

WindCheck



Sailing the Northeast

50 Years of Saving the Sound
Rockin' the Vineyard Race
A Tricky Ida

publisher's log

The Ms. Race Rocks!

We don't always cover sailing events after they have happened. We tend to prefer to provide previews, to help organizers boost the number of boats on the line. There are many outlets that report on the results, and sometimes we do too if there is enough "color" that we think is important to you. But there is one event we cover every year with great pleasure. While much is being said about creating opportunities for women in the sport, including by *WindCheck* with Coop's monthly Women on the Water interviews (like his amazing conversation with Tracy Edwards MBE on page 40!) among other things, there is one group that has led the way without much fanfare from the general sailing media for four decades, on and off.

Hosted by our friends at Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, The Ms. Race is a charity pursuit race for all-women crews, held annually in August to benefit 180 Turning Lives Around, a Monmouth County non-profit organization with a mission to end domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. This year was the 18th running of the event, which began in the 1980s as a race sponsored by and for women. All proceeds from The Ms. Race (\$230,000 to date!) are donated to 180.

The Ms. Race has experienced increased popularity and heightened presence since its inception, with record-breaking participation and fundraising year on year. But what's so impressive about this event – and sort of unfortunately unusual – is that these are not would-be Olympians, collegiate racers or professional yachswomen. They are just "regular" folks who sail Wednesday night series and other local events and want to get other women out on the water without the barking dynamic often associated with sailing with men. The Ms. Race is also gives sailors in AHYC's junior program an early introduction to big boat racing. A few years ago, we ran a photo of a Ms. Race boat with about a dozen smiling young ladies on the rail!

As you will read on page 14, this event had another record showing of accomplished women racers from five New Jersey Bayshore yacht clubs who paid tribute to the life and legacy of Eileen Campbell. Having participated in every Ms. Race since its inception, Eileen served as co-chair of the event for the past several years.

I am quite sure Eileen was smiling this year as The Ms. Race added a Spinnaker class for the first time.

See you on the water,



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10 Ida Lewis Distance Race a Tricky One

With Mother Nature serving up breeze ranging from 8-10 knots at the start to high teens and twenties near Block Island to almost none close to the finish, this year's "Ida" was among the trickiest yet. Barby MacGowan reports, with Steve Cloutier's always excellent images.

14 2022 Ms. Race Women Turn Out in Force

This year's edition of Atlantic Highland Yacht Club's pursuit race for all-women crews honored the memory of Eileen Campbell, who sailed every Ms. Race since its inception and was a longtime co-chair of this fundraiser for 180 Turning Lives Around. Co-chairs Diane Kropfl and Emily Smith share the story, and Jeff Smith provides great photos.

25 Rockin' the Vineyard Race

If you read these pages regularly you're familiar with Coop's Kapers, an ongoing series in which our intrepid Contributing Editor and his innumerable mates find ways for young sailors to have unforgettable experiences on the water. In this Kaper, first-time Vineyard Racers Rachel Tagen and Austin Vance recount a light air race aboard the Corsair 37 *Stingray* that was nevertheless not without its tense moments.

30 The Clean Water Act: 50 Years of Cleaning Up the Sound

Half a century ago this month, Congress enacted a law with a goal of eliminating the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by 1985. That same year saw the launch of an organization with a mission to do the vital hard work enabled by the new landmark environmental legislation. Our friends at Save the Sound are doing amazing work, and you can get involved!

39 Women on the Water: Tracy Edwards MBE

During a recent visit to Newport by the yacht *Maiden*, which an all-women crew sailed to second place overall in the 1989/90 Whitbread Round the World Race, Joe Cooper sat down with the skipper, who also founded The Maiden Factor, a global ambassador for the empowerment of girls through education. Even if you've seen the superb *Maiden* documentary film, some things Tracy told Coop may surprise you.



On the cover: Allen Clark shot this terrific photo of James Phyfe's J/44 Digger (Cranston, RI) flying downwind in the Ida Lewis Distance Race presented by Bluenose Yacht Sales. Competing in the Youth Challenge division, Digger placed second in the PHRF Coronet class. © Allen Clark/PhotoBoat.com

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2022 Ms. Race Women Turn Out in Force

By Diane Kropfl & Emily Smith,
Ms. Race Co-chairs

The Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club (AHYC) in Atlantic Highlands, NJ hosted the 18th Annual Ms. Race on Saturday, August 20 on Sandy Hook Bay under clear skies and a favorable breeze. A record showing of accomplished women racers from five New Jersey Bayshore yacht clubs raised their sails to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Eileen Campbell, a woman who had participated in every Ms. Race since its inception and for the past several years served as co-chair of the event. Proceeds from the event benefited 180 Turning Lives Around, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting victims of domestic abuse.

