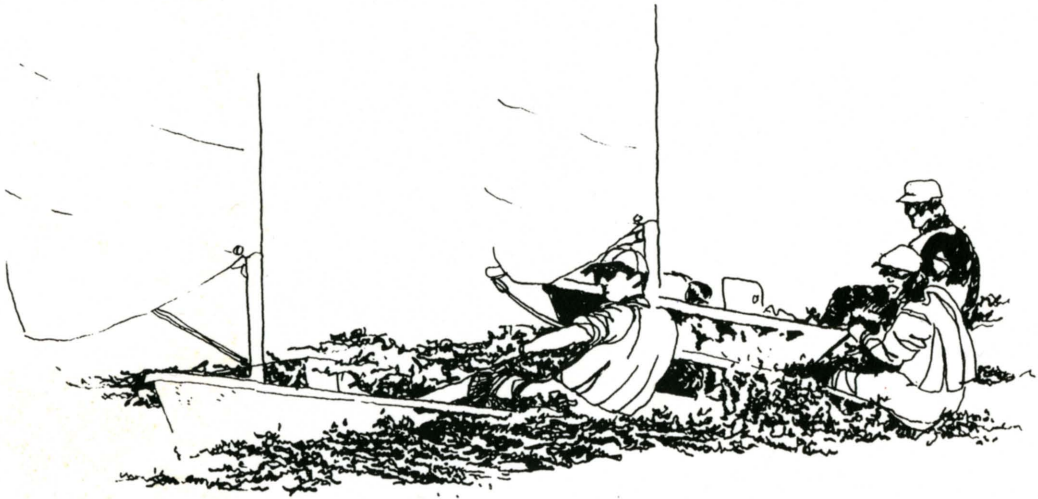


**1997**

**Laser North American  
Championship**



**Houston Yacht Club  
July 9-13, 1997**



## HOUSTON YACHT CLUB

Founded 1897

July 1997

Dear Laser Sailors:

Welcome to the Houston Yacht Club, and thank you for coming to help us celebrate our 100th Birthday. We hope you will remember this 1997 Laser, Laser II and Laser Radial North American Championships on Galveston Bay as one of the outstanding events of your sailing life.

Competition is always keen in major events like these, and each competitor has a right to be proud of their sailing -- winner or not.

HYC is proud to conduct these Laser championships and add Laser to the list of many international regattas held here. We're happy to have you here and hope you meet new friends, sharpen your sailing skills and come back to see us again.

If you need assistance while you are here, please feel free to contact me, any officer or employee of the Club, or any one of the many volunteers participating in these events.

Good luck and fair sailing.

Sincerely,

Neil Akkerman  
Commodore  
Houston Yacht Club

# LASER NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### JULY 9.

Wednesday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

6:00 pm

7:00 pm

Registration

Welcome Ceremony /

Preliminary Skippers Meeting

Hamburger Cookout (\$7.00)

### JULY 10.

Thursday

9:00 am - 11:00 am

11:00 am

11:00 am

1: 00 pm

6:00 pm

Final Registration

Skippers Meeting

Lunch

Warning Signal

BBQ Dinner

Race Videos

### JULY 11.

Friday

11:00 am

1:00 pm

7:00 pm

Lunch

Warning Signal

John Kolius /

Joe Camp Ford Party --

for Master Racers

Race Videos

### JULY 12.

Saturday

11:00 am

1:00 pm

6:00 pm

Lunch

Warning Signal

Mexican Buffet

Race Videos

### JULY 13.

Sunday

11:00 am

3:30 pm (Approx.)

Warning Signal

Trophy Presentation &

Hors d'oeuvres

Race Videos

## LOCAL SAILING CONDITIONS

It is always a challenge to predict the wind on Galveston Bay. The NOAA forecast is always "south-southeast; 10-15 knots, bay water slightly choppy". Anything different means we are in the middle of a hurricane, and they have not realized it yet.

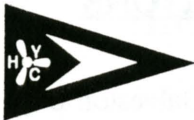
### **SOUTHEASTERLY**

This is the SEA BREEZE with a relatively constant direction of 135 (plus or minus 10 degrees) at 12-18 knots. This is a wonderful sailing breeze when it settles in and is fairly constant. Phases are under 15 degrees and last 5-10 minutes. Only a frontal passage or thunderstorm will disrupt this pattern, and then there may be moderate shifts towards the cells.

The bay is only 10-12 feet deep and tides are relatively unimportant. Current is usually not a problem, but should not be totally ignored. Shallow water can cause nasty chop to the build up when the breeze strengthens.

