

Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Platinum Level Sustainability Report



The 58th Valeur-Jensen Stamford Denmark Race

Sunday, September 10, 2023

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Introduction

The Valeur-Jensen Stamford Denmark Race (the “Denmark Race”) is held annually at Stamford Yacht Club (“SYC) on the first weekend after Labor Day. The 58th Race weekend included the following planned events:

- A semi formal race dinner Saturday evening, September 9, gathering 110 guests including local sailors, local members of the Danish community and the mayor of Stamford, Caroline Simmons
- The “big boat race” on Sunday September 10, with 78 boats registered to race in 10 handicap classes sailing 2 different navigator courses – a short course for the slower boats and a long course for the faster boats. Boats ranged from 24 to 45 feet in overall length
- The “Corporate Challenge” also on the Sunday, with 4 local companies racing against each other in Ideal 18 one design boats, doing a series of short races on a windward-leeward course
- A casual post-race lawn party and awards ceremony for all participants as well as friends and families

Unfortunately, the weather got in the way on the Sunday. After an initial delay because of lack of wind, mayhem broke loose: thunder and lightning, torrential downpour with reduced visibility and gusty, shifty winds. As a result, both the big boat race and the Corporate Challenge had to be cancelled. But the “post-race” party was still on. It was moved indoors at SYC because of the rain. Drenched sailors gathered for drinks and camaraderie after the day’s adventure on the water.

For the first time this year, the Denmark Race followed the lead of our Danish friendship club, the Royal Danish Yacht Club (“KDY”), and engaged in environmental preservation by following Sailors for the Sea’s Clean Regatta practices. We also invited Emily Conklin, Program Manager at Sailors for the Sea, as our guest for the weekend. Emily spoke at the race dinner and participated in the Sunday events.

The Clean Regatta initiatives documented in this report were a group effort. We are grateful to all who contributed:

- The Green Team (Kris Adler, Jennifer Bramlette, Ove Haxthausen, Connie Levene, Perla Rossetti, Alex Vivenzio, Carrie Vomacka) took leadership in designing and overseeing the initiatives
- The Flag Officers and Staff of Stamford Yacht Club provided their full support in implementing the initiatives
- Regatta participants, including both sailors and the SYC Race Committee, undertook this challenge with us to improve the event’s environmental impact
- Sailors for the Sea, and in particular Emily Conklin, provided us with their support and advice along the process

Our Best Practices

ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE ITEMS

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

We provided Denmark Race branded reuseable water bottles to Corporate Challenge participants as well as SYC Race Committee volunteers. Race Committee volunteers were also encouraged to bring their own refillable bottles. Big boat sailors were beyond our control for the elimination of single-use items, however we encouraged sustainable boating practices in our communications with them (see Section 6 below).



We provided water refill stations both ashore on the SYC dock and on the Race Committee signal boat. We systemically eliminated single use water bottles from boat provisioning. In very limited situations (Race Committee mark boats) we provisioned water in recyclable cans.



2. Eliminate Plastic Straws/Stirrers



As a club on the water, SYC made the transition long ago. The Club uses Phade Sustainable Eco Straw products. The key to Phade® is PHA (short for polyhydroxyalkanoate), a substrate derived from the fermentation of canola oil that maintains the feel and user experience of traditional plastic. However, unlike plastic, PHAs are biodegraded under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions by degrading agents present in most natural environments, including the marine environment.



3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

At the race dinner, traditional reusable dinnerware was used.

For provisioning of the SYC Race Committee and Corporate Challenge boats we provided food that didn't require dinnerware. By serving sandwiches and other handheld food, we avoided cutlery, plates, bowls etc.

When single serve cups are needed at SYC around the waterfront, only Karat Earth PLA cups are being used. These cups are compostable and bio-based.

4. Skip Bags or Go Reusable

Race committee and Corporate Challenge lunch provisions were provided in cardboard boxes, skipping the use of traditional plastic bags.



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



A unique collection of "perpetual" silver trophies has been donated to the Denmark Race over the past 58 years by corporations and individuals with ties to Denmark and Stamford. These trophies continue to be awarded to the winners in each class.

