

MESSAGE FROM YOUR FCSA BOARD

Representatives from our area clubs and participating organizations recently met on May 10th at St. Augustine Yacht Club for one of our board meetings that we regularly have. Although there were many things to discuss, the topic that stood way above all others was “When is the PHRF fleet going to be racing on the river again?”

Each club gave a report of the hurricane recovery efforts and we were glad that everyone is making progress. The damage was great but collectively we will come out of this with improved facilities more capable of handling the next storm. But we still get back to the question: “When are we going to be racing again?”

The answer is: Racing is already in progress. As sailors, we are often put in the position of improvising a solution. Storms can deal us a bad hand. But we improvise to find solutions. The same thinking we apply on our individual boats we can also apply as clubs and sailing organizations.

Let’s look at what’s already working. The three clubs south of Jacksonville (SAYC, HRYC, and SYC) have a full schedule with good turnouts. Florida Yacht Club has reduced facilities for large boats at present, but that hasn’t stopped them from having a full racing calendar. The Rudder Club is rapidly rebuilding and ran a 31-boat Gator Bowl Regatta last December and a successful Mug Race two weekends ago.

Yes, we had difficulties in the spring program with boats stuck in slips and boats stuck on lifts. But that is rapidly changing. By fall we expect that boats will be able to make the starting line on routine basis. We expect a full fall racing schedule. Clubs that have limited facilities have offered to help clubs that are still rebuilding.

Some upcoming races to include in your calendar:

Every Wednesday night there is a beer can race at Florida Yacht Club. If boats show up Jodi assures us we will get our own start following the J-24s. This is a great way to enjoy the summer and practice for the fall race schedule.

Blue Max Race hosted by NFCC will be held on Saturday, June 16th on the St. Johns River.

Take a trip to St. Augustine on Sunday June 17th for a nice offshore round the buoys race at the Father’s Day Race.

Rudder Club will host the Moonlight Race on Saturday, July 28th. Evening sailing under a full moon can be a great experience in the summertime.

Labor Day weekend is an offshore weekend for PHRF boats in the Herb Elphick and Tommy Hall races on September 1 and 3 hosted by NFCC.

Fall racing should be in full swing with the first race of the PHRF fall series, Race #1 on Saturday, September 8th at the Rudder Club Labor Day Race.

We will continue to do all that we can as sailors to improvise and make the best of our situation. Look forward to additional updates as we approach the fall racing season.

Happy Sailing!

Tom Davis, Chairman
First Coast Sailing Association