



# **2023 Dinghy Delta Ditch Race and Cruisers' Rally Notice of Race**

**Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Lake Washington Sailing Club welcomes you to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Dinghy Delta Ditch Race and Cruisers' rally from Rio Vista to Sacramento down the deep water shipping channel. This downwind drag race on a flood current pushes boats up-river to the LWSC clubhouse.

The course is approximately thirty miles long and will take an average dinghy about six hours to complete in light to ~~mod~~ conditions. After-race dinner, music, and awards will follow at the clubhouse.

The race is open to any centerboard sailboat or pre-approved keelboat. A limited number of large cruising boats are invited to anchor in the lake and a water taxi to shore is provided.

Our facilities include a clubhouse with large deck, restrooms, a launch ramp for up to 21-ft / 3500-lb boats, a two-acre boat storage yard, and a 2000-lb capacity hoist.

## **Rules, Event Classification**

This regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024, as modified by the Sailing Instructions available prior to the skippers meeting. All one-design class rules for participating classes will apply. For other starts, we welcome practice sails and rigs. We encourage use of GPS devices, analog and digital compasses, VHF radios and cell phones.

## **Entry Fees**

Entry fee is \$50 US for single-handed boats. For multi-handed boats, there is a \$15 fee for each crew member after the skipper. Entry fee will cover race or rally, launch, shuttle, and dinner for all participants. **Early registration deadline is Wednesday, August 2 at 1700.** Online registration must be RECEIVED by this date to avoid a \$25 late-fee and to guarantee a shuttle spot.

## **Registration and Contact**

Register on the calendar page of the club website at: [www.lwsailing.org](http://www.lwsailing.org)  
George Biery: call, text or email; (916) 201-4885 [gmbiery@pacbell.net](mailto:gmbiery@pacbell.net)

## **Scoring and Classes**

To qualify for fleet scoring, four class boats must be registered. One-design classes with fewer than four registered by the deadline will be grouped into one of the two Open fleets based on handicap and will be scored using the 2010 (the latest) Table of North American Portsmouth handicap ratings with exception: Pelican rated at 117.1, West Wright Potter 15 rated at 124.3. A "Cruisers class" option without handicap scoring will be available and start with the first boats in group #1.

## **Timeline and Shuttles for Pursuit Race Format**

Boats will be started according to their handicap so that the first boat to cross the finish line is the

overall winner. This results in a starting sequence that lasts up to three hours. Three hourly shuttles/ bridge crossings will be provided to allow boats to arrive in time for their start.

### **Transportation from LWSC to Rio Vista**

Because of the one-direction nature of this race, LWSC offers morning shuttles to transport one member of each crew back to their boat after moving their vehicle and trailer to LWSC. Please read all race documents to understand the overall organization of this regatta.

### **RaceCourse**

The racecourse will follow the Sacramento Deep Water Shipping Channel. The course will start about 1 mile from the launching facility upstream of the Rio Vista Draw Bridge on the Sacramento River. (Bridge raising will be coordinated for the regatta.) From the start, the course goes up Cache Slough for approximately 4 miles to the confluence of Prospect and Miner Sloughs, at which point the man-made shipping channel begins. The course covers the remaining 26 miles of the shipping channel to the Port of West Sacramento. The finish line will be off the sailing club peninsula on the northern side of the turning basin.

### **Safety**

Because this is an unusually long race, we require that each boat take extra precautions to ensure safety. Please observe the following:

- Because of the possibility of finishing after dark, each boat must carry a flashlight (white light) with sufficient strength to alert oncoming vessels of your presence, as well as batteries for the flashlight that will last for 4 hours. This will satisfy the US Coast Guard requirements for sailing after dark on a non-powered boat under 23 feet.
- Each boat should bring **1 gallon** of water/fluids for each sailor on the boat for the race.
- Bring sufficient food for each sailor assuming that you will be on the water for 10-12 hours
- Apply copious amounts of sunscreen and bring a bottle for re-application on the water.
- Life vests must be worn by all participants during the entire race.
- 15 foot painter of at least ¼" in diameter must be attached for the entire race.
- Emergency (bandages, aspirin, etc.) and repair (line, duct & sail tape, blocks, shackles, etc.) kits on board are encouraged.
- GPS devices, analog and digital compasses, VHF radios and cell phones are encouraged.

### **Alternate Launch Site:**

For sailors who would like to launch from other sites, a \$10 discount will be available. Please note that no space will be reserved at other sites. Those who choose this option must make their own arrangements.

### **Overview of Shuttles, Skippers Meetings, Bridge Crossings**

Launching is from the Delta Marina Yacht harbor located downstream of the Rio Vista draw bridge. Due to low bridge clearance, boats will need to cross under the raised bridge at designated times to access the racecourse. The race uses a pursuit format with boats starting at different times. To facilitate this, we provide 3 bridge openings, 3 skippers meetings and 3 shuttles so boats can clear the bridge prior to their start time.

