

North American Championship

Houston Yacht Club, Houston, Texas

August 5 – 10, 2012

Champions: Jody Lutz, Jay Lutz, Jonathan Lutz



Lutz Team

This past August the Lightning Class got to travel to Houston, Texas, for the annual North American Championship. It's a venue that has not hosted the North Americans previously, but the effort of the volunteers of Houston Yacht Club showed that not only were they ready for the event but willing and able to pull it off. As many of us who travel to numerous regattas over the years, I find it interesting to see how the locals make you feel during a regatta. To me, it's kind of a litmus test as to how much they really want us there. It's the simple things, like answering a question with a friendly smile or going that extra effort to listen and react to what people might suggest (ie., when Debbie Probst has a hissy fit because the water to the hose at the hoist was turned off—they quickly got it back on!). Houston Yacht Club members and volunteers gave it 100% for two weeks, and, speaking for the competitors, we all really appreciated it.

For us this year, it was a little different work up to the North Americans. Last year we spent a lot of time in the boat racing and practicing for the Pan Am Games last October. Once that event ended, we took some time to recover and recharge. We did not really have a game plan but knew that sailing in Houston was going to be special for us. It gave Jonathan and me a chance to see uncle Jay, aunt Teresa, cousin Taylor and Jill, all the while being able to

stay with them for the two weeks. We were lucky too, as Jill was leaving for college and the early start to the season on the women's soccer team at Boston College, so we got a chance to say good bye to her.

The first week of the North Americans was spent watching the Juniors'—Masters' and Women's teams too sail in their championships. This year it was Jonathan's turn to skipper in the Juniors, as the long line of the Schon/Lutz Lightning children program was nearing the end of the line. We've already had Wade, Matty, Taylor, Jason and now Jonathan skipper the Lightning, and unless my Julianne decides she is not going dance on Broadway, we are probably at the last kid! The conditions for the first week were unbelievably nice. Over the course of four days, I can't remember the last time I saw conditions be so nice for sailing (yes, even on the Jersey Shore!). As we all know, it's probably not a good sign for the second week, and, unfortunately, the conditions of the first week never materialized for the North Americans.

The practice day was a wash out due to storms, preventing me, Jay and Jonathan from even getting any practice time in. Practice? Are we talking about practice? When race day number one rolled around, my biggest concern was how many bottles of water we should bring to avoid dehydration and/or heat stroke! Since the fleet was smaller this year, there were no qualifying races, and every race was going to count from the get go. I know there has been some talk over the past years about including the qualifying races into the final series in some manner, and after sailing the regatta in Houston and getting in ten races for the championship, I have to say I am in favor of it. It seems silly to sail four qualifying races (usually over two days) and then wiping the slate clean and starting over.

Since the regatta was going to be a ten-race series with a throwout, we knew that consistency would win. Get yourself into the top ten, try to pick off some boats and hope for the best. Once we saw the weather pattern for the second week shaping up, we knew there would be some higher scores. Little did we know those high scores would be us in the first race! After rounding the windward mark in second, we gybed away and lost fifteen boats in one leg (Jay's fault by the way). Not a good way to start, but we were able to come back in the second race and win,



which got us in a better mood and stemmed the momentum from going the wrong way. Since Jay and I have been sailing together for a while now, we do often get asked how we handle the onboard dynamics, since Jay has always been a skipper with numerous championships back in the dark ages. Can two skippers (now three, with hot rod Jonathan!) coexist? For us, it's pretty simple. My job is to steer the boat as fast as possible and keep it in the groove longer than the boat next to us. Our advantage, or so I believe, is that I can concentrate 100% of the time on speed and not have to concern myself with looking around. Upwind, Jay looks around and helps position the boat based on fleet set up. Jonathan calls the puffs, both up wind and down and confers with Jay on the big picture scenario. Downwind, Jay flies the chute, and Jonathan and I look for breeze, clear lanes and shifts (except for Race 1—see above when I let Jay have one call downwind!).

