1997
Laser North American Championship

Houston Yacht Club
July 9-13, 1997
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

3620 MIRAMAR DRIVE • P.O. BOX 1276 • PHONE 713/471-1255 • LA PORTE, TEXAS 77572-1276
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JULY 9.</strong></td>
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<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Ceremony / Preliminary Skippers Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Hamburger Cookout ($7.00)</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 10.</strong></td>
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<td>Final Registration</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Skippers Meeting</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Warning Signal</td>
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<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>BBQ Dinner</td>
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<td>Race Videos</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 11.</strong></td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Warning Signal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>John Kolius / Joe Camp Ford Party -- for Master Racers</td>
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<td>Race Videos</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 12.</strong></td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Warning Signal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Mexican Buffet</td>
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<td>Race Videos</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 13.</strong></td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Warning Signal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30 pm (Approx.)</td>
<td>Trophy Presentation &amp; Hors d’oeuvres</td>
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<td>Race Videos</td>
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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 of 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.
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

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HYC RACE COMMITTEE

RACE COMMITTEE -

MARK SET BOATS

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
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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 form 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

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Tom Deen  Clark Thompson, Jr.
Jim Lober  Chris Ward
John Nicholson  Bob Wells

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

NORTH AMERICAN LASER CLASS ASSOCIATION
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Allen Broadribb, Class Secretary