



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What Next? Seminar to be hosted at Annapolis Yacht Club for Annapolis to Newport Race Participants

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 20, 2015) – Annapolis Yacht Club will conduct its second seminar to help participants prepare for the 2015 Annapolis to Newport Race later this month. A distinguished panel of offshore racing veterans with expertise in particular areas will provide advice and answer questions.

This seminar, titled “What’s Next?” is aimed at the skippers and crew of the 67 boats already entered in this year’s race, which begins June 5 and 6 on the Chesapeake. It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31 (4-6 p.m.) in the Commodore’s Room at Annapolis Yacht Club.

Willy Keyworth has been a professional with North Sails for more than two decades and has done the Annapolis to Newport Race at least 15 times, most often as watch captain aboard the maxi yacht Donnybrook. Keyworth, who has also competed many times in Newport-Bermuda and just about every other major ocean race on the East Coast can speak with authority about provisioning along with organizing a crew. It is critical for skippers to know the skills and capabilities of all onboard and organize watches in such a manner as to ensure there are experienced individuals on deck to oversee those with less time on the water.

Another notable panelist will be Mike Jones, an accomplished navigator and veteran of countless offshore passages. Jones, who grew up sailing on the Magothy River and Chesapeake Bay, has an extensive background in marine electronics and served as lead technician for the AmericaOne challenge for the America’s Cup. He also served as electronics manager for the BMW Oracle Racing campaign.

Jones, who has handled navigation for the extremely successful Sjobok racing program among others, has been a key member of winning teams for Annapolis-to-Newport, Newport-to-Bermuda and Montego Bay Race to new a few.

Jones will dispense his expertise with regard to plotting a course for the Annapolis to Newport Race. Having a routing plan going into the race and knowing how to adjust based on sea and weather conditions is absolutely critical for such a passage. Jones will talk about putting together a chart kit as well as utilizing radar, onboard computer and other navigational tools.

Garth Hichens, a longtime Annapolis Yacht Club member who is serving as Participation Chairman for the 2015 Annapolis-to-Newport Race, will also serve on the panel. Hichens, who grew up sailing out of the South African town of Durban that is known for its strong winds and rough seas, has more than 50,000 miles of ocean racing and cruising experience under his belt.

Hichens owned Annapolis Yacht Sales for 15 years and was responsible for selling, rigging and commissioning hundreds of new and used sailboats during that time. He is particularly familiar with the type of Racer-Cruiser designs that will compete in the new Performance Cruising Class for the 2015 Annapolis-to-Newport Race.

Jay Herman with Annapolis Rigging will be available to discuss numerous aspects of boat preparation while longtime Annapolis Yacht Club member Bruce Bingman is considered one of the nation's foremost authorities on PHRF and other rating systems.

A special guest for this seminar is Ralph Naranjo, who will talk about the upcoming Safety-at-Sea seminars being held at the Naval Academy in March and SUNY-Maritime in April.

WHAT: Second Annapolis-to-Newport Race Seminar: What's Next?

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 31 (4-6 p.m.)

WHERE: Annapolis Yacht Club, Commodore's Room

WHO: Panelists are Willy Keyworth, Mike Jones, Jay Herman, Bruce Bingman, Garth Hichens and Ralph Naranjo.

To reserve a seat, call: 410-263-9279

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