



Venice Youth Boating Association, Inc. ♦ 1330 Tarpon Center Drive ♦ Venice, FL 34285 ♦ Ph: (941) 468-1719

## Venetian Cup Regatta 2014

January 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

The Venice Youth Boating Association (VYBA) is a 501©3 nonprofit organization which creates a positive impact in children's lives through sailing instruction. We teach kids how to sail and race sailboats in regattas. We provide opportunities for kids to participate in regattas competing against other youth sailors from around the state.

In the past VYBA hosted a regatta in the spring at Indian Mound Park in Englewood, FL attracting roughly 100 competitors each year. The intention of the Venetian Cup planning committee is to relocate our regatta to Venice this year on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. The ability to host this regatta in Venice relies on two things happening:

1. Support from and use of the Venice Yacht Club facilities. Venice Yacht Club has agreed to let us use the entire parking lot as a staging area.
2. The exclusive use of Higel Marine Park, including the boat ramp, is essential to safely and effectively set up and launch sailboats. Specifically, we are requesting exclusive use of Higel Marine Park including the boat ramp from 7am – 6pm on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>.

The sailboats competing in the regatta range in size from 8ft – 14ft. We are expecting 75 – 100 sailboats. They are small sailboats, referred to as dinghies in the sailing world. The boats are transported by parent volunteers on trailers that hold anywhere from 2 – 12 boats. We are expecting 12 trailers to park at Venice Yacht Club accounting for 50 – 60 of the sailboats. The remaining 10 – 15 trailers accommodating 30 – 40 sailboats would set up at Higel Park. The boats setting up at VYC will launch from VYC via a gangway ramp and floating dock. The boats setting up at Higel Park will launch from the boat ramp.

We estimate a total of 100 cars including regatta support personnel, and spectators. At Venice Yacht Club in addition to truck/trailer parking 60 parking spots will be reserved for support personnel and spectators (see attached schematic). Higel Park will be used primarily for sailboats and trucks/trailers (see attached schematic). Graser Park has a total of 57 public parking spots and 3 handicapped parking spots. Humphris Park (South Jetty) has an estimated 60 public parking spots. Complimentary tram service will be provided between Venice Main Street, Graser Park, Venice Yacht Club and Humphris Park.

Competitors will begin to arrive at 7am on Saturday morning. We will have 6 support personnel guiding people to the correct parking lot to use. Once boats are launched and the regatta starts traffic will be minimal. The trucks and trailers stay put during the regatta. The kids take their boats off of the trailer and launch them into the water with dollies. At the end of the day the sailors recover their boats with the dollies and take them to the trailers to be de rigged and loaded. While the kids are sailing parents can watch from the beach or take the tram to Main Street for dining and shopping. People will begin to make their way home between 4pm and 6pm.

### a 501(c)(3) organization

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free 8000-435-7352 with the State of Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Registration No. CH14377



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All coach, support and spectator powerboats will be directed to use the Venice Train Depot boat ramp to launch boats and park vehicles. We estimate a total of 15 – 20 such powerboats. Our plan is to post signs at the boat ramps of Higley Marine Park, Venice Train Depot and Nokomis Beach two weeks in advance to notify the public that Higley Park and the boat ramp will be closed on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will also provide public notice fliers to be posted at local bait shops.

Once the sailboats are launched the younger and less experienced sailors will race in the protected waters of Robert's Bay, east of Venice Yacht Club. All other competitors will sail or be towed out to the Gulf of Mexico. Racing in the Gulf will take place south of Venice inlet and west of Venice Beach. Sailors in the Gulf will not be near designated swim areas of Venice Beach. We will set race courses at least 1,000 feet off the beach. The majority of sailors that will participate come as a team and are accompanied by a coach in a powerboat that provides support. VYBA will also provide additional support boats to help ensure the safety of all sailors. As sailboats are transiting to and from the Gulf of Mexico a marine patrol escort would provide an extra level of visibility and safety.

Bringing this event to Venice would be beneficial for the city of Venice and the Venice Youth Boating Association. In our efforts to increase community awareness about our program hosting the Venetian Cup here in Venice will go a long way. We also expect a positive economic impact for the city of Venice as participants and spectators will need lodging, dining and entertainment during the regatta. With a little help from the city of Venice we can make this a first class event.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Eduardo – Director  
Venice Youth Boating Association

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## Traffic and Parking Schematic



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