

Tradewinds Midwinter Open Cat Nationals

The 2012 Tradewinds Midwinter Open Cat Nationals were held at Founders Park in Islamorada with three days of racing over the Martin Luther King weekend. The annual event drew 70 high-speed, high-tech beach catamarans from all around the USA, as well as top world-class sailors, including Olympic Medalist Pease Glaser of Huntington Beach, California.

US Sailing, the governing body of all sailboat racing in the United States, selected the Tradewinds Regatta this year as its selection regatta for U.S. Youth Multihull World Qualifier, and for the U.S. Youth Multihull Championship, and the selection of the top two teams for development for the 2016 Sailing Olympics.

The class of boat used for the event was the F16 catamaran. There are a number of manufacturers and all must build the boats all to the same specs. These extremely fast catamarans reach speeds over 30 mph in ideal conditions. And the conditions were ideal that during the race weekend. Even

though Friday was windless, Saturday and Sunday had winds around 20 mph and higher. These boats were literally flying around the buoyed courses.

Winning the F16 Youth Championship were Jeremy Herrin and Same Armington of Sarasota, Florida winning by 10 points over Ben Brown and Luc Lisi of San Francisco, California, and rounding out the Podium was Joseph Bello and Shelby Brown of Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Winning the selection for the Olympic Development team was former Junior Champ, Sarah Newberry and Matthew Whitehead of Miami, Florida, winning convincingly over Past Olympic Gold Medalist, Pease Glaser, of Huntington Beach, California with John Williams Crewing. Third spot went to Mike Easton and McKenzie Wilson from Lexington, Massachusetts.

Local Florida Keys sailors made the podium in two different classes of catamarans. Leah White of Key Largo finished in second place in the Hobie Wave Class



behind Ray Matuszak of Put-in-Bay, Ohio. Mike Phillips of Miami, Florida rounded out the top three in that class. Kelly Davis of Islamorada, Florida took second place in the Open Cat Class (this class is made up of all kinds of boats that do not have a class of their own, and they race on handicap numbers).

There were six different classes of catamarans racing. Other classes were the Nacra20, the F18 Class and Hobie16s. The event has been held annually over Martin Luther King weekend for almost 20 years. For more information you can contact rick@catsailor.com.



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School Program Makes History



Sugarloaf students Emily Conn & Aubrey Sweeney with PBS cards.

On Friday afternoon, January 27th, Sugarloaf School celebrated the next phase in its journey to be a model PBS - Positive Behavior Support - school. With the help of Centennial Bank, Sugarloaf's sixth, seventh and eighth grade students and teachers began migrating the paper ticket reward program to an electronically enabled card-based reward and redemption program. Principal Russell states, "The PBS program began to get a little stale with our middle schoolers and this idea presented by teacher, Tracy McDonald, really gave the program a needed shot in the arm. This brings our PBS program in the 21st century and very much into the electronic age. Like I told the kids, 'You all are making history with this program, nobody else in the country is doing what we're doing!'"

Ralph Edward Scheffler, 79.



Friends and family mourn the passing of Ralph E. Scheffler of Key Largo, FL and Chicago, IL on January 22, 2012. Born July 14, 1932 in Chicago, Ralph is survived by his loving wife Rori Scheffler, brother Laurence (Janice) Scheffler, son Glenn Scheffler (Sandra) of Winfield, IL, daughter Dawn Mobley of Davie, FL. Grandchildren Michael, Luke, Zack, Scott, Danielle, Dominique, and great granddaughter Ava Victoria Scheffler. He is also deeply missed by his four-legged loved ones: Sugar, Cyranno, Pepper, and Lynx.

Ralph attended Lane Tech H.S. and Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, and also served in the US Army. The skyline of Chicago is beautified with many hotels, high rise apartment buildings and office buildings that Ralph, as a project superintendent for several major construction companies, helped erect. Over the span of a 45-year career he constructed buildings as far away as New York and San Francisco.

In 2004 he fulfilled his life-long dream of retiring to the Florida Keys which he called "his paradise", it was not only paradise to him because of the beautiful water and continuous sunshine but also for the great friends he and his wife Rori enjoyed here, because Ralph's zest for life always extended to those all around him. Ralph had battled cancer for many years but he never let it keep him down.

"Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain"
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