



SYC-MORC stn 26
2017 Lake Huron Challenge
Notice & Conditions of Race

Saturday

June 24/2017

2017 Lake Huron Challenge

Notice and Conditions of Race



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1. Philosophy of the Challenge

The Lake Huron Challenge is an opportunity to participate in a challenge for double handed yachts (those sailed with two persons on board) with a rendezvous in scenic Rogers City, in northern Michigan. Crews range from husband and wife, to parent and child, to best friends, to hardcore racers.

The aim of the Challenge is to encourage the development of safe and swift offshore passage-making capability with limited crew. It's a great way to get your boat north in the company of others.

2. Management

Sarnia Yacht Club and MORC stn. 26 is the organizing authority of the 2017 Lake Huron Challenge (*Challenge*) and has appointed the MORC stn 26 Race Committee (*Race Committee*) to conduct the Challenge and related activities. The Race Committee has the authority to interpret the rules and conditions of the race and, subject to RRS 76.1, to reject the entry of any boat at any time before the start of the Challenge. The Challenge will start on June 24. The fleet will be divided into divisions and depending upon the course chosen, PHRF ratings and other factors at the discretion of the Race Committee.

The Challenge is managed with the support of Sarnia Yacht Club, MORC stn 26, and the city of Rogers City, MI

3. Rules

The Challenge shall be governed by the "rules" as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020 (RRS), except as modified by the Sailing Instructions.

4. Responsibilities of Skipper and Crew

Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Challenge organizers (Sarnia Yacht Club/ MORC stn 26, host clubs, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The safety of a boat and its crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Skipper, who must assure that the boat is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy and sailed by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. The Skipper must be satisfied with the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. The Skipper must assure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew knows where it is kept and how to use it. Neither the acceptance of an entry, the establishment of equipment or safety requirements nor an inspection of a boat in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the Skipper.

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5. Crew / Boat Eligibility

The Challenge is open to any monohull yacht with a fixed keel or keel/centerboard and permanent cruising accommodations, or multihull yachts with permanent cruising accommodations. Cruising accommodations consist of a marine toilet legal for the Great Lakes waters, a permanently installed bunk, and a galley facility. Modifications from stock design, such as changes to rig dimensions, standing rigging, displacement, ballast, or keel, rudder and hull configuration, shall be identified to the Challenge Committee unless included on a PHRF handicap rating certificate for the yacht.

The minimum length is 27 feet. Yachts not within this parameter may be considered for acceptance into the Challenge by the Challenge Committee.

It is not SYC/ MORC stn 26 desire to exclude yachts solely on the grounds of unconventional design, but persons contemplating entering an extreme type or design would be well advised to give particulars of the yacht at an early stage to avoid later disappointment.

Each skipper must have at least 1,000 nautical miles sailing experience as a skipper and must have made one non-stop passage of at least 100 miles under sail, requiring a passage time of not less than 24 hours.

6. Structure of the Sailing Divisions

Monohull yachts will compete without time allowances as practical, on a boat for boat basis, within each division on the shore course. The Goderich mark course will have divisions that will compete based upon PHRF ratings. Multihull yachts with a valid PHRF certificate will compete within one division using the PHRF rating system.

7. Courses

Sarnia Starting Line

Shore Course: After crossing starting line proceed on a direct course to the finish line at the Rogers City Harbor, leaving lower LH weather buoy (45008) to port. Thunder Bay Island, Middle Island, and the Rogers City outer buoys are all marks of the course and shall be left to port.

Goderich Course: After crossing starting line proceed on direct course to Goderich turning mark, leave it to port, and then proceed directly to the finish line at Rogers City Harbor. The Goderich mark, Thunder Bay Island, Middle Island and Rogers City outer buoys are marks of the course and shall be left to port.

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8. Entry

PLEASE NOTE: All deadlines will be *strictly* enforced!

Entrants are directed to the official Lake Huron Challenge website, www.sarniyachtclub.ca (SYC race page) or Yachtscoring.com, for downloading of all forms required to complete the entry and registration process. In addition, the website contains up-to-date information on the Race including any official changes to the Notice of Race and/or Sailing Instructions, ratings and class splits.

