THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

July 26 - 31, 2026
Eugene Yacht Club
Eugene, Oregon

Clean Regatta Report

The Eugene Yacht Club and the Thistle Class Association hope to attain Platinum status with Sailors for the Sea. Below is the report we will submit to Sailors for the Sea.

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

- Filling stations included
  - A sink in the clubhouse
  - Water fountain by the bathrooms
  - A filling station with four spigots outside the clubhouse with a filter connected to the hose

Best Practice 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

- No plastic straws were offered at meals. There was a coffee cart that did not offer straws.

Best Practice 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

- Breakfast and dinner were served during the week. Meals were served using EYC's plates and cutlery. Regatta attendees were encouraged to use their own reusable cups when enjoying beverages from the keg.

Best Practice 4. Skip Bags or Go Reusable

- Bags given to all skippers were reusable yellow tote bags. Regatta participants were also given reusable dry bags.

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

- Women's and Juniors: Trophies were handmade (by sailors!) ceramic mugs and soup mugs for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. First place in both Women's and Junior's also received perpetual trophies
- National Championship: Trophies are always the perpetual trophies. If participants want a keeper trophy, they may request one with the class. These are made at a later date and only at the request of award winners.
- Any non-trophy gifts for volunteers were consumable items, like cookies or wine, allowing for less clutter and unwanted waste.

Best Practice 6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

- Throughout the Eugene Yacht Club there were signs about recycling and various recycling receptacles available. Additionally, an announcement was made at the Competitor's meeting about the Green Team and the various actions planned and taken during the week-long event.

Best Practice 7. Involve Local Organizations

- Travel Lane County, the local tourism organization, was aware of the event and provided information on their website about the regatta. The local news also came and interviewed participants.

Best Practice 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

- Eugene Yacht Club has signage for recycling throughout its spaces. From the bathrooms to the kitchen, signs for what is recyclable and what is not are posted.

Best Practice 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

- The kitchen team was incredible! So much of our food was local. For example, green beans were from an organic farm less than 15 miles away. Salmon was from a local fish monger. Our kitchen lead left bus tubs at the fish monger and was then able to pick up the salmon without the need for any additional packaging.

Best Practice 10. Organize a Green Team

- The green team was woven throughout the event. The kitchen staff were set up with a sustainable mind set by the regular green practices of the club volunteers and the head chef Mas Edelman. the class continually encourages folks to reduce, reuse, recycle, upcycle and keep our waters clean. The Eugene Yacht Club has club members ensuring that appropriate green practices were followed.

Best Practice 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

- Waste bins are all over Eugene Yacht Club and with each garbage bin is a bin for glass and aluminum cans with a deposit. These bins could be found at the bathrooms, the clubhouse, along walkways, on the deck near the kitchen, and at the boat hoist.

Best Practice 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

- Food waste from participant's plates was collected in green five-gallon buckets. This was then taken to local farms. Sometimes the food waste goes to be composted for gardens and sometimes it goes to local livestock, specifically some pigs.
- The kitchen made delicious food and a lot of it. In the middle of the week the kitchen planned for a rest day and was not going to serve dinner to allow participants to go into town. However, there were enough leftovers that the kitchen volunteers were able to reheat the food and provide a hearty lunch while sailors waited for wind to sail.

Best Practice 13. Use Paperless Event Management

- Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions were posted online and only printed upon request.
- Judges requested that all protests be submitted electronically.
- No meal tickets or wristbands were given out.
- Schedule for each day was posted on a white board.

Best Practice 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

- Throughout the week regatta participants worked to keep the grounds clean, picking up garbage or items along the way. The kids camp participants also worked to pick up items around the club grounds and the beach and playground every day.

Best Practice 15. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

- Teams were encouraged to wash their boats with non-toxic chemicals.
- Boats used for race committee were all 4 stroke motors

Best Practice 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

This is an area we will need to develop in future years.

Best Practice 17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

- Most meals included vegetarian and/or vegan alternatives. For attendees with food allergies, the kitchen volunteers were often able to accommodate and provide delicious, filling meals.

Best Practice 18. Promote Alternative Transportation

- This is a regatta where almost all participants stay on site for the duration of the week. This reduced driving to and from the yacht club substantially.
- Prior to the regatta, a spreadsheet was shared with the class to help coordinate “Sailors Driving to Eugene with Capacity” and “Sailors needing transport for their boat”. Several teams double decked boats thus reducing the amount of vehicles driving

Best Practice 19. Reduce Day-of Event Emissions

- Once in position, all motor boats turned off their engines and did not idle unnecessarily. This included the race committee boat (both start and finish), gate boat, and windward boat. The chase boat was used for moving marks, allowing other boats to stay anchored and reducing gas usage and emissions.

Best Practice 20. Inspire Future Action

- An article was written for the October November Bagpipe (class magazine), detailing the success of the green team detailing many of these best practices.