

**TWO YOUTH MATCH RACING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2010
ON LONG ISLAND SOUND
CO-HOSTED BY**



THE OAKCLIFF SAILING CENTER

AND

THE SEAWANHAKA CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB



July 9-11 – Oyster Bay Youth Match Racing Clinic

July 23-25 – Oyster Bay Youth Match Racing Clinegatta (clinic and regatta)

We are working to create youth match racing opportunities locally, regionally and nationally in 2010 and beyond. We see this as a particularly strong discipline for the older youth sailors in the U.S. (16-22 year olds) as a bridge from the smaller boats (dinghies) into the larger boats (keelboats) they will sail more as adults. It is also a very exciting form of racing and may appeal to some sailors more than fleet racing on longer courses. With the Intercollegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) switching their sloop championship program to match racing beginning this fall, youth match racing will become a strong bridge to racing in college. Finally, with the new women's match racing event in the Olympic Games, youth match racing will give talented young women a headstart on their Olympic path.

The July 9-11 session will be a "This is Match Racing...and This is How You Do It" clinic.

I will be running it. The idea is to get interested youth sailors (older kids in the programs and their Instructors) to come over to Oyster Bay and learn all about match racing. I will be using video presentations on land and running drills and racing on the water.

The July 23-25 session will feature a clinic on Friday and an actual Match Race Regatta on the weekend (with my coaching throughout). This way the sailors can put into practice what they have been learning, in an actual umpired match race regatta, which is very exciting. We will also provide spectator boats for parents, Instructors, Jr. Program Committee members, etc. so they can see match racing first hand.

Then on July 28-Aug 1, we are hosting our annual Oakcliff Invitational, which is a match race regatta in Oakcliff's Swedish Match 40's (the boats used on the World Match Racing Tour), sailed by some of the best match racers in the country and internationally. The idea is to invite the youth sailors who participated in one of the two prior youth match racing events to come and ride on the Swedish Match 40's during the training and/or racing (they have a large open space near the transom designed for observers!). This way they will be on board with the "pro's" and see first hand how they communicate, make decisions, handle the boats, and do the tactics - which are always breathtakingly close! We'll also get the sailors on the umpire boats as observers.

All the details are listed on the Notice of Clinic and Notice of Race, which can be found on the Oakcliff Sailing Center website: www.oakcliffsailing.org. Any questions, feel free to email Oakcliff's Executive Director, Dawn Riley: race@oakcliffsailing.org; or call her at: 516-802-0368. You can sign up on the Oakcliff website.

We need to cap the attendance, so please sign up soon. We would love to see a large turnout from JSA clubs for this first attempt on the Sound to bring youth sailors to actual match racing.

Thanks,

Dave Perry, Board member, Oakcliff Sailing Center; US Sailing Team AlphaGraphics women's match racing coach; highest ranked US match racer; grew up sailing at Pequot Yacht Club.