This year's Ms. Race featured a Saturday morning captain's meeting and race primer with light breakfast and refreshments at the AHYC. 2022 marked a new era for the race with a spinnaker division being added to the traditional non-spinnaker event. Elaine Haher, AHYC Past Commodore, seasoned J/24 race captain and three-time Ms. Race winner, shared her instructive racing tips along with details of the pursuit start times, courses, marks, tides and weather conditions.



The crew of Ann Myer's J/105 Magic on their way to victory in the new Spinnaker division © Jeff Smith/JeffSmithPhoto.net

Out on the water, twelve teams sailed around the start/finish line in the moderate SSE breeze, awaiting their turn for the Pursuit race start. The AHYC Race Committee set the race off to an upwind start with the selection of a 7.0 nautical mile course, the longest of the three potential choices. All boats sailed the same course, their start times determined by their PHRF rating. At exactly 2:00 pm the race was underway with *Eduam* crossing the starting line first, followed in succession by *A Better Hair*

Day, *Celtic Star*, *Confiscated*, *Witch of the Wave*, *Coda*, *Saint of Circumstance*, *Smoking J*, *Lady P*, *Magic*, *Vici* and then *Aviato*.

It was a perfect day for a race. Conditions on Course 1 had 10 knots of breeze at the start, climbing to 14 throughout the race and gusting to 18. As the boats made their way round the course, friends, families, and guests gathered on spectator boats to monitor their progress, shoot photos and cheer on the racers. It made for exciting viewing with both the Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker boats battling it out in the stiffening breeze.

Top honors in this year's



The crew of Coda, with Jodi Dash at the helm, raced in memory of Eileen in the 2022 Eileen Campbell Ms. Race. © Jeff Smith/JeffSmithPhoto.net

Ms. Race for the traditional Non-Spinnaker division went to Diane Kropfl's Tartan 3700 Saint of Circumstance, representing AHYC with a crew of experienced sailors including Barbara Nevius at the helm. *Celtic Star*, a Sabre 34 captained by Sue Mulholland from the Keyport Yacht Club took second, and Laura Oncea on *Confiscated* from the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club finished third. Paula Del Coro, AHYC Past Commodore, finished fourth, just 12 seconds behind *Confiscated*, attesting to the competitive racing that the experienced crews offer in the Ms. Race.

The winner of the new Spinnaker division was a previous Ms. Race winner, Ann Myer, representing the Raritan Yacht Club and Storm Trysail Club on her J/105 *Magic*. Ann and her crew always show their enthusiasm, dressing in their traditional pink outfits and headwear. *Magic* and *Aviato*, skippered by AHYC Race Committee co-chair Karen Harris, crossed the finish line in an exciting photo finish with *Magic* crossing the line just one second ahead of *Aviato*. They were followed by Elaine Haher's J/24 *A Better Hair Day* (AHYC).



Aviato flies downwind under the keen guidance of skipper Karen Harris, co-chair of the AHYC Race Committee.

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Ms. Race Captains and crews at the awards ceremony © Jeff Smith/JeffSmithPhoto.net

Following the race, captains and crew held impromptu celebrations on their boats, then made their way to the awards ceremony at the club. The post-race party included a light buffet, DJ entertainment and great comradeship. AHYC Commodore Frank Allsman recognized this remarkable club event and its support for 180.

This year marked the first time the event featured multiple

Platinum Sponsors including The Ocean is Female (OisF) and Peapack Private Wealth Management. Trophies were awarded by Anna Diaz-White, 180 Executive Director, who praised the Ms. Race for their outstanding support. The Ms. Race raised over \$30,000 for 180 this year, bringing total donations to \$230,000 over the event's 18-year history.

Anna reached out to the Ms. Race Committee to congratulate them on another successful race. "I had so much fun and enjoyed seeing all the amazing women sailors supporting each other, dancing, and cheering and celebrating each other! This is what the Ms. Race is all about. Women being supportive of women; it was and is a moving and powerful thing to see." She added, "Eileen's spirit of strength, warmth and kindness truly lives on – what a wonderful legacy."

For additional information on the Ms. Race, visit ahyc.net. Info about 180 Turning Lives Around is available at 180nj.org. ■



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