

News Release

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Hospice Regattas National Championship Moves to Rochester, N.Y., in June 2009

Rochester, NY – The National Hospice Regatta Alliance (NHRA), representing 27 organizations that host local sailing regattas to benefit hospices across the U.S. and Canada, announced today that the next Hospice Regattas National Championship will be held June 5-7, 2009 in the waters of Lake Ontario, hosted by Rochester Yacht Club (RYC).

The new venue and dates were announced by Jean Swink Kluttz, president of NHRA, which presents the National Championship each spring.

“Our National Championship gives us an opportunity to showcase the many local Hospice Regattas and to celebrate their winners,” Kluttz said. “The NHRA board of directors is delighted to accept the generous offer of Rochester Yacht Club and local volunteers to organize the Championship for 2009.”

In 2008, NHRA sanctioned 27 local hospice regattas, all with the goal of raising funds and awareness for hospice programs in their communities. Three were first-time events, so winners of the other 24 local regattas are eligible to compete in the 2009 National Championship.

Plans for the 2009 Hospice Regattas National Championship call for racing 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. Each suit of new sails will include a spinnaker, a main, and a jib small enough to be handled by nearly any size crew member.

“Certainly, the availability of new boats and sails will ensure an equal fleet for teams from the eligible hospice regattas,” Kluttz added.

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. The Stuarts and Doyles previously co-chaired the local Hospice Regatta in 2003, and all four have been active on host committees for 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.

A Notice of Race for the Hospice Regattas National Championship is posted online at www.hospiceregattas.org.

Event Chair Hank Stuart can be contacted by email at hospicenationals@rochesteryc.com or the Rochester Yacht Club at 585-342-5511. For more information about the 2009 Hospice Regattas National Championship, visit www.hospiceregattas.org.

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About the Hospice Regattas National Championship:

Held annually since 2000, the Hospice Regattas National Championship was the first sailing championship for charity in the U.S. To promote local regattas' efforts to support hospice programs, the event offers three days of sailboat racing for one winning skipper and crew from every local hospice regatta that has completed two regattas. Eight of the nine previous Championships have been conducted in Annapolis, where the original Hospice Cup event began in 1982. The 2001 Championship was held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and the National Hospice Regattas Alliance board hopes varying the Championship location will allow more people to learn about the local regattas and about hospice.

About the Rochester Yacht Club:

Incorporated in 1877, the Rochester Yacht Club celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2002 and is still going strong. The club's first regatta was held in 1877 with eight sail boats competing, and it hosted 104 boats at the J/22 World Championship in August 2008. RYC also hosts Rochester's local Hospice Regatta in odd-numbered years; the Rochester event will be held at RYC on August 21-23 this year. The club's purpose is to provide and encourage interests and instruction in areas of yachts and yachting, seamanship, racing and traditions of yachting. By car, RYC is seven miles from the heart of Rochester, Monroe County, New York, and it is located on the south shore of Lake Ontario and accessible from the Genesee River.

About the National Hospice Regatta Alliance:

The NHRA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) association of hospice regattas that independently raise money and awareness for hospices in their communities. It supports a rapidly expanding nationwide network of regattas that publicize Hospice care -- from the East to the West Coast, from the Great Lakes to Florida. NHRA is an all-volunteer organization helping hospice regattas grow and learn from each other, and promoting Hospice care nationally. Since the first hospice regatta in 1982, more than 20,000 sailors, sponsors and volunteers have raised more than \$12 million to provide hospice care to terminal patients and their families without regard to ability to pay.