The Race Committee must receive the following information before 1800 hours on June 16:

- a. Completed Entry Form. The Entry Form can be found at www.sarniyachtclub.ca, (SYC race page) and Yachtscoring.com or can be requested from the Race Committee.
 - i. Entry fee, in US funds. Payment may be made by check payable to “MORC stn 26”
 - ii. Fee is \$200
- b. A Certificate of Insurance that verifies that the Skipper has a minimum of \$300,000 Boat Liability Insurance in force on the boat entered in the Challenge for the period of the Challenge.
- c. Completed Equipment List

Entries submitted, entry fees paid, or documents submitted after the entry deadline of 1800 hours on June 16 will be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee and subject to a late fee payment of \$30. **No entries will be accepted after June 23 except at the sole discretion of the Race Committee.**

9. Schedule of Events

Friday, June 23, Sarnia

Registration, Skippers Meeting at Sarnia Yacht Club, 1700 Hours

Saturday, June 24, Lake Huron

First Signal 1055 Hours

Monday, June 26, Rogers City

Awards Dinner 1700 Hours

10. Registration

The Skipper of each boat or a representative with the Skipper’s written authorization shall register the boat at one of the following locations and times, or by making special arrangements with the Race Committee:

Lake Huron Starting Line

Sarnia Yacht Club: 1600 – 2100 hours on Friday, June 23, 2017

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11. Awards

- a. All entrants who finish the course within the allotted time and within the rules set forth by the Race Committee will be awarded a commemorative acknowledgment of this achievement.
- b. Longevity awards will be presented to competitors' finishes in five-year increments.
- c. Boats that participate with a valid PHRF certificate will compete for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place flags, according to the number of boats within their division.
- d. Other significant achievements will be recognized with Special Awards.

12. Inspection

Each competing skipper is responsible for assuring that the boat meets the requirements of the Required Equipment List. However, as a courtesy *and without relieving the Skipper of responsibility*, the Inspection Committee will be available for consultation before the Race. Such consultations may be arranged through the Race Committee by submitting an e-mail to lakehurondh@gmail.com or by contacting a member of the Race Committee.

The Inspection Committee reserves the right to inspect and boat immediately after finishing the Challenge at Rogers City. Boats not in compliance with the Required Equipment List or hindering the inspection process will be subject to protest by the Race Committee.

13. Sailing Instructions

Sailing Instructions will be available on the SYC race page at www.sarniyachtclub.ca and Yachtscoring.com web site,. A hard copy of the Sailing Instructions will be distributed to each skipper at the skippers meeting on Friday, June 23, 2017 at the Sarnia Yacht Club.

14. Communications While Racing

- a. A regular VHF radio schedule will be maintained. Participants are required to attempt to make radio contact with other participants on VHF channel 72 at 0800, 1400, 2000 and 0200 hours during the event, and to exchange and log time, date and location.
- b. RRS 41(c) - Outside Help is changed to read as follows: Help in the form of information freely available to all boats and any publicly offered internet or broadcast weather information from sources available to all competitors, whether on a subscription or free basis. Allowable services must provide the same information to all competitors and not provide boat-specific weather or routing information. Competitors may use any means to retrieve the data. Accessing other information during the race will be considered a violation of RRS 41.

15. Dockage at Rogers City

Dockage will be available at the Rogers City Municipal Marina. After finishing, and after the finish has been acknowledged by the Race Committee, entrants should contact the marina staff on VHF

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channel 9 for a slip assignment. Normal dockage fees apply, and are the responsibility of the entrants.

16. Environmental Controls

The laws of Michigan and Ontario prohibit any through-hull fittings that may be used to pump toilets or holding tanks overboard. The Race Committee will not inspect for compliance, but governmental officials may do so.

17. Website and Email

The Race Committee will post information on the official Lake Huron Challenge website at www.sarniayachtclub.ca and Yachtscoring.com, competitors will be deemed to have knowledge of such information from the time it is so posted. The posted information may include assigned ratings, and amendments to the Notice of Race and/or the Sailing Instructions. Accordingly, competitors are encouraged strongly to check the website regularly. Notices to competitors also will be posted on the Official Notice Board(s) as provided in the Sailing Instructions.

Competitors are required to supply a working e-mail address and cell phone on the Entry Form as a condition to entry in the Race. The Race Committee will attempt (but not be obligated) to notify each competitor of amendments to the Notice of Race and/or the Sailing Instructions by e-mail to the address so supplied.

18. Photography

For and in consideration of participation in the Challenge, each competitor agrees to extend to the SYC/ MORC stn 26 the right to reproduce and use for any purpose, at their sole discretion, any photographs, drawings and other pictorial representations of the boat and crew.