

THE 2024 WINDYCREST I.H.B.G. "REGATTA"

It's Coming Soon. New Year's day, January 1, 2024, is almost here. That's right, **2024.** Horrible 2023 [¹SEE FOOTNOTE ONE] will end along with everything that made you cry out for water and a nice breeze. But it's time to forget the past and kick off the new year with a promise of good fortune. It's time for the ***Windycrest I.H.B.G. "Regatta"***.

What's the Deal? Tradition requires that Windycrest hold the *I.H.B.G. "Regatta"* every January 1. Here's the deal: It isn't actually a regatta where boats race and skippers yell. Instead, it's pure fun — everyone just gets in a boat, sails/motors/paddles around and then (here's the important part) they rendezvous on the lake and raft up [²SEE FOOTNOTE TWO]. Everyone then says "Hi" to everyone else, turns on some bearable music, pops open whatever they brought to eat and drink, shares it with the other boats, and hangs out enjoying the company, the scenery, the conversation, the stories, and just has a wonderful afternoon on the water. And it all starts 2024 in the finest, most optimistic, and happy way with new and old friends at Windycrest.

You Don't Understand The Name? Way back in Windycrest's early days, some members courageously admitted out loud that New Year's day football games are a pointless bore. "If bowl games are so damned important," declared one sailor, "why do they play them all over again next year?" "You're right," agreed another. "Instead, let's go to the lake on New Year's Day". And everyone nodded vigorously adding, "And bring drinks and food

¹ "HORRIBLE", an adjective meaning the sum of: (a) lymphoma, (b) hydrohoist collapsing in a storm, leading to (c) boat crashing into steel dock, requiring (d) haul-out and extensive repairs to boat, followed by (e) boat slides off trailer while attempting relaunch, thus necessitating (f) the rental of crane to lift boat back onto trailer, and (g) long conversations with the boat insurance company, and finally (h) all proving that sailing is exactly like standing in a cold shower while tearing up hundred dollar bills.

² "RAFT-UP", a verb meaning someone drops an anchor or two, and other boats then pull up along side it and lash to one another making one big pleasant fiberglass island.

and let's raft up and have a good time together. And make it a regular thing every year so we don't have to talk about football bowl games ever again. And give it a respectable name so members will want to come too." And at that, the event was christened the *I Hate Bowl Games Regatta* and it was decreed to be an annual thing.

And thus The I.H.B.G. Regatta began and the tradition has continued for the last 96 years.

Be at Windycrest on January First. It will be lots of fun and the great start of a great new year.

✓ MORE INFO TO COME AS DECEMBER GOES ALONG.