

Spirit of Admiralty



The longest inland water sailboat race on the west coast of North America begins again June 20th, 2015. SEAS is sponsoring the 2017 Spirit of Admiralty Race 33 years after the first race commemorated Alaska's 25th anniversary of statehood. Famous for its cold wind, short nights, beautiful scenery, wonderful wildlife, and intense competition, the Spirit of Admiralty still represents the crown jewel of sailboat racing in Alaska.

The 2017 sailing of the race circumnavigates Admiralty Island in two contiguous legs, beginning in Auke Bay the Saturday of Summer Solstice. The first leg begins June 17th at 1030 and proceeds south down Stephen's Passage, navigating the notoriously fluky winds west and south of Douglas Island.

Sailing around ice bergs, whales, and shifting winds the boats sail south down Stephens Passage until they reach the Brothers. The convergence of Frederick Sound and Stephen's Passage make incredible fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities, but present a different difficulty for the crews.

A little island, home to hundreds of Stellar Sea Lions, called Yasha Island is the southernmost point on the course.

After sailing the 120 nautical miles, the first leg ends in Alaska's very own Shangri-La. Warm Springs Bay, a large sheltered bay with a dock, huge waterfall, and natural hot springs await the weary crews.

After a couple days recuperating from the trials of Leg 1, the crews gear back up and head out for leg 2.

Leg 2 heads north up Chatham Strait. The final turn goes around the oft photographed Pt. Retreat Lighthouse. Boats change sails and head into the home stretch through the busy and whale filled Saginaw channel

There is no question that the challenges of racing this course are not to be taken lightly. Storms can come up quickly on these waters bring with them gale force winds and a nasty chop. But idyllic sailing can be found as well; with sun filled spinnaker runs with an escort of whales, to beautiful reaches with a solstice sunrise.

Rules and Registration can be found at: <http://www.seasailing.us/spirit>