



**US Team Racing Championship  
for the George R. Hinman Trophy**

**September 29, 30, October 1 & 2, 2011**

Dear Competitors:

The Houston Yacht Club is delighted to be your host for the 2011 US Team Racing Championship for the George R. Hinman Trophy. My name is Stephanie Wright, and I am this year's Event Chair. We are working hard to plan what we hope will be an exceptional event for all of you, and I would like to share with you some of the activities we have planned.

**Schedule of Events**

Thursday, September 29

1200 – 1900	Competitor Check-in
15:00 – 17:30	Competitor Practice
	Free night for competitors
19:30	Umpire Dinner

Friday, September 30

0730 – 0830	Competitor Check-in
0830	Competitor Briefing
1000	Racing begins
After Racing	Umpire/Competitor Debriefing (with keg)
After Debriefing	Italian Buffet in the Ballroom (included with wristband)

Saturday, October 1

0830	Competitor Briefing
0930	Racing begins
After Racing	Umpire/Competitor Debriefing (with keg)
After Debriefing	Grilled Chicken/Hamburger Dinner in the Porthole Scotch Tasting courtesy of Old Pulteney DJ / Dancing Under the Stars / Pool Party (Included with wristband)

Sunday, October 2

0830	Competitor Briefing
0930	Racing begins
After Racing	Trophy Presentation to follow ASAP (after 7 pm is possible) Chili Bar/Baked Potato Bar

**There are a few important things for you to know.**

Registration begins on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. At that time, you will be asked for a number of things:

1. Everyone attending the event will be required to obtain a Guest Card that will be available at Registration. **HYC will not be set up to accept cash under any circumstances**, so cards will be

required for you to purchase food and/or drinks in the HYC dining room and bar, your wristband, and will be used to secure your damage deposit. This guest card will require a credit card that will be billed at the end of the regatta.

2. The wristband will be your entry into both the Friday and Saturday night events, and can also be purchased by your guests. The cost for the wristband is \$30 per person. **PLEASE NOTE: Please make sure that any guests you might have are aware that all charges at HYC are via a guest card, and guest cards will be made available to them through the HYC office or at the competitor registration with the presentation of the required credit card.**

3. At Registration, you will need to sign up for a practice time slot. The Race Committee will be on the water Thursday afternoon, and practices will begin at 2:30 and will continue until approximately 5:30. Boats will be launched from the lawn area in the harbor, and changes will take place at the end of pier 12. The last teams on the water will be responsible for sailing the boats back to the launching area, where volunteers will be standing by to assist with removal of the boats from the water. This will be the same format that will be used for each day of racing. **PLEASE NOTE: At the end of the Regatta, Competitors will be responsible for demobilizing the racing boats before the trophy presentation.**

### **Competitor Hospitality**

First and foremost, **I need to know if anyone has any special dietary needs.** Please furnish me with this information as soon as possible so your needs can be taken into account when we are planning menus and lunches.

A large tent will be set up at the end of Pier 12 for the comfort of our competitors and spectators. The tent will have tables and chairs, water and Gatorade refill stations and coolers which will contain competitor lunches. This tent will be within 50 yards of the boat changing dock, and also very close to the bath houses and restroom facilities.

One of our national sponsors is Sailors for the Sea, and in an effort to have a “green” regatta, every competitor will be given a water bottle at registration that can be refilled. There will be water and Gatorade refill stations under the tent.

**We will be furnishing lunches for all the competitors.** These will be sub-type sandwiches, cookies and chips, and will be available under the tent each day of racing beginning around 11 AM. The sandwiches will be an assortment, and no special orders can be taken. Additionally, there will be some extra snacks (chips, apples, etc.) available each day, but please be aware that these will be limited.

HYC has Wi-Fi capacity within the clubhouse, but I do want to advise you that during large regattas, service is not at its optimum. While we will do our best to accommodate your needs, you may find it more practical to bring a wireless internet connection card from your provider with you if you anticipate you will need additional access. If you are going to stay at the Comfort Suites, they have high-speed internet access throughout the hotel which is free.

For your planning purposes, historically for the last week of September and the first week of October, high temperatures during the day have run from the high 80s to mid 90s, with low temperatures ranging between mid 60s to mid 70s. While the average wind is about 4 knots, afternoon winds tend to range between 10 and 12 knots. Humidity is high, averaging about 75%, although last year during this time period it was very pleasant with 59% humidity. The link to the Houston Yacht Club weather station for up-to-the-minute weather is <http://houstonyachtclub.com/weather.html>.

