



Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club

Oyster Bay, New York

The History of the Cup

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The Seawanhaka Cup®, sometimes referred to as “The Junior America's Cup”, is the oldest yachting trophy, originating in America, 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 sailed by William P. Stephens sporting a marconi main over 20 years ahead of its time. Ethelwynn won the regatta against a challenge from the Minima Yacht Club of England.

In 1896, Clinton Craine 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. 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.

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, “Wee John” Stephen of the Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club of Scotland successfully challenged the Manchester Yacht Club in his six metre yacht Coila III. Since America was at the time gripped by Prohibition, “Wee John” waited until he was past the three mile limit before filling the prestigious old trophy with his favorite scotch whiskey and celebrating his victory. “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 first lost the Seawanhaka Cup®, Clinton Crane and his Lanai won the cup back for Seawanhaka.

Norway entered the fray in 1924 winning 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. 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 the war, the Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club sailing Circe successfully defended the Cup in a challenge from the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club of Norway sailing Noreg III.

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.

In 1987, a successful attempt was made at a revival of the six metre 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, three 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 sailed in a best of 3 final. After loosing 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. The Cup now sits in the bar of the Club awaiting the next challenge.

In October 2004, competitors from all over the world will sail for the Seawanhaka International Challenge Cup for Small Yachts. With the anticipated 42nd match for the Cup, the words of Seawanhaka's first Commodore, William L. Swan, still have credence. 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:

| | | | | |
|------|----------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1895 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC Minima YC | Ethlwynn Spruce IV | C. J. Field J. Arthur Brand |
| 1896 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. St. Lawrence YC | El Heire Glencairn | C. H. Crane G. H. Duggan |
| 1897 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC Seawanhaka CYC | Glencairn II Momo | James Ross C. H. Crane |
| 1898 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC Seawanhaka CYC | Dominion Challenger | James Ross |
| 1899 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC Seawanhaka CYC | Glencairn III Constance | James Ross Regis H. Post |
| 1900 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC White Bear YC | Redcoat Minnesota | H. M. Molson F. M. Douglas |
| 1901 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC Island Sailing Club | Senneville Greyfair | R. B. Angus Lorne C. Currie |
| 1902 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC Bridgeport YC | Trident Tecumseh | Jas. Patton |
| 1903 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC Manchester YC | Thorella Kolutoo | W. C. Finley A. H. Higginson |
| 1904 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC White Bear YC | Noorma White Bear | H. P. Drummond |
| 1905 | Lake St. Louis | R. St. Lawrence YC Manchester YC | Alexandra Manchester | J. L. Bremer |
| 1910 | Massachusetts | Manchester YC R. St. Lawrence YC | Massachusetts St. Lawrence | |
| 1922 | Massachusetts | Manchester YC R. Northern YC | Sakie Coila III | F. J. Stephen |

| | | | | |
|------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1923 | Clyde | R. Northern YC Seawanhaka CYC | Coila III Lea | F. J. Stephen J. F. Bermingha |
| 1924 | Clyde | R. Northern YC R. Norwegian YC | Coila III Unni | F. J. Stephen L. S. Skourgaar |
| 1925 | Clyde | R. Northern YC Seawanhaka CYC | Coila III Lanai | F. J. Stephen C. H. Crane |
| 1927 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Norwegian YC | Clytie Noreg | H. B. Plant HRH CP Olav |
| 1928 | Hanko | R. Norwegian YC Seawanhaka CYC | Figaro V Akaba | T. Olsen C. H. Crane |
| 1929 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Northern YC | Gypsy Caryl | F. C. Paine W. F. Robertson |
| 1931 | Clyde | R. Northern YC Seawanhaka CYC | Saskia Priscilla III | A. S. L. Young J. DeForest |
| 1932 | Clyde | R. Northern YC Seawanhaka CYC | Maida Jill | C. G. Mac Andre J. S. Johnson |
| 1934 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Northern YC | BobKat II Kyla | R. B. Meyer W. Russell |
| 1935 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Norwegian YC | Challenge Norma IV | P. V. Shields HRH CP Olav |
| 1937 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Norwegian YC | Rebel Buri | P. V. Shields O. D. Simonsen |
| 1938 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Northern YC | Goose Circe | G. Nichols J. H. Thom |
| 1939 | Clyde | R. Northern YC R. Norwegian YC | Circe Noreg III | J. H. Thom R. Svinndal |
| 1947 | Clyde | R. Northern YC Seawanhaka CYC | Johan Djinn | J. H. Hume R. B. Meyer |
| 1948 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC KSSS | Llanoria Maybe VI | H. F. Whiton S. Salen |
| 1953 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Yacht Squadron | Llanoria Marylette | M. Konow J. E. Harrison |
| 1956 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Canadian YC | Goose Titia | H. F. Whiton E. Barker |
| 1957 | Toronto | R. Canadian YC Seawanhaka CYC | Titia Goose | E. Barker H. F. Whiton |
| 1962 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Canadian YC | Pride Bibis II | C. C. Masterson J. Crang |
| 1963 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC | Antiope | J. B. Mooney |

