

# Setting sail for another season

## BBYRA poised for 90th year of sailboat racing

By Keith Grace

One of the longest and strongest local sporting traditions continues another year older this weekend when the first starting signal goes off for the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association's (BBYRA) season. Mark that down as the 90th summer boat races from clubs around its shore converge on the bay.

Since 1914, the opening of the BBYRA racing season has heralded the start of each new summer on Barnegat Bay for the association, which includes competitors from 13 member clubs.

Kicking off the summer racing season with its first of 10 weekend races, the BBYRA will begin its sail to start the year with the first day of races at the Manaloking Yacht Club tomorrow. The opening day's races will be co-hosted by the Bay Head Yacht Club.

Locally, races from three area clubs compete each Saturday in the BBYRA, including the Lavallette Yacht Club, along with the Bay Head and Manaloking clubs.

The BBYRA also includes Beachwood Yacht Club, Normandy Beach Yacht Club, Island Heights Yacht Club, Manaloking River Yacht Club, Moncks Creek River Yacht Club, Ocean Gate Yacht Club, Pine Beach Yacht Club, Seaside Park Yacht Club, Shore Acres Yacht Club and Tides River Yacht Club.

Although the organization got its start in 1914, yacht racing on Barnegat Bay predates the establishment of the BBYRA. The Bay Head Yacht Club was one of the first of the four clubs who were represented at the meeting in February 1914 at which the association was formed. Later that year, after the first summer season of racing, two more clubs were added to the BBYRA, including Lavallette that October. It would take another 20 years before the BBYRA added the remainder of its member clubs that exist today.

According to BBYRA Secretary Betty Adams, approximately 115 sailors are expected each weekend in various classes to take to one of the two Barnegat Bay courses each weekend for the BBYRA races. The Green Island Course, is the northern most of the two courses, located closer to the Manaloking and Bay Head yacht clubs. The BBYRA also uses the Wauwassee Course, which is farther to the south.

France said notable changes this summer include requirements for end of the season regatta eligibility.

In years past, trophy winners had to have completed at 66 percent of the Saturday BBYRA regatta. The requirement will be 50 percent in

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Local competitive sailors (above) return to the Barnegat Bay tomorrow for the 90th season of racing for the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association. Participating local clubs include the Bay Head Yacht Club, Manaloking Yacht Club and the Lavallette Yacht Club.

## Dedicated sailing tradition highlights Lavallette Yacht Club's centennial

By Keith Grace

Life at the Jersey Shore is the 21st century here, little reminiscent to the daily routines of the residents who made their homes and raised their families here a century ago.

Many of the modern conveniences we take for granted today — computers, sport utility vehicles, access to immediate medical care — were barely a blip on the world's collective radar screen a century ago. The world would have to wait nearly 50 years for James Falk to develop the vaccine for polio, and Henry Ford's Model T was still a few years down the road.

But despite the changes the Jersey Shore and the world is a whole have seen over the course of the past 100 years — same for the better, others for the worse — some things, including the Lavallette Yacht Club, have remained constant.

The yacht club, which is celebrating its centennial season this year, has been a Jersey Shore institution dating back to the days when Lavallette was a two-road

town. But, as time has now proven, the sails that were first hoisted and taken onto Barnegat Bay 100 years ago were destined to meet the century mark.

That destiny is met today as the Lavallette Yacht Club and its dedicated competitive sailors find

**"Yacht sounds fancy but this isn't. This is a sailing club. This is a sport that has continued on."**

Betty Adams  
Lavallette Yacht Club  
Publicist

themselves celebrating a milestone few ever reach.

Over the last 100 years, Lavallette has become another bustling Jersey Shore resort community. And its yacht club has grown with it, along with the members' love for one of the area's oldest sports, where sailors

struggle not only against themselves and one another, but with Mother Nature as well.

"I think it is all of the generations of sailing we have had," said Adams, herself a veteran sailor at Lavallette Yacht Club whose life has been greatly affected by sailing for roughly seven decades.

"A 7-year-old can talk to a 70-year-old about it," said Adams of the club's sailing tradition. "It's become more and more families just keep coming back. They all enjoy it and Lavallette is really special."

After being visualized and organized on Aug. 13, 1904 in the club — known as the the Road to Ruin Club in its earliest days — began in temporary quarters at Lavallette resident Joe Patterson's house. Since the local club embarked on building a center for everything is soon from competitive sailing to a social center, to a house of worship.

"They just decided they wanted to sail and it was started for that," said Adams of those first days of

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