



# Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta

October 8 & 9, 2022



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Hosted by Thistle Fleet 34 and Severn Sailing Association  
311 First Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21403

## Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Platinum Level Sustainability Report



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Charlie Krafft, Martin Krafft, Anie Larson, Joy Martin,  
Mary-Pat McNulty, LeAnn Myhre, Molly Ratz



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All regatta participants are part of our larger Green Team.

## Introduction

Thistle Fleet 34 at Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis, Maryland, ran its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Clean Regatta Oyster Roast in October of 2022. Initially inspired by the 2017 Thistle Class Association (TCA) Nationals, our fleet has run all of our subsequent major events, including Oyster Roasts, as Clean Regattas, mostly at Gold level certification. In 2020, under the leadership of Mike Ingham, TCA embarked on the Clean Class Initiative in partnership with Sailors for the Sea. A national-level committee has worked since then to develop a pilot plan for how leadership from a one-design class could go about engaging its entire class in these stewardship efforts. With its relatively long history of running Clean Regattas, two members of our Thistle fleet community stepped up to join what is now recognized as a standing committee for the Thistle Class. Working at all levels of regatta organization including Nationals, Mid-Winters, regional, series (e.g., the East Coast Fall Series, of which the Oyster Roast is one of the events), and local fleet racing, committee members reach out to regatta organizers to see what is possible given that event's particular circumstances, and how we can help. We encourage folks to stretch, and for Thistle Fleet 34, that meant reaching for our first Platinum level certification with our 2022 Oyster Roast.

## Clean Regatta Best Practices

### Elimination of Single-Use Items

#### 1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations



Participants are requested in the additional information included in our Notice of Race (NOR) document, on the TCA calendar, and in emails to bring and use their own reusable water bottles. We use signage and verbal communication at the competitors' meeting to let folks know where our water bottle filler is located.

## 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

SSA's new concessioner is offering reusable bamboo straws with their mixed drinks, and the fleet provides wooden stirrers and spoons rather than plastic stirrers for coffee at our continental breakfasts.



### 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware



Thistle Fleet 34 provides reusable mugs and canning jar glasses, metal silverware, and compostable plates for those who forget to bring their own reusable dinnerware. Since SSA's clubhouse has only a small kitchen, our reusable items are stored in bins at a Fleet member's home.

#### 4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

Reusable shopping bags are used by those buying ingredients and supplies for the event. Participants are encouraged in the additional information provided in the NOR document and elsewhere to use reusable bags for their personal regatta provisioning, as well.



#### 5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy



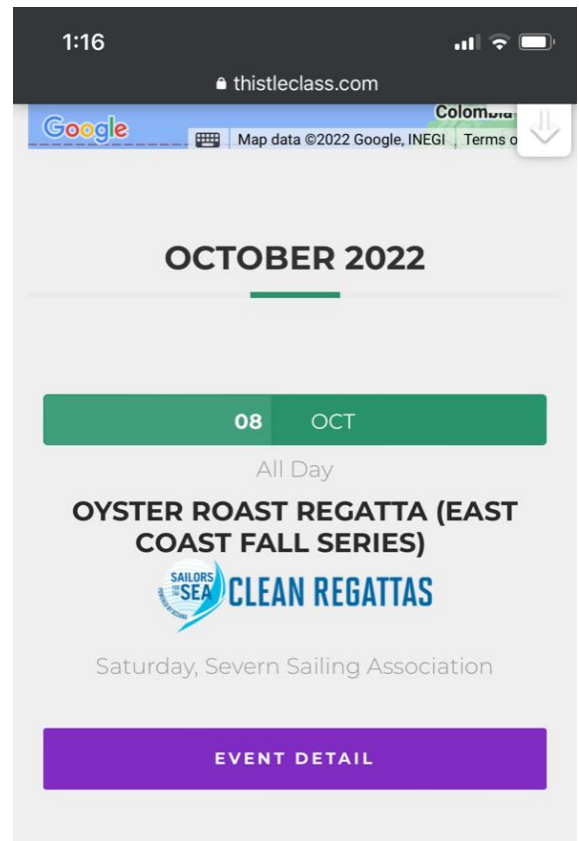
Practical items are awarded as keeper trophies for skippers and crew placing 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. The Parramore Trophy was originally dedicated by a group of Jet-14 sailors in remembrance of fellow sailor Paul O. Parramore, who passed away unexpectedly at a young age in 1968. Due to a decline in local activity in the Jet-14 class, the trophy was rededicated as the perpetual for the Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta in 2018, as Paul had also raced Thistles prior to his involvement in the Jet-14 Class.

