

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10.6.08**



## **Inaugural Wellness Cup Distance Race: A Success in More Ways Than One.**

*Over \$20,000 raised to benefit The Wellness Community-Southern Connecticut.*

Saturday, September 27th, 10am just south of R34 in Branford...“BANG” the first class started in 7-10 knots of breeze out of the ENE. Three more classes followed, with a total of 17 boats in all. This first time fund raising regatta saw pretty much every condition you could pack into a day. From 3 to 27 knots of breeze, reaching, running, beating - big chop to pancake flat, rain, drizzle and even a bit of sun. Each competitor was challenged by the wide variety of conditions and angles of sail. The ECSA course took from 5 hours (Cambara 5:01:34) to just under 8 hours to complete. A non-ECSA short course was also offered. Upon returning, the boats were greeted by the race committee who collected log sheets and handed out hot coffee and homemade sweets.

The Awards Party took place the following day at the Branford Yacht Club. “Trippy Phonics” entertained with crowd pleasing music, libations flowed and Cassy Prinz cooked up and put out an incredibly delectable spread - all for a mere \$15 donation. The sailors and guests were also tempted with extraordinary silent auction and raffle prizes to increase the fund raising results. Many people walked away with fantastic prizes for themselves and family in attendance.

Racing trophies were awarded to:

Class A: 1st, Full Tilt-Bob & Joyce Adams; 2nd, Jupiter Breeze-Charles Ahern

Class B: 1st, Impulse-Jim Barker; 2nd, Fearless-Shaun Ensor; 3rd, Fusion-Mark Salerno

Class C: 1st, Wasabi-Edgar Smith; 2nd, Sagacious-Manfred Noack; 3rd, Spectre-Brian Prinz

Class D: 1st, Evil Monkey-Tom Treat; 2nd, Wildeyes-Teri & Pete Binkley; 3rd, Smoke on the Water-Ken Grey & Mike Mollow

The top three individual & top boat fund raisers were also awarded for their efforts with outstanding prizes from North U, North Sails, Harken and Sound Rigging. As a part of that vendor support, Bill Gladstone of North U will be coaching Team Wildeyes, the top fund raising boat, in an onboard session - Spring 09!

The success of this inaugural fund raising event came from the hard work of local racers and volunteers as well as the racers who even with unsettling weather predictions, traveled in from Westbrook to Stratford to take part in it. Next year The Wellness Cup expects to double in size based on the overwhelming positive response from the competitors, volunteers and vendors. So, mark your calendar with the 2nd Annual Wellness Cup, September 26th 2009. For full results and information on the event visit: [www.thewellnesscup.org](http://www.thewellnesscup.org)

*The Wellness Cup Regatta is a charitable, fund raising event with proceeds to benefit The Wellness Community of Southern Connecticut. The Wellness Community is an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing FREE support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones.*



Class D, last to go...Getting chutes up for a downwind start.

Class C, beginning the Wellness Cup in rain and 7-10 knots of breeze.





Teri Fogler-Binkley - Co-Chair The Wellness Cup, Wayne Fenton - PRO and Pete Binkley - Race Chair, share a relaxing moment post race.

Sailors at the Wellness Cup Awards Party exchange stories out on the deck at the Branford Yacht Club in the sunshine.





Top Right: Two of the most important people at the Awards Party, Cassy Prinz and Vic Pantani -- the cook and bartender!

Top Left: Paul Jennings from the Wellness Cup Race Committee and Jane Reilly from Snowbird toasting a successful event.

Left: President of The Wellness Community-Southern Connecticut & event Co-Chair, Gerlinde Kehlenbach with granddaughter Arianna Prinz -- both sailors!