



Things to know for the 69th Annual Mug Race!

Welcome to Mug Race, a challenging one-way sailing race along the beautiful St. Johns River. The race will begin at its traditional venue in downtown Palatka, Florida. The Friday May 5 packet pickup will be in the Quality Inn, and the skippers' meeting will be in the Riverfront Park amphitheater. Saturday's start will be just north of the US 17 (Memorial) Bridge in Palatka, providing great spectator viewing! Your finish will be just south of the I-295 Bridge in Jacksonville, a distance of 38 nm.

TWO STARTS, ONE START LINE!

There will be a single start line just north of the US 17 (Memorial) Bridge. Multihulls will start at 8:00 AM (7:55 warning) on Saturday morning. Monohulls will start at 8:10 AM (8:05 warning). Spectators can park on the Memorial Bridge northbound side during the start for a great view.

WORLD'S BEST REGATTA BREAKFAST RETURNS for Sunday morning! Breakfast tickets are available in advance at the online storefront.



One tee shirt is included with each registration. Select your size as part of the registration form. Additional tee-shirts can be ordered in advance on the registration website storefront <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/25438>. **Order when you register and we will put them in your packet!** Order early to be sure you get the size you want! In addition to the cotton short-sleeve tees, we will have limited numbers of hi-tech long-sleeve shirts.

PLEASE ORDER YOUR DINNER IN ADVANCE. Saturday night's Lasagna Dinner at the Rudder Club is catered, so we need to have firm numbers in advance. You may order your lasagna dinner through the website storefront at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/25438>. We will be serving lasagna, salad, rolls and cookies. We will have only a very limited number of extra dinners, so please be sure to order yours in advance. Notice that *NO DINNERS ARE INCLUDED* with your registration. Be sure to order dinner for both skipper and crew.

We plan to have a DJ at the Rudder Club on Saturday evening.

MUG RACE LOGISTICS

Mug Race is a one-way distance race with special logistical challenges. If you are new to Mug Race, please read this section carefully! The start will be in Palatka, but the finish is just south of the Buckman Bridge in Jacksonville – near the Rudder Club.

Boats on trailers will want to launch at the Palatka City Ramp, just south of the US 17 bridge at the southern end of Riverfront Park.

- If you wish to have your trailer waiting for you at the Rudder Club, you can drive it to the Rudder Club on Friday afternoon and take the 5:30 pm shuttle bus back to the Quality Inn in Palatka. See the full shuttle schedule below.
- Alternatively, you can leave your trailer and tow vehicle in Palatka at the City Dock parking area and return for it on the Saturday 9:00 pm shuttle bus.
- When you bring your trailer to the Rudder Club, come to the gate (8533 Malaga Ave). You will find a parking place for your trailer INSIDE the gate, then detach your tow vehicle and move it OUTSIDE the gate.
- If you want to leave your catamaran on cat tracks in Palatka (or your dinghy on its dolly), there will be a trailer at the City Dock on which you can load your cat tracks after launching on Saturday. We will drive this trailer to the Rudder Club Saturday morning and have the tracks waiting at the club. Please put your name on your tracks or dolly!

WARNING: As of right now, March 16, 2023, the City Docks adjacent to the boat ramp are unusable. We will post an announcement if this changes.

Larger boats that arrive in Palatka via water may be able to tie up at two straight piers just south of the Memorial Bridge. Alternatively, if you have paid for a room at the Quality Inn, they have new docks with electricity where you can dock for free (please inform them when you reserve your room).

Shuttle bus schedule from the Rudder Club to the Quality Inn in Palatka (\$15, purchase online at the Storefront <https://regattanetwork/events/25438>].

Friday May 5 – 5:30 pm departure (arrives in Palatka in time for Skippers’ meeting)

Saturday May 6 – 5:15 am departure

Saturday May 6 – 9:00 pm departure

The volunteer loading the bus will have a list of those who purchased tickets online.

