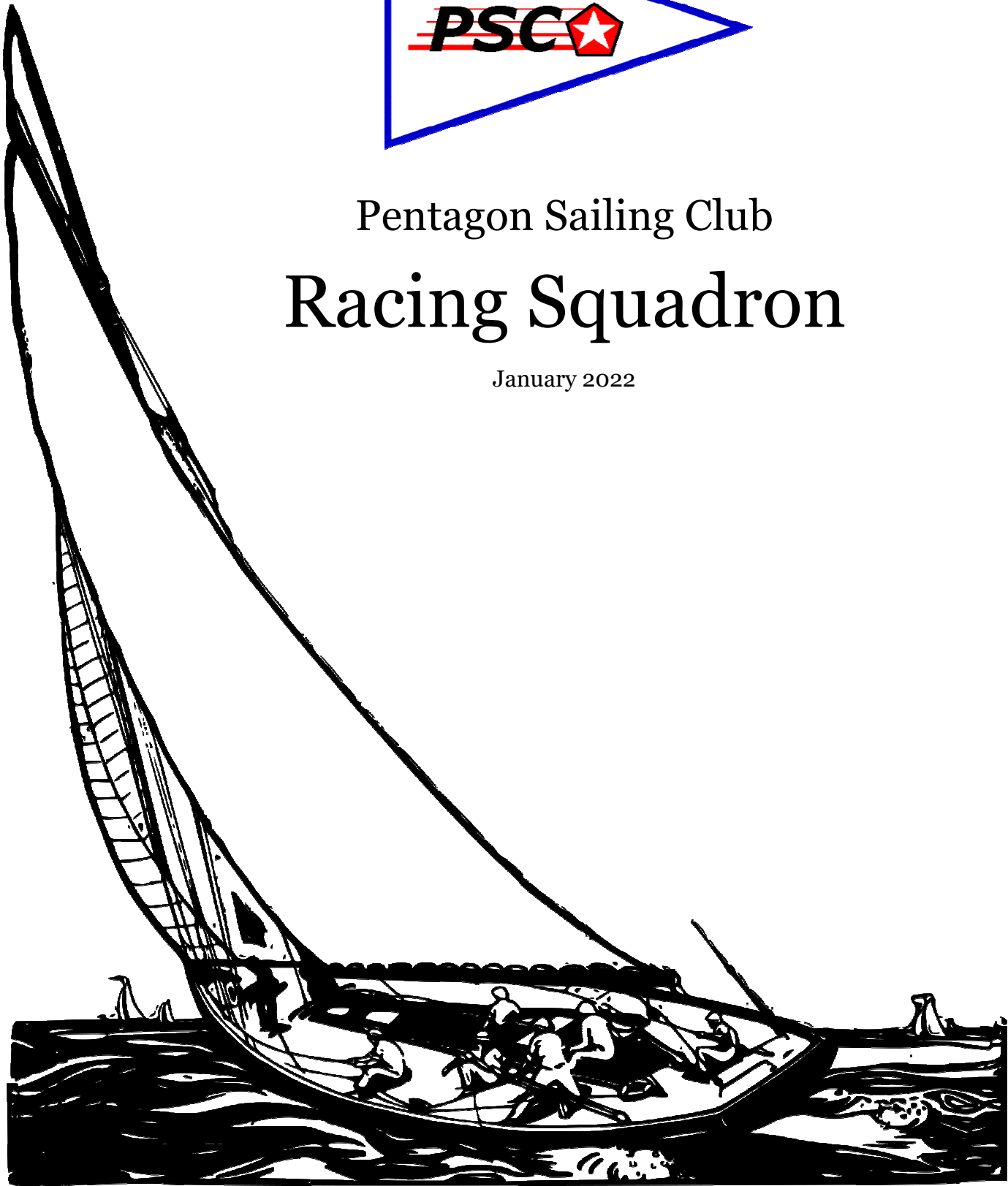


Pentagon Sailing Club  
**Racing Squadron**

January 2022





## PENTAGON SAILING CLUB RACING SQUADRON

### Goals

The Pentagon Sailing Club (PSC) formed the Racing Squadron in 2006 to encourage the recreational sport of sailboat racing. The sport's focus is on the application of sailing skills to achieve the best boat performance possible. Racing, training and social events build team cohesion and promote sportsmanship, seamanship, safety, sailing skills, and lasting friendships.

The Racing Squadron provides the opportunity for PSC members to:

- Increase their knowledge and skill in boat handling and sail trim, and build on competitive racing skills through spinnaker and non-spinnaker racing
- Participate in multiple racing formats (series racing, regatta racing)
- Become proficient at performing race committee (RC) duties
- Participate in racing and social events with sister sailing clubs

### Benefits of PSC's Racing Program

- Racing gives a goal and sense of purpose to spending time on the water.
- Racing builds boat handling and sail trim skills.
- The Squadron presents a positive face of PSC to the Potomac River sailing community; racers interact with fellow sailing clubs and organizations throughout the local area, and participate in events that occasionally include charitable fundraising.
- Racing provides an opportunity to master (through constant application) the rules of the road, the Racing Rules of Sailing, race committee duties, racing boat maintenance requirements, and additional sail configurations.
- Racing encourages sailors to become and remain active on the water in a closely knit group within PSC that meets each week for racing and fellowship from April to September.

