

## The 2023 Ms. Race A Very Good Day on the Water

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the **19th Annual Ms. Race**, for woman sailors only, was held to benefit **180 Turning Lives Around**. 180 is non-profit New Jersey organization dedicated to protecting victims of domestic abuse and to help them rebuild their lives. This year's theme was 'Women Wind Warriors', and our sailors out there in Sandy Hook Bay proved themselves to be not only Woman Wind Warriors but determined, dedicated competitors in an event that hones sailing skills and builds self-confidence on the water.

This year, there were 13 racers from the New Jersey Bayshore area and Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club members, in two classes, Traditional Non-Spinnaker and Spinnaker:

Boat	Captain	Yacht Club
------	---------	------------

### Traditional Non-Spinnaker Cruising

Mad Dogs	Jen Begley	Storm Trysail
Witch of the Wave	Stephanie Biles	Keyport Yacht Club
VICI	Paula Del Coro	Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club
Eduam	Laura Dunn Grodewald	Raritan Yacht Club Metedeconk River Yacht Club
Saint of Circumstance	Diane Kropfl Helm Barbara Nevius	Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club
Kate	Nitzan Levy	Liberty Yacht Club
Celtic Star	Sue Mulholland	Keyport Yacht Club
Confiscated	Laura Oncea	Shrewsbury River Yacht Club
Nauti Lass	Terry Sculac & Kathy Puschaver	Keyport Yacht Club
Mystique	Katelyn Waters	Monmouth Boat Club

### Spinnaker

A Better Hair Day	Elaine Hahe	Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club
Aviato	Karen Harris	Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club
Magic	Kim Sinatra	Raritan Yacht Club

Before the race, Elaine Hahe, past AHYC Commodore, seasoned J/24 race captain and now four-time winner of the Ms. Race, once again shared her instructive racing tips at the race morning Captain's meeting, along with details of the Pursuit Race start times, race courses, marks, tides and weather conditions. Racing confidence was building.

Out on the water, the Ms. Race teams, each with their own start time for the race, did some last minute maneuvering. Brian Gillen officiated the race on Hawk Moon. Brian and his crew got the race off to a good start at 2:00 pm for the 7.0 nautical miles course around the Bay. Team confidence was visibly in place. Friends, families and guests gathered on spectator boats to monitor the race's progress, shoot photos and cheer on the racers. Ted Gassman on Dog House was the Press Boat, and Rear and Past Commodore Jack Flannery hosted Allison

Scadutto, Ocean is Female Platinum Sponsor, on Lucky Girl. Rick Kolber, 180 board member and also a Platinum Sponsor, was out on the water on his Brig two-masted sailboat hosting guests watching and photographing the race.

The beautiful sunny day started with westerly winds at 12 to 14 knots gusting to 17. A pretty fine day for a race. With the race off to a good start, the Women Wind Warriors steadily made their way around the course with a record 13 sailboats!

Following the race, exuberant captains and crew made their way to the AHYC clubhouse for the Awards Ceremony and party, featuring music by DJ Bill Sabanski, a Silent Auction, a Chance Auction, and a 50/50. The captains and crews, along with families and friends enjoyed light appetizers and desserts, along with a Ms. Race themed cake. Presentations were officiated by Ms. Race Co-chairs Emily Smith and Diane Kropfl and Race Committee Co-chair Karen Harris, joined by 180 Special Events Community Engagement Coordinator Caitlin Tamayo to present the Ms. Race trophies. Thanks goes to AHYC Vice Commodore Joe Patsco for recognizing this remarkable club racing event and its support for 180.

The full listing of winning boats, skippers and home yacht clubs:

#### **Traditional Non-Spinnaker Cruising Division**

1	Saint of Circumstance	Diane Kropfl	Tartan 3700	AHYC
2	Eduam	Laura Dunn Grodewald	C&C MK V	RYC
3	Celtic Star	Sue Mulholland	Sabre S34	KYC

#### **Spinnaker Division**

1	A Better Hair Day	Elaine Haher	J24	AHYC
2	Aviato	Karen Harris	J109	AHYC

The early evening event also featured a fundraiser with generous donations from sponsors and club members. A Better Hair Day won *Vote for Your Favorite Sailboat* with the most donations. It was a wonderful day at AHYC, and best of all, the event added substantially to the amount we have raised this year for 180 with sponsors and donors generously donating over \$20,000 for this year's event to date. Fundraising from the Ms. Race for 180 is above \$250,000 in funds raised over the 19 year history of the race.

Sponsors this year included OisF The Ocean is Female as a Platinum Event Sponsor for the fourth year in a row. Other Platinum level sponsors this year include:

- Stillwell-Hansen and Carol Stillwell, 180 Board Member
- Rick Kolber, 180 Board Member
- Aleen and Stephen Colitz (long time supporters)
- Marion Bartholomew (long time supporter)

Premium and event sponsors included Club members Janice Miller & Frank Gaudio, the Fortiers and Atlantic Highlands Sailing Education Program, The Sciortino Family, Laura & Sam Oncea, Marion Atwater & Don Smith along with returning sponsors, Lockwood Boat Works, Peapack Private Wealth Management and new sponsors this year, Law Office of Wendy

Crowther, Leonardo Jewelers, HFA Certified Public Accountants and Martin-Ottaway. A special thanks to Lusty Lobster and Chiafullo's for their donation of delicious appetizers. All our donors are acknowledged along with the complete roster of sponsors in the Ms. Race Sponsor Guide available at the yacht club and online at [2023 Ms. Race Sponsor Guide](#). Thanks goes to those who participated in the Ms. Race fundraisers at the event. The sale of Sailor Tay's Tote & Wine Bags were also a big hit!

Thank you to this year's Ms. Race organizing committee members who enthusiastically worked to create another great Ms. Race Event: Jean Evertsen, Elaine Maher, Karen Harris, Janice Miller, LuAnn Rathemacher, Barbara Nevius, Marion Bartholomew, Bill Sabanski, and Linda Goldberg along with 180 members, Caitlin Tamayo, Randi Zamkotowicz and Amanda Finn. We would 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. In the hectic days leading up to the race, we may have missed some folks who contributed. If so, please let us know so we can ensure your donation is accounted for and we can recognize you appropriately.

Photographers for this year's Ms. Race and Awards Ceremony included Rob Kneller, Jeff Smith and Ivy Dash. These wonderful photographers captured the heart and soul of this year's Women Wind Warriors race. Visit the Ms Race at [ahyc.net](http://ahyc.net) for articles and photos and view photos from Jeff [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2023 Ms. Race, Women Wind Warriors. It's more than a sailboat race, it is about confidence and self-reliance.

***As a reminder, It's not too late to donate to the Ms. Race and 180 Turning Lives Around!*** Click here: [2023 Ms. Race Turning Lives Around Donation Link](#).

We'll see you on the water next year!

Diane Kropfl and Emily Smith  
AHYC Ms. Race Co-Chairs