



Women's North American Championship

Houston Yacht Club, Houston, Texas

July 31 – August 4, 2012

Champions: Maegan Ruhlman, Samantha Maras, Katie Werley



RuhlmanTeam

As soon as I agreed to go to Houston, I knew I was in for another amazing trip with two great friends, as well as an unforgettable week of sailing in a new place with new and old friends. Yet, as any new experience might, Houston taught Maegan, Katie, and me some valuable lessons along the way.

Lesson #1: Always check your air conditioning before you leave for a road trip.

We started our journey to Houston from Pyramatuning Yacht Club, a twenty-four-hour drive. Twenty four hours seemed like a long trip to begin with, but when we realized that we didn't have working air conditioning, that twenty-four hours seemed to double, maybe even triple. The further we traveled south, the hotter it got. However, this turned into a silver lining for Nick, who drove the whole way, thanks, Nick, because, let's face it, in that much heat, not even the three of us, very talkative girls, wanted to chit chat.

Lesson #2: Sunscreen, water, sunscreen, water, sunscreen, water...you get the message.

Everyone who kept asking, "Houston in August?" was definitely asking a valid question. The Texas heat was no joke. It makes sense now why people who live in Texas stay inside in the summer and come outside in the winter, much the opposite of us in the north.

When we arrived at measurement on Tuesday, we quickly realized the benefits of a tent and headed to the nearest Walmart. Everyone seemed to learn that was the route to go, as more and more tents popped up over the boats. Soon all of the tent shelves at nearby stores were empty. It only took that first day to realize the sun was also as powerful as it was hot, and it seemed impossible to apply enough sunscreen. Yet the amount of sunscreen applications didn't even compare to the amount of water we drank. The number of bottles we took on the boat seemed absurd in the morning, but it turned out to be the perfect amount each afternoon. In addition, we quickly realized that Gatorade really is a lifesaver. Having a hydration specialist on board was definitely necessary—thanks, Katie!

Lesson #3: Having three people on the boat that are tone deaf makes us believe we are great singers, and it lightens the mood in between races.

It seems that we are always telling our juniors to stay focused on the race they are sailing right now, but we all know it can be challenge to not dwell on the last mistake. Prior to Houston, the last big event Maegan, Katie and I sailed together was the Women's NAs in New Jersey two years ago, where we finished second after a tough battle the last day. Even though Maegan won the Women's with her team last year in North Cape, we wanted to win as our take-two' team.



JeffersTeam

We started out strong on day one with two wins, but we knew that we were in for another fierce battle. Sure enough, once again, it came down to the last day. Laura Jeffers and team came out really strong and won the first race of the day. We knew we had to win the last race, or we would be repeating our fate from New Jersey. Instead of replaying the last race over and over, we listened to what we teach our campers and sang songs and joked before the final race. Thanks to Maegan, the Flintstone's vitamin song is still stuck in my head!

As the Juniors' sequence started, we buckled down and focused on the final race of the regatta. Seeing the wind build was a good sign for our team, but knew we needed to sail fast and make good decisions. We were able to get the job done and couldn't have been happier as we crossed the finish line, finally getting our win as a team.

Lesson #4: There really is no "I" in team and the "me" doesn't count either!

I have come to believe that being a crew on the championship winning boat has similarities to being a crew on the last-place boat. Everyone enters a regatta, or a race for that matter, with a desire to win as a team. Each person there is competing as a team and does not want to let their teammates down. This puts pressure on each of us throughout an event. But the team that comes out on top is the team that is able to control the pressure they feel and focus on the racing. On our boat, we each have a job to do. While the skipper must focus on driving the boat, he/she needs the crews to help call tactics and focus on providing them with the details of the course around them. As a crew, I know that each detail I provide impacts the skipper's decision. This puts



Lee Team

pressure on the crew to make good calls. Having never sailed in Houston, I was continuously learning and hoping that my calls were improving. But we all know one bad call can jeopardize winning a regatta and push tension levels higher. Going into the last race of the event, we formed a plan and executed it well. But as we were sailing to the finish line with a nice lead, I couldn't let go of the feeling that "it's not over until we cross that line." As we crossed that finish line in first place, winning the regatta, I was able to take a big sigh of relief because we had accomplished our goal. Each person on the water feels the pressure, including the crew, because in my book, you win as a team, and you lose as a team.

