

2022 Ms. Race Welcomes Record Number of Competitors

BY LORI DRAZ

The Ms. Race women sailors came together for the 18th annual Ms. Race on Aug. 20, which was also named the 2022 Eileen Campbell Memorial Race. Campbell, who lost her battle with cancer earlier this year, was one of the leading forces in Ms. Race history. The race once again was a fundraiser for 180 Turning Lives Around, which works to protect victims of domestic abuse.

It was a glorious Saturday at the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club with blue skies, scattered clouds and favorable winds. A record 12 teams met to compete as friends and families gathered on spectator boats to watch the race. The day began with Elaine Haher's instructive racing tips, followed by the Captain's Meeting.

This year was the first time that both Traditional Non-Spinnaker and Spinnaker sailboats participated in the race. The Pursuit race began at 2 pm. The conditions on Course 1 started at 10 knots and made the way up to a steady 14 knots gusting to 18. With the race off to a good upwind start, the racers made their way around the course starting with AHYC Olympic Circle mark JF in Sandy Hook Bay, followed by Highlands Buoy 2, New Mark by Horseshoe Cove, across Sandy Hook Bay to Olympic Circle mark JA, toward land to the Leonardo mark and then back to Start/Finish at the center of the Olympic Circle. Top honors in this year's Ms. Race for the Traditional Non-Spinnaker division went to skipper Diane Kropfl and the experienced crew of Saint of Circumstance, which also won Vote for Your Favorite Sailboat. The winner of the new Spinnaker division was third time winner Ann Myer, a member of the Raritan Yacht Club and Storm Trysail Club, on her J/105 Magic. Magic and Aviato crossed the finish line in an exciting photo finish with Magic just one second ahead.

Following the inspirational race, captains and crew made their way to the club for an awards ceremony officiated by Ms. Race Co-chair



Skippers and crews of the 2022 Ms. Race. Photos courtesy of Jeff Smith Photography

Emily Smith. There were also presentations from founding mother of 180 Janice Miller and 180 Executive Director Anna Diaz-White. There were tasty appetizers by Club Chef Thomas Drake, delicious shrimp platters from Lusty Lobster and pasta platters from Chiafullo's Navesink, plus Jean Evertsen's scrumptious homemade cookies and a Ms. Race-themed cake. Music was provided by DJ Bill Sabanski.

Thanks to the donors, sponsors and racers, the race broke records, raising more than \$25,000 which brings the race's history of donations to more than \$225,000.

Platinum sponsors included The Ocean is Female; Eileen's loving husband, David Campbell; her proud brother, David Rodriguez and family members Liz, Anna, Eleanor; and her mother, Molly.

The race committee invites you to see additional photos, learn more and make a donation in Eileen's honor if you wish by visiting ahyc.net or [Facebook.com/ahyc.msrace](https://www.facebook.com/ahyc.msrace).



Magic heads downwind to New Mark in Sandy Hook Bay.



The crew aboard Coda competes on Aug. 20.