



**Carol Elwood**  
co-chair

**Amy Gau**  
co-chair

**Dan Johnson**

**Majid Abrari**

**Stacey Muellers**

Your Race Committee is here for you! From doing training on the water to attending seminars on land, they are prepared to run races that are safe, fair and fun for all. Come join in the fun!!!

**It Takes a Village to Run a Race  
but many hands lighten the load.  
Can you help by volunteering your boat?**

The above people, Stacey Muellers, Amy Gau, Dan Johnson, Majid Abrari and Carol Elwood, are but a part of what makes races happen. Our biggest need is for a member with a power boat capable of going out in the Gulf to volunteer their boat for race day. The race committee will bring all the equipment along with lunch and water for all. The racing marks are set in the Gulf and the boat is anchored for the day at one end of the start/finish line. Racers check in and anticipation grows as the start approaches. The boat owner can get involved or simply enjoy a day on the boat watching the action. Depending upon the wind, the races take from two to four hours. Then action begins anew as the race committee records the boats as they go over the finish line. Once all are finished, the marks are picked up and it is back to the marina having spent a day on the water, approximately 9:30am to 4pm.

We have 6 DBC Gulf races spread throughout the year as well as two Gulf Region Boat of the Year races organized by DBC for a total of 8 opportunities to step forward to use your boat. During the fall Dunedin Cup we also need two extra boats to place marks and cruise the course during the race.

If you are interested in using your boat in our races, please contact either Amy Gau at 262-22-6466 or Carol Elwood at 727-510-9158

**THANK YOU!!!!**

**Want to learn how to sail better?**

**Get some exercise?**

**Use your boat more?**

**Meet new friends?**

## **COME RACE WITH US!!!!**

One can learn more in one season of racing than in 5 years of cruising. In light air you learn all about the strength and direction of the current, sea breezes and who gets it first and simply how to get the most out of your boat when the breeze is whispering at 6 knots. In heavier air you learn how to control your boat by depowering it, how to use your traveler in the gusts and if or when your sails need to be reefed. On days when you might say, "oh, there isn't enough wind. Let's go do something else" On days when it is brisk you might think, "I'm not sure I want to work that hard". But, if there is a race, that is exactly what you do. You go out and play with those sails, move yourself and crew around the boat to balance it or induce heel, get plenty of exercise and have a wonderful time. Watching competitors, you can see what they are doing differently with their boat or the course they have chosen to begin to understand why they were able to pass you. At the parties afterwards, you can get advice from the better sailors. I know of no top sailor who is not happy to share their wisdom when asked.

As John Kosteki, America's Cup competitor said, "Sailboat racing is such a good sport. Unlike boxing, where you punch your competitors, or football where you tackle them and knock them down, or ice hockey where you smash them into the wall, when racing you simply outsmart them on the water and then go back to the clubhouse to share a beer with them."

Any questions of how to get started, don't hesitate to contact Carol Elwood at 727-510-9158. We can hold your hand through the process and put knowledgeable crew on your boat to help you.

## **ALL ABOUT SAIL BOAT RACING**

There is a lot of sailboat racing going on in Florida, of which Dunedin Boat Club is a small part. On the west coast, all racing is done under US Sailing's *Racing Rules of Sailing* as well as our area's West Florida Performance Handicap Rating Fleet. Once a year, all 30 clubs along the coast get together with the administrator and plan a calendar of races for the year, hoping to avoid a conflict among clubs in order to promote as much attendance at each race as possible.

Dunedin Boat Club belongs to the Gulf Region which includes us and Clearwater Yacht Club. We intermingle with the Suncoast region which includes St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Davis Island Yacht Club and Bradenton Yacht Club, using some of their races for both their and our Boat of the Year races.

Each region has a series of regattas per year, with the clubs within alternating as the host. In order to promote participation in as many of them as possible, the series is collectively termed "Boat of the Year" races. Awards are given for each regatta individually but then awards are also given for the Boat of the Year series for the year, which runs from September to June.

For the series, there are participation points as well as the boat's score in the race using the high point scoring system. Whoever participates the most and has the highest accumulative score wins the Boat of the Year series.

Participation in these area races allows you to meet other sailors in the area, improve your sailing skills and make new friends. At these events, there is courtesy docking or rafting for all participants, use of the club's facilities, meals and occasionally live music.

### **COME RACE WITH US!!!**

To obtain a PHRF rating for your boat, go to [www.westfloridaphrf.org](http://www.westfloridaphrf.org) The site is loaded with information such as local class rules, race dates etc.