For "keeper" awards we recycled the awards from last year when the race got cancelled for lack of wind. The race ended up being cancelled again this year, this time because of lightning, torrential downpour and strong, gusty, shifty winds. We plan to recycle the awards again next year, and very much hope we will have a race! The awards are "Viking" drinking horns made out of natural cow horn.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

We publicized our initiatives well ahead of the event and used every opportunity we had to inform participants about our sustainability efforts.

We developed a communications plan around the event. Media and events leveraged to get the message out included:

- Race documents, including the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions
- SYC website
- Facebook and Instagram
- Announcement at SYC Waterfront Kick Off Party
- Announcement at Vineyard Race Kick-Off Party

13. SUSTAINABILITY

- 13.1 As part of our commitment to sustainability, the Denmark Race is working with Sailors for the Sea to implement Clean Regatta best practices. To learn more about Clean Regatta best practices visit: <https://sailorsforthesea.org/programs/clean-regattas>
- 13.1.1 We encourage participants to make a pledge to become a Sailors for the Sea Green Boater. www.sailorsforthesea.org/greenboater
- 13.1.2 Each Green Boater will receive a free, digital Green Boating Guide with tips on how to boat in an environmentally responsible manner.
- 13.2 We remind participants of Rule 47, Trash Disposal. Rule 47 states: "Competitors and support persons shall not intentionally put trash in the water. This rule applies at all times while afloat. The penalty for a breach of this rule may be less than disqualification."



In March we organized a Green Team Kick-Off Cocktail Party to which we invited Emily Conklin from Sailors for the Sea. Some 20 SYC members attended in support of our quest to achieve Platinum Clean Regatta Certification. Attendees mingled over cocktails and locally sourced hors d'oeuvres while they learned more about ecofriendly boating initiatives from Emily Conklin.



7. Involve Local Organizations

The race has historically involved local organizations: The City of Stamford whose mayor, Caroline Simmons, attended the race dinner as a keynote speaker, and the Danish American Chamber of Commerce of New York ("DACCNY") which promoted the event to its members. The Corporate Challenge is specifically targeted at corporations affiliated with DACCNY.

This year we involved a few additional organizations, specifically with sustainability in mind. The Shippan Point Association, an organization of local neighborhood residents, promoted our beach cleaning event (see Section 14) among its members. We also had a presence at Celebrate Shippan Community Day (see Section 16) with our educational Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection Display.





SoundWaters, a local educational association focused on the preservation of Long Island Sound, provided their schooner as a spectator boat and pledged to get more involved in our sustainability efforts next year. We also reached out to Save the Sound, another non-profit focused on the preservation of Long Island Sound. They expressed interest in supporting the race and also pledged to get more involved next year.

8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage



We developed an SYC signage media plan, then involved SYC Staff to produce signage compliant with SYC brand standards. We used Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta image assets which we customized with our Denmark Race and SYC logos and event specific messaging when applicable.

The SYC Communication Department printed signs for water tanks (no single-use water bottles), dock water hose (avoid chemicals), dinner tables (skip the straws, eat locally, eat vegan), cardboard panel, etc.

Together with SYC Staff we engaged in a series of communications around the Club between the months of June and September:

- One 18x24” cardboard poster was displayed during Commissioning in May, then was displayed in various Club locations from June through September. The cardboard poster was also displayed during the race dinner and on race day
- Other cardboard signage was displayed at the water hoses at the Club's dock to inform racer participants about boat cleaning chemicals and other environmental best practices
- Digital image about Denmark Race Clean Regatta initiatives displayed for months on the front desk digital panel and in weekly newsletter distributed electronically
- The Denmark Race’s Clean Regatta initiatives were highlighted in 2 articles published in the SYC monthly magazine Short Tacks. One article encouraged members to get involved while the second one was specifically about the beach clean-up in August (see Section 14).

DENMARK RACE "GREEN TEAM" LAUNCH



On Thursday, March 23 a group of members gathered for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres to hear about the Denmark Race's Clean Regatta certification process and to volunteer to help.

The Clean Regatta certification is a program managed by Sailors for the Sea, a non-profit organization focused on environmental stewardship among the sailing community. The Denmark Race is going for "Platinum" this year, the program's highest certification level.

Emily Conklin, Program Manager at Sailors for the Sea, graciously drove down to SYC from Newport, RI to meet with us. She presented the Clean Regatta program which has been adopted by over 400 events in more than 50 countries, including at our friendship club in Denmark, the Royal Danish Yacht Club. She also offered tips and encouragement and answered questions from a curious audience.

