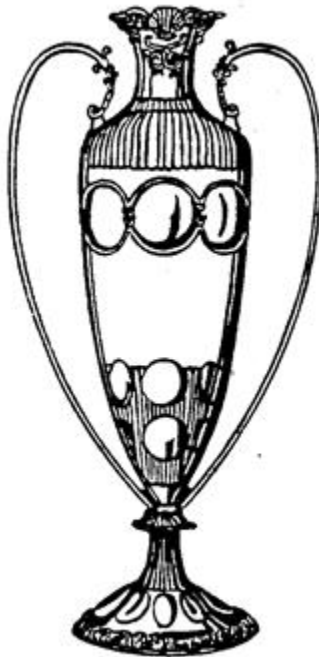


The History of the Seawanhaka Cup



Seawanhaka Cup

The Seawanhaka International Challenge Cup for Small Yachts

The Seawanhaka Cup, is the oldest yachting trophy, originating in the United States, that is still in active competition. Originated in 1895, the Seawanhaka Cup trophy was offered for the purpose of promoting small yacht racing and developing the Corinthian spirit among yachtsmen.

The original challenge was sailed in half-raters, a boat of about 15 feet, with the Seawanhaka boat *Ethelwynn*, designed by William P. Stephens sporting a marconi main over 20 years ahead of its time. *Ethelwynn*, raced by Bert C. Ball and crewed by Cornelius J. Field and Fred Field, won the regatta against a challenge from J. Arthur Brand of the Minima Yacht Club of England in *Spruce IV*.



1895 – *Ethelwynn*, Winner of the Seawanhaka Cup.

In 1896, Clinton Crane represented Seawanhaka in a boat of his own design named *EI Heirie* against a challenge from the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club of Canada in a yacht named *Glencairn* sailed by G. Herrick Duggan of Montreal. *Glencairn* won and began a nine year winning streak for the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club.



Glencairn, Commodore James Ross, Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club

In the 1898 competition between Seawanhaka and the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club, the Canadians put an inland lake scow with a tunnel hull by the name of *Dominion* on the line and were promptly protested: it was claimed that *Dominion* was a catamaran and did not, for that reason, measure in. Seawanhaka lost the protest and the regatta. Almost 100 years later, a “catamaran controversy” broke out in the America's Cup competition sparking international research of the Seawanhaka Cup records.



Dominion, Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club,
Winner of Seawanhaka Cup, 1898.

In 1905, the Manchester Yacht Club of Massachusetts challenged the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club and won the regatta. The Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club thereafter challenged the Manchester Yacht Club in 1910 unsuccessfully and the Seawanhaka Cup competition went dormant until the six metre era and the International Rule of yacht design.

In 1922, after sailing a match of the British American Cup at Oyster Bay, F. J. ('Wee John') Stephen of the Royal Northern Yacht Club of Scotland successfully challenged the Manchester Yacht Club in a six metre yacht of his own design *Coila III*. Wee John

and the Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club sailing *Coila III* successfully defended the Seawanhaka Cup until 1925 when Clinton Crane returned to the competition in *Lanai*, another yacht of his own design. Twenty-nine years and fourteen matches after he had lost the Seawanhaka Cup, Clinton Crane and his *Lanai* won the cup back for Seawanhaka.

Norway first entered the fray in 1924, and went on to win the Seawanhaka Cup in 1927 with HRH Crown Prince Olav sailing *Noreg*. The Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club remained an active participant in the competition. In 1929 and 1931, eight metre yachts were sailed in the competition.



8-Metre *Gypsy*, 1929

In 1932, the competition was back in six metre yachts. Great spectator fleets followed the competition. The Navy usually sent a large vessel to control the crowd. The media followed the competition closely through the late twenties and thirties. In the last competition before World War II, the Royal Northern Yacht Club sailing *Circe* successfully defended the Cup in a challenge from the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club or Norway sailing *Noreg III*.



6-Metre *Lanai*, 1925

The six metre era continued after the war until 1957 with Seawanhaka and the Royal Canadian Yacht Club winning challenges during that period.

In the early 60's, Seawanhaka successfully defended the Seawanhaka Cup in 5.5 metre yachts in two stirring matches. However, the "design duel" of this competition was losing interest and the 1971 challenge in celebration of Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club's 100th Anniversary was sailed in the Soling, an internationally recognized one design class. Bob Mosbacher won the Cup for Seawanhaka that year. Buddy Melges defended the next challenge for Seawanhaka and Kalle Nergaard the next for Norway.



