



Wednesday Night Race Series
July 1, 2026 to September 2, 2026

Organizing Authority - **Mystic River Mudheads**

The Donzo
SAILING
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules

- 1.1. The Series will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. **RRS Appendix V Alternative Penalties** will be in effect.
- 1.3. Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: *(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or*
- 1.4. National letters and sail numbers shall be of a contrasting color to the body of the sail.

2. Communication

- 2.1. The RC will communicate on VHF Ch. 1001 (Formerly 01A.)
- 2.2. The Official Notice Board is on ClubSpot at <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/LoJKgHM0af/#notice-board>
- 2.3. On race nights, all boats shall check in by passing within hailing distance of the Committee Boat on the side opposite the starting line prior to their Warning.
- 2.4. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board on-line prior to 1200 on the day they will take effect.

3. Signals Made Ashore

- 3.1. Any Postponement or Abandonment prior to 1700 on the day of race will be posted online and will be communicated via VHF starting at 1700.

4. Schedule of Races

- 4.1. The Donzo series is scheduled from July 1 to September 2, 2026.
- 4.2. The First Warning is scheduled for 1755 each night.

5. Classes and Handicaps

- 5.1. Class Flags are the numeral pennant corresponding to the Scratch Sheet.
- 5.2. Classes will be established using current PHRF-Eastern Connecticut and ORC handicaps verified by the RC. Rating changes during the season will not affect prior results.
- 5.3. Any rating change must be recorded prior to noon on the Tuesday before it takes effect.

6. The Racing Area, Courses and Marks

- 6.1. The racing area is in Fishers Island Sound between New London and Ram Island.
- 6.2. Two types of courses are offered: **Round the Buoys or Pre-Defined.**
- 6.3. The **Round the Buoys** course are designated by a series of marks posted on the top row of the course board on the RC Signal Boat in order of rounding.
- 6.4. Refer to **Appendix A** for the list of marks.
- 6.5. The letters P (port) or S (starboard) will indicate which side to round the preceding mark(s).
- 6.6. The **Pre-Defined** Course is Windward/Leeward. The course will be indicated by the number of legs posted on the top row of the course board. All Pre-Defined courses begin with a windward leg. Even numbers indicate a leeward finish. Odd numbers indicate a windward finish.
 - 6.6.1. For example, 4 = 2 windward legs and 2 leeward legs. 5 = 3 windward, 2 leeward legs.
- 6.7. The windward mark can be a drop mark or a government mark.
- 6.8. A drop mark position will be indicated by range and bearing from the RC signal boat posted on the bottom row of the course board.
- 6.9. When the windward mark is a government mark, its identifier will be posted after the number of legs. i.e., 4 N = 4 legs using Mark N - North Hill Bell as windward mark.
- 6.10. The windward mark shall be rounded to port.

- 6.11. An offset mark consisting of a pink or orange mooring ball **may** be set approximately 100 yards from and perpendicular to and to port of the windward mark. After rounding the windward mark to port, boats shall round the offset mark to port. If the offset mark is not in position, boats shall proceed directly to the next mark. The absence of an offset mark shall not be grounds for redress.
 - 6.11.1. The offset mark is a mark of the course. Rule 18 applies at the offset mark.
 - 6.11.2. See **Appendix B** for an example of a Four-leg windward-leeward course with an offset mark.
- 6.12. The leeward mark or gate will be approximately 100 yards to windward of the starting line. In the absence of a gate, the leeward mark shall be rounded to port.

7. Restrictions

- 7.1. Boats shall not pass between Flat Hammock and South Dumpling.
- 7.2. Boats shall pass south of nuns "22", "24", and "26" located south of Groton Long Point.

8. Start

- 8.1. The Starting area will be in the vicinity of Horseshoe Reef. The RC may reposition the Starting Area to accommodate wind conditions. Monitor VHF for any changes.
- 8.2. The Start line will be between the staff flying an Orange flag on the RC and Mark S/F.
- 8.3. The RC may notify OCS boats by sail number or boat name via VHF or loud hail.

9. Changing the Next Leg of the Course

- 9.1. When a change of the next leg of the course is signaled, the RC may identify the new mark with its letter designation as defined in Appendix A. **RRS 33 is changed.**

10. Finish

- 10.1. The Finish line will be between a staff flying an orange Flag on the RC and Mark S/F.
- 10.2. The Finish line for Round the Buoys courses will be in the vicinity of the Start line.
- 10.3. The Finish for Pre-Defined course with an even number of legs will be the same as the Start Line.
- 10.4. The Finish for Pre-Defined course with an odd number of legs will be approximately 100 yards upwind of the windward mark.
- 10.5. Boats withdrawing shall notify the RC as soon as possible.

11. Time Limit

- 11.1. The time limit is 20:30.
- 11.2. Any boat not finished by 20:30 will be scored TLE. **Rule 35 is changed.**

12. Protests

- 12.1. Notify the RC of your intent to protest at the time of finishing and submit protest form by email within 2 hours of finishing to MudheadRC@gmail.com.

13. Scoring

- 13.1. One completed race constitutes a series.
- 13.2. All classes must record a finish for a race to count toward the Best in Fleet Awards.
- 13.3. TLE boats will receive points equal to the number of class finishers plus one.
- 13.4. Overall scoring will drop worst score if 7 races are completed and two worst scores if 10 races are completed
- 13.5. Rule A5.3 applies.
- 13.6. The End of Season Awards Party is scheduled at Shennecossett Yacht Club on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 1755.

14. Additional Information

- 14.1. Contact the Race Committee at MudheadRC@gmail.com.

MUDHEAD MARKS DONZO WNRS 2026

Appendix A

Letter	Mark Name	ID	Lat/Lon*
B	Black Ledge	N “2BL”	41’18.02” 72’03.92”
E	Silver Eel Pond Whistle	SE	41’15.55” 72’02.22”
I	Intrepid Rock	“DIR”	41’17.94” 72.00.24”
M	Mystic River West	C “1”	41’17.40” 71’59.42”
N	No. Hill Bell	R “2”	41’16.79” 72’01.38”
R	Ram Island Bell	R “20”	41’18.20” 71’58.39”
V	Vixen Ledge	N “28VL”	41’18.35” 72’02.92”
8	West Harbor West Ent	N “4”	41’16.46” 72’00.83”
W	West Harbor Channel	FI R “6”	41’16.30” 72’00.33”
F	Seaflower Reef		41’17.76” 72’1.98”

D/M Drop Mark Inflatable R & B from RC

S/F Start/Finish Inflatable Yellow near RC

* All positions approximate

APPENDIX B

