Welcome Pacific NW Offshore Racer:

The Corinthian Yacht Club of Portland (CYC), along with our title sponsor Schooner Creek Boat Works, welcomes your participation in the 45th annual Pacific NW Offshore Yacht Race scheduled to start Thursday, June 10, 2021. This 193-mile race begins off the mouth of the Columbia River and finishes in the bay at Port Angeles, Washington.

An exciting change to the race this year is that our host city is now Ilwaco, Washington, and because the Swiftsure has been canceled, the finish will be in Port Angeles, Washington. The Long Beach Tourist Bureau and the Port of Ilwaco are arranging special events and discounts for all of the participating boats consistent with the State of Washington Covid restrictions. They have been incredible partners in helping CYC organize and facilitate this move, which will preclude any issues with water depth that we have seen in the past and will shorten the drive out to Buoy 2 by approximately an hour. Likewise, the Port Angeles Yacht Club and the city of Port Angeles have stepped up to make the finish just as exciting as it always is in Victoria.

We are also delighted to announce that the 2021 PNW Offshore is a qualifying race for the 2022 Vic-Maui International Yacht Race! See http://www.vicmaui.org for more information about this great race from Victoria, BC, to Maui, Hawaii.

A few other notes:

The skipper of each competing yacht will need to demonstrate compliance with CYC's published SERs, CYC's Notice of Race (NOR), and prescribed safety issues listed in any supplemental Sailing Instructions (SI). All competing yachts, except those in the Cruising Class, are required to have a valid handicap-rating certificate for their appropriate class (e.g., PHRF NW, ORC, etc.).

Entry deadline is 2100 hours (PDT) Monday, May 17, 2021.

Skippers will need to check in with any final paperwork prior to the Skipper's Meeting in Astoria on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 – details of the check-in to follow via email and online. The Skippers Meeting, subject to the State of Washington Covid restrictions, will begin at 1800 hours on June 9, 2021, at the Salt Restaurant 2nd floor, with a weather briefing and announcements of start time, class breakdowns, and other race details.

At the finish again subject to Covid restrictions, crews can look forward to warm towels, champagne, and photos, followed by an excellent dock party, which goes on as long as yachts are finishing. Family and friends are welcome to volunteer to assist with yacht greeting and finish line activities. Provided we can comply with Covid restrictions, an awards barbeque will be held on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 1100 hours, hosted at Port Angeles Yacht Club. All family and friends are welcome to attend to celebrate the race finish.

A final participation note:

This race is an exciting opportunity to experience overnight offshore racing. Nevertheless, while the only formal requirement for skippers and crew to participate in the race is specified in the Safety Equipment Requirements 4.3.1, i.e., that 30% of the crew will have successfully participated in a Safety at Sea course within the past five years, due to the unpredictable and sometimes hazardous conditions that may be encountered off the Washington coast and throughout the course, the following additional suggestions are offered as guidelines for skills and levels of experience needed:

THE SKIPPER OF THE YACHT SHOULD HAVE COMPETED IN AT LEAST TWO OVERNIGHT OFFSHORE RACES:

AT LEAST 50% OF THE CREW SHOULD HAVE OVERNIGHT OFFSHORE SAILING EXPERIENCES; AND

NO LESS THAN TWO MEMBERS OF THE CREW SHOULD BE COMPETENT TO NAVIGATE SUCCESSFULLY WITH A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A COMPASS, DEPTH SOUNDER, & GPS.

With these suggestions in mind, we remind participants that under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 4, the sole and inescapable responsibility of the decision to race or continue racing lies with the Person in Charge of the boat and her crew.

On behalf of Corinthian Yacht Club of Portland, we look forward to you joining us for the Pacific NW Offshore International Yacht Race!

If you have any questions, please contact the race.captain@cycportland.org.

Here's to a great race! See you in Ilwaco!

Dennis Damore

CYC Commodore, Pacific NW Offshore Race Captain