As the week progressed, the scores were really close for the overall lead. Todd Wake, Allan Terhune, Matt Fisher were all sailing well and very consistent. Going into the last day it was anybody's regatta, especially since there were three races planned to get to ten races overall. After the dust settled on the first two races of the day, we had a few points on Allan, with Matt Fisher still in the hunt for the championship. As the last race developed, there was definitely some nail-biting time on 15166! Matt jumped out to a lead, with us around tenth and Allan a few behind up. Allan got by us on the run, and at the leeward mark, we had the only crew issue of the whole week—and it was a doozy!! Jonathan's spinnaker halyard got knotted on the drop, and we had to go upwind with the spinnaker about four feet off the deck. Jay did his best to control the sail, while Jonathan worked his butt off trying to get the knot out. What seemed like ten minutes was probably more like a minute, but, man, that was the longest minute of my life! Once we got

it sorted out, we were probably about fifteenth at the next windward mark, with Matt still leading and Allan a few in front of us. The run was more like a reach, and not much changes, so we knew we had to catch a few boats on the last leg to win the Championship. We got in phase to the right and worked hard to pick off boats. With about a quarter of the way to go in the leg, we were around tenth and knew that would be good enough to win. Playing it safe the last part of the beat, we were able to cross the line and win the Championship! Being able to share that moment with both Jay and Jonathan was a highlight I will never forget.

It's been awhile since the Championship in 1991, as Ched very nicely reminded me at the awards! We are far from the first family to sail together, so we can't be a poster child for that, but I can tell you when good things happen and all the stars align themselves and the two weeks turn out the way it did for our family, we are very lucky—lucky to be involved with a wonderful Class like the Lightning and the people that make it special. Lastly, what was my advantage? Simple, I had Jay and Jonathan.

Jody Lutz





2012 North American

Pos	Sail#	Bow#	Boat Name	Skipper/Crew	Club
1	15166	66		Jody Lutz Jonathan Lutz, Jay Lutz	Metedeconk River YC Metedeconk River YC, Lakewood YC
2	15445	45		Matt Fisher Stu Fisher, Adam Macdonald	Hoover Sailing Club Hoover Sailing Club, Buffalo Canoe Club
3	15449	49		Allan Terhune, Jr. Katie Terhune, Sarah Paisley	Annapolis Yacht Club Annapolis Yacht Club
4	15390	90		Todd Wake Kristine Wake, Neal Fowler	Sheboygan Yacht Club Sheboygan Yacht Club, Hyannis Yacht Club
5	11011	42	Ojodelince	Tito Gonzalez Alberto Gonzalez, Jr, Cristian Herman	Chile Chile, Chile
6	15470	70	Starck Naked	David Starck Jody Starck, Tom Starck	Buffalo Canoe Club Buffalo Canoe Club, Buffalo Canoe Club
7	15257	04	Theirs	Justin Coplan Gary Hurban, Joan Hurban	Nyack Severn Sailing Assn, Severn Sailing Assn
8	15495	95		Larry Macdonald Joy Macdonald, Maggie Macdonald	Buffalo Canoe Club Buffalo Canoe Club, Buffalo Canoe Club
9	14821	21		Ched Proctor Meredith Killion, James Ewing	Cedar Point Yacht Club YCYC, Cedar Point Yacht Club
10	15464	46	Girl Trouble	Keith Taboada Russell Schon, Christopher Schon	Metedeconk River YC Metedeconk River YC, Metedeconk River YC
11	15251	51		Debbie Probst Monica Jones, Lauren Jones	Buffalo Canoe Club Buffalo Canoe Club, Buffalo Canoe Club
12	15353	53	Rat Pack	Francisco Perez Christian Perez, Micah Ortuzar	Cofradia Nautica Del Pacifico
13	15487	87		William Brown John Faus, Matthew Schon	Barnegat Light Yacht Club Barnegat Light Yacht Club, Metedeconk River YC
14	15420	20	Holy Smoke	Ryan Ruhlman Tesse Laplant, Nick Turney	Pymatuning Yacht Club Pymatuning Yacht Club, Pymatuning Yacht Club
15	15456	56	I Can't Bear It	Josh Goldman Daniel Pryor, Ryan Minth	Cedar Point
16	15493	93		Richard Walsh Tina Walsh, Alex Cox	Temple Reef Sailing Club Temple Reef Sailing Club, Temple Reef Sailing Club
17	15462	24		Marvin Beckmann Vickie Matthews, Sam Myers	Houston Yacht Club Chicago Yacht Club
18	14777	33		Eric Oetgen Will Jeffers, Laura Jeffers	Savannah Yacht Club Petersburg Yacht Club, St Petersburg Yacht Club
19	15164	64		Jed Dodge Elizabeth Dodge, Bobby Dodge	Sodus Bay Yacht Club Sodus Bay Yacht Club, SBYC
20	15475	75	The Skip's Hammer	Jeff Coppens Matthew Burridge, Patrick Burridge	Mission Bay Yacht Club Carlyle Sailing Association, Carlyle Sailing Assn
21	15480	80	CJ Express	William Faude Julie-Marie Macdonald, Jared Drakke	Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club
22	15205	05		Robert Wardwell Kent Derbyshire, John Steiner	Crescent Yacht Club Crescent Yacht Club, Willowbank Yacht Club
23	15457	57		Rob Ruhlman Abby Ruhlman, Patrick Wilson	Pymatuning Yacht Club Pymatuning Yacht Club, Pymatuning Yacht Club
24	15085	85	N/A	Lenny Krawcheck Oliver Humphries, Kayla Gibson	Carolina Yacht Club Houston Yacht Club
25	15211	11	Bandit	Lawrence Frost Watt Duffy, Chance Millen	Southern
26	15265	65		Steven Davis, Ian Schillebeeckx, Jan Davis	Denver Sailing Association Denver Sailing Association

