

## **Rob Wilber and Sonar 728 Win the SONAR Fleet Tappan Zee Challenge, Nyack, NY**

### **Event Raises over \$5,500 for Adaptive Sailing Program at Lake George, New York**

May 16, 17 and 18, Nyack, New York Nyack Boat Club and Sonar Fleet #23 once again hosted the Tappan Zee Challenge, a 3-Day Sailing Event on the Hudson River in Nyack, New York to promote and encourage sailing among those with disabilities. The Event began on Friday, May 16 with an Adapted Sailing Clinic for interested patients and volunteer physical therapists from Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Facility and ended following 2 days of Racing in the TZ Challenge Regatta, all taking place on the Hudson River just north of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

This year marked the 3rd Annual Boat-A-Thon , a fundraising event Sponsored by Sonar Fleet #23 at the Nyack Boat Club for accessible sailing programs. This year s Boat-A-Thon raised over \$5,500 for the ***Y-KNOT Accessible Sailing Program***, located at Camp Chingachgook in Lake George, NY. This generous donation to ***Y-KNOT*** comes from all the members, family and friends of the Nyack Boat Club as well as Sponsors of the Regatta.

During the Adapted Sailing Clinic on Friday, sailors with disabilities were able to participate in a learn to sail event on the Hudson. The day started with a greeting from Rockland County State Senator Thomas Morahan who sits on various state senate committees dedicated to veterans and the disabled. Later the attendees heard an inspiring presentation by representatives of ***Y-KNOT***. Following the presentation, 13 of the 15 disabled participants braved the steady, driving rain to sail for more than an hour aboard a fleet of 23 foot long sail boats known as Sonars. Nine Sonars, with skippers and helpers were used to take participants out sailing. When not sailing, the warmth of the clubhouse provided the perfect venue for landlubbers who continued to enjoy an additional presentation by Matthew Chao, the US Blind Sailing Champion, who provided details of his world wide quest to continue the sport of sailboat racing.

Throughout the 3-Day Event, the theme of the TZ Challenge is to encourage people with disabilities to leave their disability on the shore and enjoy the sport of sailing.

The Sailboat Racing Regatta itself took place on Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18 with a total of 5 races held in all, four races on Saturday and one race on Sunday. Saturday s racing brought a wide range of conditions from light air in the morning to strong gusts in the afternoon. The race committee completed all four races in shifty conditions, while continually changing mark settings. Sunday s one race was held in light air with critical decisions being made both in the upwind and downwind legs.

Rob Wilber and crew in Sonar 728 from Sachem's Head YC made all the right decisions in the five races and won the Regatta. Newcomer from the J24 class, Scott Harrison of Noroton, sailing Sonar 753 decoded the Hudson River well and took second place. Chris Falk from US Merchant Marine Academy in Sonar 753 placed third overall.

The 3-Day Event received local newspaper and cable vision coverage as well as a radio feature on WCBS news.

Sonar Fleet 23 thanks all the volunteers from the Nyack Boat Club and the Hospital community, who helped to make the 3-day event and the Fundraising Effort for the Y-KNOT Program a success and we look forward to hosting the event in 2008.

TZ Challenge Racing Results:				#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	Total	
1st	728	Wilber	Sachem's Head	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	8.0	8.0
2nd	772	Harrison	Noroton	3.0	4.0	3.0	5.0	1.0	16.0	16.0
3rd	753	Falk	USMMA	5.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	25.0	25.0
4th	646	Coventry	Noroton	4.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	27.0	27.0
5th	487	Dominique	Manhasset Bay	1.0	2.0	14.0	1.0	15.0	33.0	33.0
6th	752	Mike	USMMA	8.0	12.0	2.0	7.0	4.0	33.0	33.0
7th	410	Moltzen	Nyack	7.0	6.0	8.0	11.0	5.0	37.0	37.0
8th	457	Kolkebeck	Nyack	6.0	5.0	9.0	10.0	9.0	39.0	39.0
9th	546	Norton	Noroton	10.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	14.0	40.0	40.0
10th	573	Gidwani	Manhasset Bay	9.0	10.0	7.0	9.0 RDG	10.0	45.0	45.0
11th	476	West	Nyack	15.0	9.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	52.0	52.0
12th	447	Sadowski	Nyack	13.0	13.0	10.0	14.0	3.0	53.0	53.0
13th	408	Marsh	Nyack	14.0	11.0	11.0	13.0	12.0	61.0	61.0
14th	461	Chao	Sail Newport	11.0	15.0	15.0	12.0	11.0	64.0	64.0
15th	539	Lucas	Nyack	12.0	14.0	13.0	16.0 DNF	13.0	68.0	68.0

I want to thank my Co-Chairs, Mike Lucas, Joe Scarmato and Ken Kolkebeck for a very successful Fundraising effort, Adaptive Clinic and Racing Regatta. This year's event raised both clinic participation and fundraising beyond our expectations. Thanks also to our Sonar Fleet Captain, Chris West and Jan Crittenden for their work towards such success on behalf of the Sonar Fleet and the Nyack Boat Club.

Mary Beth Moltzen,  
TZ Chairperson