



Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta

October 12 & 13, 2024



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



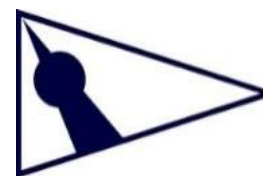
Prepared by: Cairn Krafft, Green Team Chair
cairnkrafft@comcast.net

Green Team Members include:
Cairn Krafft, Charlie Krafft, Bill Krafft, Molly Ratz, John
Gilmour, Jeff White, Rosemary Foltis, Doug Freeman, Mary
Pat McNulty, Meg Farrugia, Tory Gibb, Ed John, LeAnn Myhre



Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta

October 12 & 13, 2024



Introduction

Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis, MD.

Thistle Fleet 34 at Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis, Maryland, ran its 8th annual Clean Regatta Oyster Roast in October of 2024. Initially inspired by the 2017 Thistle Class Association (TCA) Nationals, our fleet has run all 16 of our subsequent major events, including Oyster Roasts, as Clean Regattas. 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 within the Thistle Class worked with Sailors for the Sea 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. The Clean Class program piloted by the Thistle Class launched in 2023, and now has 5 Classes involved: Thistles, International 29er, Hobie Wave, Canada Shark and Optimists!

For the Thistle Class, Clean Class Committee members reach out to regatta organizers 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 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, continuing this new tradition and adding reusable plates to our array of Clean Regatta equipment in 2023, and in 2024, testing using cloth napkins rather than paper.

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 SSA's water bottle filler is located. This is pretty used to bringing their reusable water bottles to regattas at this point!



2. Eliminate Plastic Straws



No straws were provided at this year's Oyster Roast. Fleet 34 provided compostable wooden 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 reusable plates at our invitational regattas, and new this year, cloth napkins for the Oyster Roast! Since SSA's clubhouse has only a small kitchen, our reusable items are stored in bins at a Fleet member's home. This year, we were once again happy to loan our bins of reusable dinnerware to SSA's Lightning Fleet for their certified Clean Regatta. It's great to see other fleets at SSA become interested in Clean Regattas!



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 1st

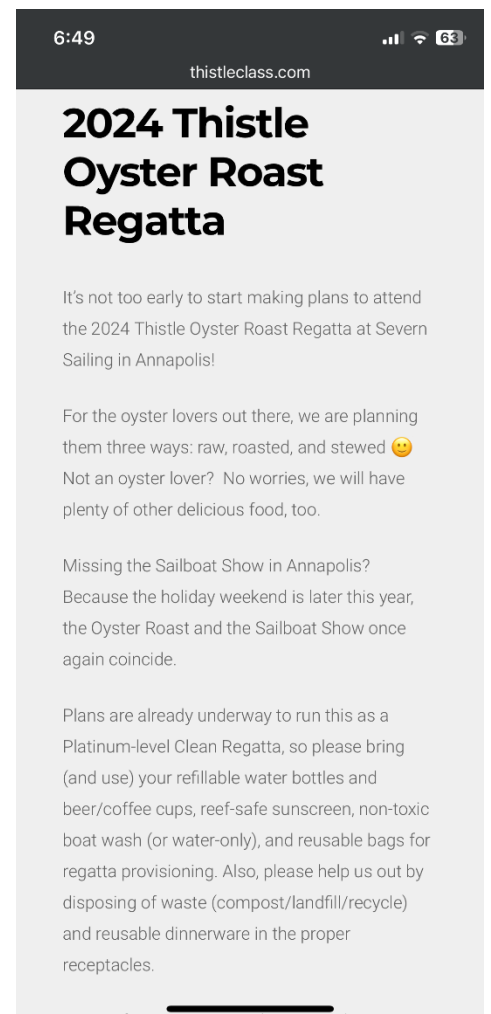
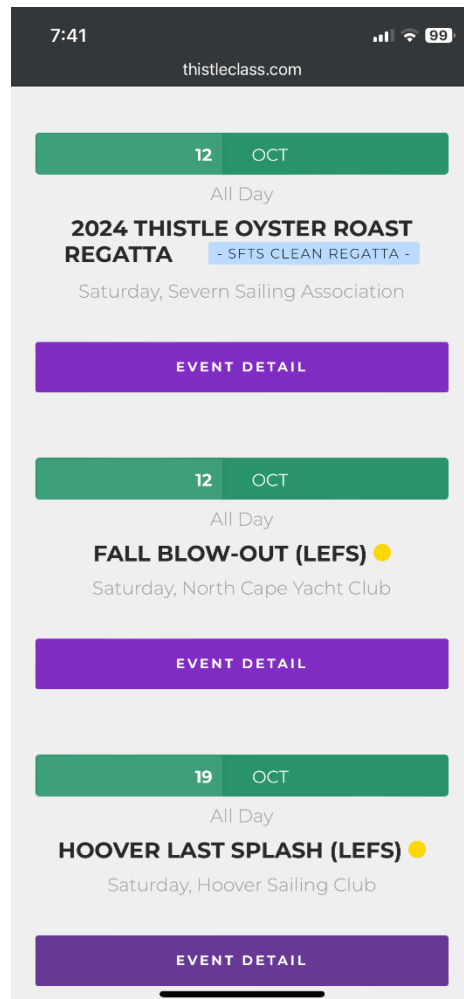
through 5th. This year we were able to award bags created by Sea Bags in exchange for sails collected during previous Oyster Roast sail drives, supplemented by some sale purchases. The winning crew was clearly pleased to also win the Parramore perpetual trophy in memory of former Thistle and Jet 14 sailor, Paul O. Parramore, who passed away unexpectedly at a young age in 1968.



