

THE TRAVELLING RACE OFFICER

So You Want to Hit the
Road eh...



Sail Canada | Voile Canada
Canada's National Sailing Authority | L'Autorité nationale de la voile

I'm the King of the World!



Sail Canada RO Certification

- Club RO – the Backbone of the organization
- Regional RO
 - A Regional Race Officer (RRO) manages the ‘on the water’ activities of provincial, regional and national championships, utilizing a variety of race and course formats

Sail Canada RO Certification

- National RO
 - A National Race Officer (NRO) is capable of managing, as RO or PRO, the ‘on-the-water’ operations of national and international championships of above average size and complexity. The NRO is familiar with all racing formats. The NRO is familiar and has experience in every area of conducting a multi class regatta from participation as a member of the OA to leader of the race committee

How do you get travelling gigs?

- They will not land at your feet
- Networking
 - Sail Canada AGM
 - CORK
 - US Sailing Symposiums
 - Others
- Establish Contacts
 - Follow up

What Should You Expect?

- Expect little and you won't be disappointed
- Be realistic, you may not get the job you want
- Expect to pay your own travel costs
- Your accommodation may be a billet
- You may get lunch
- **What you want to get is an offer for a return visit!**

Plum or Potato?

- Everyone wants the Plum events
 - The Upside
 - Looks better on your CV
 - Contact with higher level officials
 - Higher level experience and mentoring
 - Nice Bling
 - The Downside
 - Harder to get
 - May have to spend more to get there
 - Less likely to get the job you want

Plum or Potato?

- The Potato
 - Should get the RO job
 - An event that “needs” your expertise
 - An opportunity to “raise the bar” for the host club
 - Usually closer to home
 - Star status
 - Opportunity to bring new people into RM
 - Need to know when to “move on”

So now that I'm here, what next?

- The Plum
 - Smile, dress nice, and say “Yes Sir!”
 - Sell yourself by doing the job you know you're capable of
 - Go to the venue as early as is reasonable
 - Find out when you need to be where
 - Connect with your team

So now that I'm here, what next?

- The Potato
 - You're probably the RO so yours is a lead role
 - Planning, Delivery, Follow Up
 - Set expectations early with the OA
 - Your goal is to leave the event better than you found it

So you scored the RO job!

- Try to get a list of your RC team with emails
- Make sure the right people are in the right jobs, as much as you can
- Find your equipment guy as soon as you get to the venue
- Send an information sheet to your team in advance

So you scored the RO job!

- The info sheet should have as much as you can give your team in advance of your briefing
- It's something they can print and put in their pocket
- Include a resource roster, schedule, and important points out of the SI
- Any other pertinent information

So you scored the RO job!

- The Team Briefing
 - Find a quiet location and allow ample time
 - Get to know the members of your team
 - Adjust positions if necessary
 - Set the tone
 - Establish your expectations
 - Go through the details
 - Get feedback

So you scored the RO job!

- Key elements for a successful team
 - Be open and approachable
 - Provide them with all the information they need
 - Empower them as much as you can
 - Delegate some of the leadership to those you know can handle it
 - **Above all, Make it Fun for them!**

So you scored the RO job!

- Follow Up
 - Daily team debriefings
 - What worked well
 - What didn't
 - Final follow up with the OA with recommendations to help them make the event better

Now pack your toothbrush
and get going!

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



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