## Community Involvement

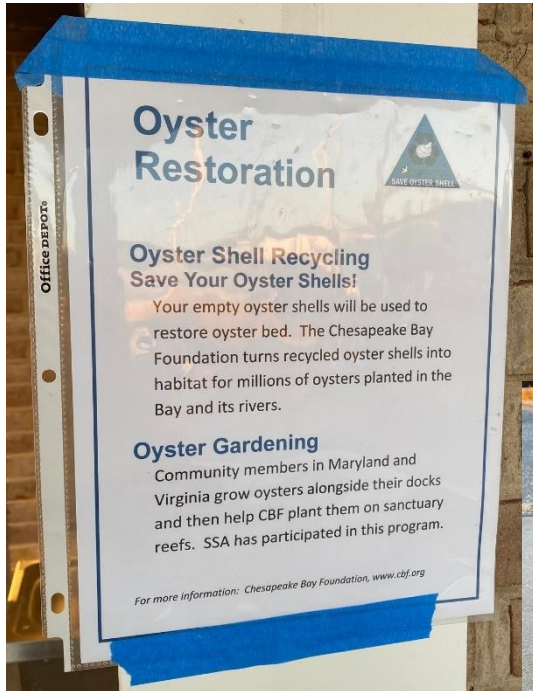
### 6. Publicize your Sustainability Efforts



TCA now has an option on their digital calendar that allows posters to select a “Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta” designation, which is then displayed prominently on the calendar. We also include information regarding our Clean Regatta efforts in all of our emails, advertisements and write-up articles in TCA’s *Bagpipe* magazine, as well as SSA’s newsletter. And, we let everyone present on the site know of our commitment by flying the Sailors for the Sea flag and displaying past Clean Regatta certificates.



## 7. Involve Local Organizations

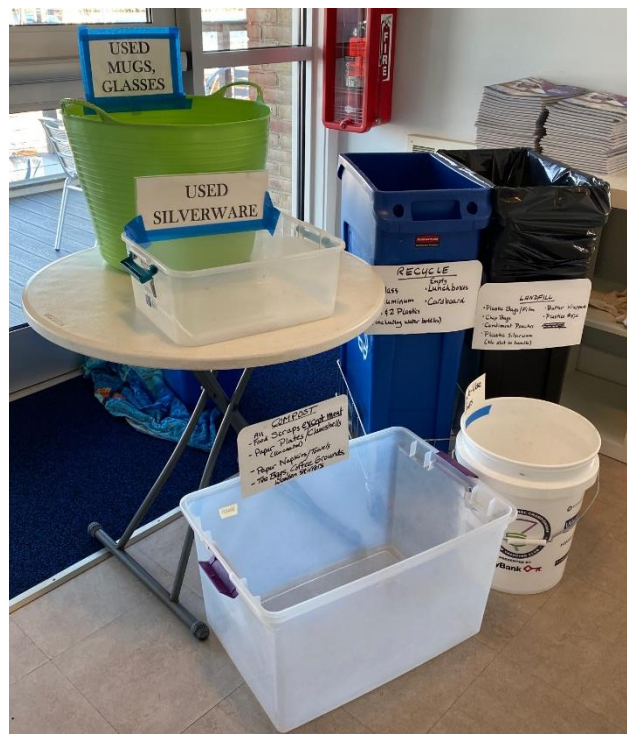


For this annual event, Fleet 34 partners with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to collect our oyster shells so they can be used in oyster bed restoration efforts. Also, for the first time, this year we were able to partner with Langton Green Community Farm, where one of our community members volunteers, so that all of our compostable items could be commercially composted.