Daytime air temperatures range from 80 to 95 degrees, with night time lows in the 70 to 80 degrees. The wind is southeasterly 80% of the time. Beach water temperature is 85 degrees.





## HOUSTON YACHT CLUB

Founded 1897

July 1997

Dear Laser Sailors:

On behalf of the Race Committee consisting of 65 plus members of the Houston Yacht Club, I welcome you to Galveston Bay racing.

Galveston Bay can give us some great sailing with good breezes, little or no current or land effect on the breeze. We hope that the weather cooperates and you have the chance to compete in the "typical" conditions that we locals enjoy.

The Race Committee is geared up to provide you some interesting courses. The trapezoidal courses will be fun for you the contestants and also the Race Committee. This is our first endeavor to run races on this course and we are lucky to have several experienced members of the Race Committee that helped to conduct them at the Olympics this last year. You will benefit from their experience!

Our goal is to provide you fair racing with square starting lines and good course maintenance throughout the races.

We look forward to seeing some great racing and wish you all the best of luck during this event.

Sincerely,

Dean Snider  
Principle Race Officer

## **HYC RACE COMMITTEE**

### **RACE COMMITTEE -**

Neil Akkerman, Paul Berner, Sally Berner, Adrienee Bullard, Shannon Bush, Ellen Donnelly, Catherine Focke, John Focke, Bruce Huckaba, Nancy Huckaba, Mary Haglund, Carol-Lee Hollister, Dwight Hollister, Lynn Hudgins, Tom Hudgins, Sandy Kelley, Rainer Majewski, Anna Matthews, Matt Matthews, Fount McKee, Carol Nicholson, Neave Nunes, Sue Perdue, M.L. Painton, Daphne Pickering, Gerald Pickering, Betty Rector, Karl Schneidau, Kay Snider, Dean Snider, Bill Strong, Fran Strong, Camille Tichenor, Jim Tichenor, Shelly Tumbleson

### **MARK SET BOATS**

Mary Ann Allen, Louella Bensabat, Ed Bluestein, Tim Broadhead, Kirby Boston, Liz Deer, Tom Garrett, Karen Ghormley, Steve Ghormley, Dean Gore, Frank Kelley, Jeff Lam, Greg Levine, James Liston, Ann Luppens, Chris Luppens, Beverly Mickley, R.T. Newton, Russel Painton, Betty Petrie, Bob Petrie, John Nicholson, J.C. Nicholson, C.D. Sharp, Allen Van Mannen, Ned Van Mannen, Lloyd Wells, George Zivley,

### **JUDGES**

Hank Arnold - Chief Judge  
Allan Broadribb - Judge  
Gary Sander - Judge  
Judy Lamkin - Judges Secretary

## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Regatta Chairperson	Dick Hanneman
Regatta Co-Chairperson	Neave Nunes
Principal Race Officers	Dean Snider Jim Tichenor
Assistant Race Officers	Matt Matthews John Focke
Treasurer	Gary Ebdon
Scoring	Bruce Huckaba
Welcoming Ceremony	James Liston
Publicity / Publication	Libby Kolius
Trophies	Barbara Brownback
Registration	Cheryl Thomas
Housing	Mary Ann Allen
Food & Beverage	Barbara Brownback
T-Shirts	John Focke
Photographer	Jean May
Videos	KO Sailing Jack Progelhof
Spectator Boats	Robin Camp
On-Land Liaison	Pam Marsden
Grounds Keeper	Pat Mickley

## CONTRIBUTORS / SPONSORS

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## HOUSTON YACHT CLUB HISTORY

In 1897, after a summer filled with boating excursions, sailing parties and two hotly contested regattas, a group of yachtsmen organized what is today the oldest yacht club in Texas, the Houston Yacht Club. Dan E. Kennedy was elected the first commodore at a meeting held in the Binz Building, Houston's first skyscraper, on February 2, 1898.

In 1905, the members reorganized as the Houston Yacht and Power Club. They received their first charter from the State of Texas in June of that year. Members continued to hold meetings in downtown Houston and moored their boats at the club wharf on Buffalo Bayou near Allen's Landing. The purpose of the organization included promoting and encouraging both the science and sport of boating, and maintaining a cleaner and healthier bayou. John H. Kirby donated the Steamer Lawrence to the Club to promote interest in Houston's fledgling ship channel and Galveston Bay's commercial and recreational potential. After two years the Club reorganized as the Houston Launch Club.

