

## Top Five Race concepts for having fun!

1. Get out there early, like 12:15 or so and sail around marker 14. The race almost always starts into the wind. So just note which way it's blowing and you'll know how they are likely to orient around the start line. Start line is between 14 and RCYC dock. There will be a boat anchored south of 14, maybe 250' south. You go by them to check in. The Race Committee boat should have an orange flag, but they don't always. It's the only boat that will be anchored! Say your boat name and sail number and thank them! It's the Merit Fleet.

2. Know your time to start. We're going to post the start times around 4pm or so Saturday night. Slowest boat starts at 1pm. At the race on Sunday, have your radio on ch 72. The RC will read the start times, race course, and other info on that channel. I write stuff down. So keep something handy to write with. Some people take that blue tape that comes off easy, and write with a black marker pen. You will write the race course. There will be 2-3 legs. You do the COB drills on the first 2. Re: if there is not very much wind DO NOT get away from the start line. Stay close to the start line as you can. The graduated start to the race makes it so there are very few boats crossing at a time, so it is way nicer. Just experiment around and you will get a sense of how long it will take to get to the start line.

3. Once you've started, it is so cool! You just go to the first mark and do your drill on the way! Then on the way back, you do another drill! And then cross the finish line. I love the focus.

4. Drill itself. You can use any floating token you want. Some people use a gallon jug half full of water because it has a handle you can catch. Choose something with straps! Make sure your person on the hook is super safe! Take another turn if you miss, practice spotting your token. First thing is someone spots the token and that is all they do. Point to the item. The boat watches the Spotter to figure out how to go. You throw your token out when there is no one around you. You get to plan it. I'm going to do an easy drill first, and if it goes well, I will do a more robust drill. If we need to re-do the first easy drill that is great!

5. Stay super safe. The graduated start keeps boats away from each other while they do their drills. You round the mark with the port side to the marker. I don't know if they will put out markers, but usually we go back and forth between 14, upper airport, lower airport, and buoy 2. Eastern tip of Hayden Island, instead of going down to 2. Poncho, a motor boat that sets marks, will be out. I'm going to find out if they will set marks.

Questions welcome!

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