



PRESS RELEASE

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Annapolis to Newport Race Announces PHRF Rating Requirements Prospective entrants can receive specialized rating for biennial offshore classic

Annapolis, MD (November 29, 2016) — For only the second time in the event's 70-year history, the 2017 Annapolis to Newport Race will feature specialized Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) rating requirements compiled by a special consortium of experienced handicappers.

The PHRF ratings will take into account various elements of the A2N course along with unique characteristics of each boat. A distance race such as A2N, combining components of inshore and offshore racing, is a far different animal than windward-leeward buoy racing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Bruce Bingman, A2N race committee member and former Chief Handicapper for PHRF of the Chesapeake, noted the success of the 2015 race which first featured PHRF rating. "The whole idea is to provide each boat with the fairest rating possible," Bingman said. "We feel this process is the best way to do that."

The A2N PHRF Consortium will be comprised of a Chief Handicapper and at least two members from different PHRF regions. Bingman, the Principal Race Officer for the start of the 2017 A2N, will also serve as moderator for the panel.

Scott Ward, who will race his Beneteau First 50 *Crocodile* in the 2017 A2N race, said he likes the idea of receiving a rating that is tailored to the race. "(The consortium's) goal is to provide equal ratings across the board and that is what every sailor wants," Ward said. "I think this is a great evolution of the rating system."

There is no charge for boaters to receive an A2N rating, and they should be issued by April.

Entries are being accepted for the 2017 Annapolis to Newport Race, which begins June 2 and 3 on the waters of the Chesapeake. The A2N Certificate Application can be found at www.yachtscoring.com/event_documents.cfm.

An early entry discount for the A2N race continues through Jan. 15, 2017. Interested skippers can find the Notice of Race and entry forms at www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=2982.

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