

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 22, 2009

CONTACT: Bill Northwood, 585-214-1203 or Helen McDermott, 585-214-1324

## 21 Sailing Teams to Compete in Hospice Regattas National Championship June 5-7 in Rochester

Sailing teams from San Diego, Ft. Lauderdale, Annapolis and Michigan City, Indiana will compete June 5-7 on Lake Ontario against five upstate New York teams and 12 others in the Hospice Regattas National Championship, hosted by Rochester Yacht Club (RYC).

“Our National Championship gives us an opportunity to showcase the many local Hospice Regattas and to celebrate their winners,” said Jean Swink Kluttz, president of the National Hospice Regatta Alliance (NHRA), which sponsors the championship regatta.

In 2008, NHRA sanctioned 27 local hospice regattas, all with the goal of raising funds and awareness for hospice programs in their communities. Winners of 21 local regattas are expected to participate in the 2009 National Championship.

These teams will compete in 12 new Sonar sailboats outfitted with new sails, in a round-robin series that will maximize time on the water for all teams over the three-day competition. The Sonar, a 23-ft. one-design keelboat, races competitively with a skipper and three crew. “Certainly, the availability of new boats and sails will ensure an equal fleet for teams from the eligible hospice regattas,” Kluttz added.

Championship competitors include many veteran sailors, such as Stu Hebb, representing Ft. Lauderdale, who is often a top finisher in the Ft. Lauderdale to Key West race and other ocean races in south Florida.

Ron Schults a marina/waterfront engineer and consultant who represents St. Joseph’s, Michigan, is also the founder of Lory’s Place, a grief healing and education center that provides a safe harbor for bereaved children, families and adults. Lory’s Place was established in memory of Schults’s wife, who died in an auto accident in 2004.

RYC member Brook Richardson, skipper of *Arrow*, will represent Rochester in the National Championship for the second time.

The host committee for the 2009 Hospice Regattas National Championship is being co-chaired by Hank and Mary Stuart and John and Lauren Doyle of RYC, site of many national and international sailing competitions.

“The Rochester area offers great racing conditions, especially for such a competitive one-design boat,” said Hank Stuart, who is also a former member of the NHRA board. “RYC and the host committee look forward to welcoming all these winning teams from local hospice regattas to Rochester and offering them great racing for a great cause,” he added.

<b>State</b>	<b>Regatta</b>	<b>Skipper</b>
California	San Diego	Neil Senturia
Connecticut	Long Island Sound	Greg Gilmartin
Florida	Ft. Lauderdale	Stu Hebb
Florida	Naples Marco Island	Ed Dixon
Indiana	Michigan City	Christopher Alisch
Maine	Southwest Harbor	Tom Rolfes
Maryland	Annapolis	Steve Schaub
Maryland	Havre de Grace	Arvid Scherph
Massachusetts	Marblehead	Bruce Baker
Michigan	St. Joseph	Ron Schults
New Jersey	Raritan	Tom Sinatra
New York	Canandaigua	William Wilson
New York	Jefferson County	John Enwright
New York	Oswego	Charlie Krylo
New York	Rochester	Brook Richardson
New York	Niagara County	Gary Tisdale
North Carolina	Lake Norman	Kenneth "BJ" Jones
Ohio	Grand River	Don Hudak
Ohio	Sandusky	Bryan Huntley
South Carolina	Hartwell Lake	Don Smith
Virginia	Rappahannock River	Steve Bowen