The Launch Club continued to meet downtown until 1910, when they built a clubhouse on Buffalo Bayou in Harrisburg (now part of Houston's East End) opposite Brady's Island and today's Port of Houston turning basin. In addition to encouraging and organizing sailing, power boating and canoeing events, promoting the development of the ship channel and Houston as a deep water port continued to be a primary focus of the Club.

After World War I, the sailing members, ready to compete in regattas with other clubs in the South, began a movement to relocate the clubhouse to Galveston Bay where practicing their sailing skills would be more convenient. (Even though Harrisburg was closer to the Bay than downtown Houston, it still took hours to cruise down the Bayou to open water). In 1923, these members established a sailing facility in Seabrook known as the "Houston Yacht Club, Launch Club Bayshore Home."

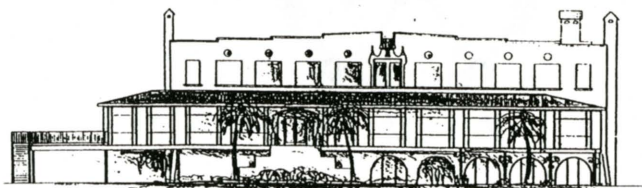
In 1926, the two groups began selling their respective properties and pooling resources to build the Shoreacres clubhouse. Retaining the Houston Yacht Club name and the burgee of Houston Launch Club, the group moved into their "magnificent and commodious" Spanish mission building in July of 1927.

During World War II, the clubhouse was occupied by the U.S. Coast Guard which converted it into a training facility. As in World War I, members and their boats went to war. Their motor boats were used to help patrol the Houston Ship Channel, a vital oil port. Sailors carried on their boating, using the club owned "Fish Class" gaff rigged sloops.

The clubhouse was remodeled in 1953 and again, more extensively, in 1961 when the ballroom was added. Affectionately call the "Pink Palace" for many years, it was restored to its traditional coral color in 1987 after members researched the color of other buildings of similar style and age. After a fire in 1993 an original fireplace, though to have been destroyed in the 1961 remodeling, was discovered intact. This fireplace and other original architectural details were restored, recapturing the ambiance of the 1927 design.

During the early years, the club enjoyed organizing regattas for all types of boats, from racing sloops to working class sailboats, motor yachts and canoes. In 1927, HYC hosted the first national regatta in Texas-the-Mississippi Valley Power Boat Regatta. The event was attended by work record setting speed boats from all over the country and by thousands of spectators. This began a tradition of hosting national and international regattas that continues today.

HYC has the distinction of being the only club in the country to twice win the prestigious St. Petersburg Trophy for excellence in race management, and accomplishment that would not be possible without the hard work of member volunteers. As the Centennial Year approaches, HYC continues to make yachting history on Galveston Bay.



# HOUSTON YACHT CLUB

## 1996 - 1997 OFFICERS

### Flag Officers

Commodore	Neil Akkerman
Vice Commodore	Tony Nunes
Rear Commodore	Ginny Garrett

### Line Officers

Fleet Captain	Jack Progelhof
Secretary	Dave Haglund
Treasurer	Brad Larson
Measurer	Dennis Steger

### Board of Trustees

Van Callahan	Lon Strong
Tom Deen	Clark Thompson, Jr.
Jim Lober	Chris Ward
John Nicholson	Bob Wells

### Honorary Officers

Fleet Surgeon	Dr. George Whalen
Fleet Chaplain	Rev. Rom Rafferty
Fleet Historian	P/C Tynes Sparks

## VOLUNTEERS

### **HOUSING**

Ann and Mike Bordelon  
Evangeline Callahan  
Eleanor Curtis  
Charlene and Roy Jamail  
Judy and Marc Lamkin  
Pam and Bruce Marsden  
Becky and Tom McCulloch  
Patty and Alan Ward  
Mildred Bell  
Bettye and Ed Dejon  
Ginny and Tom Garrett

### **REGISTRATION**

Sam Akkerman  
Ellen Donnelly  
Karen Ghormley  
Mary Haglund  
Chris Larson  
Susan Plazter  
Neave Nunes  
Lynda Smythe  
Sissy Sparks  
Beverly Spraggins  
Barbara Brownback

### **SPECTATOR BOATS**

Robin and Joe Camp  
Sue and George Perdue  
Jeanette and Craig Bland

Dr. Gordon Irving  
Dr. Eric Ellis

## **NORTH AMERICAN LASER CLASS ASSOCIATION**

Ian Lineberger, Chairman

Allen Broadribb, Class Secretary



