

Florida District Championship  
Davis Island Yacht Club - Fleet 502  
Tampa, Florida  
May 5-7, 2006

Pos	Skipper/Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	Jeff Linton, Mark Taylor, Amy Smith Linton	1	4	4	1	*9	10
2	Bill Mauk, Zeke Horowitz, Amanda Holm	2	*7	3	3	2	10
3	Jim Alman, Laura Jeffers, Josie Williams	5	3	2	*7	1	11
4	**Colin Park, Karen Park, Hans Birkholz	3	1	*8	6	4	14
5	Frank Atkinson, Michele Sumpton, Tim King	*6	5	1	5	6	17
6	Travis Maier, Charlotte Sims, Fed Strammer	4	*9	7	2	5	18
7	Jeff Duval, Vladimir Kulinchencko, Tommy Single	*7	6	5	4	3	18
8	Rod Koch, Andy Hayward, Tina Tinaret	10	2	6	10	*11	28
9	Bill Johns, Joanna Beaver, Bob Camp	8	8	9	*9	7	32
10	Dave White, Cort Steck, Kat Malone	9	10	*13/ OCS	8	10	37
11	Bill Meyer, Colin Browning, Scott Schuman	*11	11	10	11	8	40

\*\*Top Sanctioned Master

## Sailing with Juniors: Report from Florida Districts

The 2006 Florida Districts were held in May at Davis Island Yacht Club. The club is placed a short five-minute sail from the race course, which has a special set of challenges. Conditions on Hillsborough Bay are like racing on a mid-sized lake, as it is located on Hillsborough Bay, surrounded by land, but with a possibility of a sea-breeze working in from the Gulf of Mexico.

The racing was very competitive. Going into the last race, three of us were within one point of the championship. But even more than the nature of the competition, I had a fantastic experience sailing with two excellent junior sailors.

Going into the Districts, I needed crew, so I asked Mark Bryant (Florida's VP of Youth Development) for suggestions. When he found me Amanda Holm from Ft. Meyers and Zeke Horowitz from Sarasota, I was excited. Mark had coached both of the high school students. They started in strong Optimist programs and now sail Lasers and 420's on their school teams. Amanda even started her high school's team and teaches sailing at the Ft. Meyers Sailing Center. Zeke has a passion for team-racing and has a full schedule of events around the country this summer, including high hopes for the Sears Cup. The only small downside was that neither of them had stepped foot on a Lightning.

Their solid sailing foundation made it fairly easy to become outstanding crew. Zeke sailed with me on Friday in the Masters competition. After the racing was over that day, Amanda joined us and we went out and practiced for about 90 minutes. Amy Linton talked through the mechanics of working the bow with Amanda and when the racing started on Saturday, we not only had great boat handling, but these juniors added much more.

We had thorough discussions on strategy which developed into solid judgments for most of the races. Zeke was particularly good on tactics during the race. His decision-making on fleet management always kept us in the hunt. Amanda was a genius at seeing the wind on the runs and judging were to place the boat for the next pressure.

When things were not going well they were patient and always stayed in the race. Sailing with Juniors turnout to be a fantastic experience for me.

After the regatta was over, they both said they really enjoyed the Lightning. They especially liked all the sail controls and both gained significant knowledge about what standing and running rigging could do to the shape of a sail and what it means to boat speed. They thought the three-person crew was really great and liked the ability to move the boat around with crew weight. They said they would talk the boat up with their friends.

What was surprising to me was they had not heard of the Junior North Americans or Youth Worlds. They had very little idea that the Pan American Games were comparable to the Olympic Games. They were excited about the possibility of competing and thought if more junior sailors knew of these events that it would be good for the Class.

If we are to grow the Lightning Class, junior sailors should think of the Lightning as a one-design class to advance into as they think about their sailing future. For this to happen we need to ask more Juniors to sail with us (we might even improve our finishes!) and get the word out on the Championship opportunities.

By the way, we finished tied for first, but lost the tiebreaker. The team of Jeff and Amy Linton and Mark Taylor is tough competition, but the future looks bright. I recommend junior sailors highly!

S  
Bill Mauk  
14866