

HAMPTON YACHT CLUB

MAINSHEET

USODA Special Edition

2023 OPTIMIST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

"Hampton Will Step Up, If Desired," read the subject line of an email I sent March 7th to Beth Danilek, the class administrator of the USODA (United States Optimist Dinghy Association). Earlier that day, came a phone call from Lindsay Lopez, an Opti parent at HYC, "Have you seen the email?", she asked me. Cautiously, I answered, "Yes, I've seen it." USODA announced the scheduled host for the 2023 Opti Nationals was no longer able to host due to not obtaining a permit from the city of Hilton Head. Nationals were scheduled in four months and the class was in a panic putting out an emergency call for bids for clubs out there to take on hosting the event or there may not be a Nationals for the Opti Class this year.

My immediate reaction was sympathy, not action. To put this into perspective, in March my wife, Lexy, was 8 months pregnant. We're about to have a baby at the end of April and planning a nationals typically happens with a year's worth of planning, time and effort. Hampton Yacht Club hosted the Opti Team Race Nationals for the past two years and I thought there would be little interest for the class to return to Tidewater for a third year in a row... I didn't give it much thought that day until Lindsay called. With enthusiastic promotion Lindsay convinced me to make the one call that would determine the fate of whether HYC would put in a bid to host: "I need to call Lexy."

Lexy is an incredible wife and mother, she has supported my sailing endeavors through many years, and this was no different. She gave her approval knowing we would navigate the way forward. The second call was to the Commodore! I still had my doubts of being chosen since HYC hosted Team Race for the past two years but with board approval I sent the email "Hampton Will Step Up, If Desired."



2023 Opti Nationals, 1 HYC 1 ©Will Keyworth Photography
PHOTO FROM FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](https://www.willkeyworth.com)

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The class was grateful but understood my personal position and were hopeful other clubs would submit a bid. To be clear, I put in a bid to host the Fleet Race Nationals, a large event but would last only four days. After two weeks USODA chose HYC to host Fleet Race Nationals when my phone rang again... This time it was Beth, a club in NJ who bid for the Team Race Nationals had fallen through. "Would you host all three disciplines?" Team Race, Girls, and Fleet.

Under my tenure at HYC, I have focused our program predominantly on the Optimist. The boat is simple and yet very technical. The boat builds a solid foundation of skills that can last for a lifetime. The Opti has the power to teach sailing and launch high level sailors towards success in future endeavors such as the c420, Laser, 29er, and well into their adult sailing career. The focus of our athlete's success at HYC stemmed from hiring the best coaches that continue to implement team oriented focused work ethic while making it a fun rewarding experience. Organization, Modernization, and Professionalization. It's how Paton coached the team and James Allgeier to winning the 2021 Nationals. My principles would not allow me to say no to Beth, it became clear that if HYC didn't step up, there would be no National Championships.

I quickly assembled the team: Leigh Chapman, Morgan Johnson, and Lindsay Lopez. Leigh would take on a co-chair position and develop the budget, Morgan would be the volunteer coordinator, and Lindsay would head sponsorship. This event simply would not have happened without them. Like a war cabinet, every decision and move was calculated and detailed. The three events would fall over a two-week span. Teams would be welcomed on July 24 immediately after Lightning ACCs and kick off with Team Race Nationals from July 26-28 followed by Girls Nationals on the 30th, and culminate with Fleet Nationals on July 31-Aug. 3.



PHOTOS FROM GIRLS NATIONALS - TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

To host a great regatta, it takes people, lots of people. The first task was to secure two PROs, a Chief Umpire, and a Chief Judge. For the team race, HYC Member and ODU Head Sailing Coach, Mitch Brindley was selected as PRO. The PRO for Girls/Fleet would be International Race Officer Kevin Reeds. International Umpire Rob Overton would CHUMP and International Judge Jerry Thompson would CHUDGE. Mark Wheeler was entrusted as the Finish Race Officer for all three events. Rob and Jerry had no simple orders: 18 umpires and 12 judges would be required to staff the events and it would be up to me to find ribs/whalers suitable for them to follow the races. Fortunately, both of them have deep contacts and assembled a great group meeting the requirement consisting of international, national and regional umpires and judges and a jury secretary within the constrained time frame.