The Houston Yacht Club did an amazing job hosting both weeks of North Americans. The club really came together to show us the best sailing they could with the conditions and classic southern hospitality. It was a hard-fought week of sailing, and we wouldn't have been able to do it without our competitors, so thank you ladies for coming to compete. I also must thank the Lightning Class as a whole because this Class is really unlike any other. One of my favorite Lightning Class traditions is the special flash for the winners of our biggest events; it was an honor to sail under a pink flash all week and to know we earned one too. Raise your sails with pride as you hoist your special flash—not only does it show your accomplishments, but it makes for really sweet pictures!

Samantha Maras



Beauchamp Team



Women's North

Pos	Sail#	Bow#	Boat Name	Skipper/Crew
1	15075	7	WTF	Maegan Ruhlman, Katie Werley, Samantha Maras
2	14777	33		Laura Jeffers, Johanna Schon, Madison Curtis
3	13738	44		Lauren Beauchamp, Aubrey Wardwell, Naomi Delzell
4	15362	62		Anne Lee, Lindy Edwards, Katie Cummings



Champions: Maegan Ruhlman, Katie Werley, Samantha Maras



2nd Place: Laura Jeffers, Johanna Schon, Madison Curtis



3rd Place: Lauren Beauchamp, Aubrey Wardwell, Naomi Delzell



Maegan Ruhlman, Katie Werley, Samantha Maras

American Championship



2012 Women's NA Championship

Club	R1	R1	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
Pymatuning Yacht Club	1	1	[2]	1	2	1	6
St. Petersburg Yacht Club	2	2	1	2	1	[5/RAF]	8
Virginia Inland Sailing Association	[4]	4	4	3	3	2	16T
HYC	3	3	3	[4]	4	3	16T



Maegan Ruhlman, Katie Werley, Samantha Maras



Laura Jeffers, Johanna Schon, Madison Curtis



Lauren Beauchamp, Aubrey Wardwell, Naomi Delzell



Beauchamp and Lee Teams



Juniors' North American Championship

Houston Yacht Club, Houston, Texas

July 31 – August 4, 2012

Champions: Jonathan Lutz, Jonathan Pottharst, Reed Baldrige



LutzTeam



MacDonald Team

It seems my family has been planning a trip to the Junior North Americans for ten years now, and although it's only been six, this year was the first year I was to skipper the boat. After years of watching Matty Schon and my brother Jason skipper with much success, it was my turn to take the reins this year in Houston.

Learning from our victory last year with Jason at the helm, I was prepared and determined to make another run at the title. After winning the New Jersey Junior State Championship, I felt prepared for the challenge, especially against the newly-crowned Youth World Champion, Adam MacDonald.

In order to try to win the event, I needed to find an all-star team that would be willing to travel to Houston with me. Reed Baldrige, a member of Houston Yacht Club, and Jonathan Pottharst, a native of New Orleans, agreed to sail with me. Both Reed and Jonathan were top-notch junior sailors, and although they had never stepped foot on a Lightning before, I felt very confident in our team.

To everyone's surprise, the conditions in Houston were terrific, as we saw a strong and steady sea breeze during all three days of

racing. The great conditions made our job easier, as our goal was to sail fast and stay consistent. We focused on having good starts, sailing the boat fast forward through waves, and depowering the boat when necessary. Fortunately, our game plan worked to perfection, as we were able to win seven of the eight races on our way to a ten-point victory. Adam MacDonald and Abbie Probst, who both sailed very fast, rounded out the top three.

My goal of winning the regatta could not have been accomplished without the amazing work of my team. Reed did an excellent job flying the spinnaker and using his local knowledge to help me with the breeze, while Jonathan was a huge help in keeping the boat moving fast through the water.