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|------|------------|---|---|--|
| | | R. Norwegian YC | Figaro | F. Olsen |
| 1971 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Thames YC R. St. Lawrence YC R. Sydney YS R. Canadian YC R. Prince Alfred YC Hamble River SC | Adlez | R. A. Mosbacher J. Oakley K. Giles R. Miller D. Barnes, Jr. K. Beashel D. Thomas |
| 1976 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Northern YC | Teal Bullett III | H. C. Melges, J J. Watson |
| 1978 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Norwegian YC R. Bermuda YC R. Northern YC R. Swedish YC | Rainbow Runne Bull Run | D. G. Knapp K. Nergaard |
| 1979 | Hanko | R. Norwegian YC Seawanhaka CYC KSSS R. Danish YC | Fram | K. Nergaard D. G. Knapp C. Gustaf-Piehl E. Schammburg |
| 1987 | Oyster Bay | Seawanhaka CYC R. Yacht Squadron R. Swedish YC Prince Alfred YC R. Norwegian YC R. Thames YC Havsornana (Sweden) R. Hong Kong YC | St. Francis Battle Cry Notorious Port Douglas Maybe XIV Scoundrel J. Cool Thisbe | G. Foster E. Maxwell J. Sunderlin G. Jones K. Nergaard B. Owen P. Norlin P. Batemen |
| 1989 | Cowes | R. Yacht Squadron R. Y. C. Tasmania Seawanhaka CYC R. Vancouver YC R. Danish YC Y. C. De France R. Hong Kong YC Kinsale YC | Wisk Karabos VI Yankee Doodle Thunder BB XXI Papageno Phyloong | G. Mann N. Rogers G. Foster J. Williams V. Bandolowski B. Simon L. Mead A. Crosbie |
| 1993 | Hobart | RYC Of Tasmania Seawanhaka CYC R. Hong Kong YC | Karabos III Yankee Doodle Daviloog | N. Rogers G. Foster L. Mead |
| 1996 | Oyster Bay | RYC of Tasmania Seawanhaka CYC R. Hong Kong YC R. Norwegian YC | | N. F. Rogers J. Slattery G. Gregor C. Johannessen |

Table 1

The Yacht Clubs which have held the Seawanhaka International Challenge Cup, the year of the successful series, with total.

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|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 17 | Seawanhaka CYC | 1895, 1925, '28, '32, '34, '35, '37, '47, '48, '53, '57, '62, '63. '71, '76, '79, '96 |
| 9 | R. St. Lawrence YC (Canada) | 1886 - 1904 |
| 7 | R. Northern YC (Scotland) | 1922, '23, '24, '29, '31, '38, '39 |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 2 | Manchester YC (Massachusetts) | 1905, '10 |
| 2 | R. Norwegian YC | 1927, '78 |
| 2 | R. Y. C. Tasmania | 1989, '93 |
| 1 | R. Canadian YC | 1956 |
| 1 | Royal Yacht Squadron | 1987 |

Table 2

The number of Challenges in each of seven yacht Classes, in the total of forty Challenges to 1996 involving 26 Yacht Clubs.

| No. | Yacht Class | First | Last |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------|------|
| 10 | Fifteen-foot 'Seawanhaka Rule' | 1895 | 1904 |
| 6 | Nathaniel Herreshoff's Universal | 1905 | 1925 |
| 15 | Six metre International Rule | 1927 | 1957 |
| 2 | 5.5 metre | 1962 | 1963 |
| 4 | Soling Class | 1971 | 1979 |
| 1 | Six Metre Yachts | 1987 | |
| 2 | Dragon Class | 1989 | 1993 |
| 1 | Etchells | 1996 | |