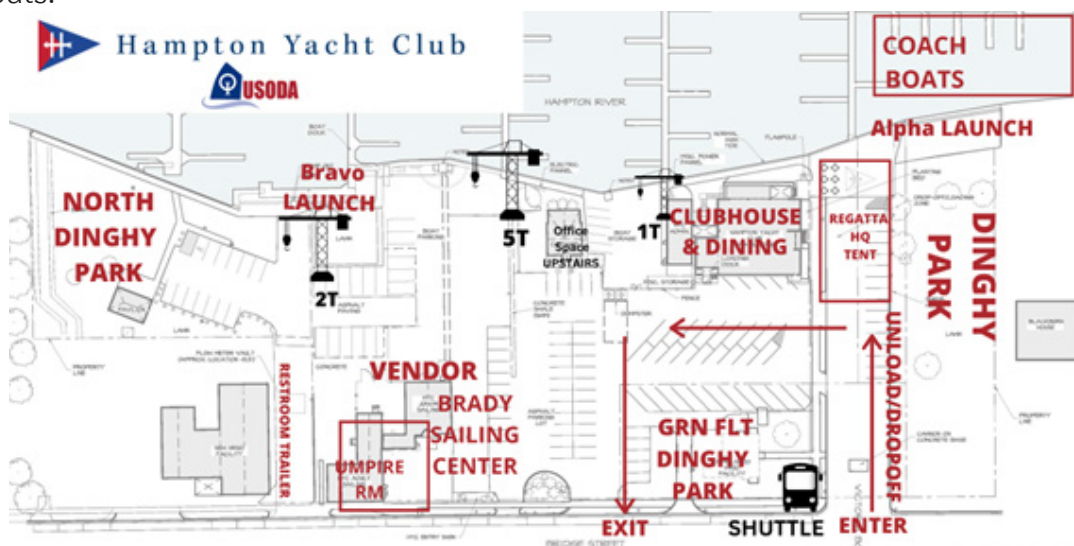


PHOTO FROM GIRLS NATIONALS - TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

Fortunately, I knew from the previous two years what it would take to host the team race portion of the event, which is exactly why I found another professional to take on a Team Race chair position so I could focus on chairing Fleet Nationals. I approached Sam Patterson because he grew up in Hampton and had a proven record as the previous chair of the very successful US National Team Racing Championship for the Hinman Trophy. His current employer, Zim Sailing, would be the title sponsor for the Team Race Event debuting their new Fighter Opti. Sam would be responsible for helping secure umpire vessels, leading umpire logistics, and working with Jane Moore, who took on the role of finding housing for race staff. Sam and I both exhausted our networks to obtain the best local-on-the-water volunteers and boats to run the event.

Planning for Nationals came to a halt for me on April 25th, as Lexy and I welcomed our son, Camden, into the world. I was able to spend a wonderful two weeks with family and take in the joy of fatherhood. As Lexy took her maternity leave the regatta committee and I continued to hammer out details. The first time Leigh laid eyes on Camden, it was during a Nationals virtual meeting. Food plan, sponsorships, parking, trailer storage, trophies, site planning, signage, and much more were the topics of many debates. The largest hurdle to overcome was how to launch 300 Optis and where were we going to put them all? What if there was an afternoon storm? John Blais, Mike Oubre and I wrote a very detailed safety plan that accounted for every worst-case scenario we could imagine.

I was confident before the initial email to USODA that HYC could berth 300 Optis in the Dinghy Park and the grass lot near the pavilion. To be specific, from previous experience each Opti needs an 8'x10' berth to rest on a dolly and have enough room for the sailor to rig. Using those dimensions the Dinghy Park fit 154 boats, the North grass lot, 98, and 35 spots were added in the Cannon lot for Green Fleet. The problem the club faced next was where to launch the boats on the north end of the property. The easiest solution was to add a ramp between dry storage and E dock, this would also be useful for future events and for member usage of dinghies and smaller boats.





