



LOW COUNTRY HOOK OCEAN RACE

Hilton Head, SC to Skidaway Island, GA

5-6 April 2024

NOTICE OF RACE

The organizing authorities of the Low Country Hook Ocean Race are the Chatham Sailing Club (CSC) and The South Carolina Yacht Club (SCYC)

1. RULES

1.1 The race will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

2.1 The race is open to monohull sailboats with a length minimum of 22 ft. and a maximum of 51 ft. All eligible boats must have a PHRF rating, have auxiliary power, VHF radio and be manned by an eligible captain and crew.

2.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing the registration form available at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/27528> together with the required fee by 5 April 2024.

2.3 Late entries may be accepted by the race committee but will not be eligible for early registration discount.

2.4 There will be separate classes for Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker and Cruising (roller furling main and fixed blade propeller, or as determined by the race committee). A One Design class may be included if 4 or more boats register as the same One Design (ex. J/24).

3. OTHER RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 All boats shall carry an operating VHF radio.

3.2 All boats shall be sailed by at least two persons.

3.3 At all times, boats shall monitor and keep clear of commercial traffic.

3.4 The US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements for category Nearshore are suggested.

4. FEES

4.1 The early registration entry fee is \$100 per boat. The registration fee includes 1 commemorative shirt and 2 beverage tickets for the Friday night competitors meeting and 1 dinner ticket for the Awards presentation (location TBD). Drinks are limited to well drinks, beer or wine only.

4.2 Late registration fee of \$125 is applied for entries received after March 6, 2024.

4.3 Registrations are non-refundable after April 1, 2024.

4.4 Participants will make their own arrangements for Dockage on April 5-6.

4.5 To order the event shirt, send \$25/shirt via Zelle to chathamsailingclub@gmail.com or Venmo to

[@chathamsailclub](mailto:chathamsailclub) or online at chathamsailingclub.org. In the payment description, specify the event and shirt size. If multiple shirts are ordered, include the detail in the payment description. We'll notify you when the event t-shirts are ready and arrange for pick up. **Note: 2024 Hook Race shirt orders must be submitted by March 3, 2024.** After this date sizes and quantities cannot be guaranteed. Shirts can also be purchased at Black Marlin and at the awards gathering in Savannah after the race while supplies last. 2023 shirts will also be available for purchase.

5. SCHEDULE

5.1 Starting times are approximate and will be finalized in the Sailing Instructions.

5.2 Date Time Description

04/05 (Friday)

Competitors arrive at Palmetto Bay Marina, 86 Helmsman Way, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

6:00 PM Competitors' meeting at the Black Marlin Bayside Grill, located at Palmetto Bay Marina.

04/06 (Saturday)

9:55AM Warning signal for first class

3-5 PM Dockside Bar Party, hosted by Skidaway Island Boating Club, at Landings Harbor Marina to welcome race competitors at finish line.

6-9 PM Dinner and Awards presentation on Wilmington Island (location TBD)

7:00PM Time limit expires

7:00PM (or ASAP after last boat finishes) Race Results & Awards published via email.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

6.1 Sailing Instructions will be available on, or before, **April 1, 2024** and at the skippers meeting **April 5, 2024** via a link to Regatta Network. <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/27528>

7. VENUE AND COURSE

- 7.1 The race area will include the Calibogue Sound, Atlantic Ocean, Wassaw Sound, and the Wilmington River.
- 7.2 The event will consist of one race from Hilton Head Island to Skidaway Island.
- 7.3 The race course will be described in the Sailing Instructions.

8. RADIO COMMUNICATION

8.1 Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. The VHF Hailing Channel 71 will be used for race committee communications to competitors.

9. SCORING AND PRIZES

- 9.1 Awards for each class will be given to first, second and third places. Awards will be presented to the participant at the awards dinner on Wilmington Island (location TBD). There will also be a Hook Prize for the best corrected time in all PHRF classes.
- 9.2 PHRF ratings for boats without a valid or previous PHRF certificate will be assigned by the race committee. Time allowances will be calculated based on time on time scoring.

10. DOCKAGE

- 10.1 Arranging for necessary dockage is the responsibility of the participant.
- 10.2 Overnight dockage for April 5th will be available at Palmetto Bay Marina on Broad Creek. Rates will be similar to past years, regardless of boat size and including power and use of amenities. Call the Dockmaster Tony @ 843-785-5000. Reference the event when calling to make a reservation. Reservations with credit cards & cancellation of less than 72 hrs. will result in full charge.
- 10.3 Overnight dockage for April 5th is also available at Windmill Harbor (South Carolina Yacht Club) on Hilton Head at no charge, but based on space available. Contact Mark Newman, (843)342-2628, mnewman@scyachtclub.com
- 10.4 Overnight dockage in the Landings Harbor Marina Basin is not available (no open slips).
- 10.5 Overnight dockage for April 6th will be available at no charge at the Savannah Yacht Club based on space available. Dockage must be reserved with SYC's Dockmaster @ 912-897-1314. Dockage may also be found by inquiring at other local marinas on the Wilmington River, Skidaway River and Turners Creek.

11. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

11.1 Competitors participate in the race entirely at their own risk. It is the competitor's decision to enter, start or continue in the race. Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3 which states: 'DECISION TO RACE The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' **As a condition of their participation in this race, competitors release all claims they may have against Chatham Sailing Club and The South Carolina Yacht Club (Organizing Authorities) and their officers, directors, members, committees and employees for damage to property, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the race. Competitors shall be responsible for damage or injury caused by their breach of *The Racing Rules of Sailing* or applicable government rules for the avoidance of collision.**

12. INSURANCE

12.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance sufficient to cover liability for loss, damage, personal injury or death.

13. CANCELLATION OF RACE

13.1 Safety of Boats and Competitors is a top priority. The Race Committee will assess the weather before starting the race and will determine delays, course changes, postponement, and cancellation.

14. FURTHER INFORMATION

Chatham Sailing Club - <https://www.chathamsailingclub.org>
South Carolina Yacht Club - <https://www.scyachtclub.com/>
Rob Mechem, rmechem@yahoo.com (404) 423-1090 Race Chairman for CSC Hook Race
Mark Newman, mnewman@scyachtclub.com, (843)342-2628, South Carolina Yacht Club