friends from all competing yachts are welcome.

1. The following Division trophies will be awarded for first place in division on corrected time.

Division 1 – IRC	Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cup
Division 1 – ORR	David P. Prince Cup
Division 2 – PHRF Racing	Province of Nova Scotia Trophy
Division 3 – PHRF Cruising	MacIntosh-Wood Trophy
Division 4 – Multihull	BYC Commodores Trophy

2. Class prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third place in each Class of each Division

3. The Olin J. Stephens Trophy will be awarded for the yacht in Division 1 scored under ORR with the best combined performance, as defined by the MHORC, in the 2008 Newport Bermuda Race and the 2009 Marblehead to Halifax Race.

Special Competitions

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| 1. Team Competition – Canada vs US | RNSYS Race Committee Bowl |
| 2. Yacht Team Competition | Parker C. Hatch Memorial Trophy |
| 3. Doublehanded – PHRF Racing | Bras D’Or Lakes Trophy |
| 4. Doublehanded – IRC | Trustee Bowl |
| 5. Women’s Crew – PHRF Racing | Gabriella Trophy |
| 6. Classic Yacht – in Division 2 or 3 | Hugh Bell-Holcombe Brown Tray |
6. Additional prizes will include: the First Monohull to Finish; the first Multihull to Finish; the best performance by a Schooner, Ketch or Yawl, the best performance by a crew with an average age of over 50 years.

For further information and an application package, E-mail: E-mail: mhor2009@marbleheadtohalifax.com or call the Boston Yacht Club (781) 631-3100 or the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron (902) 477-5653, or write to:

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Visit our websites: www.marbleheadtohalifax.com or www.rnsys.com