GIRLS NATIONALS - TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON



At the May HYC board meeting, concern grew over parking. 300 Optis meant lots of parents, trailers, and potential conflict. Fortunately, the remedy was already in play, Leigh Chapman contacted the city to use Darling Stadium for regatta parking and arranged the usage of the city's shuttle. She also was able to find a secure offsite location for trailers. I am convinced trailer storage made hosting the entire event a success. The offsite parking eliminated the amount of space that empty trailers quickly consume and allowed for the club to operate at full capacity. Additional dockage for coach boats was arranged with Hampton Downtown City Docks and Safe Harbor Bluewater.

While all this work was transpiring, Morgan and Lindsay were crafting a food schedule that would flow throughout the events. One competitor dinner would take place on Sunday evening that featured a famous roast pig smoked by Don and Julie Gregory. Morgan meticulously detailed volunteer schedules and created a sign-up system that could be accessible through the club website. Jane Moore was feverishly making calls to procure member housing for each of the 18 umpires, 12 judges, regatta admin, and PRO. I am incredibly humbled and proud of the membership that stepped up to make this event happen and indebted to the members that opened their homes to the regatta staff.



PHOTO FROM GIRLS NATIONALS - TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

Lindsay worked diligently to land sponsors to support the cause, including Paint Supply Company, Hampton Rotary, and countless others. Goodman & Sons Jewelers crafted beautiful Opti Class logo pendants and provided two custom rings for the winners of Fleet and Girls Nationals. Rooster Sailing and Club Boat Charters produced sun hoodies for each competitor and a special shirt for the Girl's Nationals. Simmons Boatworks came on as the title sponsor for the Girls and Fleet events. The company operates two large trailers that house "truck-boats" (charter or personally-owned Optis) that travel the circuit in support of the sailors. Their business model allows traveling long distances easier for a family when the sailor arrives with the boat already at the regatta. Simmons Boatworks donated a Winner Optimist for the club to raffle off at the event.

With the plan in place, there were many physical tasks to complete before sailors arrived but three were crucial to the event. About a week before the event roughly thirty spontaneously recruited members helped carry the ramp from trailer to its installation place. The 12'x15' ramp made it a bit cumbersome but again the HYC volunteers made it happen! Marshall Findley created two additional ramp pieces that allowed the width of an Opti dolly to go up the smaller ramp over the bulkhead to the main launch ramp. The regatta launch wouldn't have happened without him.

To prevent confusion, each Opti in the dinghy parks had a designated berth, each grouped by team they were sailing with for the event. Each 8'x10' spot had to be marked and numbered. Woody Woodcock and I spent the better part of the day measuring, lining, and painting the grass at HYC. Unfortunately, we had to do it twice, after a large rainstorm washed away most of the paint. The one lay day in between Team Race and Girls was a savior in terms of getting this task accomplished for a second time. It took roughly three and half cases of spray paint.

The last major job before the start of the regatta was to review the Race Committee equipment and prep the flag bags. John McCarthy ensured that all the flags that would fly were accounted for and properly tied to their poles. John also committed to ride on the Signal boat with Kevin that was operated by Marshall Findley and Henry Hudgins. As the regatta bags were prepped with material from Downtown Hampton, regatta giveaways, and shirts only one question remained, what will mother nature do?



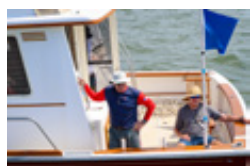
^^FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)



^^FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)

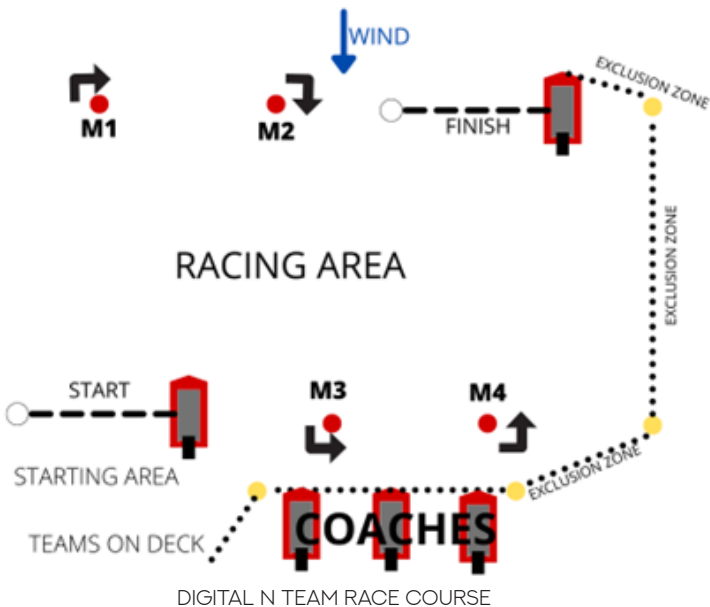


^^FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)