Beyond the Denmark Race Green Team, Vineyard Race Co-Chair Jay Keeshan as well as SYC House Chair Suzanne Malloy and Sustainability Chair Kevin Dailey also participated to learn more about Sailors for the Sea's programs and understand how they may apply to SYC beyond the Denmark Race.

Interested in getting involved? The Denmark Race's Green team can use your help! Please email Ove Haxthausen at ovehax@hotmail.com to help do the right thing for our environment and have fun in the process.

THE DENMARK RACE GREEN TEAM CLEANS UP SHIPPAN POINT BEACH

On a lazy Sunday afternoon in late August, under a perfect blue sky, a group of committed SYC members and friends of SYC gathered at the end of Shippan Avenue to clean up the public beach there. "Trophies" included fishing line, beer cans, plastic bottles as well as larger items such as a lobster pot floater and metal fragments. Within an hour we had gone through the beach with a fine comb from the water line through to the vegetation at the top of the beach. A good time was had by all and we ended the clean-up with a congratulatory toast to our efforts.



Why do this when one could enjoy a nice afternoon on the Vineyard Deck, on the tennis courts or on a boat on the Sound? Beach cleaning is part of the Denmark Race's efforts to get certified as a Platinum Clean Regatta by Sailors for the Sea, but more fundamentally it's nice to make even a small contribution to help preserve our local "playground". Also, for the sailors among us, there wasn't much wind that afternoon.

The Denmark Race Committee hopes to further develop environmental stewardship initiatives related to Long Island Sound in the future. Interested in getting involved? email Ove Haxthausen at ovehax@hotmail.com.



9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

Our Chef and his team brought the challenge to the plate with a race dinner menu featuring sustainably and/or locally produced products, including:



- Faroese salmon – The Faroese aquaculture industry is committed to sustainability and sound stewardship of the environment.
- Pork loin – Premium quality Compart Duroc® Pork is the result of a carefully managed pork breeding program. Compart Duroc® hogs are bred, born and raised on small farms where family members are involved in the day-to-day management of their stock. The breeding program is the result of over 65 years of combining the very best purebred lines of the Duroc breed. Compart Family Farms have also conducted extensive research and development to create a proprietary Compart Duroc® feeding program. This feeding program optimizes both the pig's performance and its meat quality. This, coupled with raising the pigs in comfortable, environmentally stable facilities, reduces stresses that adversely affect muscle quality.
- Salmon caviar – Highest quality sustainably farmed caviar salmon from local New York based CaviarLand.
- Micro herbs - Koppert Cress USA is a local Long Island grower and forager of flavor with its origins in Dutch innovative agriculture and greenhouse expertise. They produce living microgreens, cut microgreens and specialties for the top restaurant Industry. Their natural products and heirloom varieties are grown from seeds sourced around the globe. With over 100,000 square feet of new eco-conscious greenhouses on 50 acres, Koppert Cress is one of the fastest growing companies in the area. Using state of the art agricultural practices, they supply both the food service and retail sectors, filling plates with aromatic architecture and vibrancy.
- Cream - The Ronnybrook family has been in business for over 70 years and they manage every phase of milk production – from farm to the cows to the bottling plant – with no third parties involved. During the spring, summer, and fall, their cows feed primary on fresh pasture that grows on Ronnybrook's own local Hudson Valley farm. In winter, the cows consume large amounts of hay that was harvested on the farm during summer. Though not certified, Ronnybrook's farming methods are by all practical measures organic, if not beyond. They use no pesticides on the fields, manure is the fertilizer of choice and they use cropping techniques that promote healthy soil.

RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

10. Organize a Green Team

As mentioned in Section 6 above, we organized a Green Team Kick-Off Cocktail Party to which we invited Emily Conklin from Sailors for the Sea to promote the Clean Regatta initiative. At the party we recruited our core Green Team of 7: Kris Adler, Jennifer Bramlette, Ove Haxthausen, Connie Levene, Perla Rossetti, Alex Vivenzio and Carrie Vomacka.

11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

Connecticut's recycling requirements are structured to encourage businesses to divert materials from the waste stream and prevent valuable materials from being trashed.

