

2017-2018 FLORIDA WINTER SERIES

The Winter Series finished with a flurry!!! I am not talking about snow flurries but finishing with a flurry of races in delightful conditions. The final of 3 regattas was held in St. Petersburg, February 16-18, as part of the NOOD. There were 7 fabulous races with wind 6 to 12 knots, temperatures in the low 80s and crystal clear blue skies. What else could you have asked for?

The hospitality was fantastic and mixing with sailors of 14 other Classes was super. No question that there were some envious eyes looking our way!!

Karen Park put on a great Lightning pizza night at her house. Great to spend the evening with super Lightning sailors and supporters.

There was a total of 16 races for the Series—9 on Lake Monroe and 7 in St. Petersburg. Local knowledge proved to be the major factor in winning. Jeff Hayden won on Lake Monroe and Michael Zonnenberg won in St. Petersburg.

One of the neat things was Jeff Hayden using his World Youth Team to beat the rest of us. Hopefully, we were competitive enough to push him and set him up for great results in Greece.

The Florida Winter Series ended in a tie for first place between Michael and Jeff. There is a tie breaker system for the Florida Tribble Crown Trophy, and with the ballroom full of Southern Circuit Sailors, Jeff Hayden was announced the winner on March 25th.

Also, all teams participated in a Lightning Poker Game at the Southern Circuit. Becca Hofmeister was the Poker Winner and won a bottle of rum!

Participation was broad—20 different teams, 9 University, 1 high school, and 1 junior high students—several seniors with top age being 75—teams came from Buffalo, Denver, Moorestown and parts in between.

Those of you who did not participate, come on down next year, enjoy wonderful sailing conditions and get a jump on your competition.

SUN AND FUN

SAIL FLORIDA IN THE WINTER