

HOOK Race 2023 – the Long and Short of It

Most Lake Michigan long distance racers have heard of the Racine (Wisconsin) Yacht Club HOOK Race. After all, the race has been run for 39 years consecutively—this is the HOOK's 40th year.

But, did you know about the long and short of this year's race on July 15, 2023?



The Long is the Super HOOK. This is the second year for the 379 nautical mile race which follows the regular HOOK Race course (Racine, Wisconsin up through the Port des Mort (Door of Death) passage between Door County and Washington Island, across Green Bay to Menominee, Michigan) --and then swings back repeating the course in reverse.

The elapsed (uncorrected) time limit on the Super HOOK is 96 hours from the start of the last division in the regular HOOK Race. Yachts must be at least 30 feet in length on deck. Last year's winner, *Defiance* (a JV 66), completed the Super HOOK in the elapsed time of 2 days, 18 hours, 27 minutes and 33 seconds. An interesting departure from the normal sailing rules is that Super HOOK racers can make a short "pit stop" in Menominee after completing the normal HOOK Race course and motor over to reprovision or drop off/exchange crew members. However, the elapsed time race clock continues to run during the "pit stop."

The Short is the HOOK Cruising Division. Have you thought about racing the regular HOOK, but had concerns about inexperience or the length of the regular course (189 nautical miles)? You can give the HOOK a try by entering the Cruising Division where you are allowed to use your motor and can dock and leave the boat if you need a break. However, motoring time (which you must record) is added to your elapsed (uncorrected) time. Like the Super HOOK, the elapsed time race clock continues to run during any time you dock or take a break.

Cruisers must use a boat that is at least 24 feet in length on deck, and complete the HOOK course during the same time as the regular non-motoring racers (54 hours from the start of the last HOOK division). Last year's Cruising Division

winner, *Solstice* (a Catalina 34T Mk 1), completed the course in the elapsed (uncorrected) time of 2 days, 18 hours, 30 minutes, and 2 seconds.

Motoring is NOT permitted during the starting sequence and from Buoy # 1 off of Chambers Island in the Green Bay to the finish line. In other words, once Cruisers hit Chambers Island they must finish the rest of the race under sail.

OK, so that's the long and short of it. If you want to race the regular HOOK, the Super HOOK, or try the regular HOOK Cruising Division you can now register by going to <https://www.racineyachtclub.org/the-hook>.