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2019 AHYC Ms. Race





A wonderful group of local female sailors enthusiastically gathered in force at the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club this past Saturday to take part in the 15th annual Ms. Race. This all women sailing regatta supports the magnificent charity, *180 Turning Lives Around*, that is dedicated to protecting, advocating and supporting victims of domestic violence and rape in our community. The race certainly lived up to this year's theme, *Sailing Strong for 15 Years*. The event is empowering for women who build their confidence with seamanship and teamwork and by racing on an all-women crew. This personal growth and achievement represents the transformation of women who have changed their lives with the help of *180*. The race brought together teams from three local yacht clubs and represented multiple generations of sailors.

Captains and their crews gathered at the yacht club to start the race day with a delicious breakfast spread from local sponsors and an instructive Captain's meeting. Back this year by popular demand, the seasoned J24 race captain, past AHYC Commodore and previous Ms. Race winner, Elaine Maher, coached the sailors with her illuminating sailing instructions peppered with stories from her wealth of racing experience. After the seminar, the teams cheerfully gathered to make their way to their boats and prepare for the race ahead. They were greeted by the crew of Latitude and Captain Brian Gillen on the launch pier with a requisite celebratory Blood Mary to kick off the race.

Out on the water, the ten teams racing in the event sailed up and down the Start/Finish line, in the 6 knot oscillating breeze, awaiting their turn for the Pursuit Race start. At exactly 1:00 pm the race began with Killian and followed by My Solution, CODA, Saint of Circumstance, Smokin' J, A Good Hair Day, Magic, Vici, Cygni, and Overlap. Friends, families and guests on spectator boats participated in the fun by tracking the sailboats around the course, snapping photos, shooting video and providing the women with shouts of encouragement and cheers.

The conditions on Course 2 had mostly gentle breezes and occasional light air and fog on the horizon that made maneuvering the sailboats a challenge in the downwind leg out to the G17 buoy at the end of Sandy Hook. A mother/daughter duet from Raritan Yacht Club shared top honors in this year's Ms. Race. Kim Sinatra on her J129, Smokin' J, with a crew of experienced sailors crossed the finish line first followed by last year's Ms. Race winner Ann Myer on the J-105 Magic. Third place honors went to Karen Harris and her team on her J120 Cygni in a close match and exhilarating 45 second showdown at the race finish with Overlap and Saint of Circumstance. Donna Syers on Overlap hosted 9 junior girls from the Toms River and Island Heights Yacht Clubs who were delighted to learn the ropes of sailing from the other 15 women crew members onboard.

Thanks to everyone who made the day a wonderful experience. Dick Muise along with Andrew Roberts and Sam Oncea did a phenomenal job handling the race committee boat and getting the race off to a nice start. Spectator boats captained by Jack Flannery and Bev Holcomb, Curtis Sawyer, Bob and Kay Curtiss, Susan Hillers and Tom Gardner hosted friends, family and guests who rooted for the competitors. A special thanks goes to the women who participated in this year's race as they were all victors in their own rights!

After the race the crews convened at the club for an awards ceremony featuring music by DJ Bill Sabanski and the presentation of the trophies officiated by Ms. Race Co-chair, Eileen Campbell, with support from Dick Muise. Thanks goes to Rear Commodore Chris Stone for greeting the Ms. Race

teams. The Sailors, their families, friends and other club members enjoyed light appetizers from our donors and the club's new Chef, Jonathan Jimenez. A cake featuring the Ms. Race logo and Sailing Strong was served along with delectable homemade cookies from committee member Jean Evertsen.

The early evening event featured chance and live auctions. It was a fabulous day at the AHYC, and best of all, the event added substantially to the amount we have raised this year for the *180* organization. Lynn Lucarelli, Director of Development for *180 Turning Lives Around*, supported the event fundraising with Development Manager Amanda Finn. Lynn shared her genuine thanks to the Ms. Race participants, sponsors and donors whose generosity has helped raise over \$15,000 for this year's event totaling over \$155,000 for the life of the event.

Sponsors this year include **Two River Community Bank** as our "Platinum Event Sponsor" along with premium and event sponsors including *AT&T, Construction Risk Partners, Koi Sushi and Hibachi Restaurant, Lockwood Boat Works, Miller & Gaudio, McQue Captains Agency, The Ocean is Female, Offshore Sailing School, Pettit, Tomaro Financial Group, Top Notch Audio, Withum, Zager Fuchs Agency* and also the *Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club* and *180 Turning Lives Around*. The complete roster of sponsors can be seen in the *Ms. Race Sponsor Guide* available at the yacht club and online. A special note about AHYC club member Denise Mumm who painted the splendid commissioned cover art for this year's sponsor guide. Her Ms. Race artwork is on display and for sale at the club with proceeds going to *180 Turning Lives Around*.

