



Ms. Race Press Release
Date: August 19, 2023
Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club
Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Women Wind Warriors Make Waves for Charity

“There comes a time when women know they need to step into the light and create their own opportunities. Such a time came in the summer of 2005, when there were enough of us females in the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club to inspire the club to hold an all-female sailing race in August of that year. One of our goals was to raise money for charity (over the years we have raised tens of thousands of dollars - over a quarter of a million dollars as of 2023). Another was to prove to every woman who joined us that we could get out there on the water and do this. We called it our ‘Ms. Race’.” (*Marion Bartholomew, Captain of My Time, 2005*)

This August the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club was proud to host the 19th annual Ms. Race, for woman sailors only, on August 19th, for the benefit of the non-profit New Jersey organization 180 Turning Lives Around, dedicated to protecting victims of domestic abuse and to help them rebuild their lives.

This year’s theme was ‘Women Wind Warriors’ and the sailors in Sandy Hook Bay proved themselves to be not only Women Wind Warriors but determined, dedicated competitors in an event that hones sailing skills and builds self confidence on the water. There were 13 boats this year, 10 in the non-spinnaker division, 3 in the spinnaker division, with over 70 women sailors from around the Bayshore area.

Before the race, Elaine Haher, past AHYC Commodore, seasoned J/24 race captain and now four-time winner of the Ms. Race, shared instructive racing tips at the race morning Captain’s meeting, along with details of the Pursuit Race start times, racecourse, marks, tides and weather conditions.

The officiating crew got the race off to a good start on time for the 7.0 nautical miles course around the Bay. Friends, families and guests gathered on spectator boats to monitor the race’s progress, shoot photos and cheer on the racers.

The day started with westerly winds at 12 to 14 knots gusting to 17 beneath a sunny sky, making a fine day for racing.

When it was over, it was exuberant captains and crew who made their way to the ‘AHYC’ clubhouse in the Municipal Yacht Harbor for the Awards Ceremony and party.

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. Skipper Diane Kropfl with Barbara Nevius, helmswoman, and their crew on Saint of Circumstance won first place in the non-spinnaker division and Elaine Maher and her crew on A Better Hair Day won first place in the spinnaker division.

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.

Sponsors and donors generously donated more than \$20,000 for this year’s event to date, with time still open to accept donations on behalf of the Ms. Race. In its 19 years of supporting 180 Turning Lives Around, the Ms. Race has raised and donated more than \$ 250,000 to the non-profit organization.

Photographers for this year’s Ms. Race and Awards Ceremony included Rob Kneller, Jeff Smith and Ivy Dash. Visit Ms. Race at ahyc.net for articles and photos and view photos from the photography staff.

“Thanks to all, this is more than a sailboat race, it is about confidence and self-reliance“, said co-chairs Kropfl and Smith. Those wishing to donate to 180 Turning Lives Around can visit the [2023 Ms. Race Turning Lives Around Donation Link](#) by clicking on Ms. Race at ahyc.net.



The 2023 Ms. Race

Photos by Jeff Smith

www.JeffSmithPhoto.Net

<https://www.jeffsmithphoto.net/Organizations/AHYC/2023-Annual-Ms-Race/n-mshWx6/>

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2023 Ms Race participants at the Awards Ceremony

The 2023 Ms. Race

Ms. Race Cruising Division

1st Place - Saint of Circumstance

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Saint of Circumstance takes first place in the Ms. Race Cruising Division for the second year in a row

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Skipper Diane Kropfl and Helmswoman Barbara Nevius with the crew of Saint of Circumstance accepting trophy from Caitlin Tamayo, 180 Turning Lives Around

The 2023 Ms. Race

Ms. Race Spinnaker Division

1st Place - A Better Hair Day

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Past AHYC Commodore, Elaine Haher, and her crew race the J/24 A Better Hair Day to a first place finish in the Spinnaker Division

JSP_0036.jpg



Skipper Elaine Haher (second from left) with the crew of A Better Hair Day at the Awards Ceremony celebrating 1st Place in the Spinnaker Division

The 2023 Ms. Race

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Karen Harris on the J109 Aviato heads toward the finish line to place second in the Spinnaker Division

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Laura Dunn Grodewald races Eduam to a 2nd place finish in the Cruising Division

The 2023 Ms. Race

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Past Commodore Paula del Coro on her Sabre/402 VICI catches up with the J/27 Mystique

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Aviato and VICI in a drag race around the Ms Race course