

2025 Charleston Spring Regatta

By: Kevin Jewett

April 25-27, 2025

The E Scow season opened in Charleston this spring with a three-day regatta featuring a small but competitive fleet of seven boats. The event included six local teams from the Carolinas and North Georgia, along with one traveling entry. That traveler was Sir John Brown, who—unknown to many at the time—was competing in one of his final E Scow regattas ahead of his retirement in June. His presence served as a reminder of the lasting impact he and his teams have had on the class.

Sailors were treated to classic Charleston spring conditions, with light to moderate winds on the first two days followed by a stronger finale. Racing remained tight at the top of the standings, with Brown challenging for the lead going into the final day and Wilkins close behind in third. A key shift in the opening race of the final day reshuffled the leaderboard and proved decisive, while John Polek and Team *Alchemy* delivered a strong second half of the regatta, finishing in the top three in each of the final five races.

Consistent finishes in the later races ultimately secured the overall win. The final race also highlighted the depth of talent within the fleet, with crew rotations adding an extra layer of challenge under pressure. Racing concluded on a high note, reinforcing Charleston's reputation as a strong early-season venue for the class.

Off the water, the club hosted a well-attended Saturday night dinner, coinciding with the reopening of its waterfront bar and grill, which also supports a growing junior sailing program. With reliable conditions and strong hospitality, Charleston continues to establish itself as a welcoming and competitive stop on the E Scow calendar.

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We had another great three-day kickoff to the E Scow season in Charleston this spring with a small but competitive group that included 7 boats. There were 6 "locals" from the Carolina's and N. Georgia and one traveler this year. That traveler was none other than Sir John Brown, who unbeknownst to us would be competing in one of his last E Regattas prior to retiring in June of this year. What a shock that was, but congrats to John and team on an incredible run in our class. You've made a real mark and shown what persistence and a focus on details can bring. I'd say you may have to come back but maybe with another name, that squirrel can definitely see...

On the water we had some classic Charleston Spring sailing with light/medium winds on day one and two followed by a finale that let us stretch our legs. Points were close up front with Brown pushing our team for the lead going into the last day and Wilkins in a close third. The Squirrels jumped out to a lead in that first race after catching a nice righty. We rounded 4th and followed the pack to the right to find relief from the outgoing tide we were bucking but the breeze filled from behind and we were the first to gybe in a big shift that put us on layline to the mark. This flipped us into first and helped to extend our lead. John Polek and team Alchemy really turned it on for the final 5 races and were top three in each race of the second half of the regatta.

In the end we prevailed with a strong set of firsts in races 6-9. In the finale I passed the tiller to my very able middleman Ben Lynch who was a former contender for the Irish Olympic 49er spot and is a great pro sailor and rigger based here in Charleston. He was a bit out of his element though and after a wildly tight late Leeward /Mexican drop that included shrimping and drifting into the mark (c'mon we've all been there...). I turned back wondering why we were heeling up so much only to see him dragging by the mainsheet 20 feet behind the boat. As this happened, I decided to take the tiller back, it was a mutually agreed upon choice. Ben will drive again but maybe with a bit more heads up....

The club threw a nice dinner Saturday night and this weekend marked the reopening of their waterfront bar and grill facility which also serves as home to their burgeoning junior program. Charleston is stoked to throw the doors open to the E Class and we believe we can host the best of the best in an early season event that will not disappoint. Come join us in 2026 for some fun in the sun!