

ORIGINAL ARTICLE FROM NEWS JOURNAL

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by Russ Hoadly

HALIFAX SAILING

ASSOCIATION - THUNDER MUG REGATTA

When a sailboat race goes by the unlikely name of "Thunder Mug Regatta", look out, anything can happen. That, apparently, is the point of the race, now an annual one, staged by the Halifax Sailing Assn. and coming this Sunday on the Halifax River. Among its more colorful traits is a LeMans style start where skippers dash from the shore to their boats waiting at the water's edge. Melee isn't too strong a word to describe the scene. And the race course has its little surprises. It runs five miles down to the Port Orange Bridge from the starting point at the Small Craft Harbor. There boats must navigate a narrow channel between the bridges causeway and Pelican Island then return to the harbor.

That narrow channel, should the wind be from the wrong direction, will "wreak havoc." hardly enough width to tack (zig zag in order to use the wind effectively). Some sailors may be reduced to paddling (it's allowed), or even slogging through the mug with tow rope in hand (yes, that's allowed also ...but no motors)

NOT THE LEAST oddity about this zang "ragbagger's" bout is that it's a free for all. Any size or shape small sailing can compete. The sight-zesty catamarans, slower cruisers, spritely little prams, tipsy sunfish and other classes all grouped together in competition — should be an interesting one indeed. But, despite all its craziness why call the event a Thunder Mug Race? That's what they use for a trophy." What? "They use an old Thunder mug for the trophy." And therein lies a story.

SEEMS MIKE'S DAD, Dr. Herb Kerman and Dr. William Schildecker were diving during a vacation in 1970 down in the Grenadine Island. In the harbor of Bequia in that lower Caribbean group, the two found a barnacle encrusted, white chamber pot of yore. Dr. Kerman, long active in the sailing association, painted the pot and donated it to the group to be used as a trophy for long distance race for small boats. To mark the dignity of that donation a deed of gift was prepared which properly describes the trophy. "This ancient and venerable object recovered with skill and deftness at great risk of life and limb' THUNDER MUG TROPHY has been passed along from its unknown west Indian users to the winner of the annual regatta inaugurated in its honor. Al Davies has won the mug three times. And last year Steve Kerman, the good doctor's 27 year old son won the cup", thoughtfully returning it to the family. (word is that Steve and Mike's mother won't let the two compete this year wanting to give the August trophy another martle on which to resicle the next 12 mouths)

THE RACE will begin at 2 p.m according to HSA commodore Larry lawrence. Gary Causey, Daytona Yacht sales,will be in charge, with staggered starts for various classes of boats. Any which don't easily fit into a class will race in an open category and will have handicaps assigned them , lawrence said. Registration will be \$1per boat. In addition to the thunder mug trophy for overall winner, there will be smaller replicas for the winner of various classes.

And now, about the finish. When the boats return to the harbor , their skippers must disembark, get back ashore and sprint to the finish line
It should be quite a race.

STAR GAZER GARY

GORDEN MEMORIAL