Solings racing in Long Island Sound off Oyster Bay, NY

In 1987, a successful attempt was made at a revival of the six metres with a round robin series won by the Royal Yacht Squadron. In 1989, on the Solent in Dragons, the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania won the challenge with eight straight firsts. In 1993, Nick Rogers of the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania again won the series in a closely sailed regatta involving Laurence Mead of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and Glen Foster of the Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club.

In 1996, four yacht clubs from around the world convened at the home port of the Cup to challenge the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania for the honor of winning the Cup. The match was sailed in Etchells. After a double round robin, the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and Seawanhaka met in a best of 3 final. After losing the first race, Seawanhaka's skipper, Jack Slattery defeated the Tasmanian skipper, Nick Rogers, in the final two races to bring the Cup home to Seawanhaka for the first time in 9 years.

In October 2004, competitors from all over the world sailed for the Seawanhaka International Challenge Cup for Small Yachts. Six clubs from both sides of the Atlantic, Canada and the Gulf Coast of the United States sailed for the 42nd Match. The Southern Yacht Club based in New Orleans won the cup after defeating the Royal Thames in the final races; three to one. The defending club, Seawanhaka, finished third.

In August 2005, hurricane Katrina destroyed the Southern Yacht Club's clubhouse in New Orleans and the original trophy was never recovered. Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club commissioned an outstanding, full-scale replica from Langfords in London. The new trophy was completed and delivered to Seawanhaka in time for the 2009 competition.

The 2009 competition was held at Oyster Bay while Southern Yacht Club was rebuilding their clubhouse. Seawanhaka was victorious over five other teams with its member, Dave Perry as skipper, who is also a recognized coach for aspiring match racers.

In 2012, Southern Yacht Club with skipper Patrick Ryan wrested the title back from Seawanhaka and four other clubs. Returning to New Orleans in 2014, the competition shifted from Sonars to Flying Scotts. Skipper Chris Poole lead the Seawanhaka team to victory, beating six other experienced teams.

2017 saw the competitors return to the waters of Oyster Bay but this time the racers competed in Match 40 class sailboats.

Seawanhaka with Chris Poole again as skipper, won over seven teams from Canada and the United States.



Match 40 class boats in the 2017 competition

With the anticipated 48th match for the Cup to be sailed off Long Beach in 2021, the words of Seawanhaka’s first Commodore, William L. Swan, still ring true. They were delivered in his final speech as Commodore.

“Prosecute vigorously the popularization of Corinthian races with which Seawanhaka is so closely identified, as I feel assured it will not only be to it a tower of strength, but also that it is the only true and enjoyable kind of yachting.”

The following is a list of all the previous matches, the yacht clubs involved, the challenging yacht’s name, and the helmsman where known.

The year, location and defender of each Seawanhaka International Challenge Cup, followed by the challengers (winner in boldface):

1895	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. Minima Y.C.	<i>Ethlwynn</i> <i>Spruce IV</i>	C. J. Field J. Arthur Brand
1896	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. St. Lawrence Y.C.	<i>El Heire</i> <i>Glencairn</i>	C. H. Crane G. H. Duggan
1897	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Glencairn II</i> <i>Momo</i>	James Ross C. H. Crane
1898	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Dominion</i> <i>Challenger</i>	James Ross C. H. Crane
1899	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Glencairn III</i> <i>Constance</i>	James Ross Regis H. Post
1900	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. White Bear Y.C.	<i>Redcoat</i> <i>Minnesota</i>	H. M. Molson F. M. Douglas
1901	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. Island Sailing Club	<i>Senneville</i> <i>Greyfair</i>	R. B. Angus Lorne C. Currie
1902	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. Bridgeport Y.C.	<i>Trident</i> <i>Tecumseh</i>	Jas. Patton J. H. Jones
1903	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. Manchester Y.C.	<i>Thorella</i> <i>Kolutoo</i>	W. C. Finley A. H. Higginson
1904	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. White Bear Y.C.	<i>Noorma</i> <i>White Bear</i>	H. P. Drummond L. P. Ordway
1905	Lake St. Louis	R. St. Lawrence Y.C. Manchester Y.C.	<i>Alexandra</i> <i>Manchester</i>	J. L. Bremer
1910	Massachusetts	Manchester Y.C. R. St. Lawrence Y.C.	<i>Massachusetts</i> <i>St. Lawrence</i>	Ned Boardman C. H. Routh

