

Wadewitz Regatta - GYA Championship

September 25-26, 2021

Fairhope Yacht Club, Fairhope, AL

Place	SAILORS	SAIL NUMBER	BOAT NAME	CLUB/ORG	NET	TOTAL	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
1	Joel Humphrey Molly Hopkins Cassie Humphrey	USA 11307	Red Solo Cup	PYC	7	12	1	2	3	1	[5]
2	Jeanne HERMAN Ross Kirk Rod Steiffel	USA 15306	None	SYC	9	13	[4]	1	4	3	1
3	Benjamin Herman Mason Ryan Hugh Hawkins	USA 14136	Resaca	Southern Yacht Club	10	14	3	3	1	[4]	3
4	William Baxter Richard Murff Scott Kirchharr	USA 15580	Clair De Lune	Delta Sailing Association	14	20	2	4	[6]	2	6
5	Stuart Adams	USA 13880	None	FYC	14	20	5	[6]	2	5	2
6	Buddy Clarke Aaron Leighton Edgar Myer	USA 13957	Day-O	PCYC	20	26	[6]	5	5	6	4
7	John Buziak Joel Green	USA 14507	Oh Baby!	Fairhope Yacht Club	29	37	7	7	[DNC - 8]	DNC - 8	7

The Wadewitz Regatta Recap - by Joel Humphrey

Expertly run races, delicious buffets, a huge trophy rivaling the Stanley Cup, and of course, Bill Baxter's Traveling Backseat Bar make the Wadewitz Regatta a quintessentially Southern experience. Located on the Eastern shore of Mobile Bay, Fairhope Yacht Club has hosted the regatta on the last weekend of September for 69 years.

Saturday's forecasted wind for Fairhope, Alabama was a dreaded and dismal 3 to 6 miles per hour out of the Northwest. I am not a light air fan. Fortunately, when we arrived at the club around 10:30 a.m. we were delightfully greeted with an offshore 12 mph Northwesterly wind and it stayed that way all day. This steady wind led to four beautiful races with three on the rail all day for our team of my wife Molly Hopkins, our 10-year-old daughter Cassie (sailing in her first regatta) and myself. We lead after the first day of racing followed by Ben Herman in second and Jeanne Herman in third.

The much anticipated crawfish boil was replaced by a delicious fish and chips buffet. Apparently, there is a crawfish season and it's not in September. As always, the band was great as was Bill Baxter's Traveling Backseat Bar. My wife says I now have a one drink limit from Bill's bar in the future. Who would have thought I can't handle as many Dark 'N' Stormies as I can cheap beers??

Sunday's weather turned out to be what we expected on Saturday, light and patchy out of the North. We started at the pin end in what would turn out to be the final race of the regatta with Jeanne Herman underneath us and we watched her sail away until we realized we had our Spinnaker guy shrimped under the bow. Not much else went right in that race save for rounding the first windward mark in second place. Again, light and patchy winds are never my friend, though my wife blames our poor performance on the effects of multiple Dark 'N' Stormies. We continued to go backwards and were edged out of fourth at the finish by Buddy Clark. My crew speculated we may have lost the regatta to Jeanne who won the final race. The wind shut off after our finish forcing the race committee to abandon the 420 fleet race behind us as well as any additional racing. The Lightnings shared a line with the Fish class and the 420 class for this long standing regatta.



Thankfully, we were able to hold on for the regatta win over Jeanne Herman in second and Ben Herman in 3rd. Both Jeanne and Ben are past winners of the Stanley cup-esque Wadewitz trophy (pictured), as is their dad, Cal Herman. An awesome family tradition I must say!

Unbeknownst to me, the winner is entrusted with the care, custody and control of the gigantic trophy until the following year. Jeanne told me that's how they guarantee the winner will return the following year. However, FYC is such a fabulous sailing venue, I wouldn't even consider missing it in the future. I'm stunned the Wadewitz has remained a Southern secret for this long...especially with such a large, regal trophy and well-run regatta.

Next up on this fall's Southern regatta circuit is Pensacola Yacht Club's Jubilee Regatta on November 6th and 7th. As the Lightnings race on beautiful Pensacola Bay, the Blue Angels will be flying in the sky above. We look forward to seeing our Lightning friends there. P.S. rumor has it Bill Baxter's Traveling Backseat Bar will be at PYC.