SYC employees are trained annually on how to deal with recyclables and avoid landfill trash. Consequently, no event specific additional waste bin placement or signage was required at the Club.

12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

For the event, as well as for all everyday operations, SYC complied with the City of Stamford's waste management requirements for commercial entities. Every resident, every business (including non-profits), and all public and private agencies and institutions such as colleges, hospitals, and local and state government agencies, must recycle.

SYC employees are trained annually on how to deal with recyclables and avoid landfill trash.



We also implemented the following best practices regarding food waste:

- At the dinner, we served passed appetizers, thereby minimizing guest left-overs
- We offered untouched overage from the dinner and lunch provisions to staff and their families.



13. Use Paperless Event Management

For the Denmark Race used Yacht Scoring (www.yachtscoring.com). Yacht Scoring is a 100% web-based Yacht Racing Management and Scoring system that simplifies and digitizes the task of competitor registration, event management, competitor and media communications while providing complete results in near-real time to competitors and the sailing world following the event on the internet. No paper required! Note that we also used this portal to communicate:

- 1) As part of our commitment to sustainability, the Denmark Race is this year working with Sailors for the Sea to implement Clean Regatta best practices.

- 2) we are promoting carpooling as an environmental and alternative transportation.
- 3) But this is not just about us. We want to hear what you are doing on your boat to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship. Please share your initiatives here: [Going Green on the Boat \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com)



2023 Valeur-Jensen Stamford Denmark Race
Latest Event News

(08/Sep/23 - 01:37PM)

Environmental Stewardship: Our Commitment and Yours

As part of our commitment to sustainability, the Denmark Race is this year working with Sailors for the Sea to implement Clean Regatta best practices.

Please refer to NOR Section 13 for more about our commitment.

In addition, we are promoting carpooling as an environmental and alternative transportation. You can use the app Ridewith to find a co-rider to share your Uber or Lyft rides. Using an app like Uber and sharing rides is ecological and sustainable. The UberX Share feature will allow you to share a ride with another person going in the same direction. You will get an upfront discount if you choose UberX Share in the Uber app. You'll also get up to 20 per cent off the total fare if you are matched with a co-rider along your journey.

But this is not just about us. We want to hear what you are doing on your boat to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Please share your initiatives here: [Going Green on the Boat \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com)

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up



On Sunday August 27, a mighty crew assembled at the end of Shippan Avenue in Stamford to perform a community beach clean up. Garbage removed from the beach included many yards of fishing line, articles of clothing (including underwear and matching socks!), beer cans, single-use plastic bottles as well as larger items such as a lobster pot floater and metal fragments. Young and old had a good time performing this community project under the Clean Regatta Banner.



15. Promote Alternative Transportation

We promoted carpooling as an environmentally friendly alternative mode of transportation through race communications, including on Yacht Scoring.

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection



Our beach cleaning effort helped increase awareness among participants about the importance of preserving and protecting Long Island Sound - a major local sea life habitat - from pollution. Our clean-up also helped reduce Long Island Sound pollution from plastics and other waste.

At the post-race party, we created an interactive play space featuring activities and content around habitat awareness and protection.



This entire display was then set up for our Shippan Day community party on October 1st where young and old enjoyed the interactive display and games.



17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

At the race dinner, a vegetarian menu option was available. Lunch provisioning for the SYC Race Committee as well as Corporate Challenge participants included vegetarian options.

ENCOURAGE GREEN BOATING

18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

The Race Committee focused on reducing operating speed of the signal boat and mark boats to 6 knots and cut engines to avoid idling whenever possible.

19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

We posted a cardboard sign on the SYC dock water hose to advise sailors to avoid harsh chemicals when cleaning their boats. Our dock is small and does not provide fuel.

20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

In race communications we encouraged participants to learn more about Green Boating practices and provided a link to the Green Boating Guide.

OTHER INITIATIVES

For the first time this year the Denmark Race followed the lead of our Danish friendship club, the Royal Danish Yacht Club (“KDY”), and engaged in environmental preservation by following Sailors for the Sea's Clean Regatta practices.

We worked with the Clean Regatta Committee at our Danish friendship club, KDY, to share our approach to planning and managing Clean Regatta implementation and documenting our initiatives for this submission, using SmartSheet software.

