

2021 Catalina 22 National Championship Regatta



Article and photographs by Talbot Wilson

Justin Chambers and Team 'Buc-ee' win 7 of 7 to sweep Catalina 22 National Championship in Pensacola FL

Pensacola FL, May 27, 2021: Justin Chambers' 'Buc-ee' from Flowery Branch, GA led the Catalina 22 championship Gold Fleet from the first start of the series to the final whistle to win the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championship. Celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the Class, Justin and crew Doug Thome and Winn Story won all seven races in the 14-boat championship division of the regatta. At 1-1-1-1-1-1-1... that's a proud lot of bullets.

Chambers & Co also took the three race mid-regatta Spinnaker Series 1-1-2. 'Buc-ee' broke her run of first place finishes because of a port-starboard incident at the start of the final spinnaker race.

Chambers is now a nine-time Catalina 22 National champion. He said, "Our boat is well prepared, but my crew is really why we sail so well. We have had a lot of experience together sailing one design boats from the cruiser-oriented Catalina 22's to racier Melges 24's." The skill of Chamber's mark roundings, setting up on the lay lines, and making smooth, fast turns was a clear example of how they put together a clean sweep of winning races in the Gold Fleet.

Commenting on their only second place finish Chambers said, "We were on starboard tack set up for the start of the final race of the spinnaker series when a port tacker came across on a collision course. To avoid a crash we steered up and stopped in irons, stalled head to wind and unable to come about or tack either way."

Of course, 'Buc-ee' was the last to cross the starting line in that race. Then, in an amazing recovery for the Georgia crew, they were able to dig back into a close second place for that final race of the spinnaker series. They finished the spinnaker series with a score of 1-1-2 for four points and first place again. Randy Pawlowski's 'Gold Rush' with crew Steven Johnson finished second with 2-2-4 for 8 points. Ben and Bo Miller's 'Tool of Justice' from Kemah TX came third with 5-4-1 for 10 points.

The Spinnaker Fleet was a combination of Gold Fleet and Silver Fleet sailors who chose to enter the additional three-race series. Originally the Spinnaker Fleet was scheduled to race in the mornings but under typical Pensacola Bay summer conditions there was no wind in the mornings as the sea breeze fought to build against the early land breeze.

PRO Hal Smith, Pensacola's wind wizard, decided to reschedule all of the spinnaker races for Wednesday at 1300 creating a lay day for the Gold/Silver Fleets after getting one extra race on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday afternoon the sea breeze built to a fresh 9-12kts out of the South, gradually swinging 20 degrees West through the three-race afternoon. Pensacola Perfect!

Winds for the four-day event were all southerly some as light as 6kts on Monday, mostly steady at 8kts Tuesday, 9-12kts on Wednesday and building to about 15kts for the final race on Thursday.

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Rounding out the Gold Fleet podium finishes, Keith Bennett's 'Screamin' from Eclectic, AL and crew Jennifer Bennett and Gene Cochran came in second with 19 points. 'Mischief' sailed by Mickey Richardson of Cataula, GA with Sandy Cox and Harmon Smith finished third with 28 points.

In the non-spinnaker Silver Fleet— nine C22's that had never won a regional or national title— Richard Gailey from DeBary, Florida and his crewmate Patrick Dorsch aboard 'Wicklow Way' took five firsts, a second and a third scoring 1-1-1-1-2-1-3 for 10 points. Gailey, designated as a 'newest' racer, won handily... a good thing... but now he is automatically moved up to the Gold Fleet next time he races... maybe not so good.

Mark Breeden and Ryan Breeden aboard 'Papi' from Winchester KY took second with 15 points. 'Seawolf' sailed by Yanic Harel of Houston TX and Brian Money came third with 19 points.

Certainly the most interesting crew was the Stuart Weist family that came all the way from Preston, MN. They all sailed with gusto— Stuart, his wife Michelle and their three boys Luke, Eric, and Nick. They raced every race of the Silver Fleet with an ongoing, cheerful banter. If 'Lakeshark' passed anywhere nearby, you heard about it from the boys. The youngest crew finished with all sixes and sevens, in sixth place, but nobody had a better time. Each of the Weist boys went away with a Youth Trophy awarded to competitors 18 and under. All of the family also won the Big Boy trophy for the highest finishing New Design or MK-II boat.

