



INSIDER'S GUIDE TO FOUNDERS DAY

The Founders Day Regatta has been hosted annually by The Gunnery since 1959. The regatta is coordinated, managed and run by The Gunnery's coaching staff and over 100 volunteers. It's a great event, and lots of fun, but is important to plan ahead for parking, weather and clothing. Here are some tips and practical details to make your day more enjoyable.

When: The regatta takes place on the Sunday of the first full weekend in May. Racing runs from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm with a break for lunch beginning around 12:30

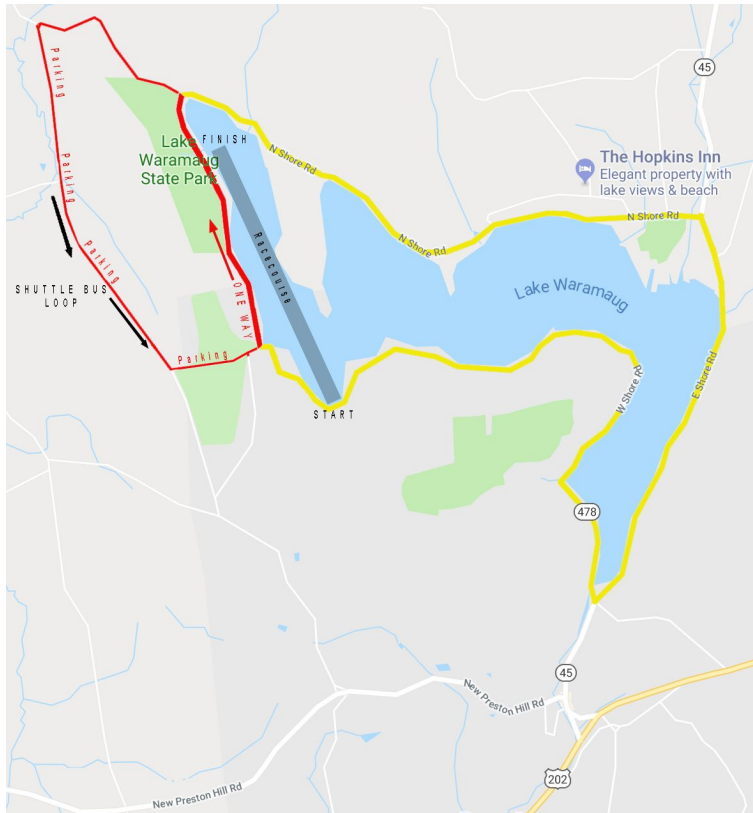
Where: Lake Waramaug State Park, CT. Enter "Lake Waramaug State Park, Kent, CT 06757" into your GPS for directions. The roads around the lake and through the state park are narrow so be sure to drive carefully. Founders Day draws approximately upwards of 3,000 athletes and spectators annually so please help us keep traffic to a minimum by following the signs. Please look at the maps and read on for more about traffic patterns and parking.

Parking: [The Shuttle Bus Loop is marked in red on the map below.](#) The best plan is to approach the park from the south on West Shore Road. West Shore will become Lake Waramaug Road as you enter the park. Once in the park you will see a wooded, grassy area to your right. At that point, parking is allowed along the right-hand side of the road, but is limited and fills quickly. If those spots are all taken your next option is to park in the State Park parking lot farther down the road on the left across from the beach. This lot fills up quickly too. The next option is to turn left onto Anderson Acres Road immediately after you exit the park and then left again onto Beardsley Road. Park along Beardsley Road, or turn left onto Golf Links road and park along there. There will be signs saying "No Parking" in some areas and local police will be present, helping to direct traffic. Shuttle busses will be stopping to pick up spectators and take them to the finish line drop-off area.

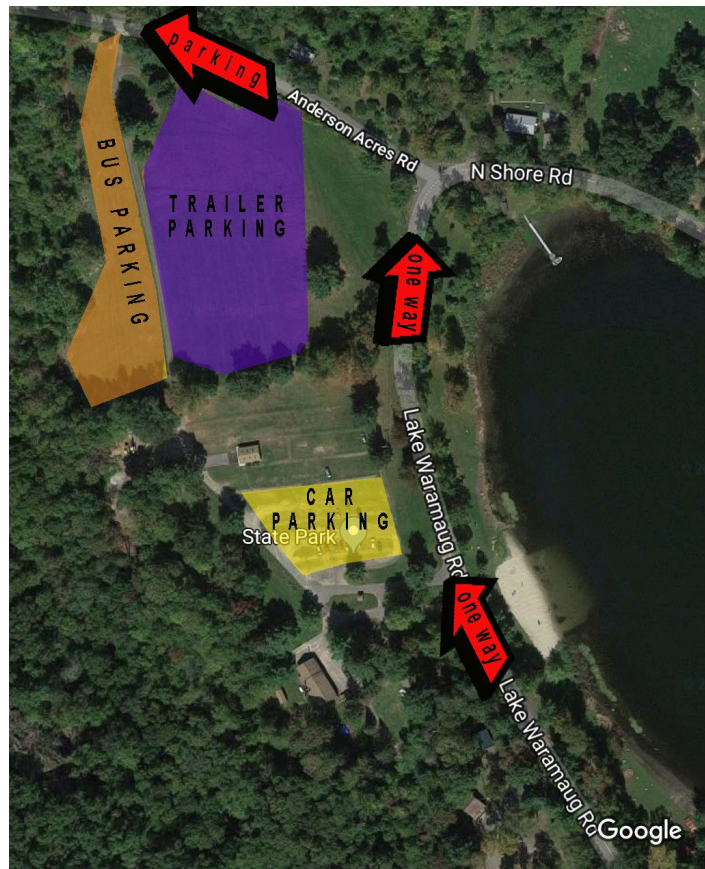
Spectator Parking Donation: In an effort to offset the costs associated with parking, traffic and policing the event, we ask that spectators please make a donation of \$10 per car. Each team will have a donation container at their tent. Your thoughtful donation is much appreciated and will help support the regatta as well as the the police cadet and explorer programs. Thank you!

