

## **Pink Ribbon Regatta**

**November 14, 2025**

Hosted by Windward Women of Halifax Sailing Association

15 Fremont Court

Daytona Beach, FL 32114



## **Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta**

### **Platinum Level Sustainability Report**



Prepared by Lauranne Hess, Green Team Chair

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#### **Green Team Members:**

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Kathi Ackerman Porter, Captain, Windward Women of HSA

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## 2025 Pink Ribbon Regatta

The morning dawned clear and calm over the Halifax River in Daytona Beach for the 4th annual Pink Ribbon Regatta hosted by the Windward Women of the Halifax Sailing Association on Saturday November 15, 2025. This daylong event highlights competitive racing for youth and adults while raising awareness and funds for local breast cancer patients.

Over thirty sailors ranging in age from 7-88, local and from as far as Tampa, Palm Beach and Jacksonville, rigged Optis, Aeros, Sunfish, Wetas and other PHRF boats while the shifty wind started to fill from the east/southeast. For some our graduates of our adult learn-to-sail program, this was their first regatta.

The youth course combined Green and Red/White/Blue fleets to race right off the club beach to get in seven races. The remaining boats sailed downriver to a wider area to get in four races. Volunteers provided valet dolly service, where they help sailors launch and recover their boats, which greatly reduces congestion.

Trophies were presented for the top three winners in each fleet—the Opti sailors were awarded hand crafted model sailboats. To honor the Pink Ribbon female competitors, each was presented with a majestic pink orchid.



Representatives from the Halifax Health Foundation and the directors of the Oncology Services and Patient Navigators as well as the professional fitter from Heart Strings Boutique attended the skippers' meeting.

Fundraising strategies included shopping at the "Boob-tique" and bidding on silent auction items donated by local businesses and direct tax-deductible donations. Having event sponsors helps us reach our goal of exceeding last year's donations. We thank our Skipper and First Mate level sponsors of Halifax Health, MLR Financial Company, SES Inc., Sero Sailing, and Universal Pest Control.

And what regatta is not complete without the post-racing camaraderie over a meal? In this case, we were treated to live acoustic guitar music while enjoying a locally-catered Tacos For Tatas buffet held in the pavilion in the park adjacent to the sailing club. After dinner, attendees anxiously awaited the announcement of sailing-related door prizes.

To top off the weekend, most Pink Ribbon racers competed the next day in the long-standing Turkey Trot Regatta, a distance race, hosted by the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) Sailing Club. The west winds were brisk, making the sailors work long legs of reaching, just on the edgemof being able to fly spinnakers. After the awards presentation, we bonded over a traditional Thanksgiving dinner—and winners walked away with 1st prize frozen turkey, 2nd place chickens and 3rd place Cornish game hens!

None of our regattas, community service or environmental stewardship would be possible without the strength of the HSA volunteer team from our club, youth program and ERAU. Kudos to all on and off the water who make this annual event and weekend such a success.

A component of both regattas is our support of environmental stewardship by establishing sustainable practices such as eliminating plastic silverware and straws, recycling, and reducing food waste. We hope you will consider our application for our 2025 Pink Ribbon Regatta to earn Platinum Level Clean Regatta Certification!

# Clean Regatta Best Practices

## Platinum Level Sustainability Report

### ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE ITEMS

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

We encouraged participants and volunteers to bring reusable water bottles in our NOR, electronic newsletter, social media, and other regatta communications. We have city water that is filtered through our water fountain/refill station.



#### 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

In 2023, we converted to no plastic straws, plastic stir sticks, or Styrofoam at all our Halifax Sailing Association events, including the Pink Ribbon Regatta.

#### 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

We catered the Taco for Tatas dinner with the same local business that we used in 2024. The meal included vegan options again. We used paper plates that were made from recycled paper and reusable silverware, serving utensils, and taco holders from our club. One of our members took the silverware, serving utensils, and taco holders home to wash and return to the club. We keep these supplies in bins at our club to be used for all our events.



