Vic-Maui 2016 Notice to Competitors 5
Communications Tests
May 24, 2016

Introduction:

This bulletin outlines the procedures to be used by Vic-Maui boats for the purpose of testing email communications and voice radio communications during the Swiftsure Race. Participation is strongly recommended, but is not required.

Email Communications Test:

Notice of Race 15.3 requires that boats have communications capability supporting bi-directional, low-bandwidth, text-only email between the boat and the Organizing Authority onshore. The Sailing Instructions will require each boat to test the boat's email communications capability using SSB/HF radio or Satellite systems to the satisfaction of the Race Committee, prior to the Vic-Maui Starts in July.

For boats that have their email communications already set up, an excellent opportunity for completing this test will come during the upcoming Swiftsure race.

A test of email communications capability is scheduled for Saturday, May 28 at 1800 PDT. Vic-Maui boats can send an email at this time to racecommittee@vicmaui.org. Please include in the email a brief description of the communications system being used to send & receive email: e.g. "SSB Radio", "Satellite Phone", "Satellite Messaging Device", etc. The Race Committee will confirm receipt by replying within 15 minutes to emails it receives, using the email address rballant@telus.net. Please ensure that your email system is configured to receive emails that are sent from this address. The confirmation email from the Race Committee will include a request for a reply from the boat to the Race Committee.

Voice Radio Communications Test:

A test of voice radio communications capability is scheduled for Saturday, May 28 at 1830 PDT.

Communications Vessel (CV): Red Sheilla, CFN5335

At the scheduled time:

- Boats should be monitoring VHF Channel 68
- Boats should have their SSB radios pre-tuned to the initial frequency, 2082.5 kHz, in USB mode. (Simplex, upper side band, carrier frequency)
- CV should hail each Vic-Maui boat in alphabetic order by boat name.
- Each responding boat should provide a position report including latitude and longitude.
- CV should direct the participating boats to move to another frequency, 4149 kHz, in USB mode.
- CV should hail each Vic-Maui boat in alphabetic order by boat name.
- Each boat should provide a conditions report including wind speed and direction.
- CV should determine and advise when the voice radio communications test has been completed.

APPENDIX: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS

For Vic-Maui boats, it is recommenced that each boat:

- before sailing, ensures
  - that the boat's communications systems (including radio, tuner, cabling, connectors, power supply, ground, primary and emergency antenna, RFI suppression) are of high quality, are working properly and that the instruction manuals are onboard;
  - that at least two crew members have completed appropriate radio operator training and are familiar with using the boat's particular communications systems;
  - that the boat participates in pre-race radio schedules to test the communications systems and to identify onboard sources of radio interference; the latter will best be determined by trial and may include the engine, alternator, regulator, sailing instruments, navigation equipment, inverter, generator, water heater, water maker, and other electrical or electronic equipment;
  - that a daily communications schedule, including scheduled communications and weather updates, is prepared and posted in the navigation station and that times in this schedule are expressed relative to UTC (Zulu) and HST in order to minimize confusion; and

- while sailing, ensures;
  - that a full charge of the batteries is completed before each scheduled communication; and
  - that, for the duration of each scheduled communication, any non-essential equipment that causes significant radio interference to communications systems is turned off.