A highlight of the awards banquet, other than the delicious taco buffet, was the auction for an original Catalina 22 commemorative painting by Pensacola's Principal Race Officer and former C22 National Champion Hal Smith. The painting sold for \$600 with Commodore Tom Pace matching that. The \$1200 will be split between the Catalina 22 National Sailing Association and Pensacola YC to defer expenses for the National Championship regatta.

The championships at a Pensacola YC were supported by a grant from Pensacola Sports, by www.VisitPensacola.com, the visiting sailor's official tourism resource, and by Regatta Craft Mixers.

Regatta Craft Mixers came on board to offer their refreshing line of products with a special Catalina 22 drink menu being served at the Pensacola YC's famous Blue Bar and the poolside watering hole.

The Pensacola YC team was certainly pleased that so many Catalina 22's and their families came from all over the nation to enjoy the "South's Finest Yacht Club". Sailors came from as far as Washington state, many from the Southwest and Southeast.

About Pensacola Yacht Club

Pensacola YC now has 22 usable acres. The pool overlooks the bay. The Watson Sailing Center overlooks the bayou. Both are perfect for after-race socials. The grassy grounds offer space for boat storage and camping. It's first come to reserve one of our four RV pads.

Pensacola YC's Grill Room Bar was named the World's Best Yachting Bar in 2017, famous for Bushwhackers and very cold beer. Sparkling drinks created with Regatta Craft Mixers add new options when mixed with any choice of spirits or just on the rocks.

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The Regatta brand boasts “Our premium craft mixers are so good that they stand on their own, but don’t let that stop you from using your imagination to create a dazzling cocktail. Try some of our favorite cocktails and launch your own adventure!”

Pensacola YC recommended some new summertime cocktails... a 22 Skidoo— Gold Rum, Regatta Mix Ginger Ale, Mint and a slice of lime, the 22 Wahoo— White Rum, blue curaçao, lemonade and Regatta Mix Citrus Tonic and the PYC Catalina Cooler— Dark rum, Ginger Beer Lite, and a slice of Lime.

Sailing on Pensacola Bay

Sailing on Pensacola Bay is spectacular. The bay is naturally protected by Santa Rosa Island to the South. The pass to the Gulf of Mexico is located to the southwest, across from the Naval Air Station Pensacola and divides the Gulf Islands National Seashore on Santa Rosa Island from the western park on Perdido Key.

The racing area is a matter of minutes from the Bayou Chico Channel and the PYC marina. That’s more racing and less transit time.

In summer months, late May included, sailors usually find a daily sea breeze that builds from a mid-day southeasterly to the afternoon 12-15 southwesterly they love. In other seasons, the winds are determined by frontal passages, temperature variables, sunshine and other factors. Tides are minimal, about one foot to one and a half feet.

Pensacola Bay is naturally deep with a white sand bottom. The water is clean, seasonally warm and just choppy in a breeze, but not often rough. The east-west shoreline in downtown Pensacola to the north is perfect for regatta spectating.

Over the years, Pensacola Yacht Club has hosted many national and regional one-design championship events. Youth regattas include the annual US Sailing Junior Olympic Sailing Festival, the USODA National Championship, the 2010 USODA Gulf Coast Championship, the USODA Southeast Championship in 2013 and the three-event USODA National Championships in 2015 and 2018.

Adult competitions at PYC have included several Thistle and Lightning Class North American and regional Championships, a Melges 24 National Championship, the US Sailing Single Handed Championship and the Corsair Nationals. In the fall of 2018 PYC hosted the Kona Board North American Championship. In 2019 PYC held the first annual Melges 24 Atlantic & Gulf Coast Championships for the Bushwhacker Cup.

The club is the starting point for the biennial SYC/PYC international Regatta al Sol and organizers of the biennial PYC Offshore Cup in alternating years. This year the Club hosted the first North Gulf Challenge with St Petersburg YC.

Pensacola hosted the New York Yacht Club American Magic team, Challenger for the 36th America’s Cup, as its two-winter training base for 2018-19-20. Pensacola Bay is a perfect venue for testing and development of these spectacular foiling monohulls.