### **Competitor Housing**

The Comfort Suites, located at 902 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, La Porte, TX 77571 (877-490-2530 or 281-471-5555) has offered our competitors a great package. The rooms have been recently redone, and I have visited the facility to check the rooms out personally. They are blocking out 21 singles and 15 doubles under the name of “US Team Racing Championship.” The double room has 2 queen beds, and the single has 1 king bed, all of which have new mattresses and are very comfortable. Both types of

rooms also have a couch which folds out into a bed, a large new flat-screen TV, iron and ironing board, blow dryer, coffee maker, microwave, and a very large bathroom. Additionally, the hotel offers free and fast high-speed internet throughout the hotel, a business center, workout facility, outdoor pool and heated whirlpool spa, laundry facilities, onsite gift shop, safety deposit boxes, and a 24-hour "mini-store." Finally, the hotel offers a **free full hot breakfast for its guests beginning at 6 AM Monday-Friday and at 7 AM on Saturday and Sunday**. The negotiated rate is \$79.99/night. The hotel is about 4 miles from HYC, about 1 block from McDonalds, about ¼ mile from a major grocery store, and about ¼ mile from Subway and several other eating establishments.

HYC has rooms for rent as well, but they are compact, only have a shower, no TVs or microwaves, and unless the dining room is open, there is no food available. While the rate is right, you would have to be very close friends to get more than 2 people in any of the rooms (the queen has 1 queen bed and the twin rooms have 2 twin beds with no room for roll-aways).

1. \$60/night – HYC has 5 queen rooms and 4 twin rooms.
2. \$70/night – HYC has 1 queen room with a bathtub
3. \$120/night – HYC has one room with a queen and 4 twins

I would like to be able to furnish Comfort Suites and HYC each with one housing list, so ***I would request that you contact me directly ([hinman.com@gmail.com](mailto:hinman.com@gmail.com)) with rooming requests no later than September 9 2011.***

Should you prefer to find other accommodations, other hotels in the area include:

1. Holiday Inn Express – 908 West G Street – 281-842-9888
2. Quality Inn and Suites – 11003 Fairmont Parkway
3. La Quinta Inn – 1105 Hwy. 146 South
4. Garden Suites – 107 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street
5. Candlewood Suites – 1250 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street

### **Local Dining**

In addition to the standard chain restaurants and fast-food establishments and pizzerias, the area offers some really great local restaurants, ranging from the ultimate "sailor's haunt," ***The Classic Café***, featuring classical American food, seafood, steaks and amazing home-made desserts to ***Main 101 Grill and Bar*** (fine dining contemporary grill) to ***El Toro Mexican Restaurant*** (one of my personal favorites with the best Mexican food in the area) to ***Madeleine's*** (a farm-to-table restaurant featuring classic American and European fare with an extensive selection of wines, champagnes and ports) to ***Antonio's Italian Grill & Seafood*** (a locals favorite) to ***Chocolates by Mark*** (a chocolate shop with sinful desserts and almost as sinful sandwiches – and a bring your own bottle to boot!) to our newest and best La Porte "Place to Be," ***Mainly Drinks***, just recently opened by HYC's own Debra Gallington and featuring gourmet coffees and teas, microbrew beers and boutique wines, along with fresh baked goods daily.

### **Area Attractions**

If you come in early and have time on Wednesday, you might want to visit Space Center Houston, located at 1601 Nasa Parkway. Up-close and personal, this is space travel at its best! Hours are 10-5 weekdays and 10-6 weekends. Also, The Kemah Boardwalk offers great dining, rides and amusements, The Boardwalk Bullet (a fabulous wooden roller coaster) and The Boardwalk Beast (a 25 minute thrill ride on Galveston Bay while cruising at speeds up to 40 mph – The Beast will take you approximately 4 miles out into the Galveston Bay, blasting you with wind, music and entertainment. Roaring through the air "the Beast is unleashed"!)

We look forward to welcoming you to the area and The Houston Yacht Club. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to visit [www.usteamracing.com](http://www.usteamracing.com) for additional information, or feel free to contact me directly at [hinman.com@gmail.com](mailto:hinman.com@gmail.com). Stay safe, and we will see everyone in September!

Stephanie Wright  
Event Chair