I would also like to thank the organizing committee and the race management team at Houston Yacht Club, who ran the regatta flawlessly. Lastly, I owe a major thank you to my dad, Jody, for helping me grow as a sailor throughout my junior career, and I am proud to be able to engrave my name alongside the names of four other Lutz champions: my uncle Jay, my dad, cousin Taylor, and brother Jason.

Jonathan Lutz



Probst Team



Schon Team



Lutz and MacDonald Teams



Vance and Yoshiyasu Teams



Lutz and MacDonald Teams



Beck and Yoshiyasu Teams



2012 Juniors' North

Pos	Sail#	Bow#	Boat Name	Skipper/Crew
1	15166	66		Jonathan Lutz, Jonathan Pottharst, Reed Balderidge
2	14895	95		Adam MacDonald, Julianne MacDonald, Karl Allen
3	14672	67		Abbie Probst, Max Cahn, Danny Jordan
4	15487	87		Chris Schon, Kathryn Curtis, Haley Kardek
5	15460	77W		Yuki Yoshiyasu/ Charlotte Rose, Vanessa Keeling
6	15417	17		Kayleigh Godfrey, Connor Godfrey, Erin Godfrey
7	15312	12	Ragnot One	Ian Beck, Collin Scoville, Rachel Walston
8	15490	26		Ginny Vance



Champions: Jonathan Lutz, Jonathan Pottharst, Reed Balderidge



2nd Place: Adam MacDonald, Julianne MacDonald, Karl Allen



3rd Place: Abbie Probst, Max Cahn, Danny Jordan

American Championship



2012 Juniors' NA Championship

Club	R1	R1	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total
Metedeconk	[2]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Buffalo Canoe Club	1	[4]	3	2	2	3	3	3	17
Buffalo Canoe Club	5	2	2	3	[9/DSQ]	4	2	2	20
Metedeconk River Yacht Club	3.5/ RDG	3	[4]	4	4	2	4	4	25
Houston Yacht Club	4	5	6	[8]	3	6	5	5	34
Buffalo Canoe Club	3	[6]	5	6	6	5	6	6	37
Houston Yacht Club	6	7	7	5	5	8	8	[9/DNS]	46
HYC	7	[8]	8	7	7	7	7	7	50



Juniors' Fleet



Vance, Godfrey and Schon Teams



Godfrey, Yoshiyasu and Schon Teams



Beck Team



Vance Team



Masters' North American Championship

Houston Yacht Club, Houston, Texas

July 31 – August 4, 2012

Champions: Gary Hurban, Joan Hurban, Justin Coplan



Hurban Team

We almost didn't go to the 2012 NA Masters' Championship in Houston this year due to the forecast of sweltering temperatures and the fear of no winds. Luckily, the organizers got the word out that a sea breeze comes in daily, and they would not take us out until it started filling in. They were right, and those who stayed home missed a great regatta.

From the time we arrived at Houston Yacht Club, members showed us great hospitality, and they couldn't do enough for us. They found us and many others housing with other club members. We were only five minutes from the club.

Each day we would arrive at the Club around 10:00 AM, get the boat ready, launch it, and then go to a buffet lunch in the air conditioned clubhouse overlooking the race course at 11:00. At noon we would walk down to the dock, step onto our boat, and sail out to the race course. By 1:00 PM, we started the first race in a six-to-eight knot sea breeze,

which built to twelve to fifteen knots by the end of the second race.

After the races each day, there was a beer keg, daily awards, swimming in the club pool, and a variety of social activities, capped off by a great awards dinner at the Yacht Club.

Rob and Abby Ruhlman with Nick Turney won the first race, and we came in second. Steve and Jan Davis with Will Brown won the second race, with Team Ruhlman in second. There were ten to twenty-degree oscillations with variations in pressure, making for challenging conditions. After four races, we were four points behind both Rob and Steve, after discarding a throwout.

We won the fifth race. As we approached the finish line we were in first, with Phillip Lange in second, so we gave him lots of clean air, and he edged out Steve and Rob, which put us only one point behind Steve and two points behind Rob.

