

North American Championships

October Jacksonville, Florida

It was windy...and it wasn't. That sums up the conditions at this year's North American Championship held in Jacksonville, Florida.

The beautiful Florida Yacht Club was the venue for the event. Reeling from damage caused by Hurricane Jeanne, the club was concerned about whether they could handle the event. The answer was a resounding yes. The club and regatta officials pulled it together to host a first class, memorable long weekend for the 48 teams who made the trip from across the US, Canada and Brazil.

Hot and humid weather gave way to an approaching front Thursday night, leaving some to wonder where the Florida weather had gone. Friday dawned to predictions

of wind from 25-40. After the rain showers swept through, the day cleared quickly and the breeze picked up. Fortunately for all, it settled in at 15-20, which made for delightful, if exhausting sailing. The race committee ran three excellent races that day; one Olympic and two double triangles. At the end of day one, Peter and Sheehan Commette led, with Hal Gilreath/James Liebl and Henry Filter/Lorie Stout tied for second. FYC served up a great cookout, sponsored by the Suddath Companies and Miller Brewing, as crews recovered from three hard fought races.

Saturday was clear and cool with a light northwesterly breeze. Augie Diaz/Lisa Griffith made their move with a solid 4-2-2 to move into the overall lead. Gilreath/Liebl finished with a consistent 1-8-10 to stay in second. The Commettes did not fair as well in the shifty breezes and fell to fourth overall. Mike Blackwood and

Patty Mueller of Milwaukee came on strong with an unbelievable 7-1-1 to move into 5th overall. The three races had multiple lead changes and made consistency extremely difficult. That evening FYC had a low country boil to give competitors a taste of local cuisine. After dancing to DJ tunes several sailors took a river cruise into downtown Jacksonville.

A high-pressure system settled in over Jacksonville Saturday night. The weather was beautiful but the wind was non-existent. The RC wisely cancelled further racing and Diaz/Griffith were declared champions. For Augie, this marks the second time he has won the NAs and goes with his current World and World Masters titles. For Hal Gilreath, again the bridesmaid, this marks the 8th time he has finished either 2nd or 3rd in the NAs or Nationals!

—US website – author unknown

Results - top 25 of 45

Place	Sail #	Skipper/crew							Final Points
	30288	Augie Diaz/Lisa Griffith	(12)	.75	4	4	2	2	12.75
2	8653	Hal Gilreath/James Liebl	3	6	2	.75	8	(10)	19.75
3	30325	Henry Filter/Lorie Stout	6	2	3	(10)	6	7	24
4	30089	Peter/Shehan Commette	2	7	.75	5	12	(28)	26.75
5	29628	Miike Blackwood/Patty Mueller	14	8	(15)	7	.75	.75	30.5
6	29778	Ernesto Rodriquez/Enrique Quintero	4	3	10	18	(21)	18	53
7	16606	Brank Frank/Lynn Fitzpatrick	5	9	6	(25)	20	20	60
8	865	Steve Burke/Nancy Gilreath	9	15	18	(33)	4	17	63
9	30277	Steve Suddath/Stephanie Gibbins	15	11	5	24	(39)	13	68
10	28686	Michael Lenkeit/Barb Evans	11	12	20	17	(28)	9	69
11	29536	Tod/Mandy Sackett	(32)	22	14	3	26	5	70
12	30299	Andrew Pimental/Julie Langford	7	4	12	26	22	(37)	71
13	29990	Mike Mergenthaler/Christi Stroud	17	10	(29)	19	7	23	76
14	24702	Jerry Thompson/Allen Capelin	24	16	11	6	(38)	25	82
15	29995	Gonzo Diaz/John Kehoe	8	19	9	28	(30)	19	83
16	29400	Bill Schoenberg/	(41)	18	dnf	8	19	8	84
17	26743	Shawn Burke/Joyce Harvey	18	23	zpf	15	13	16	85
18	29147	Lisa/Alex Pline	13	13	17	13	(37)	29	85
19	29204	Lee/Andrea Griffith	21	17	13	14	(33)	21	86
20	30111	Rob Hallawell/Cameron Biehl	19	5	zpf	ocs	3	dnf	87
21	29550	Colin/Karen Park	27	33	dnc	12	16	3	91
22	29324	Chris/Antoinette Klotz	26	21	8	16	(27)	26	97
23	29957	Brian Janney/Megan Magill	25	24	16	9	(29)	27	101
24	30107	Ed Sherman/George Bothwell	30	28	27	(38)	10	11	106
25	29143	Bibi Juetz/Filipe Novello	28	20	19	(30)	25	15	107

