

KIRBY CUP FOR BUCKINGHAM, RADIAL TROPHY FOR BOWSKILL. OLYMPIANS TAKE TITLES AT 2018 THE MOORINGS LASER NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP AT ALAMITOS BAY YACHT CLUB

LONG BEACH, CA 15 July 2018 - - After four days of lively racing – in breezes that built to the high teens Friday and Saturday, before tapering off to more moderate, southerly winds today – The Moorings 2018 Laser Class North American titles have been decided. Charlie Buckingham, USA, has won the Bruce Kirby Cup; with Brenda Bowskill, CAN, the North American Radial Champion.

Brisk conditions kept racers on their toes during the July 12 to 15 regatta, hosted by Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (ABYC). By Saturday afternoon, at the end Race Nine, ‘the wheels were coming off,’ one observer remarked. There were collisions, general recalls, knock-downs, dismastings ... the recipe for adversity ‘one part conditions, one part aggression, one part fatigue’ as rivals tried to unseat the frontrunners, who have had a steady grip on the podium since Thursday.

But it was a classic case of the rich getting richer.

Olympian Charlie Buckingham, USA, who has dominated the Laser Standard division since Day One, triumphed for the 2018 Bruce Kirby Cup. With half his finishes in the regatta first-place bullets, the four-time Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association All-American, from nearby Newport Beach, held off an attack by three-time North American Champion Chris Barnard, USA, and Olympian Bruno Fontes, BRA, who finished second and third.

At the top of the leaderboard in the daunting 80-boat Laser Radial fleet is Olympian Brenda Bowskill, CAN, who never relinquished her clutch on first place. Bowskill sailed for Canada in the 2016 Olympic Games and her exquisite form had opponents noting she was ‘one with her boat.’ Fellow Canadian Sarah Douglas, another Olympic hopeful, took a solid second; followed by Joseph Hou, USA.

Hou, 18, is a member of host club ABYC, a solid competitor and “a really big asset to me, on the water,” said his brother Erik Hou, 15, who placed third in Laser 4.7. “This is my first international regatta, so it’s been great competing against people from other regions and countries, and seeing how they sail,” added Erik. “It’s been really tiring but a really great experience, and I’m having a great time. And my brother helps me out, giving me some tips.”

That paid off – putting Erik on the podium in the closely raced 4.7 fleet.

In that class, Abbie Carlson, USA, and Spencer Leman CAN, were tied or trading places throughout the regatta. In the end, Carlson edged out Leman, for the Laser 4.7 honors.

Today had begun slowly, but not only because competitors were pooped. The final moments of World Cup soccer were being broadcast, and sailors clustered around TVs at the breakfast buffet and race office. As France took the Cup, the weary sailors moved on – with Race Chair Ed Spotskey congratulating French competitors John Bernard Duler and Luc Chevrier for their nation's win.

Then it was back to business: to wrap up the final day of racing for The Moorings 2018 Laser North American Championship titles.

More than 160 competitors travelled from 26 nations to compete in this well-run event, overseen by Principal Race Officer Mark Townsend.

“What makes me most proud, as Race Chair for an event of this caliber, is all the teams from around the world and the US who make a point to come up and tell us what a wonderful event this is, and how terrific the hospitality is at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club,” said Spotskey. “They truly appreciate being here, competing at and enjoying this awesome venue. That makes us feel pretty special. That’s why we do this.”

Spotskey lauded the competitors, as well as ABYC’s army of volunteers, and sponsors, including title sponsor The Moorings.

Tom White, representing The Moorings, added, “It’s an honor for The Moorings to be a part of the International Laser Class 2018 North American Championship, hosted by the beautiful Alamitos Bay Yacht Club. We could not have asked for a better platform to showcase our yacht charter vacations.” With a global field of people who love to sail, from tweens to septuagenarians, the Laser class an ideal alliance. “All of us at The Moorings look forward to working with the ILCA again in the future.”

Top five finishers in each division are:

LASER STANDARD

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Charlie Buckingham | USA |
| 2. | Chris Barnard | USA |
| 3. | Bruno Fontes | BRA |
| 4. | Henry Marshall | USA |
| 5. | Juan Maegli | GUA |

LASER RADIAL

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----|
| 1. | Brenda Bowskill | CAN |
| 2. | Sarah Douglas | CAN |
| 3. | Joseph Hou | USA |
| 4. | Ricky Welch | USA |
| 5. | Maura Dewey | CAN |

LASER 4.7

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 1. | Abbie Carlson | USA |
|----|---------------|-----|

2. Spencer Leman CAN
3. Erik Hou USA
4. Katherine Nelson USA
5. Sammy Farkas USA

[FULL RESULTS](#)

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Please credit Tom Walker

Media Contact: Betsy Crowfoot

805-729-6850 or betsycrowfoot@gmail.com

Please inquire regarding Media opportunities, including photo boat, events, and interview.

