

Racine Yacht Club Presents

THE HOOK



DEATH'S DOOR CHALLENGE

2026

Notice of Race

The 43rd *Consecutive Running* of the

HOOK Race

July 18, 2026

Racine to Menominee, MI

Featuring a Spinnaker Fleet for all MWPHRF rated Yachts, including those that are sailed Double and Single Handed, One Design, and our motorized Cruising Fleet.

1.0 Organizing Authority

The Racine Yacht Club HOOK Committee (RYCHC) shall represent the Racine Yacht Club as the Organizing Authority of the HOOK Race.

2.0 Rules

2.1 The HOOK Race shall be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

2.2 The Racing Rules will be modified as follows:

- (a) If there is a conflict between this notice and the Sailing Instructions, the latter will take precedence. This changes RRS Rule 63.7

3.0 Eligibility and Entry

3.1 Yachts shall be at least 24 feet in length on deck to compete in the HOOK Race. Yachts under the minimum lengths must receive HOOK Chair approval prior to registering.

3.2 Yachts may register for the Spinnaker Fleet, One Design (5 or more boats required), or the Cruising Fleet.

3.3 The Organizing Authority shall have full authority to determine the suitability of any yacht for entry in any fleet, and may divide any fleet into divisions at its discretion.

3.4 The Organizing Authority may exclude a specific yacht from the HOOK Race by invoking RRS Rule 76 (Exclusion of Boats or Competitors) if it determines that the yacht would incur a safety risk by participating.

3.5 All entries shall be submitted using the HOOK race event listed on YachtScoring.

3.6 Entry Documentation shall include the following:

- (a) A completed entry form including the Waiver and Release of Liability signed by the Skipper, or Person In Charge (PIC), who is 18 years or older.

(b) ***Online waiver of liability: As part of the entry process on YachtScoring, all skippers and crew must complete the waiver of liability to be a valid entry. After you have completed your entry application on YachtScoring, please go to the "OWNER'S CORNER" Section and then "My Crew List" and input or select your crew names. If your crew changes before the regatta, please edit your crew list online the same way. Crew names shall be identified by the close of registration.***

- (c) Each yacht sailing shall provide a valid 2026 MWPHRF Certificate.

(d) Each yacht shall provide a current proof of insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 liability coverage.

(e) Each yacht shall submit a completed HOOK Modified Safety Requirements check-off sheet including Man Overboard (MOB) Recovery Drill. (May be turned in at Check-in)

3.7 A completed entry requires receipt of the appropriate entry fee as listed in NOR 4.0 and all documents as listed in NOR 3.6.

3.8 All entries must be completed by July 11, 2026 with the exception of the HOOK Modified Safety Requirements and or MOB, which may be turned in at check-in.

3.9 By registering for the Racine Yacht Club HOOK Race you acknowledge that you may receive solicitations from our HOOK Race sponsors.

3.10

Registration will be limited to 115 entries.

NO entries will be accepted after July 11, 2026

Registration and payment shall be made online at: <https://yachtscoring.com>

4.0 Fees

4.1 The fees to enter the Race are calculated per foot LOA as listed on the 2026 MWPHRF rating certificate, rounded **UP** to the nearest foot.

4.2 Fee Schedule

- (a) Early Entry Fee before April 1st: \$9.50/ft
(b) From April 1st – June 30th: \$10.55/ft
(c) Late Entry From July 1st – July 11: \$12.65/ft

- 4.3 The entry fee includes tax, the costs for race management, YB race tracking, access to RYC, race facilities, and docking at RYC from Wednesday, July 15 - Saturday July 18 on a first come first served basis.
- 4.4 Entry fees listed above are based on when payment is made, not when registration is initiated.
- 4.5 Fees are non-refundable.
- 4.6 Submission of a completed Race Tracker Agreement, to be completed at time of check-in with credit card information. Failure to return the Race Tracker as per Race Tracker agreement and SI shall result in a \$1,000 charge that the competitor agrees to pay.

5.0 Schedule of Events at Racine Yacht Club

Friday July 17, 2026
1500 to 2000 - Check-in
1700 - Live Music and Rum Party at RYC
1800 - Skippers Meeting

Saturday July 18, 2026
0700 to 0800 - Late check-in (If needed)
0700 to 1000 - Breakfast - take out

6.0 Schedule of Events at Menominee, MI

Monday July 20, 2026
1600 - Rum Party and Live Music
1700 - Awards (Presentation hour subject to finishing times.)

7.0 Docking

- 7.1 Free docking is available Wednesday, July 15 - Saturday July 18 at Racine Yacht Club on a first come first served basis. Additional docking in Racine may be available at Reefpoint Marina, Rivers End Marina, or Racine Riverside Marine (check for pricing).
- 7.2 Information for Marinette/Menominee shall be available on Yachtscoring once released. Additionally a hard copy with Marinette/Menominee docking information will be distributed at check-in.

