



Swiftsure 2012

Another year is coming around in the racing season, and Swiftsure has been a magnet for the multihull fleet for the past 15 years. We had rock stars like Steve Fossett and Randy Smythe here and the overall course record belongs to a multihull.

This year, there will be two races open to multihulls. The longest is the traditional race to Neah Bay (and back) and this is about 103 NM. It is theoretically possible to finish before dark, but for most of us this is an overnight race. We are given the second start so we don't have to weave through all the smaller boats, and only the boats going to Swiftsure Bank start ahead of us.

The other race for multihulls will be new this year. In response to a long questionnaire sent out to all participants last year, we found that the majority of the inshore racers preferred to race only on Saturday, and to have prize giving and a party on Saturday night. We were getting less than 25% of registrants out for the Sunday race, so this has been scrapped. The inshore course this year will start in the usual place, but the course will be decided on race day much like at Cow Bay. This finish will be off Royal Victoria Yacht Club www.rvyc.bc.ca where there will be free moorage and a major party and prizes. This race is perfect for those who do not want to get wet and cold in the dark, and who want to sleep in a bed on Saturday night. The 24's, F27's, Muli 23's, Ospreys, small and large cruising cats, will all find a place here.

As usual, the Swiftsure Committee has “ownership” of the docks in front of the Empress and we offer free moorage on Thursday and Friday night, as well as on return from the long course. In attempting to make this more of a yacht race, with emphasis on the racers, most of the social activities will be on the docks where the boats and crew are this year. I have heard a rumor (well substantiated) that the beer will be good (Vancouver Island Breweries) and inexpensive. We will also be offering Mount Gay Rum.

Safety is of paramount importance to the organising committee. We have therefore made a few recommendations which you can find at the very end of the Notice of Race at www.swiftsure.org These recommendations put us more in line with ISF rules which are much more clear than what is in PIYA. It was done in collaboration with members of our fleet who did not think they were too stringent.

I hope to see a large number of multihulls racing in Swiftsure this year to start the racing and cruising season off with a bang.