

Area F Qualifier for the U.S. Junior Triplehanded Championship for the Sears Cup

Houston Yacht Club

Houston, Texas

May 8, 2016

Back in December of last year I got an e-mail asking if the Houston Yacht Club Lightning Fleet would be interested in lending their boats for the Sears Cup Area F qualifier. I knew what the Sears Cup was all about having competed in it three years as a youth sailor. Ironically, one of my teammates for each of those three years, Chris Shipman, is in the HYC Lightning Fleet as well. So of course our boats would be available for the Sears Cup!

It took a little planning to settle on a date, there were many conflicts with other youth events and finally the organizers settled on Mother's Day! We were able schedule several practice sessions in the weeks prior to the event which helped the kids get comfortable with the boats and refine their skills. Given that the boats were borrowed and that the kid's teams were lucky to weigh not more than 400 pounds soaking wet, the sailing conditions were limited to no more than 18 knots of wind.

Four teams registered for the event and the format was to have four races with each team would rotate to a different boat for each race. Marvin Beckmann spent some time putting together an excellent presentation and provided tuning tips before the races. Darren Rose as PRO lead the race committee and set up 4 leg windward leeward courses. Jack Yoes was Chief Judge. Naturally the weather on Saturday was perfect but on Mother's Day it was scheduled to blow 18-22! At noon, the wind was gusting to 25 so racing was postponed to see if things would settle down. Luckily the wind eased up to 12-16 for the afternoon for 4 good races. The teams had excellent starts and competed well. Dane Byerly returned to win the event for the second year with Carson Shields and Laura Masterson as crew. The second place team won the award for the youngest team with the oldest being 13! The event coordinator, Yolanda Cortez Mares took the opportunity to hand out a sportsman award for the team displaying Corinthian spirit by withdrawing from a race and avoiding a protest. Several competitors were talking about coming back next year for another chance.

Thanks to the Houston Yacht Club for hosting the event, expect to see these kids on the race course again!

Steve Harris

Pos	Skipper/Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Dane Byerly, Carson Shields, Laura Masterson Dougie Byerly - Alternate	Lakewood Yacht Club	3	1	1	1	6
2	Lucy Brock, Ethan Froelich, Julius Heikoetter	Austin Yacht Club	1	3	2	2	8
3	Thomas Samitier, Tomas Sammitier, Noah Runciman	Seabrook Sailing Club	5/RET/AF	2	3	3	13
4	Jillian Tictch, Paige Tyler, Christine Kendrick	Houston Yacht Club	2	4	4	4	14



Sears Cup Competitors



Sears Cup Start