



Monaco Challenge Cup 2026 Notice of Race

Name of Event: The name of the event shall be the "Monaco Challenge Cup."

Objective of Event: The objective of this event is to bring together yacht clubs from around the United States to welcome Yacht Club de Monaco to our shores and to create international goodwill through friendly competition.

Entries: This is an invitational regatta and any yacht club organized in the United States of America for two years or longer may request to enter. A cap of 20 will be placed on the number of participating yacht clubs. The goal is to create a unique and special environment which generates international goodwill through friendly competition. As such, intimacy is important for communication and developing friendships between the participating yacht clubs. Yacht clubs will be confirmed in order of their response. Once the limit is reached, additional yacht clubs will join a wait list.

Rules: The regatta will be raced according to the International Racing Rules of Sailing as adopted by US Sailing. A panel of judges will oversee the regatta, and all decisions of the judges will be final.

Organizing Committee: Participating yacht clubs shall provide one person to serve on the Organizing Committee which shall meet virtually leading up to the regatta to consider and decide on various aspects of the regatta. The Host Club will chair the Organizing Committee. It is encouraged for each participating yacht club to nominate one person to serve on the Race Committee as well.

Host Club: The host for the "Monaco Challenge Cup" shall be the Manhattan Yacht Club. MYC is a twinned club with Yacht Club de Monaco since 1988 and has sent teams to race in Monaco Classic Week on five separate occasions.

Yachts: Each yacht club shall be represented by one, and only one, yacht of their choosing. This event is only be open to traditional displacement keelboats, no multi-hulls or flying boats. During racing, each participating yacht must fly their club burgee at all times, with a minimum size of 24"x36" if flown from the back or side stays no lower than 8 feet above the waterline, or a minimum size of 12"x18" if flown from a pigstick on the mast head.

Crew: This is a friendly competition among yacht clubs. Unlimited crew addition, subtraction or substitution, regardless of weight, is allowed during the regatta.

Entry Fee: The entry fee shall be determined by the Organizing Committee with a goal of keeping the fee low. It is expected to be in the \$500 range. The entry fees shall be used to cover normal regatta expenses such as trophies and lunches for the race committee. All social events will be ticketed and paid for by people who attend.

Racing Area: This competition shall take place in front of the Statue of Liberty, long a symbol of freedom and international friendship. The start and finish of all races will be from the Manhattan Yacht Club floating clubhouse anchored north of Ellis Island.

Courses: Courses will be around government buoys. The exact course and distance will be set by the Race Committee 2 hours prior to the start of each race and transmitted to all registered yachts by email & WhatsApp. The goal is to conduct 2 races per day and 4 races over 2 days.

Rating Formula: The rating formula for the Monaco Challenge Cup shall copy as much as possible the local PHRF rating, with special adjustments for this specific regatta permitted by majority vote of the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee shall be allowed to adjust ratings after each race on a pre-agreed upon formula to account for real life performance in New York Harbor with the unusual currents and winds. Also, an agreed upon bonus shall be offered to yacht clubs entering traditional wooden vessels.

Race Format: The race will be conducted as a Pursuit Race, with calculations offsetting the starts in order to have all yachts theoretically finish at the same time.

Scoring: Points will be assigned points based on their finishing position. The winner shall be that American yacht club which has the least number of points at the end of the regatta. One or more races constitute a regatta. There is no discard.

Prizes: Regatta prizes will be awarded to the top teams. In addition, International Goodwill Prizes will be awarded to all teams in the regatta.

Special Award: The most important prize will be the “Regatta Cup.” This is a friendship event, designed to promote international goodwill through friendly competition. The Regatta Cup shall be presented to that yacht club (other than the host club) which best embodies the spirit of the international competition and puts camaraderie on a level equal or ahead of competition. This trophy shall be decided by a vote of all yacht clubs participating.

Spectators: All races will be run from the floating clubhouse and there will be opportunities for spectators to purchase tickets to watch the start and finish of each race. The floating clubhouse can hold up to 149 people and transportation to and from the club docks is provided by a special launch.

Racing Schedule:

Friday, June 26, 2026

1100 – Start of Race One

1400 – Estimated start of Race Two

Saturday, June 27, 2026
1100 – Start of Race Three
1400 – Estimated start of Race Four

Social Schedule:

Thursday, June 25, 2026
1800-2200 - “Meet Monaco” Party on the Honorable William Wall (sailors only)

Friday, June 26, 2026
1800-2200 - Regatta Dinner, location TBD (regatta participants only)

Saturday, June 27, 2026
1800-2200 - “Monaco Party” at the Manhattan Yacht Club land clubhouse (public invited)

Friendship Sail on Sunday

On Sunday after the regatta, a “Monaco Friendship Sail” will be organized for all sailboats in NY Harbor. Participants will gather at 2 pm in the Hudson River just south of the Holland Tunnel ventilator shafts. Then Tuiga and Viola will lead the way south past the Statue of Liberty by passing buoys G35 and G33 to port. After rounding G33, yachts may pass each other in a respectful manner and continue sailing the port triangle around G1, G35 and G33. There is no timed start and no finish to this Friendship Sail. Participating and sharing the experience with our visitors from Monaco as well as other sailors in the harbor is what will be important and memorable. The only rule is that no yachts may sail in front of Tuiga or Viola until after passing G33.

