

History of Fleet 177

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Flying Scot Fleet 177 was chartered on March 26, 1992 by four sailors from the shoreline east of New Haven, CT. A year or so later, David Jacobsen, Forest Rogers and John Pridmore transferred Fleet 177 to the New Haven Yacht Club located in New Haven Harbor. New Haven Yacht Club at one time was stop off point for sailors coming from New York Yacht Club to points east.

In 1993 Dave Jacobsen, then President of the Flying Scot Sailing Association, was approached by Renny Loisel, Deputy Commissioner of Sailing for Connecticut's Special Olympics. Renny asked if Fleet 177 would get involved with a Special Olympics trial event in 1994, to determine if the Flying Scot was a suitable boat to use in the Special Olympics World Games to be held in New Haven. The very successful trial event, in which many Scot sailors from other locations became involved, convinced the World Special Olympics organizers that the Flying Scot was the right boat for the 1995 World games.

The year of the Games, Fleet 177 was responsible for organizing volunteers to supply 17 Scots along with their time and talents. Teams from countries, such as Sweden and France, plus many US states competed. The team from Florida won.

At a special celebrity race held as the World Games began, Special Olympics sailors were joined by Special Olympics founder, Eunice Shriver, members of the Kennedy family, sailing notables Bill Koch, Gary Jobson, David Dellenbaugh, Dave Perry, women, such as Dawn Riley, from the America³ Americas Cup team, and the many Flying Scot volunteers.

Several years later Fleet 177 was moved from New Haven Yacht Club to the Housatonic Boat Club in Stratford, CT. After a short stint at HBC, in 2005 Fleet 177 found a new home at Cedar Point Yacht Club located in Westport CT. This gave the Flying Scot Fleet 177 a strong connection to a one design yacht club where the fleet now thrives.

Fleet 177 hosts Early Bird and Fall Classic regattas each year to which all are invited. The Fleet members compete in weekly races from May to September.

In 2007 Fleet 177 hosted the Flying Scot Wife-Husband Championship at Cedar Point. The event was won by Jeff and Amy Linton, adding to their earlier success that year in capturing the North American Championship at Fishing Bay, VA. (Jeff was named US Sailing Rolex Yachtsman of the Year for 2007.)

Fleet 177 was honored as the Flying Scot Sailing Association's Fleet of the Year in 2008.