

Dear BBYRA Skipper:

Re: Practice Race on Sunday, August 29th

Coconut Grove Sailing Club recently started a Sailboat Racing 101 program. The purpose is to encourage the involvement of new people in racing on the Bay. They are certainly needed, and the program should benefit all racing classes and BBYRA member clubs.

The program started with a seminar on May 22nd that attracted some 45 people. It consisted of a four-hour classroom presentation in the morning and an introductory race in the afternoon. Attendees without boats crewed for others with boats. This was a larger group than we expected, and their response was enthusiastic. Ron Rostorfer ran the Seminar, and Bud Price has since stepped up to lead the rest of the program.

Seminar No. 2 was July 10th. It covered more in-depth tactics and rules, focusing on the start and the weather leg. Twenty five people showed up to learn. We then went out for a couple of practice races. We had 13 boats on the line and a coach for each boat. The boats raced included Snipes, Ensigns, Flying Scots and some PHRF boats. Again, the day was a great success and everybody had fun.

The third session is scheduled for Sunday, August 29th. It will cover down wind tactics and rules, mark rounding and finishing. In order to accomplish this successfully, we need more well-sailed boats and their crews to assist. We would appreciate it very much if you would volunteer your boat and crew to take these potential racers out for an instructive and exciting experience. Depending on the boat, one or two students would join your crew. All students will have signed a standard waiver form prior to the race.

There would be one race, a windward-leeward once around. The objective is for the newcomers to see a practiced crew start, sail to weather, perform a mark rounding sail down wind under spinnaker and finish. The focus is on showcasing good boat handling and decision making. The students will get the most out of it if the crew and skippers talk about what they are doing and why.

This is an important event that could positively impact the future of racing on the Bay, and it's a great way to give back to your sport. Please join us. If you can, **please email Bud Price at Bud@aaaglass-mirror.com at your earliest convenience.**