

Dennis Conner and New York Harbor Sailing Foundation Announce Two International Regattas for New York Harbor this Season.

One event in J/24s will be 4th edition.
Second event in historic 12 Meter Class will be new.

Dennis Conner and the New York Harbor Sailing Foundation have announced details for two international events this coming season.

The first event will be the 4th edition of the **Dennis Conner International Yacht Club Challenge**. This event is held in August on J/24 sailboats. Last year, the event was won by Manhattan Sailing Club. Yacht Club de Monaco finished second and Royal Bermuda Yacht Club finished third.

The second event will be new and held on historic 12 Meter Class yachts. Many of these yachts competed in past America's Cup competitions. The name of this new event will be the "**Dennis Conner 12 Meter Challenge**."

Dennis Conner 12 Meter Challenge – October 1, 2 & 3, 2010

Inspiration for the **Dennis Conner 12 Meter Challenge** comes from Monaco Classic Week. Dennis Conner and Michael Fortenbaugh, Commodore of the Manhattan Sailing Club, traveled to Monaco this past September to participate in Monaco Classic Week. Dennis raced on Yacht Club de Monaco's Fife "Tuiga" which was celebrating her Centenary. Commodore Fortenbaugh raced on "Moonbeam III." The spectacle and excitement of this event inspired Dennis and the Commodore to dream of a grand classic event for New York Harbor.

They have arranged for nine 12 Meter yachts to gather in New York City. The 12 Meter Class is often considered the epitome of American yachting tradition. The yachts are beautiful and eye-catching. Seeing 12 Meters race in the harbor will be majestic and another step forward in the sailing renaissance of New York City.

Foreign yacht clubs as well as American yacht clubs will be invited to charter one of the 12 Meters for this event. There will be 3 days of competition on October 1, 2 & 3. Two races are scheduled per day. Participating clubs will race in front of the Statue of Liberty and the skyline of Manhattan.

In addition to the sailing competition, there will be an active social schedule in the "city that never sleeps." This will include a champagne toast for each team in front of the Statue of Liberty when they arrive, a big Saturday night party called the "12 Meter Ball," and an Awards Ceremony on Sunday with Dennis Conner presenting the prizes.

The cost to charter a 12 Meter for the inaugural event is being offered at a special \$15,000 (price subject to change). The entry fee is \$1,000 and there are some incidental costs such as crew gratuities, tickets to social events, etc. Yacht clubs will normally field a team of 10 sailors. They will also be assisted by the yacht captain and crew. Unlimited crew substitution is permitted during the regatta.

The limited number of 12 Meter yachts will be allocated on a first-come basis. Yacht clubs will have rights-of-first refusal on their 12 Meter for the following year or can pass their 12 Meter to another friendly club.

Dennis Conner International Yacht Club Challenge – August 20, 21 & 22, 2010

The August event is known as the **Dennis Conner International Yacht Club Challenge**. This will be the 4th edition of the challenge which began in 2006. Past winners were the Oslo Sailing Club, Raritan Yacht Club and Manhattan Sailing Club. Last year, 15 yacht clubs fielded 19 teams.

This regatta is designed for amateur sailors. Racing is held on an identical fleet of J/24 class keelboats provided by the Manhattan Sailing Club. Teams normally race with 4 people and there is also a local rep on every boat. Teams rotate boats after each race. Three short course races are scheduled each day.

The entry fee for this regatta is \$500 and includes the use of a J/24. This regatta also includes great social events including an Official Welcoming Ceremony, Party on the Clubhouse in the harbor and an Awards Ceremony.

New York Harbor Sailing Foundation

These events are being organized by the New York Harbor Sailing Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to promote amateur sailing or national and international importance in New York Harbor (www.nyharborsailing.com). Both of these events are designed to promote international goodwill through friendly competition. They are amateur events designed for club sailors.

The regattas will be based at Dennis Conner's North Cove, NYC's mega yacht marina located in Lower Manhattan (www.TheNorthCove.com).

Race management will be provided by the Manhattan Sailing Club, also located at North Cove (www.myc.org).

All yacht clubs around the world are invited to participate in one of these events. Invitations are currently being sent by email. Any club which wishes to receive an invitation may contact Commodore Michael Fortenbaugh at mike@myc.org or 212-945-4069.