



PRESS RELEASE

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PRIDE II Takes 6 Awards in recently completed Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race

Pride II handily beat out her next place competitor, the recently built Schooner *Virginia*, to take Line Honors (first across the finish line) in the 2006 edition of the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race which was run from Annapolis, MD, to Norfolk, VA, between Thursday, October 12, and Saturday, October 14. This 17th edition of the Race drew some 40 schooners from all over the East coast. It is heavily handicapped so that all kinds of sailing vessels, from the 62 foot Class C tugatine *Norfolk Rebel*, can successfully complete against the much larger AA schooners, such as the 100 foot *Pride of Baltimore II*. Despite this handicapping, *Pride II* took home more awards than any other vessel in the renewed 17-year rivalry between the two major Chesapeake ports - Baltimore, MD, and Norfolk, VA.

Pride II's honors included:

Line Honors - first to cross the finish line - 15 hours, 46 minutes, and 19 seconds

First Overall in Fleet - best time even with handicap

First in Class (AA) - a half hour ahead of 2nd place AA finisher, Schooner *Virginia*

Best Overall - the biggest gap between 1st and 2nd place finishers in all four class categories

First Overall at Windmill Point, VA - a point approximately 30 miles from the finish line

First Overall Traditional Schooner - a new category this year to distinguish "traditional" wooden hull schooners from more modern yacht design vessels.

According to legend, the renewed rivalry/camaraderie that stimulated this annual event was a challenge from the owner/skipper of *Norfolk Rebel*, Lane Briggs, to *Pride II*'s Captain Jan Miles for a "race down the Bay - the loser buys the beer." From a gathering of some 6 vessels in 1990, the race has grown to 40 vessels to "Save the Bay." (Entry fees and other donations are given to the Chesapeake Bay Foundations.)

The Race is typically run in the third week of October with all the vessels assembling in Fells Point on Wednesday, with a Parade of Sail in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, on Wednesday evening. On Thursday, the vessels migrate to the starting line just south of the Bay Bridge off Annapolis. The race begins around 1 PM on Thursday and continues through Friday (and Saturday for some vessels) until all are safely tied up at North Landing Park and High Street Landing in Portsmouth, VA, where participants, volunteers and sponsors celebrate with a pig and oyster roast and the awards ceremony. Dockside and onboard festivities continue on into the night as crews gather for the traditional 'Sailors Evening' to gam and sing sea chanties. On Sunday sponsors join the crews for a farewell breakfast.

This was the first year that *Pride II* raced against the Schooner *Virginia* which was built (among other reasons) "to beat the PRIDE." *Pride II* won handily.

More information about the race can be found on the PRIDE II web site at www.marylandpride.org