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All sailors are invited to come sail on Pensacola Bay. Organizers of both amateur regional, national or international sailing championships and professional sailing events should contact Pensacola Yacht Club to discuss racing on beautiful Pensacola Bay. <http://www.pensacolayachtclub.org>



Gold Fleet winner Justin Chambers 'Buc-ee' (bow 35) with his crew Doug Thome and Winn took the series and the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championships with a perfect 7 points in 7 races. Chambers is a nine-time Catalina 22 National Champion.



Spinnaker Fleet winner Justin Chambers 'Buc-ee' (sail #221, bow 35) with his crew Doug Thome and Winn took the spinnaker series at the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championship with a 1-1-2 score.

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In the non-spinnaker Silver Fleet— nine C22's that had never won a regional or national title— new racer Richard Gailey from DeBary, Florida and his crewmate Patrick Dorsch aboard 'Wicklow Way' took five firsts, a second and a third scoring 1-1-1-1-2-1-3 for 10 points. Winning the Silver Fleet in the National Championship steps Gailey up to the Gold Fleet next time.

The Weist family entry 'Lakeshark' (14267) which came from Preston MN to race in Pensacola sported the youngest crew. The family— Stuart, Michelle, Eric, Nick and Luke— finished with all sixes and sevens, in sixth place, but nobody had a better time. Each of the Weist boys went away with a Youth Trophy awarded to competitors 18 and under. All of the family also won the Big Boy trophy for the highest finishing New Design or MK-II boat.

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Gold Fleet winner Justin Chambers 'Buc-ee' with his crew Doug Thome and Winn sailing 'Buc-ee' took the Gold Fleet series to win the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championships with a perfect 7 points in 7 races. Chambers is a nine-time Catalina 22 National Champion. Team 'Buc-ee' won the three-race Spinnaker series 1-1-2

About the author. Talbot Wilson is CEO and managing partner of Talbot Wilson & Associates specializing in advertising, public relations and creative services.



Place	Skipper	Sail #	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
1	Justin Chambers	221	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
2	Keith Bennett	38	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	19
3	Mickey Richardson	8	6	5	3	2	2	3	7	28
4	Randy Pawlowski	439	4	2	4	4	4	15	4	37
5	Chip Embrey	241	3	6	5	7	9	7	5	42
6	Ben Miller	5242	7	15	7	5	3	6	2	45
7	Mark Goodwin	1700	9	4	9	10	8	5	6	51
8	Sam Beckman	73	5	10	6	6	11	8	10	56
9	Don Woodhouse	204	11	7	8	10	7	4	15	62
10	Duncan McBride	178	10	9	11	13	6	10	8	67
11	Tommy Smith	50	8	8	13	9	8	11	15	72
12	James Zeller	757	12	11	12	11	12	9	9	76
13	Chuck Atkinson	1242	14	12	10	12	13	13	15	89
14	George Yerger	9162	13	13	14	14	14	12	15	95



First Place
Winn Story, Crew
Justin Chambers, Skipper
Doug Thome, Crew



Second Place
Keith Bennett, Skipper
Jennifer Bennett, Crew
Gene Cochran, Crew



Third Place
Sandy Cox, Crew
Mickey Richardson, Skipper
Harmon Smith, Crew
Duncan McBride, Commodore

Photographs by Talbot Wilson



Pensacola YC PRO Hal Smith, a former C22 national champion himself, sites his line as the Gold Fleet gets a clean start. Justin Chambers' 'Buc-ee', Sail 221 - Hull 35, (Flowery Branch, GA) won the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championship, his ninth, at Pensacola YC with a clean sweep.

Caption and photograph by Talbot Wilson/Pensacola YC



Justin Chambers' 'Buc-ee', Sail 221 - Hull 35, (Flowery Branch, GA) won the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championship, his ninth, at Pensacola YC with a clean sweep. He and his crew Doug Thome and Winn Story took all seven races in the 14-boat Championship Division Gold Fleet for 1-1-1-1-1-1-1, a perfect seven points.

Caption and photograph by Talbot Wilson/Pensacola YC



Justin Chambers' 'Buc-ee', Sail 221 - Hull 35, (Flowery Branch, GA) gets a great start on Day 2. 'Buc-ee' won the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championship, his ninth, at Pensacola YC with a clean sweep. He and his crew Doug Thome and Winn Story took all seven races in the 14-boat championship division for 1-1-1-1-1-1-1, a perfect seven points.

