

Meet Edith Collins



Edith Collins is one of those people who is the first to jump in and help where needed. For all she does for the sailing world she was honored as the recipient of the H. Willard Davis Service Award from the South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association (SAYRA) this past winter. In January of 1986, SAYRA established this award and dedicated it to Dr. H. Willard Davis to honor individuals who make significant and outstanding contributions in service to the South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association and their fellow yachtsmen. Edith, humble as ever, said, “needless to say I have no idea why I got it.”

Edith did not sail much as a kid, other than spending time cruising with her uncle, an active racer, aboard his Pearson Trident during summer vacations to her grandparent’s house on Perdido Bay in Alabama. However, she has been actively sailing and racing ever since her first date in 1982 with her husband Jim racing on his Cal 2-27 out of University Yacht Club on Lake Lanier, GA. She continued to crew on his boat after that, and a couple years later purchased her own Santana 20. She and Jim raced her out of Lake Lanier Sailing Club for many years, eventually adding a third boat to the fleet. They still sail out of University Yacht Club today.

Edith’s love of race officiating began while working race committee at the 1996 Olympic games. She was introduced to Means Davis, a long time Regional, National and International US Sailing Race Official. Edith says that she was blessed that he took her under his wing encouraging her to start judging and continuing to challenge her to become the best Judge she could possibly be. She was initially certified as a Judge by US Sailing in 2001 and became a National Judge in 2010.

Edith has served as the US Sailing Area D rep for two terms and has been the Area D Regional Administrative Judge since 2018. She tries to follow in Means Davis’ example by mentoring new judges. Through the years, Edith has traveled throughout Area D teaching basic rules, race management, and judge seminars, all while making lifelong friends.

While Edith has had many great experiences, she says that being the chief judge the 75th Thistle National Championship in 2021 is the highlight of her career so far. She was part of the team that won the St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy for 2021. The St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy is awarded annually by US Sailing to a local sailing organization for exceptional race management, including evaluation by participating skippers, at a specific event.



Submitted by Judie McCann, Race Administration Coordinator