### **Groupings based on Start Times**

See table below to determine your shuttle/skippers meeting/bridge crossing group.  
(For those who would like additional time to prepare may join an earlier group)

	Highest Portsmouth Handicap	Lowest Portsmouth Handicap	Actual Race start times	Example of boat types
Group #1 & Cruisers' Rally	127	108	Noon to 1:00 p.m.	Pelican, West Wright Potter 15
Group #2	107	90	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Sunfish, Lido 14, Day Sailor, Byte, Laser (inc. Radial), Banshee, Megabyte, Coronado 15, Snipe, Finn, Vanguard 15
Group #3	89	0	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Lightning, 29er, Thistle, Flying Dutchman, 505, Weta, 49er

### **Schedule for the Day**

7:00 a.m.			Security available at launching facility
Group #1 and Cruisers' Rally	Group #2	Group #3	
8:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Vehicles bound for LWSC to catch this group's shuttle need to leave launching facility
9:45 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	Shuttle leaves LWSC bound for launching facility
11:00 a.m.	Noon	1:00 p.m.	Skippers' meeting at launching facility (upon arrival of shuttle)
11:45 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	Bridge crossing
Noon to 1:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Start times targeted for this group
6:00 p.m.			Party begins (first finishers may arrive as early as 5:00 PM)
7:30 p.m.			Award ceremony (may be delayed if competitive racers are still on the course)

### **Vehicle Transportation**

Because this is a one directional race, it requires extra logistical work for every participant. The ideal scenario would be to bring an assistant who would drop you and your boat off at Delta Marina and take your vehicle and trailer to LWSC. Having an assistant will ensure you wouldn't have to make

extra trips between Delta Marina and LWSC. Sailors could show up in Rio Vista long enough before the skippers meeting to rig, launch and prepare for departure.

For those that do not have an assistant, we offer a shuttle between LWSC and Delta Marina.

### **Shuttle Overview:**

Participants needing a shuttle should arrive **4 1/2 hours** before their start time and leave their boat at the launching facility, drive vehicle and trailer to LWSC and take shuttle back to Delta Marina. See chart above for details on shuttle timelines. It takes just over an hour each way to drive between Delta Marina and LWSC.

### **Dollies and Trailers:**

We suggest two methods to launch your boat and use the shuttle:

- **Dolly option:** Transfer boat to dolly (or lawn area when sharing with a friend) when arriving in the morning, drive vehicle and trailer to LWSC, catch shuttle to Delta Marina. To facilitate/encourage dolly launching, staff will transport dollies to LWSC. Please add your name to your dolly.
- **Trailer option:** Ramp launch boat and tie-off to dock, drive vehicle and trailer to LWSC, catch shuttle to Delta Marina.

Launching with a dolly will help with overcrowding due to limited dock space.

### **Shuttle gotchas:**

- **Leave launching facility on time:** Leaving Delta Marina by the time listed for your group is critical. Please arrive early enough to make all needed boat preparations. Your shuttle will leave LWSC at the appointed time and arrive prior to the skippers meeting.
- **Bags and covers:** Remember to load bags, covers, etc. in your vehicle prior to leaving for LWSC. Make sure you only leave items intended to bring on your boat at the launching facility before driving to LWSC. (Staff can handle one small duffel bag per person along with their dolly for transport back to LWSC)
- **One shuttle seat per boat:** Only one crew member should drive their vehicle and trailer to LWSC.
- **Check-out from launching facility:** To ensure everyone is accounted for, check-out from the registration table before driving to LWSC. We will use this check list to make sure we don't leave anyone behind before returning to Delta Marina.
- **Wait for the shuttle on the clubhouse deck:** The shuttle will pick up riders from the LWSC clubhouse deck. Please don't make us find you.

### **Driving directions**

See [www.lwsailing.org](http://www.lwsailing.org) and [www.deltamarina.com/location/](http://www.deltamarina.com/location/) for detailed driving information.

### **Launching facility and amenities**

Delta Marina Yacht Harbor. 100 Marina Drive, Rio Vista, CA 94571. (707) 374-2315, <http://www.deltamarina.com/>. They have plenty of parking and a small chandlery/grocery store/bait shop. All boat launching will be done from a ramp with a fair amount of dock space. See pictures of Delta Marina at [www.lwsailing.org](http://www.lwsailing.org) under the Dinghy Delta Ditch regatta link.

### **LWSC clubhouse facilities and amenities**

Located in the Port of West Sacramento, LWSC's facilities include a clubhouse with a large covered deck, grass area with picnic tables, a launch ramp and a 2000 lb. capacity hoist. We have numerous parking spots for vehicles with trailers including a two-acre boat storage yard. We have no shops or stores at our facility (Remember that food and soft drinks will be provided at the dinner). Family and friends supporting you during the event are welcome to come to LWSC after the race starts.

### **Contact Info**

George Biery: (916) 201-4885 [gmbiery@pacbell.net](mailto:gmbiery@pacbell.net)

Club web site: <http://www.lwsailing.org>