

**Thursday Night Sailing Series**  
**PO Box 457**  
**Block Island, RI 02807**

Dear Block Island Sailing Enthusiast,

April 27, 2015

Welcome to 2015 edition of the Thursday Night Sailing Series! This letter is to describe our plans and to invite you and your sailing friends and family to participate. Last year, we had ten evenings of races in the series, which would not have been possible without the help from our terrific local sailing resources, including Ted Merritt, Bill Penn, and the Block Island Club, who participated with their sailing program staff, and who generously gave us the use of their launch to run the races. With great appreciation, we look forward to their support again this year!

The Thursday Night Yacht Racing Series was founded in 1999 by local sailors with a goal to foster sail racing on Block Island. It was organized and managed as an independent sailing event, by the participants, and has sponsors, but is not directly affiliated with any other organization.

This year we have an invigorated Race Committee, many of whom have participated in the US Sailing "Race Management Official" certification program and are Certified Club Race Officials. We have a new race starting system including the horn and flag signals for the standard "Sound Signal Starting System" (described in Appendix S) of the Racing Rules of Sailing.

We will also host a few seminars on the Racing Rules of Sailing which will consist of one or more hour long "chalk board" sessions, on racing and tactics, offered before, and during the sailing season. Both the BIYC and BIMI have shown interest in helping sponsor these educational events.

The Thursday Night Sailing Series racing format is typically a windward/leeward race course set in the recreational area of the Great Salt Pond. Course length depends on the wind conditions and is typically about 20 minutes long. The races are started using a standard three minute dingy starting sequence. Any vessel with a sail is eligible. Depending on the yachts participating, there may be one or more classes each with their own start, to separate the sailing dingys from the larger vessels. The scoring for the larger vessels is done with PHRF handicap ratings, which allows a wide variety of sailboats to compete on equal terms. The smaller vessels are scored as a dingy class with boats of the same make and model being scored against each other in their own sub-class. We will, with the cooperation of other sailing organizations, offer weekend racing outside the Pond and even an around-the-Island race like the ones we had in the past. Most Thursday evenings are followed by a cookout in the picnic area made available by BIMI at their Maritime Center on Ocean Avenue. Please see our calendar of sailing events below.

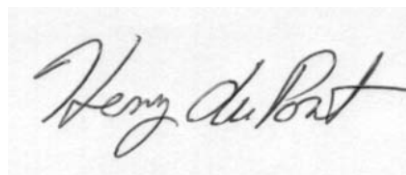
The races will start each Thursday evening at 1800 sharp from June 18th until mid-September when, if there are enough boats on the water, we will move the start up to 1700. A copy of the "Notice of Race" and "Sailing Instructions" are available on-line at our new US Sailing sponsored regatta management web site which you can find at: [www.regattanetwork.com/event/9976](http://www.regattanetwork.com/event/9976)

Use this new web resource to register your boat in the series, pay your entry fees, receive notices from the event organizers, and check your results. There is even a “Crew Bulletin Board” for skippers needing extra crew or crew wishing to find a boat sail on.

**Event Management and Registration Fees:** Like any sailing series, we need volunteers to help run the races, and the after race cookouts, and we have some modest costs which include: horn gas, racing marks, cold beverages on the committee boat, and committee boat fuel. The TNS event registration fees are \$40.00 per boat to register in the PRHF Class and \$20.00 for each boat to register to sail in the dinghy class. Block Island Club Fleet dingys sail without fee, and do not need to register. Transient boaters are welcome to sail with us as our guests. To register for the series, go to the event web site and click on the “Register on-line” button. You can pay by credit card or check. “Dues Plus” donations, which were made by a number of our fleet supporters in the past, are most welcome and allow us to invest in new equipment and to give nice gifts of appreciation to our Race Committee Volunteers.

Thanks for your interest in helping us promote sail racing on Block Island! Our first racing evening will be Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>. Please send your photos of last year’s racing for us to post on our web site.

Best wishes,



Henry duPont  
Thursday Night Sailing Event Organizer

## 2015 Block Island Yachting Events Calendar

Event	Class	Sponsoring Club	Dates
Learn the Racing Rules Seminar	All	BITNS, BIYC	June Early Sat Evening TBA
Monday Night Sailing	Ensign Class	BIYC	TBA
Thurs Night Sailing	PRHF	BITNS, BIC	June 18 – Sept 17th
Mary D Regatta	PRHF	BIYC	July 18th
32 Annual Hal Madison Race	PRHF	BIC	August 15th
Around the Island Pursuit Race	PRHF	BIYC	September 5th
Ensign Class Nationals	Ensign Class	Niantic Bay Yacht Club	August 9-13th

**Sail fast, sail fair, have fun!**