



HAMILTON AVENGED, NYC SAILING COMMUNITY WINS IN INAUGURAL HAMILTON BURR REGATTA ON HUDSON RIVER

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An ancient tradition was rekindled in modern spirit with the inaugural *Hamilton Burr Regatta* on the Hudson River in the waters off Chelsea this past Saturday. The event drew crowds of spectators and raised money to benefit an after-school education and leadership program in the local community.

In the spirit of the historic duelists – Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr – who fought on the banks of the Hudson in 1804, the match featured teams composed of Columbia and Princeton graduates who went head-to-head in both athletic and charitable competition.

Hamilton attended Columbia prior to the revolution (then Kings College) and later served as a trustee. Burr was a graduate of Princeton, which was then known as the College of New Jersey.

The contest marked the 209th Anniversary of the original duel, a legacy older than even the America's Cup (considered by many to be the longest-running contest in organized sports).

In stark contrast to this year's America's Cup – an unabashedly high-tech billionaire's battleground – the *Hamilton Burr* is dedicated to making competitive sailing accessible and 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 (in Chelsea), 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 provided by Halycon Sailing (in Tribeca), a start-up launched in 2013 to provide team-building and racing experiences for corporate and educational organizations in New York. Both organizations provided flawless service and were essential partners for a successful event.

The format of the *Hamilton Burr Regatta* features two contests. First, the competitors race "dueling weapons" of mutual selection; this year's vessel was the Farr 30, a high-performance keelboat from Halycon. Second, the teams compete to raise contributions benefiting a local community program and their respective alma mater. The competitors this year chose to support *SAIL ACADEMY*, a for-credit after-school program for public high school students run by Hudson River Community Sailing.

Sunshine, close racing, and charitable vigor defined the day. The crews left the dock from Hudson River Community Sailing and a crowd of spectators followed around on motor launches or watched from yards away at the Frying Pan or public piers. The starting line was set between the ancient dueling grounds beneath the cliffs north of Weehawken Cove and Pier 66 (near 26th St. on Manhattan), where onlookers could watch with stadium-style perspective.

In the end, the *Hamiltons* succeeded in avenging their side by winning the best-of-five series (3W:2L). Light south-west winds and slack current defined the first race, won by a significant margin by the *Hamiltons*. The wind moved to the south and built to 7-12 kts for perfect sailing conditions in the next four races as the powerful Farr 30s easily overcame the notorious Hudson currents. The *Burrs* continued



their improvement over the day, taking the last two races from *Hamiltons* and setting up a winning streak going into next year's event.

After the racing concluded, a private reception and awards ceremony were hosted on the forward deck of the *Frying Pan*. The *Hamilton Burr Trophy* was awarded to the Columbia alumni/ae for their wins on the water. Done with their competition, the Hamilton and Burr crews shared drinks and food with camaraderie that departed from their namesakes' behavior.

The *Hamiltons* also scored a second victory by out-raising the *Burrs* in charitable donations. This contest was open until the end of the final race and saw some significant last-minute donations by spectators filled with competitive spirit. The *Hamiltons* were awarded the *Citizen Sailor Trophy* for the philanthropic zeal of their supporters and friends.

The two teams have agreed to return next year for the 210th Anniversary Duel, to be held on Saturday September 6, 2014. A formal challenge will be issued on or before June 2014 by the *Burrs*, who having lost in 2013 shall have the right to nominate vessel type to be sailed in the 2014 competition.

All graduates, friends, family and supporters are invited to learn more and contribute to the citizen-sailor mission at www.hamiltonburr.com. Photos of HBR 2013 are viewable at www.hamiltonburr.com/2013-Gallery. For media inquiries, please contact the individuals identified below for each respective organization.

The Hamilton Burr Regatta ("HBR") is an annual match race on the Hudson River first sailed in 2013 by individual graduates of Columbia University and Princeton University wishing to perpetuate the legacy of competitive spirit and civic responsibility of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. The HBR mission is three-fold: i) support our 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. For media inquiries, please contact Becker Chase at becker@makercap.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, and leadership through sailing and boat building. Learn more at www.hudsonsailing.org. For media inquiries, please contact Alex Baum at abaum@hudsonsailing.org.

Halcyon Sailing is an active part and supporter of its community. Halcyon teaches and encourages science, camaraderie, and environmental awareness for everyone in New York City. Product offerings include team building and leadership development for corporate and community organizations. Halcyon also runs a competitive racing series in its fleet of high-performance Farr 30's. Learn more at www.halcyonsailing.com. For media inquiries, please contact Craig Page at cpage@halcyonsailing.com.