

## Race Committee Assignee Questions

I had several good questions posed to me after this weeks racing by a skipper assigned to a future RC night. This skipper had'nt read all of the RC info from Jeff LePage yet but assured me it would be prior to the assigned week. The following direction might help while you are aboard the race committee boat. You will be taking direction from our PRO, Joe Stanley.

The Etchells Marks are located in the RC storage shed attached to the stewards shed. They should be inside a covered large blue plastic tub labeled ETHELLS. Get the marks the PRO requests, bring them to the Lindsay Lord, find the inflation pump in the drawers, do not fully inflate or you can pop the welded seams.

The Etchells anchors are located onboard the Lindsay Lord in a grey bin under the stern deck. Anchors with snap hooks are the counterweights that should be clipped only to the mark bridle, DO NOT HOOK THESE ONTO THE ANCHOR LINES. These hold the marks upright.

The anchor lines have spliced eyes at 50, 60, and 70 feet to which get attached to the mark by the snap shackle at the bottom end of the mark bridle. Excess line should be fastened to the snap shackle as well.

At the end of the night, marks get returned to their blue bin and covered so the mice won't get them. The anchors get returned to the grey bin on the LL, all coiled nicely for their next usage.

We want our starting lines to be at least as long as the total length of all boats starting. 20 boats at 30 feet equals 600 feet. This is the distance from the PYC pier to the Handy Boat Service dock house. It is also the distance from the shoreside end of the PYC pier to the Etchells Black Sheep off the end of the last float.

We would like our starting line at least square to the line though having the starting pin 3 mark boat lengths to weather of square is even better. This spreads the fleet more equally along the starting line. To get this correct, one could use the orange flag or the tape on the VHF antenna top to find the wind direction. I use a stick with a ribbon on it that I hand hold while standing on the foredeck or cabin top of the RC boat. Once found and aligned with something on land, use a hand held compass (located in the drawers of the Lindsay Lord) to sight then remember or record that heading. To get a square line, turn to your left or counterclockwise 90 degrees (85 provides for the pin favored heading), that is the angle for the starting line buoy, also known as the pin.

Example A.

Usual starting area south of Clapboard. Wind coming from Ft. Gorges, averages 215 degrees. Subtract 85 = 130 degrees, heading for the pin from the RC. This should align with the Long Island ferry dock. Pin boat goes out 600' from RC trailing the pin holding onto the

anchor. When they get to 600', they head upwind (215) slowly, when the mark hits 85 or is aligned with the Long Is ferry dock, the pin boat drops the anchor overboard as the RC directs.

#### Example B.

Same starting area. Wind coming from Cow Island Passage, averages 160 degrees. Again, subtract 85 = 75 degrees which aligns with the NE side of Chebeague Is. Pin boat does its thing and your line is set.

#### Wind Shifts.

If you notice the wind takes a solid shift, adjust the line accordingly. Say we have a 15 degree shift to the right in Example A. The 215 is now 230 and the line should be adjusted to 145. Have the pin boat pull up the pin anchor line, direct them to go upwind until the mark aligns with 145 and they drop as you direct.

If the wind backs say 10 degrees, the pin boat grabs the pin and slowly moves it downwind until it reaches the 120 degree spot where they drop it at your command.

Adjust the line length depending on what you see the need is. I use directions of in closer or out further. Adjusting the windward or leeward marks, assuming you are happy with the course length, use directions like left or right as the mark boat heads 90 degrees from the wind. When the desired direction is complete, at that point they could lengthen or shorten that leg by heading upwind or downwind. Drop as you direct.

Hopefully this information will help provide a more even starting line to avoid bunching the boats at the RC boat and reducing recalls.