

We are getting close!

A couple things, we have planned on drawing the last two weather coupons at the skippers meeting; unless there is objection, I will do that drawing on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month – in time to put them to use for the Cuba race!

We should have a communications addendum out this week, requiring that all boats demonstrate communications and tracking prior to the skippers meeting. We will id time frames during the final week to do that. It is unclear how many boats will rely solely on the SSB for long range communications, and if you are one of these, please let me know! Either way, both SSB or satphone operability have to be demonstrated prior to the skipper's meeting.

As of October 2 changes to the Code of Federal Regulations seem to allow recreational boats on temporary sojourn utilizing one of OFAC's general licenses to travel to Cuba for up to 14 days without an additional permit (SNAP-R) from the Dept of Commerce. We have seen two SNAP-R permits returned with comments that suggest they are not needed, but this does not seem to have been well communicated to the other agencies – and we have not yet seen what the USCG response will be when processing these USCG entry applications. We have to assume that existing SNAP-R licensee's still have to file export data entry into AES; so, be sure and pass the required data input information on to Bob Madden (go to our website – [www.cubarace2015.com](http://www.cubarace2015.com), then to SNAP-R).

The skippers meeting will start at 500 pm Friday, and we will have a registration desk available a few hours before that so all boats can get their crew lists and waivers completed. The vast majority have not been submitted.

We plan on two classes in each of the cruiser divisions, and plan on starting a pursuit/Bahama start for all classes simultaneously. This will reduce the starting time from almost 24 hours to just several; and, we want all boats out of the bay prior to sundown! The racer division died a death of attrition; and, we dropped the single entrant down to the modern cruiser division but used his base GYA handicap with no corrections to even the playing field. And, in the spirit of true sportsmanship, he accepted that penalty!

Come on October 31<sup>st</sup> and Havana!

Bob K