

Dear Sailors and Friends,

We are all fortunate to have access to Barnegat Bay, one of the premier sailing venues in the country. Thank you for your part in making BBYRA a success. There are hundreds of people giving their time to make the BBYRA function. From volunteers at host yacht clubs to race committee members on the water every week, club officers, fleet liaisons, committee members, and sailors....to name a few. We could also not function without your generous financial support.

The flurry of activity on Saturday morning, as sailors prepare for a day of racing, is a 110-year tradition repeated every week during the season. The BBYRA is part of the fabric of our lives. Our yacht clubs are decorated with championship flags dating back to 1914, honoring memories of sailors we have known. More inspiring are the junior programs being run at each club, teaching skills that will one day lead to new bay championship flags.

Sharing our love of sailing is important to each of us and part of the mission of the BBYRA. Because of your generosity, we have expanded our support for sailing far beyond Saturday racing. During the past year, we have:

- Granted funds for restoration of the Sea Scout Ship 117's 1951 40-ft USCG utility boat
- Helped build excitement from juniors by organizing a junior foiling clinic held at SPYC
- Organized and supported the purchase of 120 coach boat wireless kill-switches to improve safety for our junior programs
- Continued support of the FJ fleet used by the NJ Interscholastic Sailing Association (ISSA) out of TRYC
- Provided grants for local sailors representing the BBYRA at national and international regattas
- Supported Toms River Fire Company #1, which kindly helps with safety patrols during the BBYRA regattas

The BBYRA's outreach has yielded some heartwarming results. We have Sea Scouts participate on the Race Committee boats, learning about sailboat racing and race management. These young scouts would not have been exposed to the joys of our sport had it not been for us. The New Jersey ISSA has been hugely successful with its fleet of FJs used for High School sailing most fall weekends out of Toms River Yacht Club.

Plans are already underway for 2024 events where we will continue to engage youth and build enthusiasm for sailing on Barnegat Bay. Thank you for helping make the BBYRA as successful as it is today. I hope that you will all join me in generously supporting us as we enter the next stage of expanding the reach of our wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

Ned Thomson
Commodore BBYRA