

THE 
BEACON

Babylon Village, West Babylon, North Babylon, Deer Park, Lindenhurst, West Islip and Long Island, New York

LI Yacht Club brings back annual Mayor's Cup Race

November 07, 2019

By Carolyn James



The Mayor's Cup, held at the Long Island Yacht Club Sat., Sept. 21, was a resurgence for both the event and the club.

Several years ago, the Yacht Club was struggling with a membership of less than 30, and an uncertain future. Likewise, the Mayor's Cup, a longstanding annual event in Babylon Village that raised money for charity, was discontinued following the 2010 regatta.

Two years ago, however, the club was purchased by Rick Stettner and a partner. The pair worked to infuse new interest in the club and to renovate the historical building, which was then known as the Trenchard estate and constructed in 1911. It sits along the south shore at 307 Little East Neck Road South, Babylon, overlooking the Great South Bay.

Today the Club has more than 200 members.

According to its website, the Long Island Yacht Club was started in 1958 after the property was donated to a group of eight men in the Village, including Bob Keeshan, more famously known from the children's television series as "Captain Kangaroo."

Sixteen boats participated in the event this year, and a crowd of more than 200 people attended, many there to support Save the Great South Bay, the organization selected this year to receive the funds raised from the event.

“We all have a connection with the Bay and this is our way of saying, ‘we’re back’,” said Eric Stettner, the LIYC general manager. “This is going to happen every year from now on for as long as we can do it,” he said.

Todd Shaw, president of Save the Great South Bay, took time to thank the owners and members of the Yacht Club for hosting the event and helping to raise money to save the Bay.

Marshall Barvion, executive director of Save the Great South Bay said, “It is gratifying this year to see how many people have stepped up to support this effort. We are about what we remember and we all remember sailing, boating, fishing and clamming on the Bay and we want to preserve that for future generations.”

Also providing support to the event this year was Michael J. Beckerich, president and CEO of York Analytical Laboratories of Connecticut. The company documents reliable sample analysis of water, soil, and air for regulated contaminants.

“If you want government to take action, you have to have the data to support your issue,” said Beckerich. “We are very happy to be able to assist Save the Great South Bay in their work to save the Bay.”

Many of Beckerich’s environmental professionals attended the event and he matched the dollars they spent there that day.

There were oysters on ice, clam chowder soup and other delicacies to remind those attending of the bounty the Bay offers, year after year.

Madeline Carroll of Plainview said she knows people who volunteer with the organization. “I wanted to come out and support them,” she said.

Jessica and Gene Roghvitz of Brightwaters agreed the event was well worth attending.

“I work with people who belong to Save the Great South Bay so we thought we should come out and support them,” said Jessica.

“I live here in Babylon Village, I fish here, clam here and use the Bay almost every day,” said Mayor Ralph Scordino, who helped to hand out medals to the winners of the regatta. “If we want to have this beautiful Bay we have to keep it clean and protect the high quality of its water, and Babylon Village has been at the forefront of helping to do that.”

This year’s Regatta winners were:

Spinnaker: 1st place, JT9D Paul Rendich; 2nd place, Full Circle Harry Manko; 3rd place Aleboat Eric Winberry.

Non-Spin: 1st place, Merry Ann, Bill Cook and Duncan Burns; 2nd place, Shadow, Charlie Margeson and 3rd place Pandemonium, Gary Sebouhian.