



Leukemia Cup Origins

The Leukemia Cup Regatta, now a nationally recognized sailing event, started as an event held by the Pine Harbor Yacht Club on Logan Martin Lake in central Alabama for the benefit of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Alabama Chapter in April 1988. Funds were raised in memory of a member of the club, Stan Worbel, who lost his life to leukemia, and the Pine Harbor Yacht Club presented The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) with \$5,000 at the conclusion of the event. From 1987 to 1996 when Pine Harbor Yacht Club merged with Birmingham Sailing Club more than \$30,000 was raised for the local LLS Chapter.

Enthusiasm for the event spread across the country into other markets after a presentation at an October 2003 national LLS leadership conference by noted sailing expert and ESPN commentator Gary Jobson, who now serves as The Leukemia Cup Regatta's national chairman. Jobson, a lymphoma survivor, is actively involved with LLS to help organize other Regattas and recruit sponsors and participants on the national, regional and local levels.

The Birmingham Sailing Club inherited the event beginning in 1996. Since that inaugural Stan Worbel Cup regatta in 1988, members and friends of the Birmingham Sailing Club have pulled together to raise more than \$500,000 for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and have turned the event from a \$5,000 fundraiser to over \$37,000 in 2015. A goal was set for \$50,000 for 2019 and was reached and exceeded!

In 2019, more than 10,000 sailors from around the country combined a passion for sailing with an equal passion to fight cancer, raising more than \$4 million to help cure blood cancers. Since the start of the Leukemia Cup Regatta campaign in 1987, more than \$73 million has been raised by the sailing community to support The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's programs. **And it all began with some sailing enthusiasts on Lake Logan Martin right here in Alabama!**