TEAM NATIONALS

Team Race opened with thirteen teams participating, three of which were from Hampton Yacht Club. Team racing in Optis is a 4 vs. 4 format but teams can consist of up to five sailors. Four boats from one team compete against four boats from another team with both teams utilizing speed, maneuvers, mark room and right of way to promote their teammates into a better position in the fleet. The fleet sails a "Digital N" course that features a windward mark left to starboard, a reach, a downwind run with a leeward mark left to port, another reach, and a final beat to finish.



The races are short, roughly 10-12 minutes. Each team must sail against all of the other teams, with thirteen teams, that's 78 races in a Round Robin. Fortunately, mother nature delivered! PRO Mitch Brindley with the help of his RC volunteers completed the 78 races by 4PM on Wednesday. Hampton Yacht Club Team 1 (Brandt Adams, Andrew Allgeier, Finley Webster, and Wesley Johnson) sat in second place overall after a great first day. Hampton Yacht Club 2 (Will Chapman, Tucker Johnson, Sergei Lopatin, and Jackson Martin) and Hampton Yacht Club 3 (Xavier Assis, Henry Haer, Jacob Oubre, and Sophia Lopez) both were battling out for the top of silver. Thursday's conditions blew

harder allowing the completion of a second round, another 78 races! Unfortunately, HYC 1 fell just outside the top four going into the finals for Friday. Coral Reef's two teams, CRYC Spectra and CRYC Vectran, LISOT Black, and Carolina Yacht Club (SC) were competing for the top spots going into the finals. It ended up with both Coral Reef teams vying for the championship with Vectran coming out on top in the best of 5 series. Both Coral Reef teams would qualify for the top two berths to the IODA Team Cup in Berlin later this October! Additionally, I want to personally thank Jerry Latell and Evolution Sails for donating the Team Identification Numbers for each competitor's sail. FULL RESULTS: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DO9i6UD4_UTSH67F3rK32pFfR5TC90vZ/edit#gid=408513348

By the end of Team Race, sailors were showing up in droves! Team Race hosted roughly 150 sailors, while Girls and Fleet would see an additional 150 arrive. Saturday was spent by most teams practicing during the lay day while final regatta preparations and Race Committee meetings were being held for the penultimate event, Girls Nationals.



PHOTO FROM TEAM NATIONALS - TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

