



# 2009 Laser Gorge Blowout

July 16, 2009

Columbia Gorge Racing Association, Cascade Locks, Oregon

## Notice of Race

### 1. Rules

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association (US SAILING), the rules of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) and this Notice Of Race, except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions or any appendices to the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2. The organizing authority is the Columbia Gorge Racing Association.

### 2. Advertising

- 2.1. The regatta is designated "Advertising Permitted" in accordance with ISAF Regulation 20.

### 3. Eligibility and Entry

- 3.1. The regatta shall be open to the Laser Class. For safety reasons entries will be limited to 25 Lasers.
- 3.2. Entry is by application. Applications must be received by July 10.
- 3.3. Eligible boats/crews may enter the regatta by completing the online application form and fee payment for the Columbia Gorge Racing Association, [www.cgra.org](http://www.cgra.org).
- 3.4. Competitors will be required to agree to a waiver of liability as a condition of eligibility. This waiver may be completed either during online registration or at the event check-in. As a condition of entry, participants under the age of 18 shall submit a waiver of liability signed by a parent or legal guardian.

### 4. Classification

- 4.1. This event is open to sailors of all classifications as described in the ISAF Regulation, ISAF Sailor 22 Classification Code.

### 5. Fees

- 5.1. The entry fee is \$35.00.
- 5.2. A \$5.00 discount will be given to current members of US Sailing or an equivalent ISAF recognized national sailing authority.
- 5.3. A late fee of \$10.00 will be charged after July 1, 2009.

### 6. Schedule of Events

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July 16, 2009	8:00-10:00 am	Registration
	10:00 am	Competitors' Meeting
	11:00 am	Race Warning
	3:00 pm	Refreshment and Awards at Full Sail Brewpub, Hood River

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### 7. Race Description (by Kerry Poe – Race Founder)

- 7.1. Laser Gorge Blowout is 20 miles of downwind white knuckle sailing through the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The race starts at Cascade Locks and finishes at Hood River. Swimming ability is mandatory! The race is a downwind start and will typically have 14-20 knot winds and flat water. Quickly the waves and wind increase the first 7 miles as you approach Wind Mountain. At Wind Mountain the river narrows and turns, creating some nice rollers to create havoc on Laser sailors. Between Wind Mountain and Viento State Park the river is surrounded by 2,000-foot high cliffs. The finish of the first leg of the race is at Viento State Park: a popular boardsailing and kite-boarding venue. The park has a beach protected from the wind where the sailors can load up on energy food and check their sanity before starting the most demanding part of the race. The sane Laser sailors will have the opportunity to pull out of the race at this point.

The second half of the race, sailors will see the wind increasing and the waves growing larger as you approach the most demanding part of the river, SWELL CITY! Yes, there is a reason that it is called Swell City. The Laser Sailor won't only be worrying about how to keep the bow from crashing into the back of the next swell, but will also have to try and avoid approximately 200 windsurfers wave jumping over you. Wind speeds can range from 25-40 knots and I won't attempt to judge the wave heights. A short distance past Swell City is another popular board site called the Fish Hatchery for the board sailors not as inclined to take on the big swells. Next is a welcome relief of dying wind (20-30 knots) as you sail past the Hood River event site and the finish under the Hood River Bridge. After the race sailors can limp their way to the Full Sail brewery for some well deserved refreshments.

8. Scoring
  - 8.1. Finishing times of the two legs of the race will be combined. Lowest combined finishing time wins. Competitors may sail with a radial or standard rig. Sailors changing rig size at Viento State Park will not be scored.
9. Private Support and Coach Boats
  - 9.1. Support boats shall register at the Race Office during the check-in period. Support boats should monitor channel 68. The RC may ask private support boats to assist competitors.
  - 9.2. Private support boats may only use the public dock in the Cascade Locks Marine Park Marina.
10. Transportation
  - 10.1. Sailors are encouraged to bring double trailers with a driver for transporting boats back from Hood River
11. Radio Communication
  - 11.1. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also includes, but is not limited to, mobile telephones and other 2-way communication devices.
  - 11.2. It is recommended that competitors carry a waterproof VHF radio in their inspection port in order to contact support boats in case of emergency.
12. Prizes
  - 12.1. Prizes will be awarded for the first three places overall.
  - 12.2. Additional prizes may be awarded at the organizer's discretion.
13. Safety
  - 13.1. All competitors shall wear, while on the water, other than brief periods while adding or removing clothing, an approved personal flotation device.
  - 13.2. Competitors may be subject to disqualification for interfering with commercial traffic. Boats violating USCG Inland Navigation Rules, Part B, as stated in the Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-591, 94 Stat. 3415, 33 U.S.C. 2001-2038) or boats that are given a 5 blast warning of 5 short sounds may be subject to protest by the Race Committee.
14. Risk, Disclaimer of Liability & Personal Conduct
  - 14.1. Competitors participate in the regatta at their own risk. See Rule 4 (Decision to Race). The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.
  - 14.2. The competitor will accept full responsibility for all his/her actions during any activity related to the event. This includes on-shore activities before, during, and after the regatta.
15. Additional Useful Information
  - 15.1. Additional useful information regarding accommodations, travel, boat charters and area recreation are available at [www.cgra.org](http://www.cgra.org)