## 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

Fleet 34 works to make its reusable signage easy to read and also detailed enough to provide clarity on what should be disposed of where. This is important, since sailors come from many different states to attend the Oyster Roast, and also because even local folks may not be aware of things like what our specific municipality recycles.





## 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably



This year for our breakfast breads, we were able to include organic zucchini harvested from a home garden, and wild persimmons foraged at a nearby sailing club, as well as local farm eggs that were used for both baking and offered hardboiled. Oysters were purchased from Wild Country Seafood down the street, which operates the last two commercial workboats out of Eastport. Dinner was catered by a local BBQ restaurant.



## Responsible Waste Management

### 10. Organize a Green Team



For Oyster Roast Regatta Clean Regatta tasks, we rely on a core group of hardworking volunteers who this year included Cairn Krafft (Green Team Chair), Meg Farrugia, Rosemary Foltis, Doug Freeman, Tory Gibb, Ed John, Bill Krafft, Charlie Krafft, Martin Krafft, Anie Larson, Joy Martin, Mary-Pat McNulty, LeAnn Myhre, and Molly Ratz. We also view all of our participants and race committee as Green Team members, since it is impossible to hold a successful Clean Regatta without their help.

### 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Management Placement and Signage

The Oyster Roast Green Team works hard to label receptacles for refuse and reusable items with meaningful, easy-to-read signage, and to place related receptacles in logical clusters. Orphaned bins (e.g., landfill with no matching recycling bin) are hidden out of sight before the event.

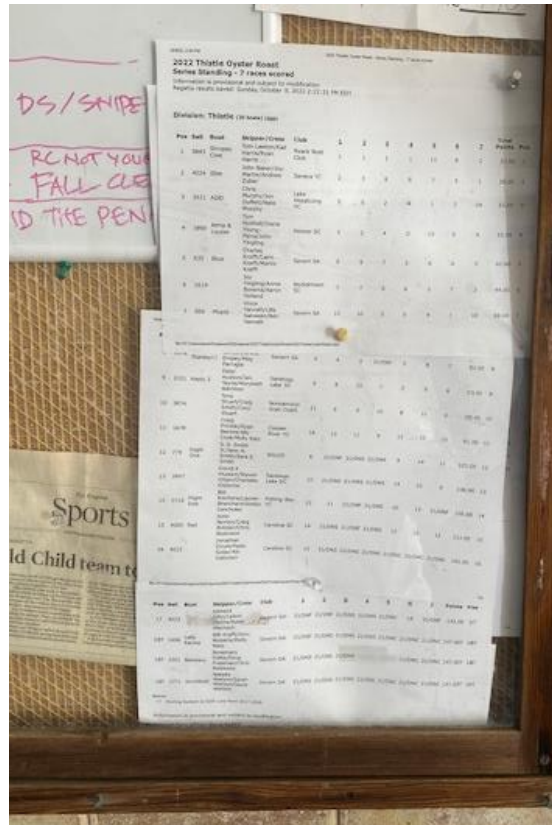
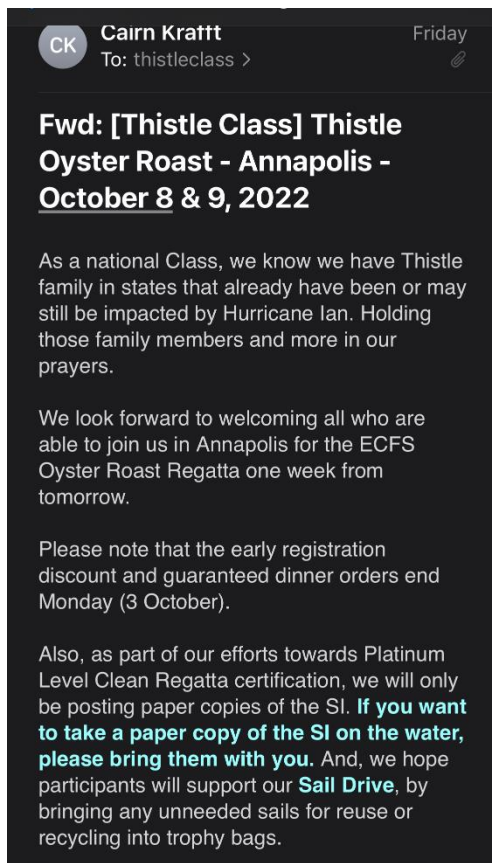


