

What is the Werewolf Series?

Many of you may have heard of a new concept we have started at the Rudder Club called the “**Werewolf Series**”. The races are evening races that are held once a month on every Full Moon. Yes, we race whatever day that happens to be Full Moon. Think of this series as a once a month “beer can” race. The **Werewolf Series** is meant to be a technically challenging night racing series fostering spirited competition among cruising boats on the St. Johns River. The racing is informal, fun, as serious as you want to make it, and easy.

Races are open to all cruising boats with a PHRF rating, from the Rudder Club and neighboring clubs, but you must be prepared for night sailing. This means you must have a working VHF radio, appropriate navigation lights, safety equipment for after-sunset competition, in all conditions. There are no exceptions.

Our last two races were picture-perfect evening races and very enjoyable. We would like them all to be that way but sometimes we will have our challenges. That’s where the “technically challenging” aspect of this race series comes into play. The courses are simple and we try not to overcomplicate things. After you register, you will be given a start time, much like the days of staggered starts in the Mug Race. Each boat has a start time according to its handicap rating. You start near the club between two buoys at your starting time. Take note of your starting time and make sure you start no sooner than your assigned time. The faster boats will be watching! Slower boats start first. Fastest boat starts last. Finishes are generally close. First boat to finish wins. Your place at the finish is your place in that race. Since there is no Race Committee, communication by VHF radio is important for information as well as safety.

How Do I Find Out More and Sign Up?

This is also easy. First of all, racing is FREE! Simply call or e-mail one of our members, Gary Van Tassel.

Phone number (843) 513-5794. Gary’s e-mail address: gwvt2@att.net

You can download a copy of the Sailing Instructions from the Rudder Club website www.rudderclub.com or First Coast Sailing Association website www.sailjax.com

When are the next few races?

September 14th, Saturday

October 13th, Sunday

November 12th, Thursday

December 12th, Thursday

The next race is Saturday, September 14th, the same date as our General Membership Meeting. This is not an issue! We show up at the club at Happy Hour from 5-6 pm. General Membership Meeting is at 6:00 pm. Nice steak cook-out immediately follows the meeting. If necessary, we will simply postpone the starting times for our **Werewolf Series Race**.