Possible Perpetual Challenge & Trophy

If the Organizing Committee so agrees and deems it proper and sustainable, they may consider the establishment of a “Monaco Challenge Perpetual Cup” suitable for this grand international occasion. This perpetual trophy would be governed by a Deed of Gift held under the auspices of the New York Harbor Sailing Foundation, whose mission includes promoting amateur sailing of national and international importance. This Challenge Cup could be a perpetual sailed for every two years on the years opposite of Monaco Classic Week. The American yacht club which wins the “Monaco Challenge Cup” would have the honor of hosting the next Monaco Challenge Cup in their home waters during a time from June through October when they deem most advisable. All yacht clubs which race successfully in this first event will receive a guaranteed berth for the second event. In the event that a participating yacht club is unable to field a team, their spot in this challenge will be passed to the next club on the waiting list. No club may host the event more than once in a row. If the host club wins the event, then the second place yacht club will receive the honor of hosting the next event. In the intervening years when the Monaco Challenge Cup will not take place in the United States, those clubs who develop ties with the Monaco Yacht Club will be encouraged to charter classic yachts in Europe and to meet at Monaco Classic Week to continue this unique and special gathering of friends.

More Information and to Enter

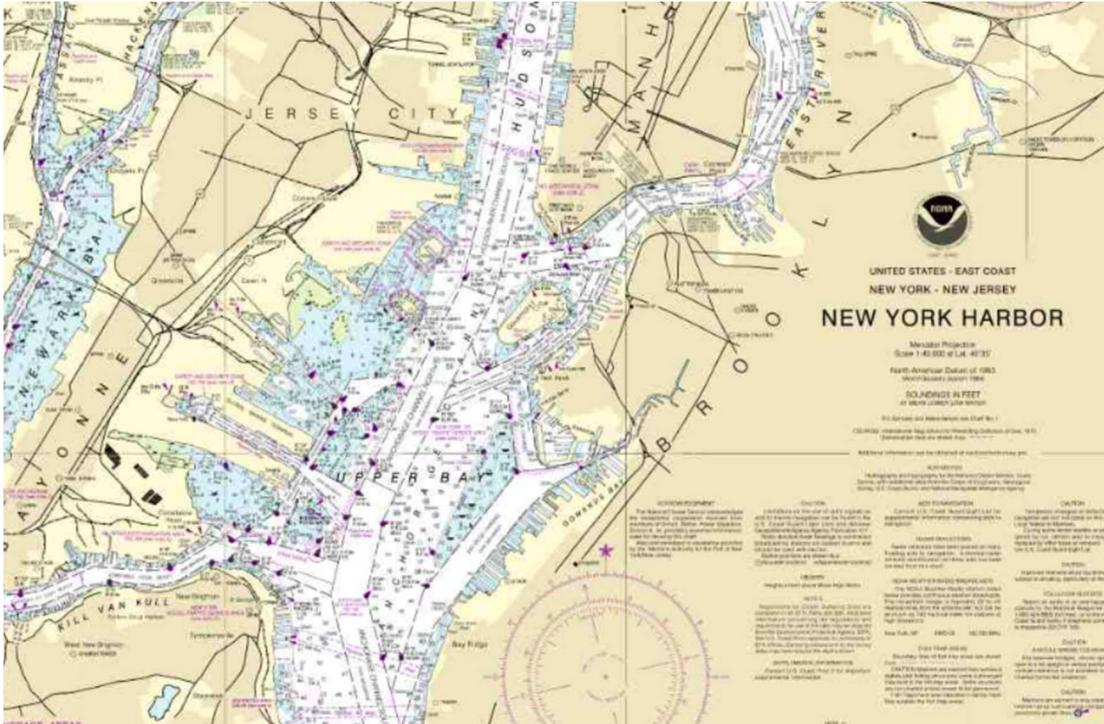
Please send an email to office@myc.org



Yacht Club de Monaco's flagship "Tuiga" is a 15 Meter yacht. Because each yacht club may be represented by only one yacht, Tuiga will be in "representation" mode during the Monaco Challenge Cup. As such, she will be sailing in the harbor with VIPs such as the Flag Officers of participating yacht clubs, press and other dignitaries. The yacht representing YCM in the races will be Viola.



“Viola” will represent Yacht Club de Monaco in the Monaco Challenge Cup. Viola is a gaff rigged cutter built by Fife in 1908. She measures about 49 feet overall and 30 feet on the waterline. Viola has been one of the most successful classic yachts for YCM and she is owned by Kostia Belkin and has a quite famous crew in Europe known for racing very well, while also hosting great parties and discos, and organizing special yoga sessions each morning. After racing in NY Harbor, Viola will continue up to Maine where she will race the classic yachting circuit in August, including the Opera House Cup on Nantucket.



Races will take place under the gaze of the Statue of Liberty, one of the most famous icons in the world.

The 1987 America's Cup 12 Meter "America II" (US 42) will be one of the boats racing in the Monaco Challenge Cup. She will be representing the Manhattan Yacht Club. The Foundation also has a second identical 12 Meter available for charter to a yacht club which wishes to participate but does not have a yacht in the New York Harbor area.

It doesn't matter if you race a large or a small yacht. Each yacht should be winning at some point during the race. The Monaco Challenge Cup will be run as in a pursuit format with yachts of a higher rating starting first. Viola which will represent Yacht club de Monaco is 30 feet on the waterline and 49 feet overall.

Each club will be represented by only one, and only one yacht. Good luck!