### Performance Handicap (PHRF) Racing

Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) is a handicapping system used for yacht racing in North America. PHRF ratings are based on the speed potential of the boat, and determined as far as possible on observations of previous racing experiences. The intent of PHRF handicapping is that any well-equipped, well-maintained, and well-sailed boat has a good chance of winning. The PHRF system enables older boats to race competitively with the latest designs, and smaller boats to compete with larger ones.

### Racing Organizations

**Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA)**, [www.cbyra.org](http://www.cbyra.org), is the master racing association in the area, and is comprised of over seventy member clubs ranging from New Jersey to North Carolina. It publishes a master schedule of races in the region, known as the *CBYRA Green Book*.



**PHRF of the Chesapeake, Inc.**, [www.phrfchesbay.org](http://www.phrfchesbay.org), assesses handicaps, issues rating certificates, and publishes an annual Valid List of rated vessels.

**Daingerfield Island Sailing Club (DISC)**, [discsailing.org](http://discsailing.org), is the principal racing club on the upper Potomac River.

- PSC has a standing agreement for an annual group membership with DISC. This provides for:
  - Sponsorship for PSC boats to obtain PHRF certificates and participate in CBYRA-sanctioned events. (PSC itself is not a CBYRA member.)
  - Registration of PSC boats in all of DISC's series races.
  - Regular DISC membership for all PSC Racing Squadron members to participate in DISC events, both on and off the water.
  - Voting privileges for five members (to be named by PSC).
- PSC is expected to perform race committee (RC) duties, at a rate of once per boat each season. DISC's non-spinnaker fleet captain at [officers@discsailing.org](mailto:officers@discsailing.org) schedules RC assignments.
- PSC's Racing Commodore enters an agreement with DISC annually and provides all required information, PHRF certificates, and payment.

## Racing Squadron Budget

The Racing Commodore submits a budget to the Bridge annually. The budget includes a forecast of basic operating expenses such as DISC membership, PHRF certificates, insurance premiums attributed to racing, race entry fees, and equipment. It also includes the cost of hosting the Hydrilla Cup regatta (when this event is held), and other events.

## Insurance

Racing Squadron membership fees cover the cost of a racing rider on PSC's insurance. As required by the insurance policy, each racer must sign a PSC River Activities Release Form and a PSC Racing Joint Venture Agreement as part of the on-line registration.

If damage occurs to a PSC boat, the policy provides for a \$1000 deductible, which is shared among the crew. If an accident causes damage to a non-PSC boat, a separate \$1000 deductible applies, also shared among the crew. Failure to follow PSC policy, such as consuming alcohol on board or disregarding established wind limits, voids the insurance.

## Dues/Fees

The Racing Squadron membership fee is determined annually by the Squadron and PSC leadership, and paid through the club's website during registration. Pro-rated rates are available for partial seasons. The Racing Commodore may invite prospective members to participate in an incentive race prior to joining the squadron. The registration fee includes:

- Racing Squadron membership



- DISC membership, including all privileges except voting (PSC gets five votes as a whole.)
- Use of PSC boats for racing and race training
- Race entry fees
- PSC-hosted racing clinics

Any additional races not hosted by PSC or DISC may be subject to additional entry fees, which the participating crews pay on their own.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Crew

#### Qualifications

- Be a PSC member.
- Hold a minimum of ASA 101 or an equivalent rating, or have Racing Commodore approval.
- Be able to actively assist the skipper as needed. Racing crewmembers are not passengers.

### Skippers

#### Qualifications

- Meet the basic Racing Squadron membership requirements, above.
- Possess a Boating Safety Certificate (available at [www.boatus.org](http://www.boatus.org)).
- Participate in at least three races as an acting skipper demonstrating proficiency at sail trim, helm, and tactics while under evaluation by at least two different racing skippers.
- Demonstrate proficiency in opening and closing Capitol Cove Marina's debris barrier (if applicable) and returning to the marina and docking at night.
- Receive a quorum endorsement by the racing skippers.

#### Responsibilities

- Adhere to PSC policies and hold the crew to the same. The racing skipper has the same responsibilities for a boat and crew as a skipper-of-record under PSC policies.
- Retain command of and responsibility for the vessel and crew, whether at the helm or not.
- Report any incident that may occur during racing events where there is injury to persons or damage to PSC or other property.
- Review and be knowledgeable of the Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SI) published for each race or series.