Thanks goes to this year's Ms. Race organizing committee members who worked energetically to make the race one of the best ever: Kay Curtiss, Jean Evertsen, Elaine Maher, Karen Harris, Beverly Holcomb, Janice Miller, Liz Moss, Helen Parker, LuAnn Rathemacher, Bill Sabanski, Emily Smith and Donna Syers. Thanks also goes to Sandy Levine who crewed on Cygni and did a photo and video shoot to document the Ms. Race and Karen Harris' story. We would like to give special thanks to Aleen and Steve Colitz for their vision, support and generosity for the Ms. Race and *180 Turning Lives Around* over the years that helped us reach this auspicious milestone, ***Sailing Strong for 15 Years***. We'd also like to extend a sincere thank you to all the club members who once again donated so very generously to this year's Ms. Race.

Marvelous photos of this year's Ms. Race are available from our club photographer Jeff Smith at <https://www.jeffsmithphoto.net/Organizations/AHYC/2019-AHYC-Ms-Race/>. Special thanks also goes to Tom Baker for the action packed drone photos of this year's race for your viewing pleasure [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our 15 years hosting the Ms. Race at the AHYC!

AHYC Ms. Race Co-Chairs

Diane Kropfl and Eileen Campbell

**Registrants For
2019 Ms. Race
Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club
August 17, 2019
10 people have registered for this event**

	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Sail#</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Fleet / Division</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Date Entered</u>
1.	Donna Syers	AhYC	52323	Overlap	/	Beneteau / First 40.7	51	08/15/2019

[Non-Spin](#)

	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Sail#</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Fleet / Division</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Date Entered</u>
1.	Karen Harris	AHYC	46650	Cygni	Non-Spin /	J Boat / J120	51	08/05/2019
2.	Paula Del Coro	AHYC	10	Vici	Non-Spin /	Sabre / 402	81	08/10/2019
3.	Ann Myer	Raritan Yacht Club and Storm Trysail Club	194	Magic	Non-Spin /	J-Boats / J-105	93	08/05/2019
4.	Kim Sinatra	Raritan Yacht Club	291	Smokin' J	Non-Spin /	J Boat / J29	111	07/16/2019
5.	Diane Kropfl	AHYC	114	Saint of Circustance	Non-Spin /	Tartan / 3700	117	08/07/2019
6.	Eileen Campbell	Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club	3371	CODA	Non-Spin /	C&C / 33	153	07/11/2019
7.	Elaine Maher	AHYC	4800	A Good Hair Day	Non-Spin /	Johnstone / J24	171	08/08/2019
8.	Stephanie Biles	Keyport Yacht Club	60734	My Solution	Non-Spin /	Pearson / P28	195	06/30/2019
9.	R Reibrich	AHYC	339	Killian	Non-Spin /	Sabre / 28	198	08/06/2019



CODA - Skippered by Eileen Campbell – AHYC Member



MY SOLUTION – Skippered by Stephanie Blies – Member Keyport Yacht Club



In foreground, “A GOOD HAIR DAY” Skippered by Elaine Haher, AHYC Member.

In background, “OVERLAP” skippered by Donna Syers, AHYC Member.



Elaine Ha her, AHYC Member skippering “A GOOD HAIR DAY”.



Spectator Boat – WindSong skippered by Bob Curtiss with other AHYC members aboard.



SMOKIN'J – Skippered by Kim Sanatra – Member Raritan Yacht Club

2019 Miss Race Winner



KILLIAN skippered by Ann Schoeller, AHYC Member and crew.



- **Saint of Circumstance – Skippered by Diane Kropfl, AHYC Member**



MAGIC skippered by Ann Myer, Member Raritan YC



Foreground KILLIAN. Midground SMOKIN'J, Farground A GOOD HAIR DAY



Spectator Boat – FROG'S LEAP – Operated by Edwin Muth, AHYC Member



Spectator Boat – HAWKMOON – Operated by Tommy Gardner, AHYC Member



Boat on Left - MY SOLUTION – Skippered by Stephanie Blies – Member Keyport Yacht Club
Center Boat – SAINT OF CIRCUMSTANCE – Skippered by Diane Kropfl, AHYC Member
Boat of Right – KILLIAN – Skippered by Ann Schoeller, AHYC Member



CYGNI Skippered by Karen Harris, Member AHYC



MORE - CYGNI Skippered by Karen Harris, Member AHYC



VICI Sailed by Paula Del Coro - AHYC Member & P/C



VICI Sailed by Paula Del Coro - AHYC Member & P/C



OVERLAP – Skippered by Donna Syers, Member AHYC

Overlap hosted 9 junior girls from the Toms River and Island Heights Yacht Clubs who were delighted to learn the ropes of sailing from the other 15 women crew members onboard.





