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An ancient tradition was rekindled in modern spirit with the second annual Hamilton Burr Regatta on the Hudson River in the waters off Chelsea earlier this month. The Columbia v. Princeton Match Race drew crowds of sailors and spectators alike and raised fund to benefit The Hudson River Community Sailing after-school education and leadership program.

In the spirit of the historic duelists - Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr - who fought on the banks of the Hudson in 1847, the match featured teams composed of Columbia and Princeton graduates who went head-to-head in both athletic and charitable competition.

History buffs may recall that Hamilton attended Columbia (then known as King's College) and Burr was a graduate of Princeton (referred to as the College of New Jersey at that time), his father serving as the president of the institution sometime before.

The contest, the 210th anniversary of the original duel between Hamilton and Burr, marked a legacy older than even the America's Cup (considered by many to be the longest-running contest in organized sports). But unlike the America's Cup - an unabashedly high-tech billionaire's battleground - the Hamilton Burr is dedicated to making competitive sailing accessible and to inspiring "citizen sailors" to give back to their local community through educational programs.

The event was made possible by the burgeoning sailing community in New York. The regatta was hosted by Hudson River Community Sailing, a non-profit organization located at Pier 66 that provides experiential learning to underserved New York City youth through sailing and marine education. The racing yachts were lent to the Hamilton Burr Regatta by two generous community sailors, one a Princeton alumnus and the other, a great friend of the 'Duel'.

The format of the Hamilton Burr Regatta features two contests. First, the competitors race "dueling weapons". The J105s were chosen this year by the *Burrs*, as outlined in the agreement between the teams that the weapons will be chosen in alternating years - Princeton choosing in an even year, Columbia in an odd. Second, the teams compete to raise contributions benefitting local community programs in addition to their alma mater to support their current undergraduate teams.

Sunshine, close racing and charitable vigor defined the day. The Hudson is infamous among sailors for its current, and this day was no

exception. A strong ebbing tide and southerly wind meant that upwind legs were over in a hurry, but the boats slowed to a crawl for the long trip back to the line.

The "A" fleet sailed 3 races and the "B" boats got one race in before retiring to the Frying Pan for awards.

Columbia began the first race from the favored starboard position after winning the on-land 'duel', and executed nicely in the starting sequence to get off the line with a slight lead. The lead stayed constant over two legs of racing to give Columbia the win. The *Burrs* took their turn on starboard for the next start, but the *Hamiltons* made a few aggressive maneuvers to shake loose, drawing a penalty in the process. Princeton took their spin and tried to recover, but the lead proved too much. In the final A boat race, Columbia snuck away with a slight lead off the line. Princeton closed quickly on the downwind leg, pulling even for a moment. But, by a painfully close margin, it was not enough, giving Columbia a third win.

The boats traded out most of their crew for undergraduates in the "B" fleet race. Here, Princeton was able to finally turned things around, picking up a solid win over Columbia's boat. Before another race could start, it was time to retire, so Princeton finished a tough defeat on at least a positive note.

Back on shore, the teams celebrated an excellent day of sailing with a private reception and awards ceremony on the Frying Pan. Columbia took home **the Hamilton Burr Trophy** - "Champions on the Water" - as well as bragging rights for raising the most funds of the two teams, but it was Columbia who selflessly presented Princeton the **Citizen Sailor Trophy** for the philanthropic zeal of their supporters and friends.

The two teams have agreed to return next year for the 211th Anniversary Duel to be held on Saturday, September 5, 2015. A formal challenge will be issued by the *Hamiltons* at the Hamilton Burr Regatta Spring Cocktail event to be held in April. The promotional event will be used as another competition - both teams racing to fill the boats with sailors.

All graduates, friends, family and supporters are invited to learn more and contribute to the citizen-sailor mission at [www.hamiltonburr.com](http://www.hamiltonburr.com). Photos of HBR2014 are viewable at [www.hamiltonburr.com/2014-gallery](http://www.hamiltonburr.com/2014-gallery). For media inquires, please contact the individuals identified below for each respective organization.

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**HAMILTON BURR REGATTA**  
ANNUAL COLUMBIA PRINCETON  
MATCH RACE CHALLENGE

*The Hamilton Burr Regatta ("HBR") is an annual match race on the Hudson River first sailed in 2013 by individual graduates and undergraduates of Columbia University and Princeton University wishing to perpetuate the legacy of competitive spirit and civic responsibility of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr as public servants. The HBR mission is three-fold: i) support respective collegiate sailing teams; ii) increase awareness and access to competitive sailing in NYC waters, and iii) give back to the NYC community by raising money and awareness for charitable programs. Please learn more and contact HBR organizers at [www.hamiltonburr.com](http://www.hamiltonburr.com) or [hamiltonburrcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonburrcommittee@gmail.com).*

*Hudson River Community Sailing ("HRCS") develops leadership and academic success in underserved New York City youth through sailing education and provides maritime education and recreation to the community at large. HRCS runs Sail Academy, a for-credit after school program for public high school students in NYC that teaches math, science, physical education and leadership through sailing and boat building. Learn more at [www.hudsonsailing.org](http://www.hudsonsailing.org). For media inquiries, please contact Alex Baum at [abaum@hudsonsailing.org](mailto:abaum@hudsonsailing.org).*