

New Date Formula for the Scotch Bonnet Light Race

May 2015 Tony Gambacurta, SBLR committee.

Old Formula

The previous formula was the Friday before Father's Day Sunday. I am not sure if this is the way it has always been. Father's day falls on the 15th to the 21st depending on the year. So the Friday before Father's day is on the 13th to the 19th.

Why the change?

In 2014, we decided to try the week after Father's day Sunday. We also asked skippers as part of a survey question on the registration application about the date they would prefer. The result was, we decided to bring the event closer to the summer solstice. Summer Solstice falls on June 20th or 21st. Occasionally on the 22nd.

New formula

Since the date of the solstice varies, we choose the Friday evening closest to the dividing line between the 20th and 21st, or, the 20th at midnight. With this new formula, the dates are now the 17th to the 23rd.

Simpler version

It turns out that this also happens to be one week before the last Friday in June. That should be easy to remember.

Here are the dates for the next 15 years:

2015 June 19
2016 June 17
2017 June 23
2018 June 22
2019 June 21
2020 June 19
2021 June 18
2022 June 17
2023 June 23
2024 June 21
2025 June 20
2026 June 19
2027 June 18
2028 June 23
2029 June 22
2030 June 21

The pattern is, it is the day of the month 1 less than the previous year. If it is a leap year it is 2 less than the previous year, the numbers wrap from 17 to 23.