1922	Massachusetts	Manchester Y.C. R. Northern & Clyde Y.C.	<i>Sakie</i> <i>Coila III</i>	Frank C. Paine F. J. Stephen
1923	Clyde	R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Coila III</i> <i>Lea</i>	F. J. Stephen J. F. Birmingham
1924	Clyde	R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C.	<i>Coila III</i> <i>Unni</i>	F. J. Stephen L. S. Skourgaard
1925	Clyde	R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Coila III</i> <i>Lanai</i>	F. J. Stephen C. H. Crane
1927	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C.	<i>Clytie</i> <i>Noreg</i>	H. B. Plant H.R.H. C. P. Olav
1928	Hanko	R. Norwegian Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Figaro V</i> <i>Akaba</i>	T. Olsen C. H. Crane
1929	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Northern & Clyde Y.C.	<i>Gypsy</i> <i>Caryl</i>	F. C. Paine W. F. Robertson
1931	Clyde	R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Saskia</i> <i>Priscilla III</i>	A. S. L. Young J. DeForest
1932	Clyde	R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Maida</i> <i>Jill</i>	C. G. Mac Andrew J. S. Johnson
1934	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Northern & Clyde Y.C.	<i>BobKat II</i> <i>Kyla</i>	R. B. Meyer W. Russell
1935	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C.	<i>Challenge</i> <i>Norma IV</i>	P. V. Shields H.R.H. C. P. Olav
1937	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C.	<i>Rebel</i> <i>Buri</i>	P. V. Shields O. D. Simonsen
1938	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Northern & Clyde Y.C.	<i>Goose</i> <i>Circe</i>	G. Nichols J. H. Thom

1939 Clyde	R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C.	<i>Circe</i> <i>Noreg III</i>	J. H. Thom R. Svinndal
1947 Clyde	R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Johan</i> <i>Djinn</i>	J. H. Hume R. B. Meyer
1948 Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Swedish Y.C.	<i>Llanoria</i> <i>Maybe VI</i>	H. F. Whiton S. Salen
1953 Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. Royal Yacht Squadron	<i>Llanoria</i> <i>Marylette</i>	M. Konow J. E. Harrison
1956 Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Canadian Y.C.	<i>Goose</i> <i>Titia</i>	H. F. Whiton E. Barker
1957 Toronto	R. Canadian Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C.	<i>Titia</i> <i>Goose</i>	E. Barker H. F. Whiton
1962 Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Canadian Y.C.	<i>Pride</i> <i>Bibis II</i>	C. C. Masterson J. Crang
1963 Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C.	<i>Antiope</i> <i>Figaro</i>	J. B. Mooney F. Olsen
1971 Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Thames Y.C. R. St. Lawrence Y.C. R. Sydney Yacht Squadron R. Canadian Y.C. R. Prince Alfred Y.C. Hamble River Sailing Club	<i>Adlez</i>	R. A. Mosbacher J. Oakley K. Giles R. Miller D. Barnes Jr. K. Beashel D. Thomas
1976 Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Northern & Clyde Y.C.	<i>Teal</i> <i>Bullett III</i>	H. C. Melges Jr. J. Watson

1978	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C. R. Bermuda Y.C. R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. R. Swedish Y.C.	<i>Rainbow Runner</i> <i>Bull Run</i>	D. G. Knapp K. Nergaard
1979	Hanko	R. Norwegian Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Swedish Y.C. R. Danish Y.C.	<i>Fram</i>	K. Nergaard D. G. Knapp C. Gustaf-Piehl E. Schammburg
1987	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. Royal Yacht Squadron R. Swedish Y.C. R. Prince Alfred Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C. R. Thames Y.C. Havsornana (Sweden) R. Hong Kong Y.C.	<i>St. Francis</i> <i>Battle Cry</i> <i>Notorious</i> <i>Port Douglas</i> <i>Maybe XIV</i> <i>Scoundrel</i> <i>J. Cool</i> <i>Thisbe</i>	G. Foster E. Maxwell J. Sunderlin G. Jones K. Nergaard B. Owen P. Norlin P. Batemen
1989	Cowes	Royal Yacht Squadron R.Y.C. of Tasmania Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Vancouver Y.C. R. Danish Y.C. Y.C. de France R. Hong Kong Y.C. Kinsale Y.C.	<i>Wisk</i> <i>Karabos VI</i> <i>Yankee Doodle</i> <i>Dandy</i> <i>Thunder</i> <i>BB XXI</i> <i>Papageno</i> <i>Phyloong</i>	G. Mann N. Rogers G. Foster J. Williams V. Bandolowski B. Simon L. Mead A. Crosbie
1993	Hobart	R.Y.C. of Tasmania Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Hong Kong Y.C.	<i>Karabos III</i> <i>Yankee Doodle</i> <i>Dandy</i> <i>Davi+loog</i>	N. Rogers G. Foster L. Mead
1996	Oyster Bay	R.Y.C. of Tasmania Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Hong Kong Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C.	Etchells Class	N. F. Rogers J. Slattery G. Gregor C. Johannessen