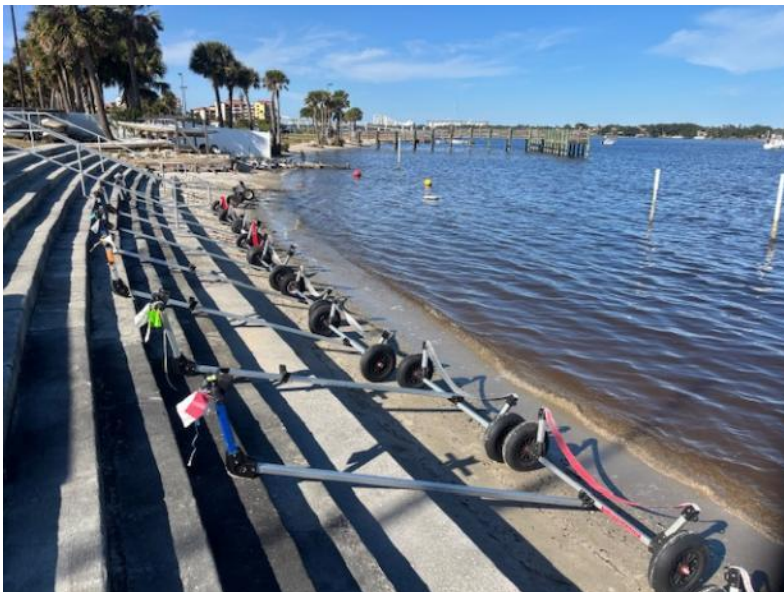


#### 4. Skip Bags or Go Reusable

We didn't provide bags for participants this year. We reused many different items for our regatta! We made dolly tags from old sails, as you can see being prepared and then on dollies in the photos.

A grocery store donated a number of baskets for our regatta, and we also collected baskets from people's homes and thrift shops. We used all these baskets for our silent auction items.

We also upcycled some of our old sails by sewing them into a variety of bags and sold them in our "Boob-tique." These were very popular items!





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

Prizes for all participants and volunteers included multitools donated by Halifax Health Foundation as well as ornaments with our regatta logo, club logo, or sailboat graphics. All women and girls who raced were also given beautiful pink orchids that were donated to us.

Our youth awards were sailboats created by one of our Windward Women. She recycled wood scraps and old jeans to make the boats.

The orchids and handmade boats were big hits, and every sailor needs a multitool!

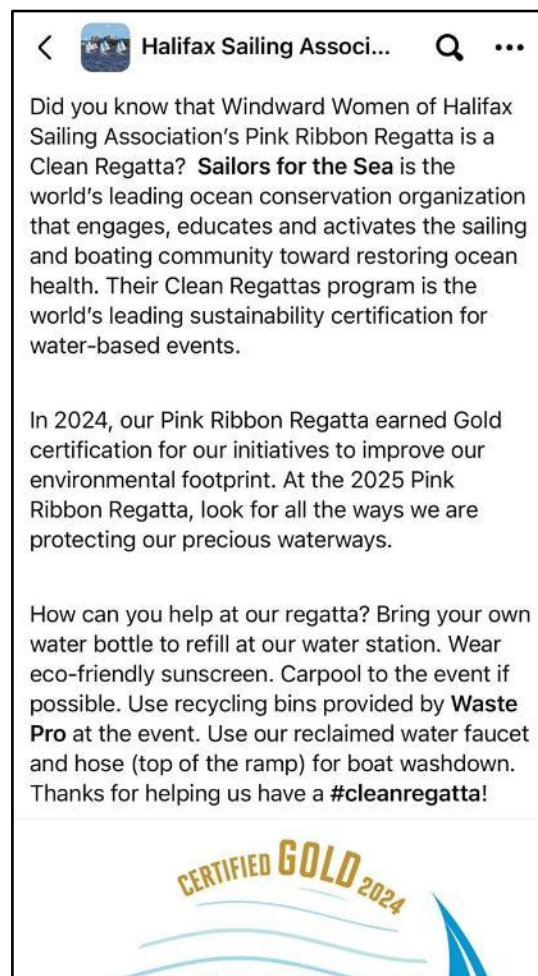


## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### 6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

Last year, we were awarded Gold Level, and we have our certificate posted at our club. We included our green goals during our regatta planning for this year. The Windward Women again held a party a few days before the regatta to wrap the silverware in napkins and tie them with twine, and to prep the regatta SWAG and put together the silent auction baskets.

