



Saint of Circumstance placed first in last year's non-spinnaker division. Photo courtesy of Jeff Smith

Women Wind Warriors Take on Annual the Ms. Race

BY LORI DRAZ

Saturday, Aug. 19 marks the 19th annual Ms. Race being held at the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club.

The all-female skippers and crews in this sailing event compete to win while raising funds to benefit 180 Turning Lives Around, the Monmouth County based private nonprofit dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in the community. To date, the Ms. Race has raised more than \$230,000 in donations for 180.

This year's theme is Women Wind Warriors, with boats of different sizes participating in this pursuit race where each boat will have its own start based on its PHRF-MA rating. Smaller boats start first, followed by bigger, faster boats. The first boat across the finish line is the winner.

This year's race will again have a Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker division. The race is open to all women sailors, including new participants. Spectators, donors and volunteers are also welcome.

The Ms. Race also partners with the Atlantic Highlands Sailing Education Program to include young women as crew members on participating boats. Race Co-chair Emily Smith said, "Sailing builds confidence and self-reliance, and the goal of increasing participation of AHSEP students in the Ms. Race is an ongoing and rewarding endeavor."

For more information about the race, registration forms and to see breathtaking photos from past races, visit ahyc.net or email the race committee at ahyc.ms.race@gmail.com.

The NYJRA New Jersey Yacht Racing Association recognizes the Ms. Race as the best all-women's race in New Jersey and awards their woman's racing trophy to the winner of the Ms. Race.