Post Trophy Top Goal In San Jacinto Regatta

By POOKIE STAMPER

It was 133 years ago on April 21 that Texas won her independence from Mexico at the famous Battle of San Jacinto. So it is fitting that sailors on the Galveston Bay sailing scene observe that anniversary with special events and season-opening festivities.

HOUSTON YACHT Club will field the bay's largest list of entries in its annual San Jacinto Regatta. Over 100 entries in more than a dozen classes are expected to vie in the three-race affair which marks the club's formal opening. The Houston Post Trophy is the special coveted award that goes to the skipper with the highest percentage points.

The original trophy dates back to 1930 and was dedicated by the then Houston Post Dispatch to the winner of the opening race of the season. It was retained in 1932 by Jimmy Thompson who had won it three years in a row. The present trophy's date begins in 1957, and Thompson has his name twice more on the cup to lay claim as the winningest skipper. His previous wins were in Corinthian and Star boats, but this year he will make his bid in the Soling Class which has less than a year's time has grown to become the class of the bay's top skippers.

RACES ARE SET for 9:45 AM and 2:15 PM Saturday and 10:45 AM Sunday. The club's formal commissioning ceremony and blessing of the fleet is slated for 3 PM Sunday followed by trophy presentations. Club officials and many power boat skippers will take part in the Eleventh Annual Texas Navy Review past the Battleship Texas at San Jacinto Battlegrounds Monday morning.

Seabrook Sailing Club's two-day celebration this week end is the official opening of the season. Saturday a "Rally 'Round the Flag" costume party is set for 3 PM, and Sunday the unique LeMans Race gets underway at 2 PM. The fun-race combines physical speed and agility with boat racing. With boats on an inverted handicap basis, the crews must first foot race from the parking lot, raise sails and then race the course.

IN OTHER LOCAL action, Galveston Bay Cruising Association will cruise to Hanna's Reef for overnight festivities and Galveston Yacht Club will conduct a practice race session Saturday afternoon. Texas Corinthian Yacht Club usually debuts on San Jacinto week end, but will delay until the following week end.

Houston designer Martin Bludworth and Houston boat builder Fred MauUin will take two of their creations to Fort Worth Boat Club for the third running of the Southwestern Inland Auxiliary Championship. The 50-nautical mile, overnight race is a three-tapper around Eagle Mountain Lake and gets off at 3 PM Saturday. Bludworth won the initial race in his own-designed 22-foot Mustang and was runner-up last year in his Gulf Coast 20 behind Fort Worth boat builder Andy Green's Mustang. He will compete in the 20 again this year with MauUin sailing a Gulf Coast 22. The race will be the first in the new Texas Inland Racing Conference. The series, for boats up to 25.6 feet (with a minimum weight factor) includes the Turnback Canyon Race at Austin and Corpus Christi to Rockport Race. There will be additional races as yet unscheduled, according to Bludworth, coordinator of the conference.