Lodging in Palatka

The closest hotels to the activities are:

- The Quality Inn, about \$109 per night plus taxes, where we have managed to reserve a small number of rooms. If you have a boat that you want to keep on their dock, tell them so when you make the reservation. For reservations, call 386-328-3481 and say “Mug Race”
- The Hampton Inn, which is actually closer to City Docks and the restaurants on St. Johns. We have also managed to reserve a number of rooms there, for \$155 per night plus taxes. For reservations, call 386-530-2420 and say “Mug Race”. They will hold our block of rooms till 4/1/23.

Other hotels will require a car, with the Best Western on US 17 the closest. There is no camping in Riverfront Park.

There are several restaurants in walking distance:

Velchoff’s on the Corner, at 105 S. Second Street, one block from the park;

Beef O-Brady’s, in the Quality Inn;

Mariachiles Mexican Restaurant on St. John’s Ave, easy walk from park;

Angel’s Dining Car, on Reid Street (US 17), also an easy walk.

And several bars:



- Azalea Brewing, on 7th Street just South of St. Johns Ave, a long walk or short drive, has a food truck and live entertainment on Friday night. **Use your 'Buy One – Get One' coupon from your registration packet!**

- Uncorked and Unwind (craft beer and excellent wine) on Second Ave. across from the Hampton Inn;
- Beef O'Brady's in the Quality Inn;
- Steamboat Willie's on St. Johns Ave.

Parking at the Rudder Club

There is vehicle parking along the street and on the vacant lot at the corner of Malaga and Collins. DO NOT PARK directly across the street from the club gate in front of the house and be respectful of areas the neighbors have taped off. The gate attendant may direct you to other parking once the corner lot is full.

Saturday night at the Rudder Club

Supper will be served at the Rudder Club starting about 6pm and running till about 9 pm. *Music starts at 6pm, and the beer kegs open once racers start to arrive.* Come relax after a long day out on the water.

When you arrive at the Rudder Club dock, please leave free any taped off areas that are reserved for finish boat and other race operations. Larger boats should be prepared with fenders so they can raft off other boats. You are welcome to stay on your boat overnight. There are showers and bathrooms in the clubhouse that will be available all night.

A limited number of slips may be available for monohulls that wish to stay in the water overnight. Contact the Dock Master at VHF 71 as you come through the Buckman Bridge to see if any are available. You must provide your own docklines.

Pulling your boat out at the Rudder Club

➔ **Remember that the ramp surface is liable to be slippery!**

The grounds at the Rudder Club are crowded. Unfortunately, we cannot allow people to bring in their tow vehicles in an unrestricted way. Saturday, there are three ways to bring your boat out.

- 1) Your own cat tracks or dolly, brought up from Palatka, will be stacked near the pool bulkhead. Please pull your boat completely free of the lower level.
- 2) Our tractor driver will pull your boat. First, you or a crew member should physically locate your trailer as some are relocated during race preparations. The Club will have a map to assist you. Once your trailer is located and you are ready to pull out, have the Ramp Director put you on the list for tractor pullout. When the Ramp Director signals that it is your turn, go with the tractor driver to your trailer and assist in hitching it to the tractor. Return to the ramp, load your boat and then assist in guiding your boat into your storage spot and unhitch your trailer.
- 3) A limited number of private tow vehicles may be allowed in at any one time. Tell the Ramp Director that you want a 'gate pass'. Note that you must hook up your trailer, pull your boat, park the trailer back in its spot, then promptly REMOVE YOUR TOW VEHICLE outside the gate. Return the gate pass to the Gate Assistant or Ramp Director.

If you want to take your boat off the grounds on Saturday evening, once it is packed and ready to go, ask the Gate Assistant for permission to bring in your tow vehicle. You are expected to hook up and leave promptly.

Sunday during daylight hours is easier. If the weather is calm and your boat is suitable for tying to the dock, then we encourage you to wait till Sunday. You are welcome to bring your tow vehicle in on Sunday, and we will have a tractor available after the Trophy Presentation.