Johnson, Neville Earn U.S. Singlehanded Championship Titles

Brant Beach, N.J. (July 24, 2015) – Friday featured another day of fantastic Laser sailing on Little Egg Harbor Bay for the competitors at the Laser U.S. National Championships and U.S. Singlehanded Championships.

For the third time in four years, Clay Johnson (Point Pleasant, N.J.) won the men’s Laser Full Rig division of the U.S. Singlehanded Championship for the George O’Day Trophy. He won this championship in 2013 and 2012, and the 2011 Laser North Americans as well. Johnson out-raced the 33 sailors in contention for this title. He was also runner-up to Canada’s Robert Davis for the Laser U.S. National Championship. Johnson won three races this week and finished outside the top six just once.

“I haven’t been sailing a lot of Lasers lately, but it’s kind of like riding a bike,” said Johnson. “It helped that I grew up sailing here, so there was a lot of local knowledge that I used to my advantage.”

**Laser Full Rig – Top 5**
1. Clay Johnson, TRYC/LEHYC, 1-[19]-2-1-4-5-[6]-2-2-3-6-1- ; 27
2. Frederick Vranizan, Royal Vancouver YC/Seattle YC/CYC Seattle, 9-4-3-[11]-2-7-4-4-7-4-[12]- ; 48
3. Malcolm Lamphere, LGYC/YC/CYC, 5-5-4-5-11-4-[13]-[16]-13-6-3-2- ; 58
4. Marek Zaleski, Noroton YC, 8-[24]-12-[45]-3-16-1-17-7-4-11-10- ; 89
5. Andrew Puopolo, Marsh Creek Sailing Club, 6-2-18-10-13-3-5-[21]-[35]-10-20-6- ; 93

Full Standings

Christine Neville (Middletown, R.I.) made a return to her winning ways by capturing the women’s Laser Radial division of the U.S. Singlehanded Championship for the Helen Wills Hanley Trophy. Neville also won this championship in 2011. She bested the 17 sailors eligible for this title. Scott Rasmussen won the overall Laser Radial U.S. National Championship. Neville placed fifth overall. She collected four top six finishes this week. The Laser Radials conducted five qualification round races, followed by six championship series races for the gold and silver fleets.

**Laser Radial – Top 5**

1. Christine Neville, Sail Newport/StFYC, 3-11-4-14-68/OCS-46-12-15-4-11-6- ; 80T
2. Lindsey Baab, St. Francis YC/San Francisco YC, 16-6-10-12-12-50-7-21-38-5-25- ; 136

Full Standings

Racing was stifled on Tuesday as the sailors waited for the seabreeze to build during a lengthy onshore postponement. Storms in the area forced an abandonment later in the afternoon. Only one race was completed for the Full Rig fleet. Sailing conditions were much better on Wednesday and Thursday. Five races were completed in all fleets on Wednesday and three on Thursday.

This week’s U.S. Singlehanded Championships was held in conjunction with the Laser Class U.S. National Championship.

For final results and standings, photos, and more information about the U.S. Singlehanded Championship, please visit the event website.

The 2015 U.S. Singlehanded Championship is sponsored by Gill North America, Hobie Polarized, and Switlik Survival Products. This US Sailing National Championship is a Sailors for the Sea certified Clean Regatta.

For information on the Laser Class U.S. National Championship, visit the event website.
US Sailing Contact: Jake Fish, US Sailing Communications Manager, jakefish@ussailing.org
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Social Media Highlights:

Third and final set in sequence @ussailing @USLaserNational @BBYCRegattas Breeze on #laser #singlehandedchamps pic.twitter.com/F7ryJTB8UR

— Tom Widmeier (@optidad) July 24, 2015

Light Breeze this morning at Day 4 of @ussailing @USLaserNational @BBYCRegattas #singlehandedchamps. #laser #sailing pic.twitter.com/g4hp3aEW0y

— Tom Widmeier (@optidad) July 24, 2015

180+ Lasers ready to go on day 3 of #singlehandedchamps. Just waiting for the ok from the RC. @BBYCRegattas pic.twitter.com/qH3e6AYjoL

— Brian Swingly (@bswingly) July 23, 2015

After 4 days of awesome training last week at @BBYCRegattas, we are now postponed on day one of #singlehandedchamps. pic.twitter.com/AlTFpmQa5x

— Brian Swingly (@bswingly) July 21, 2015
Boats are out practicing in this great afternoon breeze
@USLaserNational #SinglehandedChamps
pic.twitter.com/XKMOc7qEvD

— BBYC (@BBYCRegattas) July 20, 2015
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exposure and anti-g suits, inflatable life rafts, inflatable life vests, inflation systems and other specialty textile-based military equipment all manufactured at our 85,000 sq. ft facility located in Trenton, NJ USA. www.switlik.com