

# More Regattas Clean Up Their Act

In 2013, 163 regattas around the world took the pledge to support the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas initiative, and the 34<sup>th</sup> America's Cup enacted its pledge by banning single-use disposable plastic water bottles. The program holds yacht clubs, sailing programs and regatta organizers accountable for reducing human impact on the ocean and coastal waters through recycling, composting and hosting litter-free events to achieve higher levels of environmental responsibility.

"The enthusiastic support and participation in our Clean Regattas program continues to grow annually, and while the specific efforts of each regatta varies from one event to the next, what remains consistent is the growing concern for protecting oceans and local waters for use and enjoyment for this and future generations," says Sailors for the Sea president R. Mark Davis.

The B.V.I. Spring Regatta and Sailing Festival in Road Town, Tortola, March 31-April 6 is in its fifth year of participation in the Clean Regattas program. "We were the first regatta on the planet to be carbon-neutral," regatta director Judy Petz tells *Southern Boating*. The regatta will follow in the footsteps of the America's Cup by providing only reusable water bottles.



TODD VANSICKLE

B.V.I. Spring Regatta and Sailing Festival organizers handed out their reusable water bottles to schoolchildren visiting Tortola.

"We'll sell water bottles for \$5 and the proceeds will go to local charities," Petz says. The B.V.I. Spring Regatta also plans to award a special trophy—made from repurposed wood—for the cleanest, greenest boat. "Each year we try to up our efforts," she explains. "It's our responsibility to keep our playground clean." [sailorsforthesea.org](http://sailorsforthesea.org); [bvispringregatta.org](http://bvispringregatta.org)

### New Englanders win St. Pete NOOD Regatta

The St. Petersburg, Florida, leg of the Sperry Top-Sider National Offshore One-Design (NOOD) regatta series drew 112 boats competing in 12 divisions to Tampa Bay over the weekend of February 14-16. Racers traveled from as far as Dorset, U.K.; Toronto, Ontario; Sonoma, California; and Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the event.

Andrew Fisher of Greenwich, Connecticut, skippered his Sonar *Bandit* to overall victory and the grand prize of a B.V.I. charter trip aboard a Sunsail 44i sailing cat. Fisher and crew—Brian Hayes, Bradley Johnson and Patrick O'Connor—faced stiff competition in the Sonar division as a mere five points separated the top five finishers.

The J70 division saw the highest turnout of the contest with 28 boats. Joel Ronning of Minneapolis, Minnesota, skippered *Catapult* to a 10-point victory over his closest competitor, *AFRICA*, helmed by Jud Smith of Marblehead, Massachusetts.

### Row, row, row your boat

The inaugural Great Pacific Race—a 2,100-nautical-mile race to Hawaii—will kick off June 7<sup>th</sup> from Monterey, California. The catch? Competitors must row the entire route solo or in pairs. According to the race's U.K.-based organizer, New Ocean Wave Ltd., fewer people have rowed solo across this stretch of the

By BRIAN HARTZ



NEW OCEAN WAVE

Great Pacific Race rowboats self right and cope well in large swells.

Pacific Ocean than have walked on the moon. In 1997, Mick Bird rowed it single-handedly in 64 days and still holds the record.

Daryl Farmer, 39, of West Sussex, England, has that record in his sights. His rowboat will carry the logo of futuristic trimaran *Earthrace* (later renamed *Ady Gil*), which in 2008 set the record for fastest circumnavigation by a powerboat but met an untimely end two years later as she sank after a collision with a Japanese whaling vessel. Her skipper, New Zealander Pete Bethune, supports Farmer and encourages anyone in the marine industry who cares about ocean conservation to do so as well.

"Daryl is rowing over 2,000 nautical miles single-handedly across one of the most unpredictable and dangerous oceans

in the world to raise awareness for issues such as shark finning, ocean acidification, and whale and dolphin hunting—which increases my admiration for this crazy Brit," he says.

If you're a hotshot rower who's up for the ultimate challenge, New Ocean Wave is accepting entries for the 2016 Great Pacific Race. [newoceanwave.com/great-pacific-race](http://newoceanwave.com/great-pacific-race); [justgiving.com/solopacificrow](http://justgiving.com/solopacificrow)

### To the Extreme

As Team Aberdeen Singapore neared the finish line on the penultimate racing day in the opening Singapore leg of the Extreme Sailing Series, they were unable to slow down as they caught a huge gust and plowed into the stern of *Groupama*, running up on top of—and dismasting—the French catamaran. The terrifying collision caused only "superficial injuries" to Tanguy Cario, a *Groupama* crewmember, says skipper Franck Cammas.

Former America's Cup holder Alinghi dominated the Singapore leg, beating runner-up The Wave, Muscat, by 24 points. Now in its eighth season, the Extreme Sailing Series features fan-friendly, in-shore racing in 40-foot catamarans modeled on the Olympic-class Tornado and capable of speeds up to 30 knots. The next stop in the series is Qingdao, China, May 1-4. [extremesailingseries.com](http://extremesailingseries.com)

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