LEADERS SOLIDIFY POSITIONS AT THE MOORINGS LASER NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP AT ABYC

LONG BEACH, CA 13 July 2018 - - Day Two of The Moorings 2018 Laser North American Championships at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (ABYC) saw favorable conditions on the race course off Long Beach, Calif.

Flags waving in the breeze, along ABYC’s breakwater, depicted the 26 nations represented at the regatta. Hailing from Australia to Aruba, from Trinidad to Turkey; more than 160 competitors have flocked to this idyllic venue to compete in four days of tough racing for the 2018 championship title.

“Sailors from Vancouver drove 31 hours straight, to get here,” said Regatta Chair Ed Spotskey, emphasizing the draw of this world-class event. “And our last three registrants were three brothers from Iowa!”

Yes: the Hawkeye State, where David, 17, John, 15, and William, 13 race on West Okoboji Lake, a six-square-mile finger of water near the Minnesota border. In a van laden with SAT workbooks, towing a tier of Lasers, the Alexander family made the last minute road trip to ABYC because of the large field of competitors. All three have their sights set on the Olympics. As David pointed out, “We figured we’d just go out and give it our best shot.” The trio – also a classical music ensemble called The Alexander Piano Trio – has David and William racing full rig Lasers, and John in a Laser Radial.

Another duo using sibling rivalry to sharpen their competitive edges is Jessica McJones, 21 and her 17-year-old brother Gavin, of nearby Rancho Palos Verde. While Gavin has been on a summer sailing circuit – “Youth Champs in North Carolina and Nationals in Houston” – Jessica has just returned from her sophomore year at the US Naval Academy. Competing in the Laser Radial fleet is reminiscent of their Opti sailing days, Gavin said, when his focal point was beating his big sister. “I would just go tack on her,” he laughed, “and I still do.”

But in this 80-boat Laser Radial fleet, he'd be hard-pressed to find her!

“I've never sailed in such a large fleet, with so many boats on the start line,” Gavin pointed out. “It makes racing more challenging. You can't always tack when you want, if you don't have a clear lane, so you can miss the shifts. And it's hard to play the waves on the downwind run. It's way more defensive driving.” Gavin stood 11 positions ahead of his sister at the end of six races.

“It's all very competitive and I want to do well,” Jessica said, but secretly admitted, “I'm kind of rooting for him.”

In Laser Radials, Brenda Bowskill, CAN, solidified her position at the top of the leaderboard with an impressive 1-2-1-1-1-1 record. Sarah Douglas, CAN, stood in second and Joseph Hou, USA, moved up to third

Charlie Buckingham, USA, continued to dominate the 69-boat Laser Standard fleet with all top four finishes and a total of 12 points, but Chris Barnard, USA, and Bruno Fontes, BRA, continued to nip at his heels. Defending champion Malcolm Lamphere, USA, stood in 10th place.

In Laser 4.7 Abbie Carlson, USA, stepped into the lead by just one point, followed closely by Spencer Leman, CAN, and Erik Hou, USA.

For complete results please visit www.abyc.org.

Racing continues tomorrow through Sunday, July 14 and 15, starting at 11:55AM daily in the waters off Alamitos Bay. Spectators can watch the fleet launch from the adjacent beach, and parade out the channel to the start each morning – and scream in on the surf in the afternoon. For more information, and full results, please visit www.abyc.org

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Please credit Tom Walker

Media Contact: Betsy Crowfoot
805-729-6850 or betsycrowfoot@gmail.com

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Our mailing address is:
PRO
34072 Chula Vista Ave
Dana Point, CA 92629-2533

CHALLENGING DAY ONE AT THE MOORINGS LASER NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP AT ABYC

LONG BEACH, CA 12 July 2018 - - The Moorings 2018 Laser North American Championship got underway today, in breeze that built from 6 to 14 knots, with boisterous seas to match. Laser, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7 competitors – 167 in all, hailing from 26 nations – enjoyed three races in the brisk southwesterly breeze on San Pedro Bay.

The four-day event is hosted by Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (ABYC), Long Beach, Calif. "This is the kind of event ABYC likes to do," sail Regatta Chair Ed Spotskey, "Our team really puts our best foot forward, to make this a special event for the international sailors."

"Some of our volunteers go back to the 1984 Olympics and have been running major regattas at ABYC since then," Spotskey added. "And many look forward to making it to the 2028 Olympics, too!" referring to the Los Angeles Summer Games, slated for 2028.

"One of the things I love about the Laser class, is we cross such an age spectrum, all competing together," pointed out Sherri Campbell, Laser NA Class Executive Sec'y. Not only does the field of competitors span 50 years – the youngest is 14, the oldest 63 – but it also spans the world.

