

**NAVY YACHT CLUB PENSACOLA (NYCP)**

**Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP) - Bayou Grande Marina, Pensacola, Florida**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**37th Anniversary Bikini Regatta and the 17th Annual GYA Women's PHRF Championship- Part of the Navy Yacht Club's 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and the Women's Trilogy Sailing Series**

Pensacola, Florida, July 14th, 15th and 16th, 2017

The 37th Anniversary of the Navy Yacht Club's Women's sailboat race known as the "Bikini Regatta" will be held on Saturday, July 15th on Pensacola Bay. In the summer of 1981, Past Commodore Lloyd Stagg and his wife Beverly from the Navy Yacht Club envisioned a plan to provide women an opportunity to enjoy sailing and to become race competitors on large PHRF (Performance Handicap Racing Formula) sailboats. Now, 37 years later, their vision of the "Bikini Regatta" has become a much anticipated sailboat racing event here along the Gulf Coast.

In the summer of 2001, members from the three area Yacht Clubs: Navy Yacht Club, Pensacola Beach Yacht Club and the Point Yacht Club in Josephine, Alabama created a Trilogy Sailboat Racing Series for the lady sailors of the area...their goal to help increase participation in the newly create GYA (Gulf Yachting Association) Women's PHRF Championship. Each yacht club provided a ladies race to be part of the trilogy – The Bikini Regatta, The Race for the Roses and The Fast Women Regatta. The GYA Women's PHRF Championship was also created in 2001 as a sanctioned all female spinnaker race challenge event.

This year the GYA Women's PHRF Championship will be held on Saturday & Sunday July 15th -16th by the Navy Yacht Club and the Pensacola Yacht Club in conjunction with the "Bikini Regatta".

Race Registration and a Regatta Celebration Social for the Bikini Regatta & the GYA Women's Championship will begin on Friday evening starting at 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Ballroom A at the Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC). Participants, spectators and anyone who is interested in the racing event is invited to the Pensacola Yacht Club facility, which is located at 1897 Cypress Street, Pensacola. Entry Fee is \$35 with US Sailing Membership and \$40 for non-member for the Bikini Regatta. Registration for the GYA Women's Championship will be \$85.00 with US Sailing Membership and \$90 for non-member. Participants can race in both events but must register separately for each activity.

The skipper's briefing for the race competitors will be held at 6:00 PM Friday evening in Ballroom A at PYC. Final race registration will be held from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM with the race start scheduled for 11:00 AM. The "Bikini Regatta" allows 50% female crew with a Female Skipper on the helm at all times. Following the race, the participants and guests are invited to anchor their boats back at the Navy Yacht Club facility located aboard NAS Pensacola at the Bayou Grande Marina to enjoy the Post Race Festivities which include the Navy Yacht Club's pulled pork sandwiches and sailing chips along with the Winner's Award Ceremony to be held at approximately 5:00 PM or a.s.a.p. after the day's racing. (Note: Sunday, July 16th will be reserved as a make-up day for the Bikini Regatta if required.) On Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> the racing continues with the GYA Women's PHRF Championship –a race event for 100% female crew- the race start is scheduled for 11:00 AM with the Award Ceremony held in Ballroom A at the Pensacola Yacht Club approximately 4:30 PM or a.s.a.p. after the day's racing.

The racing community and the members of the Navy Yacht Club & the Pensacola Yacht Club are anxious to welcome the lady sailors back to another year of sailing on the waters of Pensacola Bay and will be looking forward to celebrating not only the 37th Anniversary of the Bikini Regatta and the Navy Yacht Club's 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but also continuing their celebration of the GYA Women's PHRF Championship. The Naval Air Station Pensacola is known as the first Aviation Training Center "the Cradle of Aviation" and the "Hub of Training" but it is also known as the home of the Navy Yacht Club - the first yacht club in the Pensacola area to establish a ladies PHRF sailboat racing regatta.

As noted above, the "Bikini Regatta" is part of the Ladies Trilogy Sailboat Racing Series. It is the first of three races on the Gulf Coast which are held during the summer and count towards earning the Overall Women's Sailing Trilogy Trophy. The other two races are the "30<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for the Roses Regatta" (an all female racing event) which will be held in Pensacola Bay on July 22nd and the "26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fast Women Regatta" (a 50% female crew event) held on July 29th in Perdido Bay, Josephine, Alabama.

Registration and race information packages for the "Bikini Regatta" and the "GYA Women's PHRF Championship" can be obtained from the Navy Yacht Club through their website <http://www.navyypsyc.org> .(click on the Racing Tab) Online race registration can be made via the Regatta Network at the following link: <http://www.regattanetwork.com> For Onshore or Race Information and Docking Availability at Bayou Grande Marina contact Ken Pyle - Navy Yacht Club Fleet Captain – (479) 651-0292 or at Email address: [kpyle1968@gmail.com](mailto:kpyle1968@gmail.com) at Pensacola Yacht Club contact Dave Oerting – Pensacola Yacht Club Fleet Captain – (850) 206-6502 [doerting@southernco.com](mailto:doerting@southernco.com) , or contact PYC Dock Master Greg Spitzer (850) 433-8804 [dockmaster@pyc.gccoxmail.com](mailto:dockmaster@pyc.gccoxmail.com)