



For Immediate Release

The Atlantic Cup presented by 11th Hour Racing Announces Partnership with New York's Oakcliff Sailing

Eight of Oakcliff's promising professional sailors to participate in the Atlantic Cup; Four as media crew members for the prestigious shorthanded race's two offshore legs; from Charleston (May 11) to New York Harbor (May 14-18), to Newport, R.I. (May 19); Four to compete in the final stage inshore series in Newport (May 26)

April 12, 2012 – OYSTER BAY, N.Y. – Manuka Sports Event Management and Oakcliff Sailing announced today a partnership providing eight promising sailors from the prestigious Long Island-based training center an opportunity to participate in **The Atlantic Cup presented by 11th Hour Racing**; one of the United States' premier yacht races. Four Oakcliff students will serve as **media crew members** during the first two offshore legs of the competition, departing **Charleston, S.C.** on May 11 for **New York Harbor** before heading to **Newport, R.I.** on May 19, with another four racing onboard select boats for the fully-crewed final stage inshore series of the Atlantic Cup in Newport on May 27. The event will feature the largest fleet of Class 40s ever to race in the United States. Thirteen yachts are already confirmed including competitors from the USA, France, England and Germany.

The media crew members (ages 18-30) will serve as videographers and social media content. **Kwokman Productions**, now in its second year with the Atlantic Cup, will oversee the video production on all the boats and provide guidance and instruction for the media crew members. To make The Atlantic Cup more accessible to fans around the world, each boat will have at least one camera on-board to produce video and social media content as the race unfolds, including race highlights, recaps and interviews on the race's official YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheAtlanticCup>. Fans can also follow all the action at www.atlanticcup.org or via twitter by following [@TheAtlanticCup](https://twitter.com/TheAtlanticCup).

Manuka Sports Event Management Founder and Atlantic Cup Race Director, Hugh Piggin, commented:

"Oakcliff Sailing is one of the premier race training centers in the country. These young sailors will have the opportunity to experience how the world's top Class 40 sailors race, as well as give fans a closer look at the challenges these crews face. Oakcliff provides a very necessary gateway to sailing at an international level and we are extremely pleased to have their help and give some of their team a taste of some of the best short-handed sailing there is."

Oakcliff Sailing Club Executive Director, Dawn Riley, commented:

"We train in match racing, inshore and offshore racing and yet we have an inordinate amount of interest in shorthanded sailing from our trainees in the Acorn and Sapling programs. This discipline is the most difficult in which to navigate a path toward becoming a professional. The Atlantic Cup is making a huge difference in creating those opportunities, and we are pleased to partner with them for what is sure to be an expertly run and hard-fought second event."

Riley holds the distinction of being the first woman to manage an entire America's Cup syndicate as well as being the first American, male or female, to sail in three America's Cups and two Whitbread Round the World races. She is also the former president of the Women's Sports Foundation.

Kwokman Productions Founder and CEO, Matthew Kwok commented:

"All of us at KP are excited to continue producing media around the Atlantic Cup events. Our team is looking forward to bringing the excitement that happens out on the water, to all of the race's viewers worldwide."



Competition Schedule:

- **May 11** - Depart Charleston, South Carolina, for double-handed (two people on board) 645 nautical miles from Charleston to New York Harbor, New York around the challenging Cape Hatteras
- **May 18** - Compete in a one day Pro-Am race in New York Harbor
- **May 19** - Depart New York Harbor with double-handed 260 nautical miles from New York to Newport
- **May 26** - Two days inshore fully crewed (six people on board) buoy racing held over the weekend of May 26 in Newport, RI
- **May 27** – Event finish - party and award presentation at Newport Shipyard

Teams that have announced their entry into The Atlantic Cup include:

#90 - 40 Degrees – GBR	Hannah Jenner and Peter Harding
#30 – Initiatives – GBR	Emma Creighton and Jorge Madden
#54 - Dragon – USA	Michael Hennessy, Merf Owen (Leg 1) & Chris Museler (Leg 2)
#73 - Toothface – USA	Mike Dreese and Ken Luczynski
#85 - Groupe Picoty – FRA	Jacques Fournier and Jean Christophe “JC” Caso
#101 – Campagne De France – FRA	Halvard Mabrie and Miranda Merron
#105 – Eole Generation – GDF Suez – FRA	Sebastien Rogues
#106 - Gryphon Solo 2 – USA	Joe Harris, Tristan Mougline (Leg 1) & Jeff McFarland (Leg 2)
#109 – Agir Recouvrement-Bureau Veritas – FRA	Stephane Le Diraison
#113 - Partouch – FRA	Christophe Coatnoan and Ari Sebag
#115 - Mare – GER	Jorg Riechers and Marc Lepesquex
#116 - Icarus Racing – USA	Tim Fetsch and Ben Poucher
#118 - Bodacious Dream – USA	Dave Rearick and Matt Scharl

As previously announced, the Atlantic Cup will feature one of the largest prize purses for sailing in the U.S. (\$30,000) and will be the first “eco-friendly” competition of its kind, using biodiesel and hydro generators to limit the use of fuel during the competition and eliminating single-use plastic bottles in its hospitality villages.

About Kwokman Productions

Kwokman Productions is a sports and entertainment production company with an innovative, global vision. Headquartered just outside of Los Angeles, California, with a second office in Chicago, Illinois, Kwokman is involved in all stages of production to create and deliver content that drive results. Recent success stories include multiple accolades for its involvement with Monday Night Football, being awarded bids for various government campaigns and integrating its work with various marketing campaigns for clients worldwide.

About Oakcliff Sailing

Oakcliff Sailing is a completely unique non-profit training and coaching center, open to all sailors. Located in Oyster Bay, just outside of New York City, Oakcliff is dedicated to raising the level of sailors and sailing in the US. Using an extensive fleet of keel boats ranging from 6 Melges 24s to 10 Match 40s to 5 IRC boats including a Ker 50, Oakcliff runs programs in match, fleet and offshore racing. The signature training programs include acorns (14-18) in a tuition based 3 week session and saplings (18-30) who train full time for 22 weeks over the summer. This training takes place on the water, in the boat shed and in the front office. Oakcliff is a center unlike any other on the planet, training sailors, boat workers, owners and teams.



At Oakcliff you can become a better sailor, choose a career in the maritime industry or gain valuable skills to run a small business.

About The Atlantic Cup

Having sailed professionally and worked on some of the biggest sporting events in the world, the creators of The Atlantic Cup have watched professional sailing grow in popularity around the world, however interest has not been as strong in the United States. They realized that professional sailing in the United States has remained a secondary sport largely because there is a lack of races that are sponsor driven, have mass media attention, professional competitors and award prize money. The organizers of The Atlantic Cup, therefore, came together to fill the void and create a top-level premier sailing race in the United States. The goal is to produce hard fought, intense sailing competitions featuring the top U.S. and international short-handed sailors. The races will be surrounded by entertaining, engaging events that will engage the casual fan's interest and grow a new generation of sailing fans and enthusiasts.

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For more information on The Atlantic Cup, Oakcliff Sailing or Kwokman Productions please visit their Websites at www.AtlanticCup.org, www.OakcliffSailing.org or www.kwokmanproductions.com.