

LIGHTWAVE YACHTS OWNERS REGATTA CUP CHALLENGE



Earlier this year, Lightwave Yachts celebrated 10 years in conjunction with their third annual Regatta. Two full days of sailing, three great nights of celebrations...and let me tell you, ask anyone who that was there and they will verify these guys sure know how to put on a party!

The premier event on all Lightwave Yachts Owner's calendars, is the annual 'Lightwave Yachts Owner's Regatta Cup Challenge'. Hosted on the beautiful Gold Coast, this year's Regatta was larger than ever, breaking all previous records with 15 Lightwave catamarans participating, and over half of the entire Lightwave Owners attending the 3-day celebration.

It was not long after the fleet of Lightwave catamarans docked that the party began. Owners began to congregate on the docks, drinks in hand, eyeing off tomorrow's competition. Tonight they gathered as family and complimented each other on the one thing they all had in common, their prides and joy – a Lightwave.

Over 150 people attended the Gala Cocktail party, on the Friday evening hosted by Lightwave Yachts, to celebrate the success of the company, and to personally thank those who made it all possible. The Harbour Point Function Centre, overlooking Hope Island Marina provided the perfect atmosphere for the formal evening of the Regatta. Those in attendance were spoilt with gourmet canapés, beverages of their choice, and entertained by a fabulous trio of eye candy called 'Geed Up'. The traditional 'LIGHTWAVE AUCTION' encouraged the competitive spirit of our crews who bid with their precious 'Lightwave Dollars' for the fabulous merchandise supplied by our generous sponsors.

The 'Owners Regatta Cup Challenge' commenced Saturday with a gourmet breakfast of egg

and bacon rolls, fresh fruit platters, and breakfast pastries by the wonderful staff at Hope Island Deli. Armed with their coffee machine, they provided the necessary caffeine fix needed to get avid sailors through the day. Every crew member received a Lightwave Regatta shirt as a token of the milestone they were celebrating; most donned their mementos before leaving shore for the days sailing. Day one saw a freight train of catamarans meandering down the Nerang River on route to the Gold Coast Seaway; a good hour long journey from the overnight accommodation at the Hope Island Marina. With more than 100 crew enjoying the day out on the water, there was plenty of good-hearted rivalry and competition about.

A fleet of 15 catamarans converged at the Southport Seaway from all around the Australian coastline, to show their flair and compete in two back to back off-shore events. There were 2 divisions, the 38ft sailing, and the 45ft sailing, with each receiving individual Regatta Cup Trophies. The first Off-Shore rally for the weekend commenced at 10.30am with a collage of coloured spinnakers making their way out to sea, passing around a buoy and returning to cross the finish line. So spectacular was the sight of the fleet under full sail that it made national television that evening with the awesome Surfers Paradise coastline as the backdrop.

The second event commencing at 12.30pm, saw the fleet of Lightwaves heading once again, out to sea before tracking south as they headed towards the Burleigh Headland. After reaching the strategically placed buoys, they commenced their return north, turning heads along the Surfers Paradise Beach as they approached the second buoy. Circling back to the first buoy again, and then continuing to complete the course, with all vessels successfully crossing the finish line. 'NORTH STAR' took line honours for the 38' division, followed by 'BLUES POINT' and 'RIDGEE DIDGE' coming in a close third. 'INNFORAPENNY II's previous regatta experience assisted them in taking the 45' division with '5 O'Clock Somewhere' taking second place. At days end, it was obvious that the main race was to anchor up and get back to dry land for more 'sun downers'. Everybody made the pilgrimage to Paradise Point where they anchored for the night before climbing aboard their tenders and hitting the shore to enjoy a well deserved fully catered spit roast and rock the night away to some live music.

Bright and early Sunday morning Roger Overell, Managing Director of Lightwave Yachts fired up the BBQ's in the park and before long the smell of bacon and eggs encouraged all from their catamarans. During breakfast, all listened closely to the morning briefing as sailing instructions were given and all the important points were covered. Sunday was the 'Fun Run', and there were some very important items that needed to be collected in order to qualify for the event. Each Captain was given a cryptic story that presented the days activities and what they were required to purchase and present upon their arrival at the finish line at Couran Cove in order to qualify for the Regatta Cup.

After docking at the Couran Cove Marina, Lightwave Yachts conducted the 'LIGHTWAVE BOAT SHOW-offs' which provided the opportunity for Owners to entertain and display their vessels sporting individual custom features. The presentation evening commenced with Roger Overell presenting the trophies and sponsor's gifts to the winning crews. Guests enjoyed an open bar and a formal 3-course menu in the 'The Restaurant', one of Couran Cove's 5 star facilities.

Overall, this year's Regatta was a huge success and we would like to congratulate this year's winners, 'NORTH STAR' and 'INNFORAPENNY II', and thank all those who made the effort in sailing their Lightwave catamarans to the Gold Coast to participate in our Regatta. In addition, a special thank you to those who kindly accommodated others onboard during the weekend. The only question being asked now is what dates they need to keep free for next year's Regatta!

Thank you to our Sponsors and Suppliers:

All Yachts Spars, Ashtia, Club Marine, Cruising Helmsman, EPD, GM Sails, Go Boating, Gold Coast Marine Centre, Grainger Designs, Huntsman, Onboard Recovery Systems, Multihull World, Outback Marine, Ronstan, and Volvo Penta.

In addition, a special thank you to:

Hope Island Marina, Harbour Point Function Centre, Hope Island Deli, and Couran Cove Resort.