ZIM SAILING OPTIMIST TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



TEAM NATIONALS DAY 1 & 3
TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

ZIM SAILING OPTIMIST TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

GOLD FINAL

- 1 CYRA Vectran
- 2 CRYA Spectra
- 3 CYC Red
- 4 LISOT Black



SILVER FINAL

- 1 Team CRL
- 2 LISOT Gold
- 3 AYC Red
- 4 Hampton YC 2

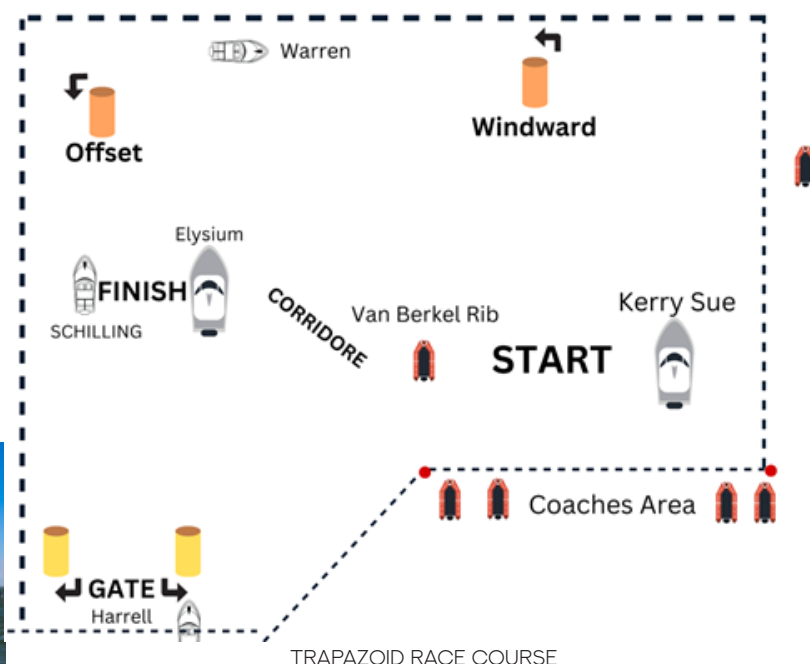


TEAM NATIONALS DAY 1 & 3 - TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

GIRLS NATIONALS

On Sunday, it blew! The girls faced a 15-20 knot northerly. The conditions were spectacular! The course for the Girls and the Fleet Race Championships is a trapezoid. The girls had 97 boats in the fleet all on the same starting line. Madeline Oubre, Sophia Lopez, and Sarah Moore all represented HYC! Elizabeth Xydas of Coral Reef Yacht Club came away with the win! A huge thank you to Mischa van Berkel, Michael Oubre, Brian Deibler, Bobby Warren, Casey Schilling, Erin Gatling, Bobby and Susan Harrell, Mark and Kathy Wheeler, John McCarthy, Marshall Findley, Malcolm Brady, Don DeLoatch, Tyler Brown, Corlista Burgess, Rob Perrera, Henry Hudgins, H. Shaw, Steve Taylor, Jeremiah Dull, Maury Nibaur, Amelon Rule, Madison Bivins, Dave McCaughy, Olivia Gilmore, Dreugh Phillips, Steve Hendrickson, and Ron McLean for their duty on Race Committee throughout the event.

Sunday evening under the tent Hampton City Mayor Donnie Tuck welcomed all 300 competitors and their families to the city of Hampton. As the Girl's National Championship awards took place everyone dined on the fabulous roast pig sponsored by the Hampton Rotary while a steel drum band played! Smiles all around. FULL RESULTS: <https://usoda.org/regatta/3MG4wNIOiQ/results>



SIMMONS BOATWORKS OPTIMIST GIRLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OVERALL

1	Elizabeth Xydas	Coral Reef Yacht Club
2	Annie Ulmer	Coral Reef Yacht Club
3	Amelie Murdy	Lauderdale YC/Annapolis YC

RED

1	Elizabeth Xydas (Coral Reef Yacht Club)
2	Natalie Gaver (CERT)
3	Eleanor Millar (Larchmont Yacht Club/LISOT)

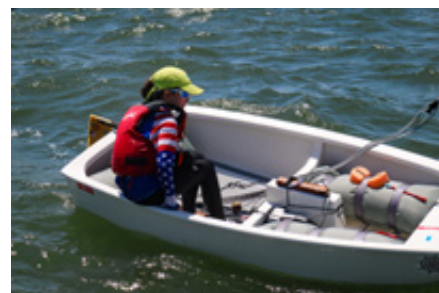
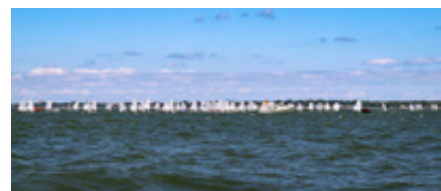
BLUE

1	Annie Ulmer (Coral Reef Yacht Club)
2	Amelie Murdy (Lauderdale YC/Annapolis YC)
3	Grace Crespin (Annapolis Yacht Club)

WHITE

1	Casey Moure (Coral Reef Yacht Club)
2	Morgan Temple (Coconut Grove Sailing Club)
3	Aislyn Flynn

SIMMONS BOATWORKS OPTIMIST GIRLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



GIRLS NATIONALS - TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

A LETTER FROM THE COMMODORE

Dear Friends,

Although I didn't do an exact count - by rough calculation I think there were nearly 100 HYC members who had a hand in helping us welcome and host the 2023 USODA Optimist National Championship Regattas July 26 to August 3. When it was over, I stood in the bar with Max Plarr and our Vice Commodore, Sergio Diehl, receiving accolades from departing coaches and parents and contemplating how we could help every member experience the energy and enthusiasm of this remarkable event. This special edition of The Mainsheet is the result of our partly-rum-fueled musing.

