



Dates Set for 2009 Clagett Regatta

NEWPORT, R.I. (October 6, 2008) – Organizers of North America’s premier event for sailors with disabilities – the C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta – have scheduled the seventh annual edition for August 23-27, 2009. The announcement follows the recent medal successes of several Clagett Regatta veterans at the Paralympic Games in China: Nick Scandone (Fountain Valley, Calif.) with crew Maureen McKinnon-Tucker (Marblehead, Mass.) in the Skud-18, and Paul Tingley (Halifax, Nova Scotia) in the 2.4 Metre, won gold medals in their respective events; while John McRoberts and Stacie Louttit (both Victoria, British Columbia) brought home bronze medals in the Skud-18, as did John Ruf (Pewaukee, Wisc.) in the 2.4 Metre.

“We are looking forward to welcoming back our North American Paralympians,” said event founder Judy McLennan (Portsmouth, R.I.). “Their success in China reaffirms ‘The Clagett’s’ mission of providing sailors with disabilities both the knowledge and tools to improve their skills, and the opportunity to test them in competition. We will also look forward to the continued participation of the blind sailors who joined The Clagett for the first time in 2008.”

Hosted by Sail Newport, Rhode Island’s Public Sailing Center, the 2009 Clagett Regatta will kick off on August 24 with its traditional one-day clinic which will again find world champion sailors sharing their expertise on everything from the racing rules to match racing techniques.

On the water, racing will take place August 25-27 in the classes anticipated to be selected for the 2012 Paralympic Games (Sonar, Skud-18, and 2.4 Metre) – which will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the International Sailing Federation in November. Sail Newport’s fleet of J/22s will be utilized by the blind sailors who will race just two days (August 25-26) for the 2009 Blind Sailing National Championship title. The clinic and regatta is open to both U.S. and foreign competitors.

The C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta honors the late Tom Clagett (1916-2001), a U.S. Navy World War II veteran who learned to sail on the Chesapeake Bay. As a youngster he suffered temporary paralysis as the result of a bout of meningitis; it was an experience that left him with a deep respect for the accomplishments of people with disabilities, especially athletes.

Background on the event is available online at www.ussailing.net/Clagett/

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