Drop-off Zone: THIS AREA IS CLEARLY MARKED FOR DROP OFF ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT MOVE SIGNS OR ARGUE WITH CADETS OR STATE TROOPERS. No parking is permitted in areas which say "No Parking" or in the designated drop-off zone. Please help us maintain safe traffic patterns and do not park in these areas.

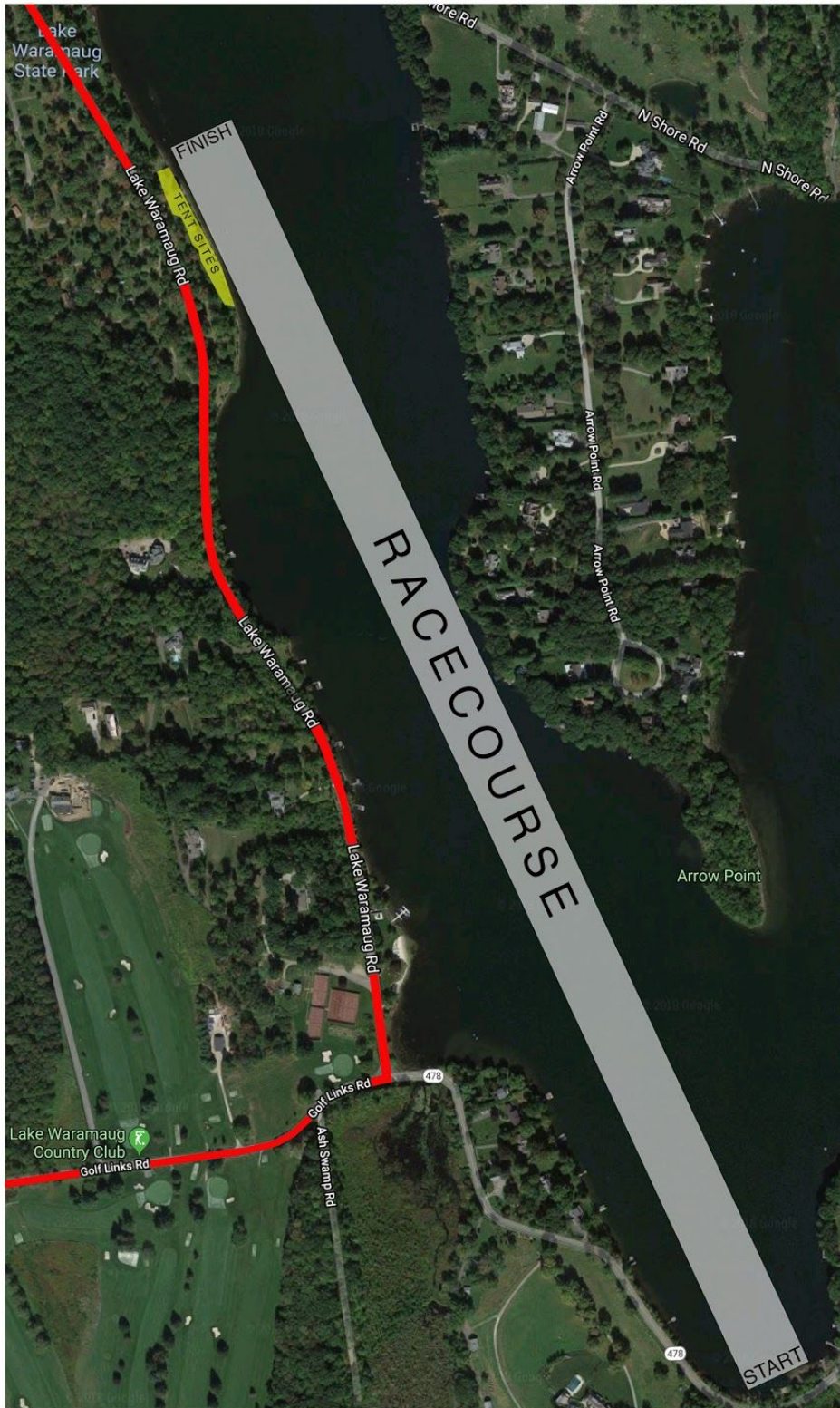
Spectator Shuttles: RED GUNNERY SPECTATOR SHUTTLES are for all visitors and will run in a loop from the parking areas to the regatta site from 9:00am to approximately 5:30pm. There will be designated stops along the loop running from the finish to the launch area and then onto Beardsley Road and Golf Links Road (look for signs).