### Racing Commodore

- Provide overall direction and management for the Squadron, including designating members to oversee or perform associated activities.



- Represent racing interests to PSC's Bridge.
- Submit an annual racing budget to the Bridge and manage it accordingly.
- Coordinate the racing calendar between PSC and outside organizations.
- Establish training and experience requirements for racing skippers and crew.
- Track the qualifications of Racing Squadron members.
- Register PSC's team with DISC annually and obtain PHRF certificates for PSC's boats.

## **Other Positions**

The Commodore may appoint other officers as needed, to include coordinators for maintenance, safety, communications, etc.

## **RACING**

### **Events**

DISC hosts the following races:

- KISS Series (Spring, Summer I, Summer II, Fall) on Tuesdays, six races per series, from April to September (total of 24 races)
- Fall Classic and Frostbite on selected Saturdays, typically four races total
- Regattas on selected Saturdays, variable number of races

Other races may occur from time to time.

The annual schedule is posted at [www.pentagonsailing.org/events](http://www.pentagonsailing.org/events) and on a Google Docs spreadsheet at [docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ChfQuLj9tclIROKXx2gzMiC-rYXtTmdsbLoKi8WFQqY/](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ChfQuLj9tclIROKXx2gzMiC-rYXtTmdsbLoKi8WFQqY/). Racers use the spreadsheet to sign up for races, which enables the Racing Commodore to reserve the appropriate number of boats.

### **Crew Requirements**

Every boat involved in racing must be crewed by a qualified racing skipper plus at least one additional crewmember, unless otherwise specified in the Sailing Instructions. Boats engaged in non-racing activities under the Racing Squadron's purview require a skipper and crew determined on a case-by-case basis by the Racing Commodore or designated representative. (Examples of Squadron activities other than racing include race training, race committee, repositioning, equipment tests, tuning, maintenance, etc.)

The Racing Commodore or designated representative will determine the number of boats and designate the crews for each boat. The Commodore's goal is to assemble competitive crews while balancing crew experience between boats and enable each member to gain experience in different positions and with different skippers.

### **Boat Crew Responsibilities**

All crews are responsible for following PSC procedures for boat check-out and check-in when racing and practicing. Boat crews must follow PSC policies found at



[www.pentagonsailing.org/PSCpolicy](http://www.pentagonsailing.org/PSCpolicy), insurance requirements, Racing Squadron rules, the Racing Rules of Sailing found at [www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules](http://www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules) and event-unique instructions as identified in Sailing Instructions.

## **Weather**

DISC does not normally cancel a race, except for lightning. DISC's policy is to defer to individual skippers to make their own go/no-go decisions.

The Racing Squadron adheres to PSC's river wind and weather policy, found at [www.pentagonsailing.org/WindWeatherPolicy](http://www.pentagonsailing.org/WindWeatherPolicy), which prohibits boats from leaving the dock with winds exceeding 20 knots, gusting to 23, or when thunderstorms are present. (Note: due to the additional requirements met by all racing skippers, paragraph 2 of PSC's weather policy does not apply to racing skippers.)

The Racing Commodore and designated skippers make a weather decision before each race. If adverse conditions are definite enough to make that decision early, the Racing Commodore will announce a cancellation by e-mail as early as possible. However, winds are highly variable, thunderstorms are often localized, and forecasts vary from one source to another. Thus, the unpredictable nature of weather can delay the weather decision until just before launch. Every member is encouraged to remain aware of the weather, and decide for himself if it makes sense to come to the marina.

## **Lifejackets**

PSC's PFD policy, found at [www.pentagonsailing.org/PFDpolicy](http://www.pentagonsailing.org/PFDpolicy), requires boat occupants to wear PFD

## **Winter Racing**

Racing between November 1 and March 31 is subject to the following additional restrictions:

- Boats must be launched prior to and hauled-out following scheduled winter sailing events. Boats may be left the water between racing events scheduled for consecutive weekends as long as the weather forecast isn't extreme. Boats can be launched a day or two before an event and hauled out a day or two after an event to accommodate individuals' availability.
- Do not sail in sustained winds 20 knots and above or when the temperature is 20° F or below.



## Racing Skipper Training Record

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Initials</b><br>(any racing skipper) | <b>Requirement</b>   |
|-------------|---|--|
|             |   | Meet the basic Racing Squadron membership requirements.  |
|             |   | Possess a Boating Safety Certificate (available at <a href="http://www.boatus.org">www.boatus.org</a> ).       |
|             |   | Participate in a race as an acting skipper, demonstrating proficiency at sail trim, helm, and tactics.         |
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|             |   | Demonstrate proficiency in opening and closing the marina's debris barrier, if berthed at Capitol Cove Marina. |
|             |   | Demonstrate proficiency in returning to the marina and docking at night.                                       |
|             | (racing capt's init's)                  | Receive an endorsement by a quorum of the Racing Skippers.   |