



Dear Competitor,

We are hoping you will join us for this year's U.S. Disabled Sailing Championship at American Yacht Club in Rye, NY. Our good friends at Larchmont Yacht Club will be co-hosting the event with us this year, and we will reciprocate when it is held at Larchmont in 2011.

A very enthusiastic committee has been planning for this event for the better part of a year, and we have a lot planned. We are fortunate to have Ricky Doerr, Carl Olsson and Robie Pierce on the committee, sailors with disabilities whom I'm sure you know.

First of all, we will be extending the date for submission of resumes for the Ideal fleet until April 15 and the entry date until April 30. An amendment to the NOR will be on the website shortly.

We will be providing all the private housing that is necessary and have worked a deal with the Courtyard by Marriott in Rye for rooms. Double rooms that are normally \$250/night will have a special rate of \$179. In addition, triples and quadruple rooms are available for \$199/night. They have 8 ADA approved rooms in the hotel, and we have booked all of them. Currently we have 30 total rooms booked. In addition, we are working with the Marriott to take rewards points, raised from our membership, for one of the nights.

If you want a room, I'd suggest you call as soon as possible to reserve. The cutoff date is May 15. Number is 1-800-266-1953 or locally (914) 921-1110 and tell them you are with the Independence Cup. The Courtyard is just off the connection of Rtes 287 and 95 and is only about 5 minutes from the club. If you are seeking private housing, your contact will be Siobhan Reilly—reillyhere@optonline.net Telephone: (914) 763-6191.

In addition we will be providing pickups and returns on June 5 and 10 at both LaGuardia and JFK airports. We will be running at certain times based upon arrivals and departures. There will also be daily service from the Marriott to and from American.

On Thursday evening, June 5, we will be serving beer from our loyal sponsor Heineken, soft drinks and snacks during registration. Friday there will be a Rolex clinic followed by a cookout with our members, who will be doing their Sunset Series that night. Saturday we'll have a cocktail party and hors d'oeuvres at the club following racing. Sunday will be a night off. Monday night we will have the awards dinner in the clubhouse. In addition to the prizes from US SAILING, Robie Pierce has kindly donated clocks from his company EMA Clocks.

Of course, there is the racing. In addition to the 2.4s, Skuds and Sonars, we will be offering doublehanded sailing in Ideal 18s. In this class only, able-bodied sailors will be provided locally for those who want them. In addition, we hope to have charter Sonars from local fleets available. Your contact for that will be Glenn Morrison—
gam50265@optonline.net.

Then there is the actual sailing. We are fortunate enough to have our own Tinker Myles as PRO. Tinker is a regional race officer and past RC Chairman at American. He has served on the Race Committee for many events including the Blind Nationals and IOD Worlds (both as PRO) and the Farr 40 North Americans. He is currently the RC Chairman at New York YC and has promised not to fly all the laundry in the rigging that he uses in Newport.

Of course you can't run a major event without a jury, we have put together some of the best. The world renowned Hugh Elliot will be Chief Judge, ably assisted by Mary (Black Flag) Savage. Due to a last minute cancellation, Hugh is currently working on a third judge. I can assure you that person will be of the same caliber of Hugh and Mary.

From a personal standpoint, disabled sailing is a passion of mine. While I was at Rolex, we helped sponsor the Disabled Worlds in 1998, and I have been involved since then. I chaired the fund raisers at New York YC in 2004 and 2007 to raise money for the Olympic and Paralympic Sailing teams. Last year we raised over \$360,00). I'm also proud to say that the late Gay Lynn was a personal friend and clubmate. I mowed her lawn when I was a kid and sailed with Gay and her husband Bill on their Etchells.

We are excited about hosting all of you for this very major event. I am in church weekly to make sure that we have breeze and sun for the entire event.

For more info on the event go to the event web page at <http://www.ussailing.org/championships/adult/usic/>. For more information on American YC, visit our website at <http://www.americanyc.com>.

Hope to see you in June.

Best,

Bill Sandberg
Co-Chair US Disabled Sailing Championship
bill_sandberg@yahoo.com
(203) 637-4363 (office)