Shuttle Bus Loop IS marked in red on the map above.



Car, bus and Trailer parking shown above. Left onto Anderson Acres Road for additional parking.



Racecourse, Golf Links Road and Lake Waramaug Road shown above. Traffic flows one way on Lake Waramaug Road towards the finish line.

Regatta site: The start line of the 1500 meter race course runs from the cove just south of Golf Links Road north to a little beyond half-way through the park. The buoyed course is six lanes wide with lane one closest to the park shoreline. The best view of racing is just south the finish line. The last 500 meters of the race are clearly visible and sprint begins as crews approach the grass of the park. The most exciting racing is usually in the afternoon finals, but it can be hard to find parking that late in the day—so come early and make a day of it!

Traffic in the park: Please note that the road from the finish line to the parking lots and park exit will get very congested with cars, bikes and pedestrians – please be careful!

Timing Tent:

Please stay out of the roped off area around the timing tent at the finish line – regatta officials need to have a clear view of the finish line for accurate timing of all events.

Gear/t-shirts for sale: The Gunnery and regatta sponsors will have tents set up near the finish line, trailer parking area, selling regatta t-shirts, decals and custom gear starting at 9:00am. All proceeds benefit the regatta. Cash, MasterCard, Visa and American Express are accepted.

Schedule/Results: Heats begin at 9:00am – there is a schedule including lane assignments for the morning heats in the Founders Day program. There is a short break at lunchtime and afternoon racing begins Shortly after 1:00 with novice events, followed by finals for the 5th through 1st boats. The last race of the day goes off the line around 5:20pm. Results of each race will be printed and posted on a board in front of the big white timing tent at the finish line. The awards ceremony will take place at the launch site, following the final event of the day – just follow the crowds down the road from the tent area. Medals are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all finals. The Founders Bowl goes to the winning boys’ team, the Elizabeth "Lou" O'Brien Cup goes to the winning girls’ team and the George H. Lorenz Memorial Trophy is awarded to the winner of the boys’ 1st boat final.

Food/Drink: There are no food vendors at the state park on regatta day. You may bring food and grills for cooking. Alcohol is not allowed on the premises.

Tents: Most teams set up a tent along the shoreline of the state park, mostly below, but also above the finish line. Teams may set up their tents on Saturday in their reserved site. Sites will be marked. Please do not place your tent inside the roped off area near the big white finish line tent – this area is reserved for regatta staff and your tent will be removed. **Please DO NOT bring hay for your tent site** (teams have done this in the past because of the wet grass/mud) – **The park will fine teams for any hay left on site.** Grills, tables, chairs, coolers, etc. are all fine. No alcohol or smoking allowed.

Gunnery Fans: all Gunnery fans are welcome at our parent/alumni tent next to the finish line.



What to bring/wear: The following are all recommended.

Boots: the best plan is to wear (or at least bring) wellies or something else that is waterproof – your feet will thank you! The team tent area is often wet and muddy especially at the end of the day.

Hat, Sunscreen and Bug Spray: All are worthwhile.

Clothing: Keep an eye on the weather, it can be unpredictable. Bring warm layers, a raincoat and/or an umbrella. The only shelter are the team tents.

Folding Chair: always a good idea.

Binoculars: The racecourse is approximately one mile long. Binoculars will help you see more of the race.

Bicycles: Bicycles are permitted on race day, but you must follow the one-way traffic pattern. Traffic on the road is one-way headed from the start line through the park to the finish line. For the safety of cyclists, pedestrians and shuttle bus drivers, please follow the traffic pattern. **Bicycles must be walked to the start line (against traffic).** As determined by the State Police, too many violations of the traffic pattern may result in the banning of bicycles for next year's regatta.

Dogs: Dogs are welcome but are not allowed on the parking shuttles. **Please keep them leashed and clean up after them!**

***Drones:** Drones are not permitted.*

Trash: There will be trash receptacles on site, but we ask that as you pack up for the day, if the receptacles are filled, please make sure to take your trash with you. The Gunnery will be fined for any trash left on the ground at the end of the day. This includes bags and loose trash left at the side of the road, in the parking lots, and trailer parking area. Please help us leave the park clean.

Cell service: Note that there is very limited (if any) cell service at the regatta site.

Bathrooms: There will be portalets on site – up on the hill between the car parking lot and the trailer parking lot, as well as along the road by the finish line and team tents. We recommend that you bring a roll of toilet paper just in case.

Trailer area: This area is for teams, coaches and equipment only. Team buses park behind the trailers. Please note that you may not park a car in this area, even if it is transporting athletes/coaches.