

Cup Runneth Over With Success



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More than a decade has passed since the Smyrna Yacht Club (SYC) in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, revived its Lipton Cup Regatta—breathing new life into a tradition that dates to the early 1900s, when America’s Cup legend Sir Thomas Lipton began gifting magnificent sterling silver trophies to sailing clubs around the world to promote the sport of yacht racing. In 1922, Sir Thomas provided a cup to be contested among Florida clubs; SYC “adopted” it in 1982 and held Lipton Cup Regattas until 1989, when the event went dormant. In 2004, however, enthusiasts at SYC took up Sir Thomas’s mantle once again, and

many beachfront hotspots—was set up for optimum spectator friendliness.

Thanks to the strong support from sponsors, entry fees remain very low (\$50-\$80) for the three-day International Sailing Federation (ISAF) certified regatta. SYC sailing director David Smith says the Lipton Cup’s ripple effects can also be felt at the club itself. The Lipton Cup “has enabled us to build our sailing program to include the Summer Solstice Regatta in June and Boatoberfest, a three-weekend sailing fun fest throughout October. The club also organizes sail training for local youth through the Parks and Recreation Department of New Smyrna Beach.” Although the 2014 Lipton Cup Regatta was held April 11-13, there’s still plenty of time to register for the Summer Solstice Regatta. Call David Smith at (386) 426-2800. smyrnayachtclub.com



SMYRNA YACHT CLUB

Racers vie to hoist the Lipton Cup in last year’s regatta hosted by Smyrna Yacht Club in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

the ensuing years have seen the contest become a model for how to turn a so-called elitist sport into something an entire community can rally around. Thirty local businesses and organizations were sponsors, and the inshore racecourse—easily viewable from

Texan tops at Force 5 Mid-Winter Championships

Thirty-four Force 5 sailors were blessed with perfect sailing weather for the class’s Mid-Winter Championships hosted by the Upper Keys Sailing Club February 20-22 in Key Largo, Florida. The regatta attracted competitors from Connecticut, Michigan, Texas, California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida,

Continued

By BRIAN HARTZ

BILL KOCH



The racing was fast and furious at February's Force 5 Mid-Winter Championships in Key Largo, Florida.

Ohio, and Canada. Eight races were held over three days, with Fred Meno of Fort Worth, Texas, triumphant in the Championship Fleet and Lee Shuckerow of Port Huron, Michigan, taking top honors in the Challenger Fleet. Mike Dale of Toronto, Ontario, won the Short-Rig Fleet, prevailing over twin brother Alec Dale of Meadville, Pennsylvania. Practice-day activities on February 19th included a Round Porjoe Island long-distance race. The Force 5 is adding members and fleets throughout the country as single-handed sailors discover the low cost of

available hulls and equipment, coupled with the support of a robust class association. force5.us

Austrian successful in Atlantic record attempt

Despite a rough start in the stormy Bay of Biscay off the coast of Spain, Harald Sedlacek became the first sailor to single-handedly cross the North Atlantic non-stop in an open 16-foot sailboat with no external assistance. Battling huge swells, bitter cold, a broken rudder and autopilot, and faulty electronics, the 32-year-old Austrian successfully

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navigated *FIPOFIX*—constructed with an innovative high-performance, volcanic-fiber material instead of traditional fiberglass—from Gijón, Spain, to Palm Beach, Florida. "There were many moments when I felt completely at the end and in danger of abandonment," Sedlacek said. Arriving on April 13th, the 5,100-mile voyage lasted 87 days.

Harald Sedlacek is the son of Vendée Globe sailor and FIPOFIX co-founder Norbert Sedlacek. The elder Sedlacek attempted the crossing in November 2013 in the same boat but was forced to give up three days into the journey because of damage to the vessel's power supply sustained in the Bay of Biscay. In an interview with *Southern Boating* prior to Harald's arrival in Florida, he expressed confidence that his son would triumph.

"I have full trust in our construction, the material and the boat concept," he said. "But, of course, there are many moments when I know and feel, based on my experience, that he is still in a strange and very dangerous situation." Based in Austria, FIPOFIX specializes in the manufacture of high-tech fabrics made from mineral bases that are fireproof, 100 percent recyclable, and well suited for boat construction. open16.com/index.php/en

Shocking result in RORC Caribbean 600

The crew of *Shockwave* had good reason to celebrate at the Antigua Yacht Club on February 28th as they were awarded the trophy for best overall yacht in the sixth edition of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) Caribbean 600. The 72-foot, Reichel/Pugh-designed *Shockwave* is owned and skippered by energy-industry entrepreneur George Sakellaris. Robbie Doyle served as tactician aboard *Shockwave*, which couldn't quite overtake rivals *Bella Mente* and *Rambler* on the final beat but triumphed on corrected time.

"I have a great crew and it was an excellent race—lots of wind and the racing was very close," Sakellaris said. "That is what ocean racing should be all about," added Doyle. "Beautiful racing between three very tough competitors, all fighting it out the whole way. A heavyweight battle without a doubt." The RORC Caribbean 600 continues to grow with the 2014 edition attracting more than 60 boats from 11 countries. The scenic 600-nm race begins and ends at Fort Charlotte in Antigua and passes by 10 other Caribbean islands. caribbean600.rorc.org

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