## 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill



This year, for the first time, we were able to compost all of our compostables, because we had access to a commercial composting facility at Langton Green Community Farm, where one of our community members volunteers. That allowed us to include compostable plates in what we diverted from the landfill, as you can see in this year's larger compost bins. In years when commercial composting is not available, we use smaller buckets to collect the compost for a member's home compost pile, and do not include food-associated paper, due to limitations of scale.

### 13. Use Paperless Event Management



In our effort to reduce paper usage for the Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta, all registration was on-line. Participants were notified in advance by email and NOR that if they wanted a printed copy of the Sailing Instructions, they should bring them with them, and a paper copy of the results was posted on the official notice board, rather than handed out individually. Results were also posted promptly to the SSA website.

### Environmental Stewardship

#### 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-Up

Participants were asked to pick up any refuse they saw around the sailing center, and to do a personal 2-minute clean-up of the area around their boat before leaving.



## 15. Promote Alternative Transportation

SSA provides bike racks to promote cycling for those who live or are staying locally. We also encouraged carpooling.



## 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife Habitat and Protection



This year we once again posted our signage for Oyster Restoration work being conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation using recycled oyster shells (including ours from the event). We also informed participants of an ongoing project undertaken by a local Boy Scout troop to plant oyster spat in cages that are then attached to the SSA docks to provide habitat for the oyster spat to grow in before planting out in oyster bed restorations. We also created a new informational poster highlighting the osprey, a bird of prey often seen sailing out to the race course. The osprey poster featured photographs taken by local photographers, including a local Thistler, Susan Hale.



## 17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives



Vegetarian or vegan alternatives were offered at each meal, in inclusive quantities that allowed everyone to discover that vegetarian and vegan dishes can be quite delicious.

## Green Boating

### 18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques



Our PRO, Steve Podlich, and his Race Committee team were committed to using eco-friendly race management practices for this event, including:

- Having RC boats turn off their engines while anchored.
- Using reduced speeds (except in rescue operations) to increase fuel efficiency.
- Increase fuel efficiency by including a Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) and other boats with 4-stroke engines.
- Having familiarity with SSA's spill clean-up kits that are obvious and conveniently positioned by each set of hoists.
- Not requiring bow stickers.
- Encouraging RC members to use reusable water bottles and drinking glasses.

## 19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water



In the additional information included with our NOR document, we encourage participants to use reef-safe sunscreen and wash down their boats with water only, or with a non-toxic boat soap. SSA provides oil spill kits by each set of hoists that are easily spotted if needed.

## 20. Encourage Green Boating Practices



Efforts to promote Green Boating practices at the Thistle Oyster Roast and beyond include working to keep old sails out of the landfill by giving them new life as trophy bags through TCA's partnership with Sea Bags, and rehabbing older Thistles in need of some TLC to keep them out of landfills and get them back on the water as entry-level boats (thanks to Ed John, a member of Fleet 34).

Beyond these specific efforts, our experience points to a ripple effect that radiates outward from Best Practices experienced in the context of a Clean Regatta, and impacts how participants behave beyond the race course, in other boating contexts, and in life, to protect the oceans and our planet.