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R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Total
[17]	1	10	1	3	8	3	10	5	9	50
11	7	6	7	2	7	1	13	[28]	3	57T
5	12	1	9	9	4	6	3	8	[19]	57T
6	2	11	8	12	2	[32]	14	3	10	68
[19]	8	5	12	5	1	14	12	4	13	74
16	14	4	16	11	[35]	7	11	7	2	88
1	17	8	[30]	22	11	17	2	13	1	92
4	5	[23]	15	1	12	13	7	18	22	97
[32]	24	13	11	21	3	2	9	9	11	103
3	[32]	28	22	17	9	15	1	6	8	109T
[28]	9	2	5	23	5	8	22	19	16	109T
14	3	[46]	6	8	17	20	25	16	7	116
10	25	3	27	18	[29]	10	20	1	4	118
26	15	15	4	19	[40]	5	6	25	20	135
13	6	7	[42]	14	25	24	8	34	14	145
15	11	25	23	[26]	13	23	15	12	17	154
7	28	31	17	27	10	11	18	[32]	6	155
[39]	27	39	26	7	15	18	5	2	21	160
18	20	[36]	2	15	16	25	17	30	18	161
2	29	21	24	4	6	[45]	34	21	24	165
40	18	12	14	10	[56/OCS]	4	24	24	23	169
8	19	19	18	30	14	[34]	19	33	30	190
34	30	20	20	6	21	16	23	23	[56/DNC]	193
25	13	16	13	25	20	[48]	26	41	15	194
9	4	29	28	32	[38]	12	29	27	31	201
24	33	30	25	24	19	22	16	10	[36]	203



