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St. Petersburg Yacht Club hopes to race to Cuba in 2017



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By - Associated Press - Friday, May 27, 2016

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - With relations between the U.S. and Cuba improving, the St. Petersburg Yacht Club is working toward relaunching a race to Havana.

The Tampa Bay Times (<http://bit.ly/1TLTYQI>) reports for nearly three decades, the St. Petersburg Yacht Club sponsored a boat race to Havana that brought international exposure to both cities. But the contest was cancelled following the rise of Cold War-era communism in Cuba.

The club officials are still in early talks with Cuban counterparts at the Hemingway International Yacht Club, named for legendary author Ernest Hemingway.

Yacht Club organizers hope that in March 2017, boats will be racing from the St. Petersburg Pier to the Morro Castle, an 18th century fortress guarding the mouth of Havana bay. That would be the same starting and finish line as the original competition.

Information from: Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Fla.), <http://www.tampabay.com>.

Humidity 77%
 Wind Speed 3
 Barometer 30.33
 Dewpoint 52
 Visibility 10.00

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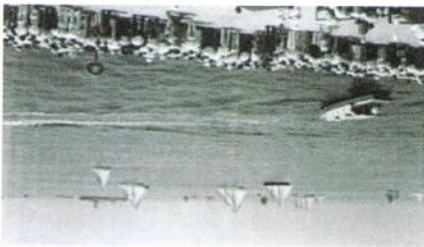
Continue reading *MyNews13.com article: St. Petersburg Yacht Club brings back Havana Race* (http://www.mynews13.com/content/news/cfnws13/news/article.html/content/news/articles/bn9/2016/6/7/st.petersburg_yacht_club.html?utm_source=fark&utm_medium=website&utm_content=link).

A race that was canceled in 1959 following the rise of communism in Cuba is now being brought back. In 1954, a then 16-year-old Bill Ballard sailed to Cuba. "I sailed on a 39-foot yawl owned by George Pearson called Celia and we had a romping good race," Ballard said...

MyNews13.com posted an article yesterday about the return of the race:

- Feb 24-26: Arrival of Vessels at SPYC Docks – Free dockage for boats entered.
- Feb 26: Registration – Competitors & Guests Reception – Historical Presentation
- Feb 27: Monday Evening – Departure Celebration
- Feb 28: The Start at St. Petersburg Yacht Club
- March 1 & 2: Racing to Habana/Hemingway International Yacht Club, Cuba
- March 3-4: Welcome Party, A Regatta from Hemingway YC to Morro Castle and Back, with Cuban Sailors being involved. Exploration and Enjoyment of the island and Guided Tours
- March 5: Dinner Party & Awards Presentations

1934 Havana Race start off St. Petersburg Pier (Photo: St. Petersburg Yacht Club archives)



The Official Notice of Race and other information will be posted soon on the club website (<http://www.spyc.org/Default.aspx?dynamicmoduleid&pageid=407548&ssid=334624&vf=1>). Preliminary Schedule (Subject to Change)

The St. Petersburg–Habana Race was an annual tradition for the St. Petersburg Yacht Club since 1930, but was canceled in 1959 and has not been held since, due to the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

The St. Petersburg Yacht Club announced the revival of the Original St. Petersburg–Habana Race, to be scheduled for a February 28, 2017, start, according to a club announcement.

Source: St. Petersburg Yacht Club

Date Posted: 2016-06-09

St. Petersburg Yacht Club plans revival of Havana race

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