The day before the regatta, we posted our Clean Regatta goals on Facebook, linking to the Sailors for the Sea page. We reminded people to bring their reusable water bottles and invited them to be part of our Clean Regatta efforts. The Clean Regatta initiative is part of our regatta reporting to our members, donors, and community.





## 7. Involve Local Organizations

This is our fourth Pink Ribbon Regatta, and we continue to partner with Halifax Health and Heart Strings. We love partnering with both organizations! The first picture shows our Halifax Health Foundation partners at our Pink Ribbon Regatta this year, and the second photo shows Paige, who leads Heart Strings, at our regatta. We are so pleased they all joined us for our regatta!



Our Volusia County Hometown News featured an article on 2025 Pink Ribbon Regatta prior to the regatta. We are working closely with our City Commissioner in Daytona on issues related to our city-owned club site, and we invited her to the Pink Ribbon Regatta.

This year, the Friends of Volusia County Florida Master Naturalist Program also joined us for our regatta. The Friends group brought their booth to share information about the Florida Master Naturalist Program and about the natural resources in Volusia County. It was a great addition to our partnerships and to our green initiatives!



We solicited local sustainable and environmentally friendly businesses for items for our silent auction. WiggleBrew again gave us a basket of supplies that uses worm castings for natural fertilizer. Marine Discovery Center gave us tickets for their Dolphin Discovery Tour, and Three Brothers Boards gave us paddleboat nature tour tickets.

A new partner, Waste Pro, our local garbage and recycling service provided carboard “event boxes” for separating recycling and food waste. We were pleased to see our participants sorting correctly!





## 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

We reused our signage and banners for the Pink Ribbon Regatta for the third year in a row!

We also have educational/informational signage posted around our club, rather than printing and handing out paperwork and flyers.

Regatta documents are shared electronically through Regatta Network for competitors.



## 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

For the second year in a row, our taco dinner was catered by Blue Chip Catering, a locally owned and operated catering business. They delivered to the park pavilion that we rented in the park next door to our sailing club. Their food is delicious!





## RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 10. Organize a Green Team

Members of our Windward Women group lead the green initiatives for our entire club, Halifax Sailing Association. Our goal for 2025 was to continue and exceed our green goals from last year's regatta. We included our Clean Regatta goals in all our planning. In addition, we implemented our Clean Regatta practices in our Turkey Trot Regatta, the day after our Pink Ribbon Regatta. Our green initiatives have become part of all our regattas and other events!



Halifax Sailing Association is registered with the local Volusia County Environmental Team, so we are included in the data collection and in the communications around county-wide activities.

We are creating a list of potential environmental projects for Florida Master Naturalist students to spearhead for their course requirements.

### 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

Waste Pro, our local waste management service, partnered with us this year to provide recycling bins for our Pink Ribbon Regatta and pick them up after the weekend. We labeled the bins and encouraged participants and volunteers to use them. After the regatta, we moved to a park pavilion next to our club site for our dinner and celebration; and of course, we moved the recycling bins to the pavilion to continue our collection. We used the bins the next day for our Turkey Trot Regatta, too.



### 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill



Leftovers from our taco dinner were carefully stored in a food-safe manner and were used the next day for our Turkey Trot Regatta. We'll keep paying it forward: Winners of the Turkey Trot Regatta win turkeys – and the leftovers from those turkeys will be used this Sunday for our "Friendsgiving" meal after our monthly Fleet Race.

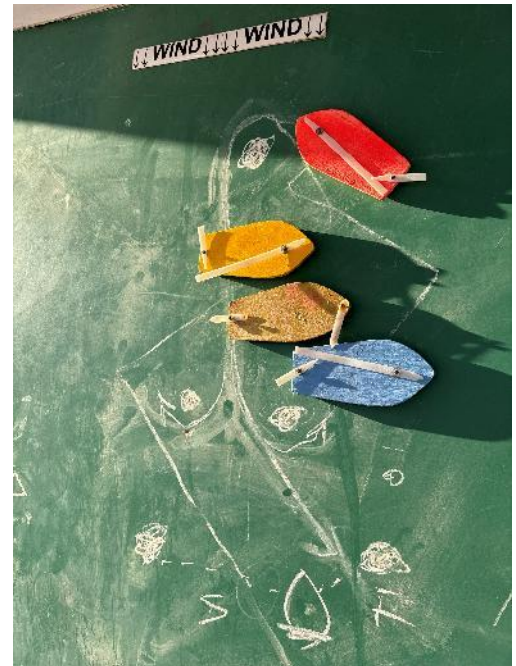
The sailing team members from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University train and sail from our Halifax Sailing Association club site, so any leftover food is always taken and appreciated by these hungry college students!



