



For Midwest Sailboat Racers

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

David Churches

You will have a unique opportunity this September... perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You can race against the boats and crews that you never get to race against otherwise. The 1999 MORC International Championship Regatta is designed to permit competition among a wide variety of sailboat designs. MORC's 26th annual regatta will be held on Lake Minnetonka and sponsored by the Wayzata Yacht Club MORC fleet.

Normally, the MORC championship regatta is limited to "midget ocean racers", boats under 30 feet with bunks, heads and galleys. This year through special arrangement with MORC International, J24s, J22s and Capri 25s are also invited to compete in this regatta. Qualification is simple: 1) meet the requirements of your one design fleet and 2) show up. Racers will be divided into fleets but all boats will be competing for the overall championship.

Recent races on Lake Minnetonka – raced with MORC handicap ratings – pitted MORC boats against one design boats. The results have shown that the one design boats are competitive in MORC but neither can plan on walking away with the International championship.

One of the main attractions of the MORC Internationals is the custom Grand Prix boats, usually made-to-order, tricked out and *very fast*.

So sign up now. See if you can beat local MORC Masters like Dick Wisti who is in the MORC Hall of Fame, or Jerry Wintheiser who has a long and outstanding record of club championships and MORC International performance.

Fleets and Starts

Fleet	Rating	Sec./mi.
J22	Fleet Rating:19.78 [*]	161.86
J24	Fleet Rating:19.91 [*]	160.14
Capri 25	Fleet Rating:20.34 [*]	154.58
MORC Grand Prix	MORC Certificate	--
MORC Racer/Cruiser	MORC Certificate	--
MORC Classic	MORC Certificate	--

^{*} Fleet Rating: boat must conform to its class rules.

Custom-designed, one-off or modified boats are classified as Grand Prix. Boats designed after 1979 and produced in quantity such as the S2 7.9s are classified as Racer/Cruisers. Classics are boats designed before 1979.

The starting sequence is expected to be something like the following. This sequence is tentative and the Race Committee reserves the right to make changes when the final number of entrants is known.

- 0:00 Warning
- 3:00 Preparation
- 6:00 J 22 Start
- 9:00 J 24, Capri 25 Start
- 12:00 MORC Grand Prix Start
- 15:00 MORC Racer/Cruiser Start
- 18:00 MORC Classic Start

What IS MORC?

MORC (pronounced "more-see") stands for Midget Ocean Racing Club. Most MORC boats are keelboats in the 23 to 30 foot range. They sail under a measurement handicapping system that predicts each boat's performance potential. Founded in 1954, the MORC Rating Rule was one of the first speed prediction rating systems. The detailed hull and sail measurements are run through a mind-numbing mathematical formula. The result of this calculation is a rating number that is converted to seconds per mile (don't ask me how!).

Through this system, MORC is able to handicap boats as diverse in design and performance as the Mumm 30 (36.67 sec./mi.) and the Ranger 23 (209.04 sec./mi.)

So, for example, the renowned MORC International champion from WYC, Finlandia, a Lindenberg 26, has a rating of 21.18, which converts to 144.51 seconds per mile. Another local boat, High Heels, a J24, has a MORC rating of 19.91 or 160.14 seconds per mile. So, in a 5 mile race, Finlandia would have to cross the finish line more than 78 seconds ahead of High Heels in order to beat them (160.14 sec./mi. – 144.51 sec./mi. = 15.63 sec./mi. x 5 mi. = 78.15 seconds).

Awards

The winner of the regatta will receive MORC International's Rudder Trophy, a traveler. In addition, keeper trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers overall. There will also be trophies for the top three finishers in each fleet. There are certain to be miscellaneous, creative and surprise awards too numerous and secret to mention here.

Special Attractions

You won't even have to be on the race course to have fun. We have commitments and contributions

from **St. Croix Vineyards** and **Mt. Gay Rum** for Friday evening. And come see the hot Grand Prix boats; already registered are a custom **Nelson Marek 25**, coming from the East Coast, a **Mariah 27**, from Ohio and a local **J29**.

Volunteers Needed

If you are not racing, you can still be part of the action. The regatta committee needs help with everything from crane-in to helping with meals. There are thousands of tasks so any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated. **Chuck Hutchinson** is coordinating volunteers. Please call him if you would like to be part of this international event.

Contacts

Registration Pat Maloney 612 938-3601
Measurement Bruce Tam H 612 894-6782
 W 612 330-6140
Volunteers Chuck Hutchinson H 612 829-5612
 W 612 642-0862
Commodore Jack Christofersen 612 473-0690

For more information, registration forms, Notice of Regatta, etc. see the MORC99 web site at www.wyc.org/morc99/.

Regatta Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Place
Sept. 1	5:00 PM	Final day for Registration forms and regatta fees †	Pat Maloney 15311 Lake Street Extension Minnetonka MN 55343
Wed. 9/15	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Crane In	WYC
	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Tune up	Wayzata Bay
	8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Overview Meeting	WYC
Thurs. 9/16	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Skipper's Meeting	WYC
	10:30 AM– 4:00 PM	Races 1, 2 and 3	Main Lake
	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Burgers, Brats, Beer & Cheese	WYC
Fri. 9/17	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Race 4	Commodore Cup Course: covers all of lower Lake Minnetonka, about 12 miles.
	2:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Dock Party	WYC
Sat. 9/18	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Races 5 and 6*	Main Lake
	2:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Cook Out	WYC
Sun. 9/19	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Race 7*	Main Lake
	Noon - 2:00 PM	Chili lunch	WYC
	Noon – 3:00 PM	Crane Out	WYC
	3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Awards Presentations	WYC

† Unless you race in a one design fleet, you must have a valid MORC certificate. If you don't already have one, your boat must be measured by August 25. Contact **Bruce Tam** for details.

* Make-up races may be included.



MORC99
 Wayzata Yacht Club
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