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REGATTA

## The 80+ Cup

The Norddeutsche Regatta-Verein wants to get the over 80-year-olds back on the water with a regatta. Michael Krieg feels a bit too young for that.



from MICHAEL KRIEG in REGATTA  
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That's something! The Norddeutscher Regatta-Verein (NRV), based on the Outer Alster in Hamburg, is writing a regatta only for old people. More precisely: for very old people! Wouldn't that be something for me?

You can definitely feel at home on the grounds of the North German Regatta Club. Especially when you have long since exchanged your sailable vehicle for a chair on the club terrace for reasons of age. Here you can enjoy your old age from a safe distance – during the day with lunch and in the evening with a sundowner at sunset. And pensively remembers past sailing activities in front of the Hamburg skyline. It is no coincidence that the address of the association founded in 1868 is called “Schöne Aussicht”.

**The best of float, daily or on Fridays: Yes, I do!**



The North German Regatta Club (NRV) © Archive Kobold Prize

**Never stop sailing!**

So I imagine myself - also a bit getting on in years - as I sit on the terrace of the club, lost in thought. And as I look across the Alster at the Alster, Klaus Lahme, the club manager and sports director of the NRV, joins me. And he reports on the new regatta for the elderly. It should be called "Ü80" and be the right sailing challenge for the oldest in the club.

So, enough of the relaxed sitting around? Isn't the word Regatta capitalized in the middle of the abbreviation NRV? Those responsible for the finest Hamburg sailing club have decided that this should now also apply to the elderly and are inviting the 80+ generation to a regatta for the first time nationwide on August 24, 2021 under the motto "Never stop sailing!".



Michael Krieg in the trapeze © Archive Kobold Prize

So that the sailors who are no longer so sure on their feet can also be there, a special boat is to be used for them. My knees are still fine - but I'm only just over 70 years old and a fit dinghy sailor . Someone who, if necessary, likes to stand in the trapeze again if the opportunity arises.

## Would I want that?

Nevertheless, I continue the thought game and I imagine that I have already

arrived in the next decade - and would like to take part in the regatta.

I'm thinking about how that's supposed to work when there's already creaking in my own rig. Tapping along the jetty with a stick might still be ok, but how do I get on the boat next? Involuntarily has to think of those rehab seats that are sometimes found in swimming pools. I think that would work. So why not?



Michael Krieg sails with the Kobold von Hamburg © Archive Kobold Prize

But what if everyone is watching? And so I ask myself: do the elderly really want that? Especially if you have fought more or less successfully in national or even international regattas. And, thinking further: Do the elderly winners suddenly let themselves be pulled out of their sailing retirement with this invitation and put their good reputation at risk?

Do the organizers seriously imagine that I'll be chasing around the barrels again, adrenaline-charged?