



# BOSTON HARBOR ISLAND ALLIANCE

Bringing the Islands to Life

## YACHT CLUB CHALLENGE PUTS HINGHAM ON TOP

The annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta, held in the last weekend of September every year awards a Yacht Club Challenge Cup to the top scoring sailing club. The score is the sum of each club's top placing three boats in the race in either spinnaker or non-spinnaker fleets. Based on performance of the past two years, Hingham Yacht Club is the club to beat.

In 2007, 11 of the 26 clubs represented qualified for the Challenge Cup with at least three boats. Among those qualifying were the Cruising Club of America and both Marblehead and Eastern Yacht Clubs of Marblehead. Participants came from as far away as The Northeast Harbor Fleet from Maine and the Hyannis Yacht Club on the Cape. Race Chairman Bob Johnstone notes "Surprisingly, some of the more active clubs in the area, such as Scituate Harbor and Cohasset, didn't have the three boats necessary to qualify."

The Yacht Club Challenge Cup was first awarded in 2005 to the Constitution Yacht Club. In the past two years, however, Hingham Yacht Club has dominated the event with the Feeley's J/109 "Lady Love" and Jeff Kent's J/35 "Black Seal" teaming up with Bill Collins Evelyn 32 "Static" in 2006 and Kirk Brown's J/40 "Jazz" in 2007 with scores of 13 points (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> place finishes) and 17 points (1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> place finishes) respectively to secure the wins. Constitution Yacht Club came close again last year, with a total of 19 points, with finishes of 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> places by Bill Jacobsen's J/46 "Vanish", Ed Frenette's Beneteau 42s7 "Boadicea" and Dick Tubman's O'Day 31 "Charisma".

With a couple of more boats entered, Eastern Yacht Club might have significantly improved its chances of winning the trophy. They were two thirds of the way there with Steve Cuchiarro's Baltic 43 "Windward Spirit" and George Lowden's J/105 "Dark Horse 2" with first and eighth place finishes respectively.

The 2008 Boston Harbor Islands Regatta, presented by Merrill Lynch, will be held on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> with the Skippers Meeting and opening reception on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. A cookout is held on Georges Island Saturday afternoon following the 12-mile pursuit race around the islands.

Yacht Club teams of at least three boats may enter from anywhere... even Switzerland. A club house on Massachusetts Bay is not a prerequisite. "Maybe this year we'll see teams entered from the New York Yacht Club, the Beverly Yacht Club from Marion MA or The Northeast Harbor Fleet (Maine)" said Johnstone. Certainly, those yacht clubs that still want to consider themselves as active "sailing clubs" will want to be sure their reputation is upheld by having at least three boats entered in 2008... with a plan to win. That's the challenge.

## Boston Harbor Islands Regatta 2007 Yacht Club Results

(1) Hingham YC (2) Constitution YC (3) Hull YC (4) Cottage Park YC (5) Eastern YC (6) Winthrop YC (7) Savin Hill YC (8) Cruising Club of America (9) Boston Harbor Sailing Club (10) Courageous Sailing Club (11) Boston Sailing Center