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FIRST YACHTS COMPLETE 2005 ANNAPOLIS TO NEWPORT RACE

Donnybrook Takes Line Honors

Newport, RI (June 12, 2005) — For the fourth time since 1993, *Donnybrook*, Jim Muldoon's custom 72-footer from Annapolis, Md. has taken line honors as the first yacht to finish the Annapolis to Newport Race. At 17:39:26 on Sunday, June 12, *Donnybrook* crossed the finish line off Castle Hill Rock at the mouth of the Narragansett Bay in 12 knot breezes flying her trademark shamrock-logoed asymmetrical spinnaker. With an elapsed time of 53:24:08, Michael Brennan's TP 52 *Sjambok* from Newport, RI finished second across the line less than 15 minutes behind. According to the IRC Rule under which both yachts were racing, *Sjambok*, with a rating of 1.336, beat *Donnybrook*, with a rating of 1.442, by 5:18:26.4 on corrected time.

Sailing for the Annapolis Yacht Club team, *Donnybrook* experienced her lightest breezes and lowest boat speeds of seven to eight knots at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay after leading the fleet down the Bay, according to navigator Bert Collins. Per Collins, as *Donnybrook* sailed upwind down the Chesapeake Bay, she worked the current, sailing to the Eastern Shore south of Cove Point and over to the middle and then the Western Shore south of Smith Point as the current shifted. "It was a great race; fairly straightforward," said Collins. "We were expecting sweat and drift. It was one of the more fun Annapolis to Newport Races we've done." *Donnybrook's* elapsed time was 53:09:26.

Aboard *Sjambok*, watch captain Matt Beck credits increased breeze for the last 100 miles as well as splitting with *Donnybrook* to sail around the east side of Block Island for the close on-the-water finish with *Donnybrook*. According to Beck, *Donnybrook* was faster upwind coming down the Bay, and *Sjambok* kept all the crew on the rail as they played their tactics to not lose *Donnybrook* and work with the current as it changed. "We started watches when we were out of the Bay," said Beck. As they left the Bay, "*Donnybrook* did a good job of sailing downwind," according to Beck, "but when the breeze picked up in the last 100 miles, we were able to take a big chunk out of them by the finish. On the back side of Block Island, we had up to 25 knots of wind. This race was lovely fun." *Sjambok* hugged the high, rocky eastern coast just south of Castle Rock as they approached the finish with their red asymmetrical spinnaker to finish at 17:54:08 this evening.

About the Annapolis to Newport Race

The Annapolis to Newport Race is one of the most historic and well-known of the U.S. East Coast blue water races. Linking two seaports dating from our nation's birth, Annapolis and Newport, the race provides challenging diversity over different bodies of water, as well as convenient ports of refuge along the entire course. As a result, the race is a favorite for first-time off-shore competitors, as well as experienced blue water racers. The record time for the 58-year-old race is held by *Carrera*, Joseph Dockery's Farr 60 skippered by Chris Larson, which set a new course record in 2001 of 42 hours, 58 minutes, 12 seconds. The race is organized by the Annapolis Yacht Club, with assistance from the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron, New York Yacht Club and Ida Lewis Yacht Club.