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Pos	Sail#	Bow#	Boat Name	Skipper/Crew	Club
27	15406		N/A	Jamie Simmons Caroline Hall, Ryan Hughes	New Bedford Yacht Club MYC, New Bedford Yacht Club
28	15015	15	sLiteCantankerous	John Werley Bertie Werley, John Woodall	Pymatuning Yacht Club Pymatuning Yacht Club, Pymatuning Yacht Club
29	15417	17		Connor Godfrey Kayleigh Godfrey, John Tonzak	Buffalo Canoe Club Buffalo Canoe Club
30	9	09		Thomas Allen Karl Allen, Shelby Allen	Buffalo Canoe Club Buffalo Canoe Club, Buffalo Canoe Club
31	15473	73		Chris Hamilton Terry Hamilton, Jay Mueller	JIYC
32	14044	44		Charlie Wardwell Ron Buchanan, Randy Beauchamp	Visa
33	15000	14		Tim Werley Katie Werley, Kathryn Moloney	Pymatuning Yacht Club Pymatuning Yacht Club, Buffalo Canoe Club
34	15481	81		Gustavo Tamayo Pedro Latiff, Camilo Salcedo	Club El Portillo El Portillo, El Portillo
35	15139	39		Pierce Barden Ian Sanderson, Emily Aspland	Carolina Yacht Club Monmouth Boat Club, Lake Norman YC
36	15399	99	Memphis	Victor Lobos Sebastian Lobos, Alejandro Arrieta	Club De Yates El Venado Club De Yates El Venado, Club De Yates El Venado
37	15360	60	Shock Value	Clarke Newman Andrew Lee, Deanna Newman	Rush Creek Yacht Club Houston Yacht Club, Rush Creek Yacht Club
38	15075	07	WTF	Maegan Ruhlman Abby Rowlands, Kevin Bradley	Pymatuning Yacht Club Edgewater Yacht Club
39	14580	08	Emotionally Distressed	Stephen Cox Bergen Ackerman, David Clifffel	Silver Lake
40	15201	01	Bob'Sled	Robert Bernhardt Scott Kirchharr, Michael Arndt	Buccaneer Yacht Club , Delta Sailing
41	14136	36	USA 14136	Callender Herman. Jr Reed Baldrige, Bud Barnes	Southern Yacht Club Houston Yacht Club
42	14702	02	Twisted Sisters	Karen Dial Kathy Gaddy, Diana Wisley	Columbia Sailing Club Lake Murray Yacht Racing Assn, Columbia Sailing Club
43	15315	16	Quest	William Cabrall Raeyane Farrell, Jim England	Denver Sailing Association Denver Sailing Association, Denver Sailing Association
44	15276	76	Philip Lange	Philip Lange Alister Thompson, Alexandra Lange	Buffalo Canoe Club
45	15310	31		Robert Harkrider, Jr Bill Sloger, Marya Barker	Augusta Sailing Club
46	14672	67		Abbie Probst Max Cahn, Julian Fraizm	Buffalo Canoe Club
47	15410	10	Southerly Buster	Ian Edwards Lindy Edwards, Andrea Zaite	NSC (& Houston Yacht Club) Houston Yacht Club, Houston Yacht Club
48	15471	71		Will Tyner Colin Kirby, Sara Fox	Charleston Yacht Club Charleston Yacht Club, Charleston Yacht Club
49	15326	78W	Mystique II	Gary Schwantz Jacques Schwantz, Ingo Matenaar	Lagos Yacht Club
50	15455	55		Per Huffeldt Tim Fox, Luke Mcallum	Yacht Klub Furesoen & Rush Creek Yacht Club Houston Yacht Club
51	15054	54	Blue Highways	Jonathan Lange Derek Lange, Michael Lange	Severn Sailing Association, Severn Sailing Association
52	14924	34	Last Minute	Tom Sutton	LYC
53	15330	30	Hana Hou	Scott Finkboner	Mission Bay Yacht Club
53	15255	25	Nicodemus	Richard Hallagan	Newport Yacht Club
53	15405	22	Odyssey	David Spira	Denver Sailing Association

