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Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association wraps up 99th championship season

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By **Charles Zusman/New Jersey Boating**



the waters of Barnegat Bay.

Charles Zusman

A-Cats grace

Time travel in a sailboat? Sailors of the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association did just that Saturday, racing in the finale of the group's 99th championship season. And among the 14 boat categories raced, the designs spanned nearly a century.

One, the A-Cats, designed in 1922, may be the original "party boat." The sleek, single-sail 28-footers carry simple rigs, but their girth and powerful sail mean you need a party of sailors, eight, maybe 10, to sail them well.



bay.

E-Scows fly their spinnakers and add a splash of color to the

"You can sail with your friends," and most of the crew doesn't need experience — they just contribute their weight to keep the craft balanced, said Roy Wilkins, co-skipper of the season winner A-Cat, Spy II.

He commented Saturday after he and co-skipper Gary Stewart guided their craft to victory. As the winning A-Cat, Spy II received the Sewell Cup, awarded by the Seaside Park Yacht Club since 1900.



Sanderling catboats are raced in the BBYRA series.

The finale, traditionally hosted by the Seaside Park club, includes an awards ceremony and a lot of partying. Adding to the ambience is the historic club, formed in 1899.

Popular on the bay are E-Scows, known locally as “E-Sloops,” sharklike 28-footers that go fast and have been sailing since the 1920s. The Ensign, a 23-foot full-keel design, marks its 50th year with a dedicated following.

The bay championship series regattas are held Saturdays through the summer and hosted on a rotating basis by the 14 association member clubs. Boats registered numbered 199 in 14 categories.

This year’s winners include

Russ Lucas

and

Bobby Koar

, both of the Bay Head Yacht Club, E-Scow morning and afternoon, respectively;

John Applegate

, Lavallette YC, M-Scow;

Carolyn Kearney

Glen Dickson

, Bay Head YC, full rig Laser;

Eddie Davis

, Lavallette YC, Laser Radial.

Others were

Paul Gelenitis

, Metedeconk River YC, Sandpiper;

Kevin Kearney

, Sunfish open, Toms River YC;

Kathryn Deragon

, Island Heights YC, Sunfish junior;

Art Bailey

, Island Heights YC, sneakbox;

Peter Sayia

, Flying Scot, Seaside Park YC;

Allen Terhune Sr.

, Ensign, Toms River YC; and

Charles Barclay

, Bay Head YC, Sanderling.

Hall of Fame

Over the decades, Barnegat Bay has produced more than its share of distinguished sailors, and the Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame has been established to honor them. Those chosen this year will be inducted at a dinner ceremony Oct. 6 at the Ocean County College. Proceeds will benefit the college's sailing program.

The inductees include

John Applegate

of the Lavallette YC;

Roger Brown

of the Metedeconk YC; renowned yacht designer

Britton Chance Jr.

; and

Paul Coward

of the Brant Beach YC.

Also:

Mark Schleckser

of the Shore Acres and Lavallette YCs;

John P. Harkrader

of the Bay Head and Manasquan River YCs;

Charles Horter

of the Island Heights YC; and

Doug

and

Peg Galloway