

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club
Notice of Race
39th John Walsh Memorial Oar Race
New Bern, NC
Saturday May 20, 2023

Background: The Oar Race has had a long history in the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club. It was started by John Walsh in 1984 and has evolved ever since. Some Oar traditions have changed over the years.

For several years the Oar Race was a destination race, and linked with the Michelob Cup. The Oar went to Oriental, and the Cup came to New Bern the following day. It was run on Labor Day Weekend with racing Saturday and Sunday, with Monday as a holiday to recover. The distance to Oriental was approximately the same distance across the English Channel as boats used in the evacuation of 1940 Dunkirk, which is where the oar came from and what it commemorates. For the past few years the race has been held in the Spring, its distance about 20 miles, but starting and ending near Fairfield Harbour, Northwest Creek.

Regatta: The 39th John Walsh Memorial Oar Race commemorates the evacuation of Dunkirk. The perpetual trophy, which is kept on display by FHYC in the Community Building, is an oar used during the historic event. The Race will have two courses: Course A is for those competing for the miniature oar and their name on the Wall in the Community Center. Course A is expected to be approximately 15 – 20 miles long. Course B will be for smaller, slower boats and will be approximately 6 - 9 miles long. The winner of Course A and B will receive a miniature oar. **There will be an awards ceremony as well as a BYOB potluck beginning at 1800 (6:00 PM) at Red Sail Park.** The Gate will be notified that you are coming in.

Schedule Saturday May 20:

The **Skipper's Meeting** will be held over the radio **VHF Channel 78 at 10:40 am for Course A boats.** It will be repeated at approximately **11:35 for Course B boats.**

The **first warning signal** for Course A is scheduled for 1055. The first start for Course A will be 1100. The first Warning Signal for Course B boats will be 1140. The first start for Course B will be 1145. Both Courses will use a pursuit starts with the boat with the highest PHRF rating starting first.

Time Limit: The finish line will be pulled at 1700 (5:00PM).

Cancelation: If there is inclement weather that forces a cancellation, an announcement will be made on VHF 78 at 930 and on email. The race will be rescheduled for Sunday May 21.

Sailing Instructions: Sailing Instructions are available at fhyc.us/fhyc/ under "RACING", no password is needed. "2023 Walsh Memorial Oar Race SI".

Course: There will be two courses. Course A will be approximately 15 miles. Course B will be approximately 6 miles. Both Courses will begin and end on the Neuse River in the vicinity of N1.

Scoring: The Oar Race will use a pursuit start based on NC-PHRF numbers. The boat with the highest PHRF number will be the first to start. Classes will be Spinnaker, Non Spinnaker, Multi-hull, and Cruising. All boats, no matter their class and course, will start based on their PHRF number. In determining who wins the Oar

Trophy, all spinnaker class boats and multi-hulls declaring a spinnaker will receive a 15 second per mile penalty on their handicap. This will be applied by the race committee prior to the start.

Classes: There will be 4 classes: Spinnaker Non-Spinnaker Multihull Cruising

Further division based on the number of entries may be made at the Race Committee's discretion.

Cruising class will be defined as follows:

- No boat specifically designed for racing allowed
- Only Dacron sails and no spinnakers
- Powered winches allowed
- Two of the following four requirements must also be met:
 - Windless or pulpit mounted anchor
 - Dodger and/or bimini in place
 - Youngest sail 5 years old or older
 - Bottom paint 3 years old or older.

Radio Communication: The race committee will use **VHF Channel 78** to communicate with competitors.

Awards: Course A competitors will compete for the Oar and the winner's name will receive a miniature oar. Course B competitors will compete for a mini oar replica. There will be at least one award for every 3 boats in a class. Because it is a pursuit start, the first overall boat to finish Course A will have its name added to the perpetual trophy.

Disclaimer of Liability: Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 4, "Decision to Race". The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, or after the regatta.

Insurance: Entry into this regatta certifies the owner of the participating yacht is insured with current third-party liability insurance.

Further information: Please contact race coordinator Tom Graves at 203-984-7787 or ThomasGraves478@msn.com

For NC PHRF rating and information visit www.ncphrf.com/

Complete the registration and liability waiver form below. Scan and email it to:

ThomasGraves478@msn.com or send it to Thomas Graves, 851 Pelican Dr., New Bern, NC, 28560

Registration fee: \$15 send check to above address or pay via credit card at the following secure link: <https://square.link/u/4Wvzfx7>

39th John Walsh Memorial Oar Race Registration Form
Saturday May 20, 2023 New Bern, NC
Skippers' Meeting on VHF #78

FEE \$15.00. Deadline for Registration is 5:00 pm Thursday May 18, 2023

Name _____

Address _____

Cell Number _____

Email address _____

Yacht name _____

Make _____ Length _____

Sail # _____ NC-PHRF/FHYC Rating _____

Course A: Spin _____ Non-Spin _____ Cruising _____ Multi-Hull _____

Course B: Non-Spin _____ Cruising _____

Waiver: As a condition of participation in this FHYC regatta, I assume all risk of accident or loss to my vessel, myself, FHYC and those acting on its behalf from any liability arising from my participation in the FHYC regatta. I recognize that sailing activities can be hazardous and my participation in this FHYC sponsored event is voluntary on my part and I am therefore assuming all risk of loss or injury when I choose to participate.

_____ Date _____

Your completed and signed form and cash/check **payable to FHYC** may be mailed to and received by **5:00 pm May 18th**.

Scan and email it to:

ThomasGraves478@msn.com or send it to Thomas Graves, 851 Pelican Dr., New Bern, NC, 28560

Registration fee: \$15 send check to above address or pay via credit card at the following secure link: <https://square.link/u/4Wvzfx7>