In it you'll find write ups for all three events: Team Race, Girls Championship, and Fleet Championship, including links to the full results. Many of the wonderful photographs are from Will Keyworth, who captured much of the action on the water. A former sailmaker with North, and experienced racer, Will knows where the action is on the race course and his pictures of the fleet event, available for purchase here (<https://willkeyworth.smugmug.com/Photos-By-Events/2023-Events>), are a fantastic record.

The racing was great, and the on-the-water effort was almost mindboggling. The first day of the team event, PRO Mitch Brindley and his crew ran 78 races. Our house guests, who traveled from Charlotte and Boston to umpire the team event, told me this and I thought I had misheard. "Did you say, 7 or 8 races," I asked? "No," they said, "78 races". In one day.

Those of us on the ground crew had just as much fun with the registering, parking, feeding, launching, retrieving, and general onshore duties as assigned. To a person, those who volunteered to help told me it was immensely satisfying to see so many young people so engaged in our sport. Our incredible staff also handled the extra work with courtesy and resilience.

Of course, I'm aware that all this effort produced a few hardships. Boats were harder to get to; the dumpsters were full; I heard drinks on Wednesday night took much longer than usual. And everyone who endured these minor inconveniences with grace and patience deserves a "thank you," too. But as you peruse the pictures and ponder the effort that went into all those races, I hope you will agree with me.

It was so worth it!

All the best,

Doug Miller
Commodore



PHOTO FROM FLEET NATIONALS
TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)

GREEN FLEET

The Green Fleet at USODA Nationals consisted of an exciting group of 36 of the nation's youngest sailors who proved to be a bunch of hardy characters, indeed! Successfully completing a total of 12 races over four days, this group consistently sailed with smiles on their faces and questions on their minds. They geared up each morning and launched after the Red, White and Blue sailors on Alpha Launch, heading out to their course behind Leigh and Dave Chapman's green Mainship, aptly named *Pickle*. The gang sailed off Strawberry Banks, and delighted in the slight pocket of breeze provided by this prime location.

Sammy Feinstone of Annapolis Yacht Club topped the fleet with a string of consistent finishes in the top 10 with just one exception. Whitman Hwa-Crabbe and Colin Schwab, both from Annapolis YC, finished second and third, respectively. The sailors mixed it up well, with bullets in at least one race awarded to almost every sailor in the top 9! HYC's sailors performed well; Madeline Oubre was HYC's top finisher at 5th, while her HYC friend and teammate, Madeline Monteith, finished 7th. Julia Burgess of HYC finished 11th, Mason Piccillo (HYC) in 21st, Carley Flora (HYC) in 23rd, Jackson Ryan (HYC) 27th, Matthew Burgess (HYC) 31st, and Zachary Brown (HYC) in 35th. Carley also won a Perseverance Award from the Blackbeard Crew pirates who attended the festivities, noting her newfound resolve at the beginning of each new race despite a few races with less than satisfactory finishes.

Green Fleet Race Committee consisted of the Chapmans, Sue McConaughy, Jane Moore, and Chris Johnson. Mark boat assistance was provided by Patrick and Tom Ryan, Jay Kiser, and Cal King. This group provided a minimum of two great races each day, and managed to sneak in races in tough conditions.