In addition to the North American Championship, the event also serves as a qualifier for next year's Pan American Games. Hence, it wasn't unusual to see Venezuela, Canada, Ecuador, Bermuda, Aruba rounding the marks in unison today, in racing that was tight and challenging, in the lively conditions.

Charlie Buckingham, USA, took an early but slim lead in the 69-boat Laser Standard division, with a 3-2-1 record, followed by fellow American Chris Barnard and Brazil's Bruno Fontes, both with 7 points.

More close racing, in Laser Radials, saw Canadians Brenda Bowskill and Sarah Douglas separated by just one point. Tied for first place in Laser 4.7 were Abbie Carlson, USA and Spencer Leman, CAN.

As the day came to an end, weary sailors, coaches, family and friends relaxed on the bayfront lawn of ABYC, enjoying steel drum music, burgers and beverages.

Racing continues tomorrow (Friday) through Sunday July 15, starting at 11:55AM daily in the waters off Alamitos Bay.

Spectators can watch the fleet launch from the adjacent beach and parade out the channel to the start each morning – and scream in on the surf in the afternoon. In addition to world-class competition, there are morning briefings and daily post-race refreshments and entertainment. For more information, please visit www.abyc.org.

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Dana Point, CA 92629-2533

ALAMITOS BAY YACHT CLUB SPOTLIGHTS 2018 LASER NORTH AMERICANS: JULY 12

TO 15

LONG BEACH, CA 9 July 2018 - - Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (ABYC) will shimmer with the glow of over 160 Laser sailors, when they host the 2018 Laser North American Championship July 12 to 15. In addition to Laser Standard, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7 titles, some will be vying to qualify for the 2019 Pan American Games.

As the close of entries approaches tomorrow (July 10), applicants have soared, with 26 nations to be represented in the four-day international regatta. In addition to world-class competition and camaraderie, racers will enjoy a morning briefing, daily refreshments, a regatta dinner and souvenir.

Dedicated dinghy and small sailboat racers have known for decades that “ABYC is the place to be.” Since 1924, ABYC has provided a vital platform for the yacht racing community, fueled by a strong base of volunteers and excellent race management. The club hosts five to 10 championship regattas each year, including regional, national, world and North American championships, such as this; in dinghy, keelboat, and multihull classes. That’s in addition to 14 regularly scheduled regattas, plus an active junior program.

“Alamitos Bay Yacht Club has a long tradition of hosting international regattas, bringing the best sailors in the world to Long Beach,” explained Principal Race Officer Mark Townsend USA, IRO. “ABYC last hosted the Laser North American Championship in 2014. With the Olympic Games sailing competition due to be contested in these same waters in 2028, we are expecting even more of the world’s top sailors to be heading to Long Beach over the next 10 years.”

The Laser NAs will commence with registration at ABYC Wednesday July 11, continuing Thursday; with races starting daily at 11:55AM Thursday through Sunday. A total of 12 races are scheduled, on trapezoid courses held inside the Long Beach Breakwater near the Belmont Pier, or in the outside waters of San Pedro Bay.

With the number of entrants mounting, organizers will likely divide the fleet into Gold/Silver finalists, based on a qualifying series. Prizes will be awarded to the top positions in each fleet; plus the Bruce Kirby Cup to the highest placing male in Laser Full Rig and the North American Radial Championship Trophy to the highest placing finisher in that field.

Competitors include a strong North American contingent, such as defending 2017 Laser champion Malcolm Lamphere, and runner-up in the 2017 Laser Radials, Sophia Reineke. The world-wide field of competitors also includes many from Central and South America, and the Caribbean; as the regatta will serve as the country qualifier for next year's Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. The Pan Am Games provide Olympic style competition for athletes from 41 recognized nations of the Americas – however there are slots for only 16 contenders in the 2019 Games. The ABYC 2018 Laser NA regatta is the second of just three opportunities to qualify.

Optimal conditions are forecast for the North Americans. July is one of the best times of the year to sail in Long Beach, with a westerly sea breeze which builds each afternoon to the mid-teens. The current sunny, warm conditions are expected to continue in Southern California, fueling the prevailing winds and providing thrilling competition.

ABYC is idyllically situated on Alamitos Bay, at 7201 East Ocean Boulevard, in Long Beach, Calif. Its modern waterfront clubhouse facility is located conveniently close to the harbor entrance, with a paved boat yard and excellent access to the adjacent beach, where competitors' boats will be stored overnight.

In addition to PRO Townsend, the event is chaired by Ed Spotskey, with Ben Fels AUS, IJ, as Chief Judge.

While online entries will be accepted until July 10, after that date they may be accepted in person: racers are encouraged to inquire. Visit www.abyc.org for all details on registration and the event.

END TEXT

Media Contact: Betsy Crowfoot

805-729-6850 or betsycrowfoot@gmail.com

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