SORC Islands in the Stream Series Update

July is in the rearview mirror and November is zooming into sight, and with it the start of the 2018 Nassau Cup Ocean Race and beginning of the SORC Islands in the Stream Series for 2018-19. The Notice of Race is posted here and entries are open and available here. Entry in the Series is accomplished by completing the individual races, including Nassau, the Wirth M. Munroe Miami to Palm Beach Race in December, the Ft. Lauderdale to Key West Race and Pineapple Cup Montego Bay Race in January, and finally, the Miami to Havana Race.

The inclusion of the Pineapple Cup Race in the SORC Islands in the Stream Series (it is not an SORC event, but we are using scores for the Series) means that the majority of the Series races are now Category 2 races, meaning that competitors must be compliant with World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 2 for the Nassau Cup, Pineapple Cup, and Havana Races. There have been some additional requirements implemented for Category 2 races in recent years, which merit bringing to your attention. The first group of changes took effect in 2015, so they should not be a surprise to anyone, and are found in OSR Section 3.29, requiring VHF transceivers to be DSC-capable and programmed with a unique MMSI, among other things. We have waived this requirement to make it advisory and encourage compliance in past years, but will enforce the Section 3.29 requirements for this season’s races, with one exception. The exemption for Section 3.29.13, to encourage but not require use of an AIS Transponder for the boat will remain in place.

The other big changes to bring to your attention are requirements related to crew-overboard situations. OSR Section 4.22.1 b) requires personal AIS beacons for each crewmember, and 4.22.3 requires a lifebuoy with self-igniting light, whistle and drogue. While personal AIS beacons are not cheap, their cost pales in comparison with that of a lost shipmate. Those sections will be enforced this season.

We bring these changes to your attention not to scare anyone; they should make everyone feel safer. We do not want anyone getting an unpleasant last minute costly surprise before going racing, and we want you to have a fun and safe SORC season.

One section of the Category 2 regulations is unchanged for 2018, but remains among the most important requirements. See Section 6 “Training”. Safety at Sea courses are an invaluable part of your boat’s safety regimen, just like any piece of equipment. Taking courses is easier than ever, with US
Sailing providing online courses to cut down on the amount of time spent at hands-on events. Read about the online courses here: https://www.ussailing.org/news/us-sailing-now-offering-new-safety-at-sea-online-education/.

The online course is only $75 and can be found here: https://www.boaterexam.com/sailing/safetyatsea/

You will still need hands on training, but only one day instead of two. Find a course here: https://www.ussailing.org/education/adult/safety-at-sea-courses/find-a-course-near-you/

For those of you in Florida, there is a terrific opportunity fast approaching. Davis Island YC in Tampa is offering US Sailing Sanctioned International Offshore Safety at Sea one-day hands on training on September 9, 2018. Spaces are limited and the deadline for registration is August 15, so do not procrastinate. You must complete your online course before registration. The SORC will be represented at this event, will your team?

Register here: http://diyc.org/calendar/ai1ec_event/safety-at-sea-course/?instance_id=17279

Other helpful links:

Category 2 Monohull:

Category 2 Multihull:

Nassau Cup Race: www.nassaucuprace.org
Wirth M. Munroe Palm Beach Race: www.sailfishclub.org
Ft. Lauderdale to Key West Race: www.keywestrace.org
Pineapple Cup Montego Bay Race: www.pineapplecup.com
Miami to Havana Race: www.havanarace.org

SORC and Series Info: www.sorcsailing.org
Breaking SORC News: https://www.facebook.com/sorcsailing/