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Subject: #724 SOUTHERN BAY RACING NEWS YOU CAN USE 02-02-2015

Date: Mon, Feb 2, 2015 8:50 am

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Southern Bay Racing News You Can Use #724

SBRNYCU is an independent weekly publication of southern Chesapeake Bay racing happenings.

Founded in April, 2000. Lin McCarthy, Editor

Try sailing - it's NOT easy! - Bill Schanen, [SAILING Magazine](#)

HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!!

GROUNDHOG DAY - *February 2, the day on which, according to legend, the groundhog first emerges from hibernation. If it is a sunny day, and the groundhog sees its shadow [therein scaring itself back into its hole], six more weeks of wintry weather are predicted.* Webster's New Universal

Unabridged Dictionary, 2003.

Groundhog – *n. woodchuck.* These days the most famous groundhog is surely **Punxsutawney Phil**, who hangs out in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. And, today humans will gather around his “front door” to see if he comes out and, if so, stays out. No doubt he will be on the Six O'clock News, too. As for Phil's weather prediction, it is worth noting that the official date of the Vernal Equinox is March 20th, pretty darned close to 6 weeks from Phil's big show.

KWRW and Pied Piper. Southern Bay racers Dan and Gannon Troutman finished 5th overall in the 54 Boat J70 class. Gannon (12 years old) was at the helm. To see some great pictures of the only Southern Bay boat at KWRW click on the **PhotoBoat** page of *Pied Piper* pictures.

<http://www.photoboattgallery.net/p999633060/h36b02930#h23342be9> Enjoy!

Meanwhile, 200 miles off Cape Hatteras, this past Friday (Jan 29), a crew of 5 was rescued from their 55-foot catamaran by the US Coast Guard. The *Rainmaker* skipper and crew were air lifted after the boat's mast broke in 40 knot winds and 13 foot waves. All survived the ordeal. Click here to see the *Good Morning, America* report. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/video-captures-coast-guard-rescue-pinterest-investors-boat/story?id=28625590>

LAST REMINDER – THIS COMING SATURDAY, February 7th- Norfolk Yacht and Country Club is hosting a “Cruiser/Racer Seminar”, 0900 - Noon. The seminar will be conducted by former championship racer John McCarthy. Geared toward Non-Spinnaker and Cruising Class racers who are looking for ways to improve performance on the race course, topics will include basic discussion of sail trim, boat performance, and tactical

considerations. **NY&CC offers the clinic FREE and it is open to all.** Please do call NYCC to **reserve your spot – 757-423-4500.** **For additional information contact Bill Ripley at 757-477-0771.** Participants will receive a copy of “*Sailor’s Guide to the Racing Rules*”, coffee and refreshments, and a chance to see their sailing friends with their “real” clothes on. *So, pass the word to your cruising friends who occasionally race.* This will be a fun morning for those who have been nipped by the racing bug!

MURPHY’S LAW: *Yrs Truly, the Racing Beagle,* admits to being a bit vexed with all the brouhaha swirling around the “big woodchuck”, or whatever he is. It seems that all he does is hole up in a hole most of the time, make one grand exit, and run like a scaredycat if he sees his shadow. He would certainly not make it on most racing crews! /S/ *Murphy the Racing Beagle, the sailing spirit in us all.*

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SOUTHERN BAY RACING NEWS YOU CAN USE, Lin McCarthy, Editor