



**HOUSATONIC MODEL YACHT CLUB
AMYA CLUB 117
REGION 1 – MIDDLEBURY, CONNECTICUT
MAY 11, 2015**

Skippers Information and Clarifications!

Item 1 Soling Spring Series

The remaining 2 races in the Soling Spring Series will be held at Bethany Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday May 12th and 19th at 1 to 3 pm. This in no way affects the Sunday sailing at the Stratford Club's Spring series at Brewster.

Item 2 Hop Brook Sailing

The Summer Series sailing at Hop Brook continues as in past years. Scoring for Hop Brook's summer series is the same as in the past. Soling and Seawind Thursday sailing is the same as in the past. All sailing is listed in the schedule sent to members and posted on the website.

Item 3 Bethany Non-resident Parking Permit

The Bethany Non-resident Parking Permit costs \$50 and is good for one year from the date of purchase. The permit is for the vehicle not the people in the vehicle. A permit for an additional vehicle is an additional \$5. More than one person is allowed per vehicle.

A History

In August of 2015 several members of HMYC started a discussion about how it would be nice to have a longer sailing season since we are now limited to such a short time at Hop Brook. Especially since some of the best sailing is in the spring and fall..Several members made suggestions of alternate venues. Most were not adequate to meet all of HMYC requirements. Fred Goebel mentioned to Don Ouimette that several years ago he had sailed at a nice site in Bethany at the Veterans Memorial Park. Don visited the site, sailed there some and found it to be a great site for sailing. As usual in Connecticut the site is controlled by the Town. In November I visited the site with Don and agreed that it would be a great site and worth trying to get permission from the Town of Bethany for HMYC use. Don contacted the Town Parks Director and the Director was enthusiastic about HMYC using the pond. Don continued to visit with the Town officials about permission for HMYC until he left for Florida for winter. I took up where Don left off and periodically contacted the Parks Director and Selectman during the winter to no avail. At the February HMYC annual meeting the Bethany site was discussed as an agenda item. It was determined that we should continue to attempt to get permission from the Town for HMYC Spring and Fall sailing. As part of the approval process the Town determined that no additional insurance was required by HMYC to use the pond.

When Don returned from Florida he contacted the Selectman and was invited to attend a council meeting to demonstrate the type of boat we sailed and talk about what is involved. At last on Tuesday May 3rd we received permission to use the pond. There are no additional expenses to HMYC. HMYC has permission to set out marks and use the pond at any time excluding the summers season from Memorial Day through Memorial Day. We also stated that we would avoid the Town fishing derby usually held in April.

As for the parking permit, after numerous visits and discussions with the Parks Department and the Selectman, the only remaining requirement is that being non-residents of Bethany an annual non-resident parking pass for your vehicle at the cost of \$50. This is actually quite common for most towns that have public parks. Despite discussion with the town council on this, their position is that Bethany residents pay the taxes to support and maintain this facility. When Bethany residents see numerous non-residents using the facility numerous times per week for 5-6 months it would be difficult for the council to defend not collecting this fee. This is a very small price to pay for 5-6 months of additional sailing and racing. The parking pass is good for park access any time of the year so you can still use the facility during the summer though there will be no racing marks present. Please note that it is an option if you wish to sail in the spring and fall. There is no HMYC requirement that you sail at Bethany. The summer season of sailing will be the same as is the past at Hop Brook. There is no increase in membership fee due to the extended sailing season at Bethany.

I want to thank Don for all his work pursuing approval of the Bethany site and Fred for getting the marks together on such short notice.

Since we were moderately aggressive with the Town about getting permission to use the site it is best that we make an appearance at the site and sail some organized races this spring. The marks were set out at Bethany on Tuesday May 10th. We will sail the final two races of the Soiling Spring Series at Bethany as listed above in item 1 to demonstrate to the Town our commitment to using the site. Further, it will demonstrate the attraction and interest that people have in watching and participating in our hobby. The Bethany marks will be removed and taken to Hop Brook after the Soling series is completed. There is no set schedule for removing the marks at this time. We will decide at Bethany when mark removal will take place.

The Stratford Club US1M race will take place on Sunday at Brewster as per their schedule.

Hope this clears up some confusion about the extension of the HMYC sailing season for the Spring and Fall. If you have further questions please call me at 203-610-0125.

Come out and see the Bethany site. As they used to say in the old commercials, "Try it you'll like it."

See you at the pond. (Whichever one)

Best,
John