SIMMONS BOATWORKS OPTIMIST GREEN FLEET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OVERALL

1	Samantha (Sammy) Feinstone	Annapolis Yacht Club
2	Whitman Hwa-Crabbe	Annapolis Yacht Club
3	Colin Schwab	Annapolis Yacht Club
4	Jack Shuttleworth	Chicago Yacht Club
5	Madeline Ourbe	Hampton Yacht Club



ABOVE & BELOW TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)LEFT, ABOVE, & BELOW TAKEN BY [CARLIE LONDON](#)

FLEET NATIONALS

The Fleet Race Nationals was capped at 250 competitors with up to 50 boats allowed to participate in Green Fleet. The Optimist Class Green Fleet is an opportunity for sailors learning to race to be openly coached around the race course. Protests are prohibited and the overall award for success is graduating to the Championship Fleet. Leigh and Dave Chapman have become famous for running Green Fleet from their vessel, Pickle. Perhaps it's because of the giant inflatable pickle tied to the transom or because it's the perfect mix of FUN and providing square courses for developing serious racers. In all it's a great time! Hampton Yacht Club "Greenies" were coached by Kyle Pfrang. Matthew Burgess, Julia Burgess, Carley Flora, Madeline Montieth, Mason Piccillo, Eliza Roman, Jackson Ryan, Madeline Oubre, David Brown, and Tristan Gerber all sailed for HYC. Madeline Montieth and Madeline Oubre both won races! FULL RESULTS <https://usoda.org/regatta/0TIs7Spw9A/results>

PHOTOS FROM FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)

The Championship Fleet had to be broken down into three flights of roughly 70 boats to manage the startline. Yellow, Pink, and Blue streamers would decorate the point of the sails dividing the regatta into three starts. After the big wind on Sunday a lot of the pressure left Hampton Roads. There was enough Southwest breeze to start all three fleets but quickly the wind dissipated and the current from a full moon started making forward progress grind to a halt. Of the 70 boats per flight only twenty-five boats finished in Yellow, nine in Pink, and only one in Blue as the remainder of the fleets were TLE. Per the Sailing Instructions, less than 25% of each fleet had finished within the time limit and it was decided by PRO Kevin Reeds to eliminate the unfair set of races Monday and await sailable championship conditions on Tuesday.

Tuesday morning, the breeze began to fill from the Northeast ranging from 8-12 knots. Kevin and his RC Team were able to complete four races for each flight. This allowed for a great demonstration of abilities. The flights would be re-ranked going into Wednesday. As the pressure filled from the east on Wednesday, the goal of the day was to complete three races to complete the qualifying series limit of seven races. The complete qualifying series would determine the top 70 sailors to compete in the Gold Fleet and which sailors would compete for Silver A and Silver B. The conditions were excellent with great wind and a tricky current. The ebbing James River and anxious sailors prompted U-Flag and Black Flag decisions by the RC to help eliminate recurring OCS. Unfortunately, one of our sailors, Andrew Allgeier suffered from the starting penalties leaving Brandt Adams alone qualifying for Gold. Teammates Finley Webster, Wesley Johnson, Tucker Johnson, Sarah Moore, Jackson Martin, Jacob Oubre, Xavier Assis, Sophia Lopez, and Will Chapman all battled at the top of Silver. I am incredibly proud of Coach Juan Manuel "Paton" Briones and HYC guest coach Steve Hunt for sailing a tough event in our home waters. Ulmer! FULL RESULTS: <https://usoda.org/regatta/0TIs7Spw9A/results>

PHOTOS FROM FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORD](#)

Thursday's conditions were forecasted to be light. A small southerly turned into a southwesterly that allowed Gold and Silver to complete one championship race. As the fleet awaited breeze, I rode around on the media boat with Will Keyworth. It was an awe-inspiring site. Hundreds of white squares dotted the horizon, I loved it, and knowing this was the last day of an awesome event I couldn't help but take in a moment of pride! HYC did this! The club hosted Fleet Race Nationals only once before in 1999, off the beach on Strawberry Banks. It was roughly half the size but nonetheless important. To me, this is what our club does best: whether for juniors or adults, HYC is a boating club.

