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Southern Bay Racing News You Can Use #824 January 30, 2017

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](#)

GROUNDHOG DAY IS THIS COMING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND – wish for clouds!

THIS COMING SATURDAY MORNING - MURPHY RULES, including the NEW changes to the rules for 2017 - 2020 - February 4, 2017, 0900-noon, hosted by Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. Registration is \$20 and includes materials and complimentary refreshments at check-in and throughout the seminar. *Since several of the rules changes deal with marks and obstructions, these topics will be well covered at the seminar.* John McCarthy leads this seminar in his “Rules Made Easy” style that removes the mystery of the way the rules changes are written by discussing scenarios of how the changes affect our racers on the race course, of course in his entertaining and humorous way. Y’all come – it’s going to be a fun and informative morning! To register contact Lin McCarthy at (757) 850-4225 or email mcbear@earthlink.net

Southern Bay racers remember ODU collegiate racer **ANNA TUNNICLIFFE** who is an Olympic Gold Medal winner (2008, Laser Radial). Anna has been out of sailboat racing for three years, and had hoped to be able to compete in the Sailing World Cup Miami going on this past week. She had submitted an expedited request to return to active status so she could race at Miami. Her request was denied by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) because the WADA Code requires a specific waiting period after the submission of the request to un-retire. Last Tuesday Anna was notified that she had not meant the waiting period therefore, she could not return to competition this month (January 2017). She will be eligible to return to racing starting on July 6, 2017. Anna, who had completed all the testing requirements, had the full support of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), World Sailing, and U.S. Sailing along with the Chief of U.S. Olympic Sailing, Malcolm Page, in her effort to receive an exemption to the required waiting period. The issue was the length of time the sailor must be under the WADA testing system. Anna had to start a new WADA period when she un-retired. The issue never was anything to do with test results. So . . . mark your calendars for July 6th when our “Tunna” will be back in the mix.

Information for racers regarding GROUNDHOG DAY. It’s a weather thing. If, when the Groundhog comes out of his burrow on Thursday, it is cloudy, and therefore he does NOT see his shadow, we will have an early Spring. Early Spring means Spring stuff happens BEFORE the March Equinox (March 20, this year). If it is sunny, however, and the fuzzy little dude sees his shadow and scampers back into his burrow, we get 6 more weeks of winter. The Groundhog in Chief, is Punxsutawney Phil of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Since 1887, a member of Phil’s family has been the Groundhog Day meteorologist. So, there you have it. What we’re looking for in the weather Thursday is clouds!

PHRF of the Chesapeake has posted at their website the minutes of the last Annual Meeting (November 2016). You can view the entire document at http://www.phrfchesbay.org/docs/2016_AnnualMeetingMinutes.pdf The actual proposals for 2017 are on pages 12 through 19 – the decision on each proposal is included. The **proposed class splits** are on page 18. Proposed splits for our region NORTH Division remain the same as in 2016. There is a significant change proposed for the SOUTH Division: PHRF A – Up to 109 (same at 2016); PHRF B – 110 to 163; PHRF C – 164 and up. Racers should contact directly their club PHRF Delegate for information on the status of the proposed changes.

MURPHY’S LAW: Rest assured, *Yrs Truly, the Racing Beagle*, will be in Punxsutawney, PA on Thursday. Your Racing Beagle has one objective – once Phil the Groundhog is out of his burrow, the Murphster will prevent his return to said burrow. There is noooooo way Phil goes back in to cause 6 more weeks of winter weather. Think early Spring! /s/ *Murphy, En Route.* /S/ *Murphy the Racing Beagle, the sailing spirit in us all.*

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