8.0 Race

***Saturday, July 18, 2026 Cruising Fleet First Warning at 0830 hours
Spinnaker Fleet First Warning at 0855 hours***

9.0 Sailing Instructions

Sailing Instructions shall be available on Yachtscoring once released. Additionally a hard copy will be distributed at check-in.

10.0 Course

- 10.1 Racine to Menominee, MI via the Porte Des Morts Passage as described in the Sailing Instructions.

11.0 Scoring

- 11.1 Each yacht shall be scored using the MWPHRF Distance Handicap Time on Distance, expressed in nautical miles. The handicap distance for scoring purposes shall be 189 nautical miles. Note: Multihulls and cruisers may compete in their own division but will not be scored for an overall award and subject to conditions as specified in the cruising fleet division.

12.0 Awards

- 12.1 Awards will be presented in Menominee MI at the conclusion of the HOOK race.

13.0 Safety Equipment and Special Regulations

- 13.1** All Yachts shall abide by the HOOK Race Safety Conditions and Regulations which will be posted on the RYC HOOK web site.
- 13.2** Each boat shall carry a Yellowbrick© position transponder (Race Tracker) as provided by the HOOK organizing authority. The Person-In-Charge shall ensure that the transponder is installed according to supplied instructions and make every effort to ensure that the transponder is functional for the duration of the race. The Person-in-Charge is also responsible for returning the transponder to the Race Committee after the race as directed in the Sailing Instructions (SI's) (See NoR 3.6(g) (2)).

13.3

14.0 Disclaimer of Liability

All participants (Skippers, Crewmembers, Associated Persons) participate in the HOOK Race entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 3, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for property damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the race.

15.0 Additional information

Racine Yacht Club Commodore: SeanFox office@racineyachtclub.org

HOOK Race Committee Chairman: Fred Stritt hookchair@racineyachtclub.org

HOOK Registration: Carol Stanley hookregistration@racineyachtclub.org

THE HOOK

Overall Winners

2025	Medicine Man	Andrews 63	Rick Hennig
2024	Medicine Man	Andrews 63	Rick Hennig
2023	Marica	J110	Shawn Casey
2022	Sagamore	Nelson Marek 68	Laura & Tone Martin/Bob Zeman
2021	Sagamore	Nelson Marek 68	Laura & Tone Martin/Bob Zeman
2020	Madcap	Santa Cruz 52	John and Marion Hoskins
2019	Runaway	J-92	Mark Wessel
2018	Audacity	Beneteau First 40	Mike Laing
2017	Hasten	C&C 41	Fred Stritt
2016	Heat Wave	Dehler DB1	Jeremy Burns
2015	Twister	Du Bois 50	Herbert Wake
2014	Windlassie	Irwin 33-2 Sloop	Jim Strouf
2013	Big Meanie	Beneteau 42s7	James Prendergast
2012	Thunder	Peterson 34	Stuart Keys
2011	Sojourner	Tartan 372	David Pollock
2010	Rogue	Nelson Marek 36	Peter Engel
2009	Flash Gordon	Tripp 33	Mitch Hubert
2008	Assassin	Soverel 33	Susan Just
2007	Sirocco	C&C 33	Doug Vaccarello
2006	Blue Tango	Nelson Marek 39	Rick Trisco
2005	Syrena	B-32	Nicholas and Angela Hayes
2004	Syrena	B-32	Nicholas and Angela Hayes
2003	Lionheart	Tartan 4100	Steve Roake
2002	Sabotage	J35	Ray Sabinash
2001	Uber Alles	Rancher 41	Gerhardt Knop
2000	Surface Tension	Nelson Marek 36	Brethorst /Schaefer
1999	Zippy	J92	Spencer Thomason
1998	Kinky II	PJ 34	James Murphy
1997	Zephyr	Pearson 31	John Chelius
1996	Siren Song	Peterson 41	Tom and Lisa Merlin
1995	Siren Song	Peterson 41	Tom and Lisa Merlin
1994	Siren Song	Peterson 41	Tom and Lisa Merlin
1993	Rainbow	Ranger 26	Duke and Mary Rahmel
1992	Falcon	Q-Boat	David Pappas
1991	Arbitrage	X 1-Ton	Ron McNeilly
1990	Falcon	Q-Boat	David Pappas
1989	Slot Machine	Heritage 1-Ton	Dr. C.W. Christenson
1988	Rainbow	Ranger 26	Duke and Mary Rahmel
1987	TARDIS	Cal 43	TARDIS Syndicate
1986	Latest Trick	Olson 911s	Dave Morrow
1985	Blue Chip	Peterson 34	Gary Neale
1984	Vamoose	Custom Columbia 33	Les Grebetz