

Sperry's NOOD series returns

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The largest and most storied sailboat racing tour in the United States will make its third stop of the 2010 season on the weekend of April 30-May 2 when the Sperry Top-Sider National Offshore One Design (NOOD) series returns to one of the top sailing cities in the country - Annapolis. More than 1,000 sailors, crewing over 200 boats will hit the waters of Chesapeake Bay for three days of racing to contend for the event's top prize - a trip to the British Virgin Islands to compete in the NOOD Championship regatta.

Throughout the three-day regatta, boats within each fleet will compete in a series of races, accumulating points based on final placement in each race. The boat finishing with the fewest total points will be declared the winner of its respective fleet. The Annapolis NOOD expects to host 17 different fleets.

After all races have been completed, officials will determine an overall winner based on the strongest finish in the most competitive fleet. The Annapolis representative will be invited to participate in the NOOD Championship regatta in the British Virgin Islands in November to compete aboard Sunsail 39s against the overall winners from each of the eight other stops in the Sperry Top-Sider NOOD regatta series.

Following Annapolis, the Sperry Top-Sider NOOD regatta series will sail on to its next stop, Seattle, Wash., on May 14-16. Additional venues for 2010 include St. Petersburg, Fla., San Diego, Calif., Detroit, Mich., Chicago, Ill., San Francisco, Calif., Marblehead, Mass., and Larchmont, N.Y.

For more information on the Sperry Top-Sider NOOD regatta series, please visit www.sailingworld.com.

Created by Sailing World in 1988, the NOODs attract nearly 2,000 boats and more than 30,000 competitors and spectators annually. Each event in the series features multiple days of sailboat racing for one-design models from 20 to 70 feet in length. In addition to local sailors, sailing's top stars - including America's Cup and Olympic champions - are well-represented at the NOODs. Competitive sailors rate the NOODs as the top national event in each region of the country