As the minutes ticked down to the deadline for racing Thursday it was quickly evident that the bit of easterly that stirred having RC boats racing to reset a course would not hold and the event was nearing a close. Coral Reef Yacht Club had once again risen to the top of the fleet. Annie Ulmer with an impressive scoreline came away with the win! What is perhaps more impressive is the sweep of all three events by Coral Reef Yacht Club. Coaches Omari Scott and Bernat Gali Bou have been absolute force in south Florida and fortunate for us both coaches have ties to HYC! Bernat has been a guest coach for the Hampton Opti Team occasionally and Omari sailed at Hampton University. Omari grew up in Antigua and was a recruit of Carolyn Grant. A huge congratulations to both coaches and sailors on Vectran, Spectra, Elizabeth Xydias, and Annie Ulmer! FULL RESULTS: <https://usoda.org/regatta/0TIs7Spw9A/results>

PHOTOS FROM FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORD](#)

I want to thank all of Hampton Yacht Club membership, board, volunteers, race committee, umpires, judges, and a special thanks to Leigh, Morgan, and Lindsay for helping pull off what was one of the greatest Optimist Nationals of all time and within a four-month timespan! Thank you, Robert and Carlie, for running the administration side flawlessly and getting regatta guest accounts together for all of our visitors. Thank you to the staff, Rich, and especially the culinary staff under the direction of Chef Michael Johnson, for taking on this extraordinary event from the food and beverage side. Thank you to Lexy and my family for all of their love and support! I sincerely hope that the next time we host this event, my son will be sailing.

SIMMONS BOATWORKS OPTIMIST FLEET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OVERALL

- | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Annie Ulmer | Coral Reef Yacht Club |
| 2 | Theo Sartor | ICSC BR / CERT USA |
| 3 | Grant Chin | Brant Beach SF/Brant Beach YC/CERT |

RED

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Theo Sartor (ICSC BR/CERT USA) |
| 2 | Ashton Perkins (Annapolis Yacht Club) |
| 3 | Alexander Montagu
(San Francisco YC/Coral Reef YC) |

BLUE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Annie Ulmer (Coral Reef Yacht Club) |
| 2 | Grant Chin
(Brant Beach SF/Brant Beach YC/CERT) |
| 3 | Colton Ford (SCYC/Carolina YC (SC)) |

WHITE

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Thomas Weidner (St. Petersburg YC) |
| 2 | Casey Moure (Coral Reef Yacht Club) |
| 3 | Daniel Moure (Coral Reef Yacht Club) |



PHOTOS FROM FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)



PHOTOS FROM FLEET NATIONALS - TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)



ALL PHOTOS TAKEN BY [WILL KEYWORTH](#)
EXCEPT FOR THE PHOTO BELOW



PHOTO TAKEN BY CARLIE LONDON

THEY CAME, THEY SAILED, THEY LOVED HAMPTON YACHT CLUB AND WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

The Junior Advisory Board and Opti Nationals Committee would like to send a very sincere thank you to each and every one of you that helped us host a very successful regatta (okay, 3 regattas) with over 270 junior sailors! As most of you know, HYC took on the task of hosting these events very late. Due to the amazing support of our Board, our membership, our staff, our fearless Sailing Director and for all of those who volunteered, HYC will be known as a club that not only pulled off a very difficult feat in a short amount of time but made it a very memorable event for many young sailors and their families. Members donated many volunteer hours; the onshore volunteer sign-up had over 320 sign-up opportunities and there were countless on-the-water volunteers that offered their boats to assist with race committee, mark boats and safety support. Members provided raffle items, sponsorships and many opened their homes to umpires, judges and sailors throughout the 10-day event. Without each and every one of you, the regattas would not have been possible and certainly would not have been as organized and seamless. We also appreciate the patience and understanding while normal operations at the club were impacted.

Sailors hailed from New England, California, Texas, Maryland, Carolinas, Florida, the USVIs and many states in between. Additionally, we had international presence from Peru, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Hong Kong! We received many compliments throughout the week and we should all be very proud. HYC provided fantastic racing, excellent service, true southern hospitality and created very fond memories for many junior sailors and their families.

This would never have been possible, or so successful, without the support of the club and the many, many hours that our members dedicated to plan and execute the 2023 Opti Nationals Team Race, Girls and Fleet Race Championships.

The Opti National Committee and our HYC Junior Sailors are extremely appreciative to all who contributed to this extremely important Opti National Championship event!

Thank you!
Leigh Chapman
Morgan Johnson
Lindsay Lopez
Jane Moore
Max Plarr



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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PRESENTING SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



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