2004	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. Southern Y.C. R. Thames Y.C. Larchmont Y.C. R. Nova Scotia YS R. St. Lawrence Y.C.	Sonar Class	K. Zeigler A. Lovell S. Shaw J. Singsen R. MacDonald M. Littee
2009	Oyster Bay	Southern Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C. R. Thames Y.C. R. Norwegian Y.C. R. Northern & Clyde Y.C. Black Rock Y.C.	Sonar Class	P. Ryan D. Perry S. Shaw H. Horn-Johannessen G. Manuel G. Worcester
2012	Oyster Bay	Seawanhaka C.Y.C. Southern Y.C. Balboa Y.C. R. Danish Y.C. R. St. Lawrence Y.C. St. Francis Y.C.	Sonar Class	R. Costello P. Ryan C. Reynolds H. Andersen T. Staples B. Stone
2014	New Orleans	Southern Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C. Balboa Y.C. Larchmont Y.C. R. St. Lawrence Y.C. R. Vancouver Y.C. San Diego Y.C.	Flying Scot Class	P. Ryan C. Poole A. Andrews D. Ronan T. Staples B. Mumford E. Doyle
2017	Oyster Bay	Black Rock Y.C. Corinthian Y.C. Long Beach Y.C. Minima Y.C. Newport Harbor Y.C. Royal Nova Scotia Y.C. Royal St. Lawrence Y.C. Seawanhaka C.Y.C	Match 40's	G. Worcester W. Bailey S. Dickson J. Houston C. Welsh P. Wickwire M. Farmer C. Poole

2019 Oyster Bay	Corinthian Yacht Club	Match 40's	W. Bailey
	Long Beach Yacht Club		S. Dickson
	New York Yacht Club		P. Potts, Jr.
	Pequot Yacht Club		D. Perry
	Royal Nova Scotia YS		P. Wickwire
	Seawanhaka C.Y.C		C. Poole
	Yacht Club Punta del Este		M. Leite

The yacht clubs which have held the Seawanhaka International Challenge Cup and the years they won the competition, listed by number of wins:

<u>Wins</u>	<u>Yacht Club</u>	<u>Years Won</u>
20	Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club	1895, 1925, '28, '32, '34, '35, '37, '47, '48, '53, '57, '62, '63, '71, '76, '79, '96, 2009, '14, '17
9	Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club	1896, '97, '98, '99, 1900, '01, '02, '03, '04
7	Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club	1922, '23, '24, '29, '31, '38, '39
2	Manchester Yacht Club	1905, '10
2	Royal Norwegian Yacht Club	1927, '78
2	Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania	1989, '93
2	Southern Yacht Club	2004, '12
1	Royal Canadian Yacht Club	1956
1	Royal Yacht Squadron	1987
1	Long Beach Yacht Club	2019

The number of challenges in each of ten yacht classes, in total, forty-six challenges involving thirty-one yacht clubs:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Yacht Class</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>
10	Fifteen-foot 'Seawanhaka Rule'	1895	1904
6	Nathaniel Herreshoff's Universal	1905	1925
16	Six Metre International Rule	1927	1987
2	5.5 Metre	1962	1963
2	8 Metre	1929	1931
4	Soling Class	1971	1979
2	Dragon Class	1989	1993
1	Etchells Class	1996	1996
3	Sonar Class	2004	2012
1	Flying Scot Class	2014	2014
2	Match 40 Class	2017	2019



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