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**For Immediate Release**

## **The Annual Hospice Regatta of Maine Moves to Morris Yachts Waterfront in Northeast Harbor**



**NORTHEAST HARBOR, MAINE (February 26<sup>th</sup> 2013) –**

The 17th Annual Hospice Regatta of Maine, will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> this year in a new location: Morris Yachts' Service Yard in Northeast Harbor. Morris Yachts is donating their facilities and staff for the event and has already begun helping the organizers plan the activities. This year's regatta will build on several well-established traditions and also feature some exciting new events.

All proceeds benefit the free end-of-life and grief support services provided by Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County, now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of service. Sponsorships for the Hospice Regatta of Maine are now being taken and the Host Committee is being

formed. For information on the Hospice Regatta of Maine opportunities, please visit [www.hospiceofhancock.org](http://www.hospiceofhancock.org) or call (207) 667-2531.

The Hospice Regatta of Maine is the MDI region's only charity regatta that offers winners the opportunity to compete in a national championship race. In addition to the sailing races, power boaters have the unique opportunity to play a rousing game of poker on the water in the 'High Card for Hospice' poker rally, with great prizes awarded to those holding the best poker hands at the end of the day. 'High Card' will start and finish at the Northeast Harbor Town Dock, next to Morris Yachts. Land-lubbers can also join the fun by attending the Hospice Regatta Rendezvous at Morris Yachts boat yard in Northeast Harbor on Saturday afternoon, July 13<sup>th</sup>. This social event will feature elegant hors d'oeuvres, specialty drinks, entertainment and an awards ceremony.

"We're honored to host this meaningful regatta in our yard," says Kirk Ritter, Morris Yachts Northeast Harbor Yard Manager. "Our employees are really excited and we look forward to supporting such an important organization in our local community."

Sailing partners for the Hospice Regatta are the Southwest Harbor Fleet and the Northeast Harbor Fleet for adult classes including Luders, Tempests, Bullseyes, Cruising Spinnaker and Non-spinnaker, and International One Designs. For junior sailors, the MDI Community Sailing Center and the Northeast Harbor Sailing School sponsor races for Optimists, 420s and Mercuries. Winners are awarded in all classes. Juniors and SWH fleet races will take place on Friday, July 12, with NEH fleet races sailing on Saturday, July 13.

# MORRIS M YACHTS

Representing the Hospice Regatta of Maine in this year's National Hospice Regatta Championship April 11 - 14 in St. Petersburg, Florida will be Jim Fernald and his team, which successfully placed in the 2012 local Hospice Regatta. This will be the second year that Fernald and his crew have traveled to St. Petersburg for the national event. They did well last year and hope to do even better in this year's National Hospice Regatta Championship.

Again, sponsorships for the Hospice Regatta of Maine are now being taken and the Host Committee is being formed. For more information about any of the Hospice Regatta of Maine opportunities, please visit the website at [www.hospiceofhancock.org](http://www.hospiceofhancock.org), or call (207) 667-2531.

(Caption for photo above: BDN 3 Boats: Three participants in the 2012 Hospice Regatta of Maine sail along the backdrop of the beautiful MDI coast. Photo provided by Bangor Daily News.)



Representing the Hospice Regatta of Maine at the 2012 National Hospice Regatta Championship in St. Petersburg, Florida in April 2012 were Ryan Donahue, Larry Hudgens and Jim Fernald. Photo by Trevor Dean



Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County Board members Maureen Giunta, Bette Pierson, Mike Alteri and Michael Smith celebrate at the 2012 Hospice Regatta of Maine.

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## About Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County

Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County serves individuals living at the end of life, their families and caregivers with free, non-medical support and comfort, and provides bereavement care. Our guiding values are: Dedication to the preservation of individual dignity and quality of life; support for volunteers and the hospice team; hospice education and advocacy for the community we serve.

[www.hospiceofhancock.org](http://www.hospiceofhancock.org)

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## About Morris Yachts

Founded in 1972 and celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2012, Morris Yachts is America's premier builder of semi-custom and custom sailing yachts from 29-80ft and has worked hard to become the quality benchmark for discriminating sailors around the world. Through their M-Series and Ocean Series lines and now their Leadership 44 sailboat with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Morris Yachts have a demonstrated reputation for luxury, performance and great value. Over the years Morris has worked with world-renowned designers Sparkman & Stephens, David Pedrick and C. W. Paine. The family-owned company operates a complete yacht service organization including new yacht construction, brokerage, charter and two full-service yards on Mount Desert Island, Maine. Morris also opened up a new sales office in Newport RI, in 2012.

[www.morrisyachts.com](http://www.morrisyachts.com)