

Local Sailors Win Hobie National Championship

Key Largo's Leah White and husband Dave White took First and Third Places respectively for the 15th Annual Hobie Wave National Championships held in Islamorada in early December.

There has only been one triple winner of the Hobie Wave Nationals since its inception until now. Leah White of Key Largo, only the second woman to win overall, sailed very consistently, winning four first place finishes out of the eleven races sailed.



Leah White so far ahead in one race there was no one near her!

She was pushed hard by this year's North American Champion from Pensacola Beach, Tom Whitehurst.

Going into the last day of racing, Whitehurst was only 4 points behind White, but in the last three races on Sunday, White finished ahead of Whitehurst in every race, taking the victory by 9 points.

Leah's husband, Dave White, was in the hunt the entire weekend as well. At the start of the last race, he needed three positions to tie and beat Whitehurst, but he had to settle for 3rd place overall.

The Wave National Championships were hosted by Islander Watersports and the Islander Resort over the weekend of Dec. 6-9. The event was sponsored by Catamaran Sailor Magazine, OnLine MarineStore.com and CABB (Catamaran Assn. of Biscayne Bay)

Past National and North American Champ Jack Woehrl of Gainesville leading around the weather mark.



Winds were 8-12 mph on Friday and Saturday, which made for some excellent sailing off the beach of the resort on the Oceanside of the Keys. Sunday eased off quite a bit, but the Race Committee was able to get in three good, fair races to round out the weekend

John Sherry of Miami worked his way into the trophies, taking 5th place overall and 2nd place in the Masters Division, for ages 60 and over.

The Wave is a roto-molded catamaran whose

class has been growing rapidly in the U.S. and is considered one of the most active fleets in the country, with a very active fleet at the Upper Keys Sailing Club in Key Largo. The boat is 13 feet long, has one sail and is sailed by one person.

This national event has been held in the Florida Keys area on the first weekend of December for 15 years now, bringing lots of sailors and their friends to this great sailing venue during the off season time for the Keys.

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