The competition was so good that it came down to the last leg of the last race. As we approached the last leeward mark, there was a left shift. We rounded the right gate and tacked onto the favored port tack, while Rob and Steve took the left gate. Near the finish we were ecstatic to find ourselves in first, with Mark Grinder in second



Ruhlman Team



Davis Team



Lange Team

and Phillip Lange in third, followed by Rob, then Steve. This gave us a one-point lead to win the regatta. What a thrill! Rob was second overall, with Steve third, and Phillip and Mark tied to finish fourth and fifth respectively.

It is worthy to note that the top three boats were husband and wife teams, and, as Steve Davis pointed out, we each had a "young buck" for a third.

My crew was outstanding. My wife Joan crewed for me for many years after we bought our first Lightning with our wedding money. Then she bought her own boat, and we have been sailing His and Hers Lightnings for many years. She went on to win the Adams Cup and many other regattas. She was great in the front. Justin Coplan was our third. He started crewing for me when he was in high school, when he was already a very good Laser sailor. After sailing in college, I wrote a letter nominating him to the Boat Grant Program, where he did very well. He has since won the Metropolitan Districts five times in a row and had just won the Atlantic Coast Championships. Obviously, he is an outstanding sailor, and we could not have done it without him.

Many thanks to the regatta organizers, Paul and Sabra Francis, Ian and Lindy Edwards, and the many other Club members who worked so hard to make this a great event.

Gary Hurban





2012 Masters' North

Pos	Sail#	Bow#	Boat Name	Skipper/Crew	Club
1	15257	4	His	Gary Hurban, Joan Hurban, Justin Coplan	SSA
2	15457	57		Rob Ruhlman, Abby Ruhlman, Nick Turney	Pymatuning Yacht Club
3	15265	65		Steve Davis, Jan Davis, Will Brown	Denver Sailing Association
4	15276	76	No Worries	Philip Lange, Alistair Thompson, Derek Lange	BCC
5	15272	72		Mark Grinder, Thomas Allen, Natalie Bates	Buffalo Canoe Club
6	15360	60	Circus	Rick Tears, Clarke Newman, Dougie Byerly	Corinthian Sailing Club
7	13877	31		Robert Harkrider, Jr, Sharon Harkrider, Tom Schroder	Augusta Sailing Club
8	14136	36	USA 14136	Cal Herman, Jeanne Herman, Art Herman	Southern Yacht Club
9	15462	24		Marvin Beckmann, Vickie Matthews, Sam Myers	Houston Yacht Club
10	15410	10	Southerly Buster	Ian Edwards, Andrew Lee, Todd Wake	NSC (& HYC)
11	15329	29	Na	Tommy Meric, Scotty Barrat, William Romeo	Southern yacht club
12	15315	16	Quest	William Cabrall, Jim England, Rebecca Espinosa	Denver Sailing Association
13	15326	78W	Mystique	Gary Schwantz, John Womble, Chad Wilson	Lagos Yacht Club
14	15455	55		Per Huffeldt, Tim Fox, Johnny Walston	Yacht Klubben Furesoe/ Rush Creek YC
15	14924	34	Last Minute	Tom Sutton, Julie Goetschius, Richard Voyles	LYC
16	13742	75	Old Blue	Larry Schmitz, Thomas Goddard, Jeff Coppens	MBYC



American Championship



2012 Masters' NA Championship

R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
2	4	3	[6]	1	1	11
1	2	[7]	2	3	4	12
3	1	4	1	4	[5]	13
6	[8]	2	5	2	3	18T
5	3	[8]	3	5	2	18T
[14]	7	1	8	7	11	34
4	[12]	5	11	9	6	35
8	5	6	4	[17/DNC]	17/DNC	40
7	10	9	10	[11]	7	43
10	6	11	9	8	[17/DSQ]	44
9	9	[13]	12	6	9	45
11	11	10	[13]	10	8	50
12	[13]	12	7	12	10	53
13	14	14	14	13	[17/DNS]	68
[15]	15	15	15	14	12	71
[17/DNC]	17/DNC	17/DNC	17/DNC	17/DNC	17/DNC	85



Hurban Team



Ruhlman Team



Grinder and Tears Teams



Sutton, Huffeldt and Beckman Teams