



*Winning NYYC team (l to r): Brian Doyle, Colin Gordon, Amo Loring, Ben Kinney, Caroline Levesque, Shane Wells, Pete Levesque, John Bainton; (front) Mason Ryan*

## **2011 SOUTHERN YC SOILAND CUP RECAP**

New York Yacht Club Team Racing program has finally filled a noticeable hole in the team racing trophy case! The Southern Soiland Cup remained as the last major team race event on the yearly calendar where the NYYC team racing squad had not previously brought home a victory.

10 teams came November 4-6 from near and far to attempt to break up a run of 3 straight victories by the host club, Southern. The trophy donated by the Newport Harbor Yacht Club post Hurricane Katrina, attracts teams from the west coast, New England, gulf coast and even England.

The three day event at the Southern Yacht Club is sailed in Southern's new fleet of Flying Scots. This has historically been a tough transition for the NYYC squad. The boats sail quite differently than the ubiquitous New England team racing platform – the sonar. The lake chop is also quite challenging for the out of gulf clubs vying for the trophy.

However, this year's event saw some of the most consistent breeze in its history. The breeze ranging from 8-20 knots over the course of the three days allowed for 2 complete round robins and even one very exciting leeward mark rounding capsized. NYYC hoped the higher velocity would be great equalizer and the key to victory!

New York got off to a solid start in round robin one, notching victories against all comers except the talented Newport Harbor team and the flying scot guru's from Bay Waveland. That left NYYC second in the standings to Newport Harbor Yacht Club, who only gave up one close race to SYC 1.

NYYC came out focused and firing on all cylinders in the second round robin and ran the table. Most races were extremely tight and many decided on the last beat with multiple lead changes. However no one could quite seem to close out races against the tenacious NYYC team.

Colin Gordon with Shane Wells and local rockstar/late fill in Mason Ryan, Pete Levesque sailing with wife Caroline and Ben Kinney, and Brian Doyle along with John Bainton and Amo Loring comprised the representatives of NYYC for the event.

Newport Harbor continued to sail extremely well losing only twice in the second round robin to have a firm grasp of second place. NHYC's team racing program is on the rise and have quickly become challengers for every event. Southern Yacht Club Team 2 sailed a great event and only seemed to have trouble with NYYC and NHYC. They bested the rest of the field to secure third place and inter club bragging rights for the year over the prior three peat champs SYC Team 1.

The gracious hosts of Southern Yacht Club and the amazing entertainment they provide for their hosted events have the NYYC squad anxiously looking forward to coming back to defend the title in 2012!