In foreground, "A GOOD HAIR DAY" Skippered by Elaine Maher, AHYC Member.

In background, "CYGNI" Skippered by Karen Harris, Member AHYC.



Sailboat on Left – “VICI” Sailed by Paula Del Coro - AHYC Member & P/C.
Sailboat in Middle – “CYGNI” Skippered by Karen Harris, AHYC Member.
Sailboat on Right – “SAINT OF CIRCUMSTANCE” – Skippered by Diane Kropfl, AHYC Member.
Power Boat on Right – Race Committee Boat. All sailboats are nearing the finish line in a fog.



Crew and Skipper of "Overlap"



Lynn Lucarelli, Director of Development for “180 Turning Lives Around” presenting the organization’s importance to the community. She thanked all the Ms. Racers for their unique fund-raising effort and all the past contributions the Ms. Race has made to the 180. She also discussed the positive impact that those funds have had on the organization.



Attendees at the Awards Ceremony held hours after the Ms. Race.



AHYC member Richard Muise Announcing the finishing order of all 10 competing boats.



Ann Myer (left) Member of Raritan Yacht Club who skippered MAGIC to second place and Lynn Lucarelli (right), Director of Development for "180 Turning Lives Around" sharing the moment.



Smokin'J's skipper, Kim Sinatra awarded the AHYC 1st Place Trophy for winning the 2019 Ms. Race. Kim is surrounded by her crew. On the far left is Lynn Lucarelli, Director of Development for 180 Turning Lives Around, representing the charity which benefits from the Race.



Smokin'J's skipper, Kim Sinatra is holding the North Jersey Yacht Racing Association (NJYRA) Womens Championship 1st Place Trophy (i.e., large bowl) and the 2019 Ms. Race 1st Place framed certificate authenticating the win. Kim is flanked by her crew.



Crew and Skipper from KILLIAN



Crew and Skipper from VICI

Article from WINDCHECK

Sailing Strong: The 15th Annual Ms. Race is August 17

[Chris Szepessy](#)

[June 2019](#) • [Racing](#)

On Saturday, August 17, the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club in Atlantic Highlands, NJ will host the 2019 [Ms. Race](#), an annual charity sailboat race designed to benefit and raise awareness for 180 Turning Lives Around (180nj.org). 180 is a Monmouth County-based private, non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in the community. All proceeds from the Ms. Race as well as other related special events throughout the year are donated to this incredible organization.



The winners of the 2018 Ms. Race, the crew of Ann Myer's J/105 Magic (Raritan Yacht Club), are looking forward to this year's event. © Ivy Dash/Dash Photography

“We are commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Ms. Race this year with the theme ‘Sailing Strong for 15 Years,’” said event co-chair Diane Kropfl. “Participation in the Ms. Race is comprised entirely of female skippers and crews, and it is the only women’s race event in the Sandy

Hook/Raritan Bay region. It promises to be the largest event to date with a fundraising goal of \$20,000. Over the life of the event, the Ms. Race has raised over \$140,000 for the 180 organization.”

Inaugurated in 2005 by a group of female sailors who regularly participate and crew in the Atlantic Highlands YC Wednesday night race series, the Ms. Race is sponsored by AT&T and supported by AHYC members and the race committee. With participants from surrounding yacht clubs, the expected turnout includes racing and cruising vessels ranging from 24 to 45 feet in length. Race organizers plan a full schedule of events for the day, starting with a captain’s meeting at breakfast and culminating in a celebration that evening with an awards reception.

“The Ms. Race invites all women sailors with their boats and crews, to participate in this wonderful cause,” said co-chair Eileen Campbell. “With the goal to expand participation of women and girls of all ages, the Ms. Race committee partners with the Atlantic Highlands Sailing Education Program (AHSEP), to further promote participation of young women in sailing. The event has a pursuit race format, in which slower and typically smaller boats start the race first followed by faster and normally larger boats, and the first boat that crosses the finish line wins the race.”



Fresh off crewing in the Newport Bermuda Race, Donna Syers helmed her Beneteau First 40.7 Overlap (Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club) to a third place finish with a crew of 15 including two 4-year-old girls. © aeSchoeller

For more information about this year’s race as well as registration information, please contact the Ms. Race planning committee at ahyc.ms.race@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/MsRaceAHYC. To learn more about Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club, log onto ahyc.net. ■

MORE!!

Click [here](#) for more pictures and also videos taken from a drone during the race by Tom Baker.

There are pictures of the sailboats rounding each mark and also the spectator boats.

Be sure to click on the boat pictures to activate the video.