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R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Total
30	16	44	19	[56/OCS]	26	31	4	29	5	204
22	10	27	36	28	22	[42]	30	11	25	211
21	34	9	21	36	[47]	28	32	20	29	230T
[35]	26	24	33	20	31	26	21	17	32	230T
33	22	14	3	16	28	37	37	42	[56/DNC]	232
31	23	22	[39]	28/RDG	18	27	35	22	27	233
42	35	26	[44]	35	32	21	40	26	28	285
38	31	35	32	[40]	24	19	33	37	38	287
12	[43]	41	37	43	23	38	27	35	35	291
37	21	37	38	[56/OCS]	36	39	41	14	33	296
[52]	41	40	31	31	50	29	36	15	26	299
20	[56/DNS]	17	35	13	34	30	50	45	56/DNC	300
36	38	48	45	33	30	9	[51]	31	34	304
44	49	18	29	42	27	33	28	43	[56/DNC]	313
23	39	38	41	34	37	36	39	[44]	37	324
27	40	33	34	29	39	40	42	[46]	43	327
29	47	[52]	10	45	46	49	44	48	12	330
46	36	34	40	44	48	35	31	38	[56/DNC]	352
41	37	32	47	38	33	41	45	[49]	40	354
43	44	43	[48]	37	41	43	46	36	39	372
[51]	48	49	43	39	45	46	48	39	44	401
45	45	42	46	48	43	51	47	40	[56/DNC]	407
49	50	50	[52]	41	49	44	38	47	42	410
47	[51]	51	50	47	42	50	43	51	41	422
50	42	45	49	46	44	47	49	[56/DNC]	56/DNC	428
48	46	47	51	49	51	[52]	52	50	45	439
[56/DNC]	56/DNS	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	504T
[56/DNC]	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	504T
[56/DNC]	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	56/DNC	504T



2012 North American



Champions: Jay Lutz, Jody Lutz and Jonathan Lutz



2nd Place: Matt Fisher, Stu Fisher, Adam MacDonald



3rd Place: Allan Terhune, Katie Terhune, Sarah Paisley



4th Place: Todd Wake, Christime Wake, Neal Fowler



5th Place: Tito Gonzalez, Alberto Gonzalez Jr, Cristian Herman



6th Place: David Starck, Jody Starck, Tom Starck



7th Place: Justin Coplan, Gary Hurban, Joan Hurban

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8th Place: Larry MacDonald, Joy MacDonald, Maggie MacDonald



9th Place: Ched Proctor, James Ewing, Meredith Killion



10th Place: Keith Taboada, Russell Schon, Christopher Schon



11th Place: Debbie Probst, Monica Jones, Lauren Jones



12th Place: Francixco Perez, Christian Perez, Micah Ortuzar



13th Place: Will Brown, John Faus, Matthew Schon

Highlights from the NAs

- 6 ALL-Family Teams
- 11 Husband/Wife Teams sailing together
- 12 Teams with two or more family members on board
- 29 Total Teams with two or more family members on board!!
ONLY 1 Team in the Top 12 did not have two or more family members aboard!
- 6 International Teams: 1 from Australia, 3 from Chile, 1 from Colombia, 1 from Nigeria
- 9 First-time Skippers sailing in the North Americans: Marvin Beckman, Connor Godfrey, Cal Herman, Jr., Per Huffeldt, Eric Oetgen, Francisco Perez, Abbie Probst, Gary Schwantz and Jamie Simmons
- 6 ILCA Presidents (past and present) were sailing: Bob Wardwell, Bob Harkrider, Bill Faude, Steve Davis, Rob Ruhlman and John Faus
- Boat Grant Participants Sailing (current and alums): Will Brown, Justin Coplan, Sara Fox, Caroline Hall, Collin Kirby, Jamie Simmons, Will Tyner



2012 North American Special Awards

Jack Elfman Award



Marvin Beckman

Highest finishing Master who also competed in the Masters NA Championship Regatta

Swanson Award



Abbie Probst

To promote and encourage women skippers
(photoed above with her mom Debbie)

Colin Park Memorial Award



Allan and Katie Terhune

Highest finishing married couple

Fleet 36 Award



Connor Godfrey

Highest placing junior skipper
(with crew, Kayleigh Godfrey, John Tomczak)

Thermis Trophy



Francisco Perez

Highest first time in NA Championship

Kaleigh Wilday Award



Bobby Dodge

Youngest competitor

Championship



2012 NA Championship





2012 North American



Championship



2012 NA Championship

