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Savannah Yacht Club
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July 15, 2015

Dear Fellow Yachtsman,

On September 12th and 13th we will have 50 yachts at the Leukemia / Wassaw Cup.

The Savannah Yacht Club (SYC) hopes you are enjoying this boating season and would like to take a moment to describe what we believe is our common passion and vision for yachting in this coastal region. The Savannah Yacht Club began in 1869 as The Regatta Association of Chatham County. Our first Commodore was Josiah Tattnall, former Captain in the United States Navy and later Flag Officer in the Navy of Georgia and the Confederate Navy. He also commanded the ironclad Virginia, otherwise known as the Confederate warship Merrimack. There is certainly a Naval and yachting heritage in the Low Country.

In 1899, an article written in Outing Magazine Volume XXXIII describes the early days of the Savannah Yacht Club. Most importantly it states "A Board of Stewards that could not arrange a regatta would be voted out of office....Almost every year there is an Inter-state marine brush between the yacht clubs of Charleston and Savannah." These Inter-state events were popular because they offered competition, adventure, camaraderie; but most of all they brought people with common beliefs and values together.

At the Savannah Yacht Club we have a deep love for the sea, and a passion for yachting and sailing. Unfortunately, similar to the challenges faced by many clubs, our recent events have not reflected this pride and commitment. How often like us, have you sat with friends debating the disappointments in regatta participation? The Savannah Yacht Club believes in a better future. We see a future where regattas are overflowing with participants and award parties are the pride of the club and the talk of the town. We believe that opportunity surrounds us and going forward are committed to investing time, resources, and applying innovative thinking to make this vision a reality. We expect each regatta to be bigger and better than the previous, and we hope you will join us on this mission.

Our participation goal for the upcoming Leukemia / Wassaw Cup is 50 yachts. We will accomplish this by doing three things.

- 1) **Keep it simple. Keep it fun.** – To ensure wind, suit larger boats, and accommodate a greater variety of racing skills there will be a pursuit start at 1:00 PM in the Wassaw Sound near Gov. Markers 19 & 20. Spinnaker Fleet will round R2W and finish in front of the SYC. Cruising Fleet will have a shortened course. The awards ceremony starts at 8:00 PM. The theme has not been determined but it will certainly be exciting!
- 2) **100% Savannah Yacht Club member participation.**
- 3) **Campaigning.** – Through letters and by visiting clubs in Savannah, Hilton Head, St. Simons, Charleston and Jacksonville, we will describe our vision for the future, our passion for the sport, and encourage participation.

Entry fees are charitable contributions and include free dockage Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. They are: \$125* for boats over 18 feet, \$50* for boats under 18 feet, and \$25 for the Opti Class (*\$25 late fee after August 31). Additional fundraising reduces the entry fee. Details can be found in the NOR.

The Savannah Yacht Club expects to make this the best Leukemia / Wassaw Cup ever. We are frustrated with the current state of affairs and we think you are as well. It would be an honor to have you as our guest and for you to enjoy the company of other sailors who share your passion. If you believe like we do, please join us this September and help make this event bigger, better, and different from what we have grown to accept. Register at <http://www.regattanetwork.com/event/10847>.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Hubbard
Leukemia Cup Chairman

Schley Knight
Leukemia Cup Regatta Chairman

Franz Nuernberger
Member