### 13. Use Paperless Event Management

Event information and registration is through our website. We also promoted our Pink Ribbon Regatta through our electronic newsletters and social media, and we provided and posted a QR code directing people to our website for information. Onsite registration and “Boob-tique” and silent auction payments are processed through Square. Volunteer scheduling is done through an online system.

Race instructions were posted on our official notice board, rather than handed out individually. Before the race, our PRO shared information verbally and on our chalkboard.



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

We participated in International Coastal Cleanup again this year. In addition, we frequently do cleanups at our site along the Halifax River, which includes the Intercoastal Waterway. We enter data from our cleanups into the CleanSwell app. We doubled the number of participants and the amount of trash recorded this year. Our city commissioner also joined us to clean our club shoreline as well as the adjacent city park.



### 15. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

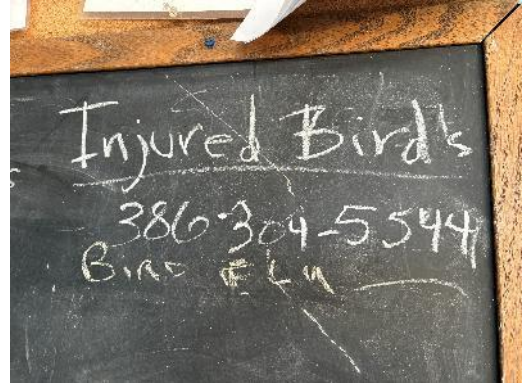
Our boat wash station uses reclaimed water, and we use only Dawn soap when soap is needed. We encourage participants to use reef-safe sunscreen and included reef-safe sunscreen with our door prizes for the Pink Ribbon Regatta this year.





## 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

We have the hotline for injured birds posted in our club and work with a local turtle rescue if we find a sea turtle in distress at our club. We have rescued one bird and one sea turtle in the past. Two of our club members are long-time sea turtle nest monitors, and they once presented an excellent talk on their work and the importance of protecting the nesting environment.



The Friends of Volusia County Florida Master Naturalist Program booth that was part of our Pink Ribbon Regatta this year included information on local animals and plants and on resources that support habitat protection. We hope that the regatta participants and volunteers that visited the booth will consider taking Florida Master Naturalist Program courses to foster stewardship of our state's natural resources.



## 17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

Our meal included vegetarian alternatives in inclusive quantities that were available for everyone.



## CLIMATE AWARENESS

### 18. Promote Alternative Transportation

For safety and convenience, we used a golf cart to minimize driving into our small club. The golf cart crew helped race participants transport equipment and supplies as well as, moving picnic supplies to the pavilion for the taco dinner.



### 19. Reduce Day-of Event Emissions



We used only one committee boat and one spectator boat. Scores were sent back to volunteers at the club to be entered, minimizing the number of volunteers needed on the water. Viewing opportunities were available onshore at our club.

Boats were washed at our reclaimed water wash station.





## 20. Inspire future action.

We are planning to put together a kit of supplies to pick up trash and post the CleanSwell app on and above the kit. This will make it easier for our club members to include trash pickup in every one of our Thursday workdays, events, and days when we are just sailing and hanging out.

We also have a large erosion project to do, the result of recent storms, and we are constantly fighting invasive plants that encroach on our boat spaces. We are working with a Scout to see if he might do one of the projects for his Eagle. In addition, we are approaching the local Florida Master Naturalist instructors to see if any of their students would take on one of our needed projects for their course requirements. We continue to build partnerships with local organizations and individuals – and with Sailors for the Sea - to strengthen our green initiatives and impact!



**Thank you for considering our application for a Platinum Level Clean Regatta!**