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Breezes on Pensacola for the first three races of the C22 National Championship were sailed in a shifty 6-8 Kts. In the final race 'Chickin Ship" leading Mark Goodwin's WhoDat? aagb' and Grey Pride skippered by Donald Woodhouse rounded the weather mark in a brisk 15kt southerly. It was a perfect sailing week on Pensacola Bay.

Caption and photograph by Talbot Wilson/Pensacola YC



Place	Skipper	Sail #	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
1	Richard Gailey	216	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	10
2	Mark Breeden	1351	2	3	3	3	1	2	1	15
3	Yanic Harel	269	3	2	2	2	3	5	2	19
4	Jim Covey	15544	5	5	4	4	4	3	4	29
5	Jerry Petritsch	15700	4	4	5	5	5	4	9	36
6	Stuart Weist	14267	7	7	6	6	7	6	6	45
7	Mark Heinold	7436	6	6	7	7	6	7	8	47
8	Anthony Woodall	8537	9	8	8	8	8	8	5	54
9	Bob Crook	14230	8	9	9	9	9	9	7	60



First Place
Patrick Dorsch, Crew
Rich Gailey, Skipper
Duncan McBride, Commodore



Second Place
Ryan Breeden, Crew
Mark Breeden, Skipper
Duncan McBride, Commodore



Third Place
Brian Money, Crew
Yanic Harel, Skipper
Duncan McBride, Commodore

Photographs by Talbot Wilson



Stuart Weist family came all the way from Preston, MN. Stuart had a full five-person family crew on 'Lake Shark' (14267) with his wife Michelle and their three boys Luke, Eric, and Nick.

The youngest crew finished with all sixes and sevens, in sixth place, but nobody had a better time.

Each of the Weist boys went away with a Youth Trophy awarded to competitors 18 and under.

All of the family also won the Big Boy trophy as the top 'heavy' boat.

Caption and photograph by Talbot Wilson/Pensacola YC



Anthony Woodall's 'Wahoo' (8537) nipped Land Shark (14267) at the finish of the final race for the Silver Fleet in the 2021 C22 National Championship at Pensacola YC..

Caption and photograph by Talbot Wilson/Pensacola YC



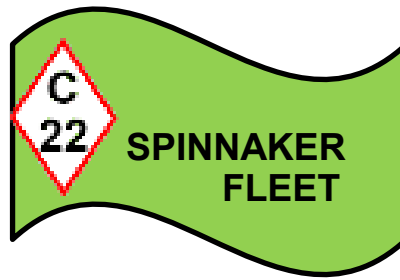
In the Silver Fleet— nine C22's that had never won a regional or national title— Richard Gailey (DeBary, FL) and his crew Patrick Dorsch aboard 'Wicklow Way' won their fleet with scores of 1-1-1-1-2-1-3 for 10 points. Gailey, a 'newest' racer, now automatically moves up to the Gold Fleet next time he races.

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Photo by Talbot Wilson/Pensacola Yacht club



Place	Skipper	Sail #	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	Justin Chambers	221	1	1	2	4
2	Randy Pawlowski	439	2	2	4	8
3	Ben Miller	5242	5	4	1	10
4	Keith Bennett	38	3	3	6	12
5	Tommy Smith	50	6	5	7	18
6	Don Woodhouse	204	4	11/RET	5	20
7	George Yerger	9162	8	6	8	22
8	Chip Embrey	241	11/RET	11/DNS	3	25
9	James Zeller	757	7	11/RET	11/RET	29
10	Mark Breeden	1351	11/DNC	11/DNC	11/DNC	33

First Place
Winn Story, Crew
Justine Chambers, Skipper
Doug Thome, Crew



Second Place
Patrick Dorsch, Crew
Randy Pawlowski, Skipper
Steve Johnson, Crew



Third Place
Yanic Harel, Crew
Ben (Bo) Miller IV, Crew
Ben Miller, Skipper



Photographs by Talbot Wilson



Justin Chambers' 'Buc-ee', Sail 221 - Hull 35, (Flowery Branch, GA) won the 2021 Catalina 22 National Championship at Pensacola YC with a clean sweep.

He and his crew Doug Thome and Winn Story took all seven races in the 14-boat championship division for 1-1-1-1-1-1-1, a perfect seven points.

'Buc-ee' also won the three-race Spinnaker Series 1-1-2, an almost perfect four points.

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