

S&S Association Global Regatta 2013



This has been a good year for the Global Regatta, which is set up to allow S&S Association Regions to compete. The racing in 2012 is what can qualify for the 2013 the prize, the Challenge Cup.

The qualifying races this year was overnight racing (even if day racing automatically will count if there are no nominations for overnight races), and we had nominations from Finland, UK including Sunstone competing in New Zealand, and from Australia, last year's winning Region.

You have surely seen all the contenders on the web site www.sparkmanstephensuk.info, but if you have forgotten what you saw, go back and take another look. Here we will deal with the three top performers.

Rank	Yacht raced	Raced by	Yacht type	Race	Class or Overall
1 Finland	Inkeri	Olli Martio	S&S 6:6	Helsinki-Tallinna Race 2012	Overall
2 UK	Sunstone	Tom & Vicky Jackson	Custom S&S 39' 8"	Round New Zealand Two-Handed Race - Leg 2	Overall
3 UK	She of the North	Kenneth Halliwell	Delta 94	Ailsa Craig Race	Overall

Congratulations to Ollie Martio who brought the Challenge Cup back to Finland. The cup will be presented to Olli at the AGM 2013 in London.

Let's hear about the races:

Inkeri in the Helsinki – Tallina Race 2012

The 20th Helsinki-Tallinna Race started at Helsinki, a pursuit using the LYS handicap system, used in Scandinavian countries, similar to the PHRF system used in the US. The race is about 45nm across the Gulf of Finland from Helsinki to Tallinna, Estonia.

Inkeri is an S&S 30' sloop, usually called an S.S 6,6 for its IOR rating. Our last Finnish Offshore Championship was from 2002. We had won several championships before that.

I assembled a family crew of my two sons, one of their wives, a 7 year old grandson and my bother. We didn't start well since I forgot the Race Orders which we had to collect in Helsinki. We made the line for our 19:04:30 start time. A few LYS handicap boats started before us which we were able to pass since the wind was against us and light. *Inkeri* is a great



(C) Timo Sarainmaa



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upwind boat with North 3D sails and the genoa tracks moved several inches inboard from the original positions. Many of the modern designs had broad sterns, plenty of wetted surface and without a genoa didn't match our speed and pointing angle.

We had a fair share of luck since the wind kept coming against us but we didn't tack hoping it would change. It eased and we were able to fetch the Tallinna Light House which was a mark. We finished the next day at 5:32:36, winning our class, LYS 4-6, the next boat in our class finished at 7:08:32; 93 boats finished in the LYS classes.

The race results are available at <http://www.helsinki-tallinnarace.fi/etusivu>

Sunstone in the Round New Zealand Two-Handed Race



The second ever two-handed race round New Zealand started in February, anti-clockwise around the North and South Islands in four legs: 150 nm from Auckland to Mangonui, 390 miles down the west coast to Stewart Island, 620 miles north to Napier on the North island and 370 miles back to Auckland, total 2,100 miles.

The race was more challenging than expected - probably the most challenging sailing ever. We were 6th on PHRF, 2nd on IRC, however we felt we had upheld the honour of 'oldies'. Each leg was difficult, particularly the second leg: an intense and rapidly deepening low predicted with seas forecast as 'phenomenal', and we set our trysail for the first time ever. Crews had to decide to continue or detour East, we decided against it. We broached when the

wind reached 55kn+. We then struggled in a fickle breeze approaching Stewart Island. However, we were delighted to win the leg on PHRF and IRC handicaps.



She of the North

This year was the 50th anniversary of Royal Ulster Yacht Club's Ailsa Craig Race. She of the North won the IRC handicap class and also the overall Ailsa Craig Trophy, which is a silver model of the Island. For those not familiar with it, Ailsa Craig is an island off the coast of Scotland at the entrance to the Firth of Clyde, it is less than a mile across, but a thousand feet high, I believe there is no finer turning mark for any race anywhere. She of the North has competed for this trophy five times in the last ten years, always in the IRC class, and has won every time.