Community Involvement

6. Publicize your Sustainability Efforts

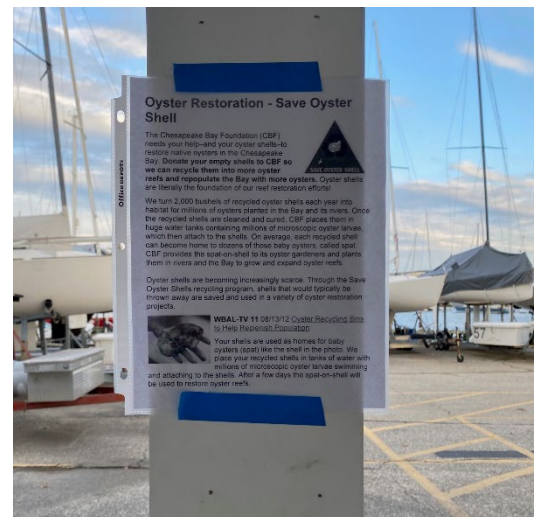
TCA now has an option on their digital calendar that allows posters to select a “Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta” designation, which is then displayed prominently on the calendar. We also include information regarding our Clean Regatta efforts in all of our emails, advertisements and write-up articles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



7. Involve Local Organizations



This year we once again supported Oyster Restoration work being conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation by contributing the oyster shells generated by our event.



8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage



Fleet 34 posts signage that is designed as reusable and educational regarding a variety of topics including wildlife, composting and recycling, and new this year, we decided to highlight some of the most significant Clean Regatta Best Practices with individual signs posted where they would be most relevant.

9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

Fleet 34 seeks local ingredients for baking and other foods we provide. Oysters are purchased from Wild Country Seafood down the street, which operates the last two commercial workboats out of Eastport. Dinners are catered by a local BBQ restaurant.



Responsible Waste Management

10. Organize a Green Team

For Oyster Roast Clean Regatta tasks, we rely on a core group of hardworking volunteers. 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. This year our Green Team expanded by one, with a surprise visit from the Clean Class Committee's liaison at Sailors for the Sea, Emily Conklin, who was in town for the Annapolis Sailboat Show (photo center, with Fleet 34 regatta organizers Mary Pat on the left and Cairn Krafft on the right)!



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.



12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill



As usual, Fleet 34 was able to make use of leftovers from Saturday's dinner by serving them at lunch on Sunday—no food was wasted. Because we had invested in reusable plates and were therefore not generating large volumes of compostable plates, we were able to go back to using our smaller compost buckets, where we collected food scraps only to contribute to a fleet member's home compost pile.

13. Use Paperless Event Management

In our effort to reduce paper usage for the Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta, all registration was on-line at SSA's website. 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

At the awards ceremony, participants were encouraged to do a two-minute cleanup of the space around their area. Green Team members also did a cleanup, including sorting the recycling and checking for contamination in SSA's recycling dumpster.



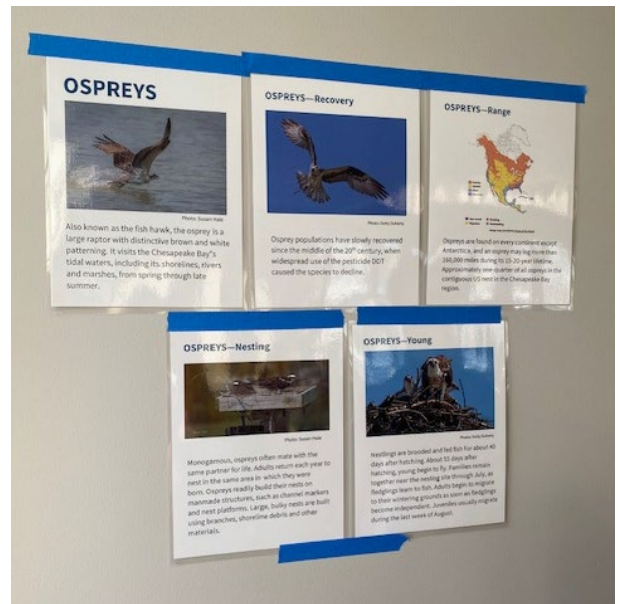
15. Promote Alternative Transportation

SSA provides bike racks to promote cycling for sailors who live or are staying locally, and RC. We also encourage 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. In addition to recycling of oyster shells, Severn Sailing Association also hosts a local Scout troop's project 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 displayed informational posters highlighting the osprey, a bird of prey often seen sailing out to the race course. The osprey posters feature 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.
- Providing water bottle refill capability on the water.
- 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

We encourage participants to use reef-safe sunscreen and wash down their boats with water only, or with a non-toxic boat soap. For the 2024 Oyster Roast, we followed up on a crew suggestion by creating a display of reef-friendly sunscreens that we use. Also, 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. Most importantly, 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.

