

ILYC Race Committee Volunteers

Our race committee members volunteer throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. We have scheduled weekly racing events as well as one, two and three day regattas. On occasion a regatta will take place for more than three consecutive days. Our volunteers take advantage of winter training that is made available through Yacht Clubs or US Sailing, to fine tune their skills for the following season.

Our team is comprised of committee boat members and mark boat members. The clubs committee boat is named Ida, an Albin 28 footer with an inboard diesel engine specifically set up for running races. The club has two center console Ribs, each are 24 feet long, also set up and ready for any type of regatta. Their names are Limerock and Captain Hosea. All three are kept at the same location all season on the east side of the yacht club at the end of a T dock for easy access on and off the dock.

The majority of our regattas are in Narragansett Bay area. Our larger regattas may also be held in open ocean off Brenton Point. Our volunteers are responsible for knowing where the days racing will be located with the help of the PRO, as well as the weather during that event so that they come prepared with the proper clothing to be sure of comfort. Personal Floatation Devices may be signed out at the dock office. If you own a PFD, please bring it with you.

The committee boat has the Principal Race Officer (PRO) a driver, a timer, two people that check in boats before the start of the race and write down starting times and boat finishes during the races. There is someone dedicated to the flag signals. A typical committee boat crew is five to six people.

A mark boat has the mark boat driver (captain) and a crew of one or two or even three if we are mentoring. The mark boat helps provide information to the PRO over the course of the race. Creates the start and finish lines. They will drop marks or gates where the PRO asks them and then pick them up, and may write down windward or leeward mark rounding times for each boat as well as finishing times. The mark boat also facilitates course changes at mark rounding's. The mark boat captain is in charge of radio communication to any other boat. The primary responsibility of the crew is to prepare marks and anchor lines to go in and out of the water, provide wind readings and keep the boat in an orderly condition.

Prior to racing, all committee members prepare the boats at the docks, for that day's events. Preparation involves taking inventory to be sure the items you will need on the water are on the boat. Making sure everyone has lunches and drinks if the event spans the afternoon. Checking the boat prior to leaving the dock to be sure all things are a go.

After racing the PRO may have a debrief on the docks, especially if there are additional days of sailing, to improve and rectify problems of the day. Equipment may need to be put away and or be washed down. Preparation is made for another day or racing or cleaning up as needed. Items signed out from the dock office are returned and signed back in. Paper work for the race is handled as needed or instructed by the PRO. No one leaves unless the PRO gives permission. Always check your pockets to be sure you do not take keys or other important items that will be needed when you have left.

IF you are new to race committee we will be sure to pair you with individuals that will show you what to do until you feel comfortable on your own. Our objective with all of our volunteers is that they learn to be the

best at different tasks so that they train other new volunteers, when the time comes. Having multiple skills gives the PRO flexibility during an event. We want and expect you to ask questions, providing it does not interfere with the PRO running the race. We will provide all the training you need to be successful at each skill level. What is most important is that we all have fun and enjoy being out on the water.

All of our events are planned weeks and months in advance. We need people to sign up for events long before they occur to be sure that they are properly staffed. It is critical that our volunteers follow through with the commitment of each event. That follow through can be the difference between a great event and one that is performed poorly. The number of people needed for racing events is a critical component to the success of that event. We do not double up on staffing, so the loss of even one individual from showing up, without making arrangements for a replacement, can have a significant rippling effect. If signing up and following through may be an issue for a reason that you are aware of, then by all means do NOT sign up for an event.

We always have fun together whenever we are on the water. We do what we do, because of the great people on our team. Our success is based on the focus and trust in our volunteers. ILYC is known for running world class regattas. The dedication of our volunteers is what makes that happen on a regular basis. We look forward to having you on our team.