

# Merrimac Memorial Regatta May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008



Prior to disbanding, the Merrimac Sailing Association (MSA) was the hub of small boating in Portsmouth. For many years MSA hosted social and racing events to promote small boating. One of the most popular events was MSA's Memorial Day Regatta. The regatta invited small boats from all over the region to participate. When MSA disbanded, Portsmouth Boat Club (PBC) was asked to continue the regatta. Since that time PBC has hosted the Merrimac Memorial Regatta.

The event still helps to encourage and promote the development and racing of small one-design type yachts under 22 feet in overall length. The regatta is held each year on Memorial Day at Portsmouth's City Park. The park features excellent facilities for hand and trailer launching, parking and picnicing. Participation varies, but typical entries include Lasers, Lightnings, Mobjacks, Moths, Optimists, Thistles and other dinghy/day sailors. Racing takes place in the open waters between City Park and the Churchland Bridge. A party like atmosphere on shore includes a cookout with the usual Memorial Day picnic type foods and beverages.

Entrants are encouraged to register their boat and crew prior to the races, however late entry can be anytime up to 1 hour before the race warning gun. One of the best liked features of the regatta is the low entry fee. It's cheap, it's fun and the after race party is always a big hit.

After the race, skippers and crews assemble for the awards ceremony, food and beverages, hold bragging and excuse sessions and a general good time.

Come join in the fun.

**To register please go to the [Portsmouth Boat Club](http://portsmouthboatclub.org) website and click on the "Racing" page [http://portsmouthboatclub.org/pbc\\_racing.htm](http://portsmouthboatclub.org/pbc_racing.htm)**

Thanks!!!

*Jimmy Schools - Chesapeake Va.*

[www.portsmouthboatclub.org](http://www.portsmouthboatclub.org)