

2022 A-CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

April 29th to May 6th, 2022

ADMIRAL'S CUP

April 25th to April 28th, 2022

Hosted by:

Houston Yacht Club

&

US A-Class Association



Howdy Fellow A-Cat Sailors,

We are delighted to invite you to our wonderful sailing venue at the Houston Yacht Club (HYC). Our facility located in La Porte, Texas (30 minutes southeast of Houston) is one of the largest sailing venues in North America. HYC is nationally recognized for its history of top level sailboat racing and is a casual, comfortable and friendly yacht club.

Located on the shores of Galveston Bay, the racing area is immediately adjacent to the Club. Our modern container port is located only a few kilometers from the sailing venue. Your containers can be delivered directly to the Club where they can be stored, along with all trailers on the Club grounds, with 24-hour security. There is ample room. The George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) lies one hour to the north from the sailing venue and offers direct, non-stop flights from Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and South America. Your boats will be located on grassy lawns next to the newly-refurbished swimming pool and lounge area.

Early May typically brings steady, warm sea breezes, with chances of quickly-passing cold fronts. Average air temperatures are warm, but not hot, with comfortable water temperatures as well.

The surrounding bay area has many hotels and restaurants from which to choose. Events during the regatta are planned to be outdoors to the fullest extent possible. Houston Yacht Club offers a full-service restaurant and two bars in its historic clubhouse.

Houston, being a short distance away, offers many attractions, including world-class shopping at the Galleria, museums, galleries, NASA Johnson Space Center, and four professional sports teams. Houston will also provide a convenient jumping off point for exploring other beautiful areas of Texas, including hundreds of miles of beaches, great cities, and well-known theme and national parks.

Finally, we feel sure you will find the folks from Texas to be warm, friendly, and accommodating during your stay in the United States.

Welcome to Texas!

Bob Webbon, President
US A-Class Catamaran Association

Schedule

Admiral's Cup

Monday, April 25	Registration
Tuesday, April 26	Racing
Wednesday, April 27	Racing
Thursday, April 28	Racing & Trophies to follow

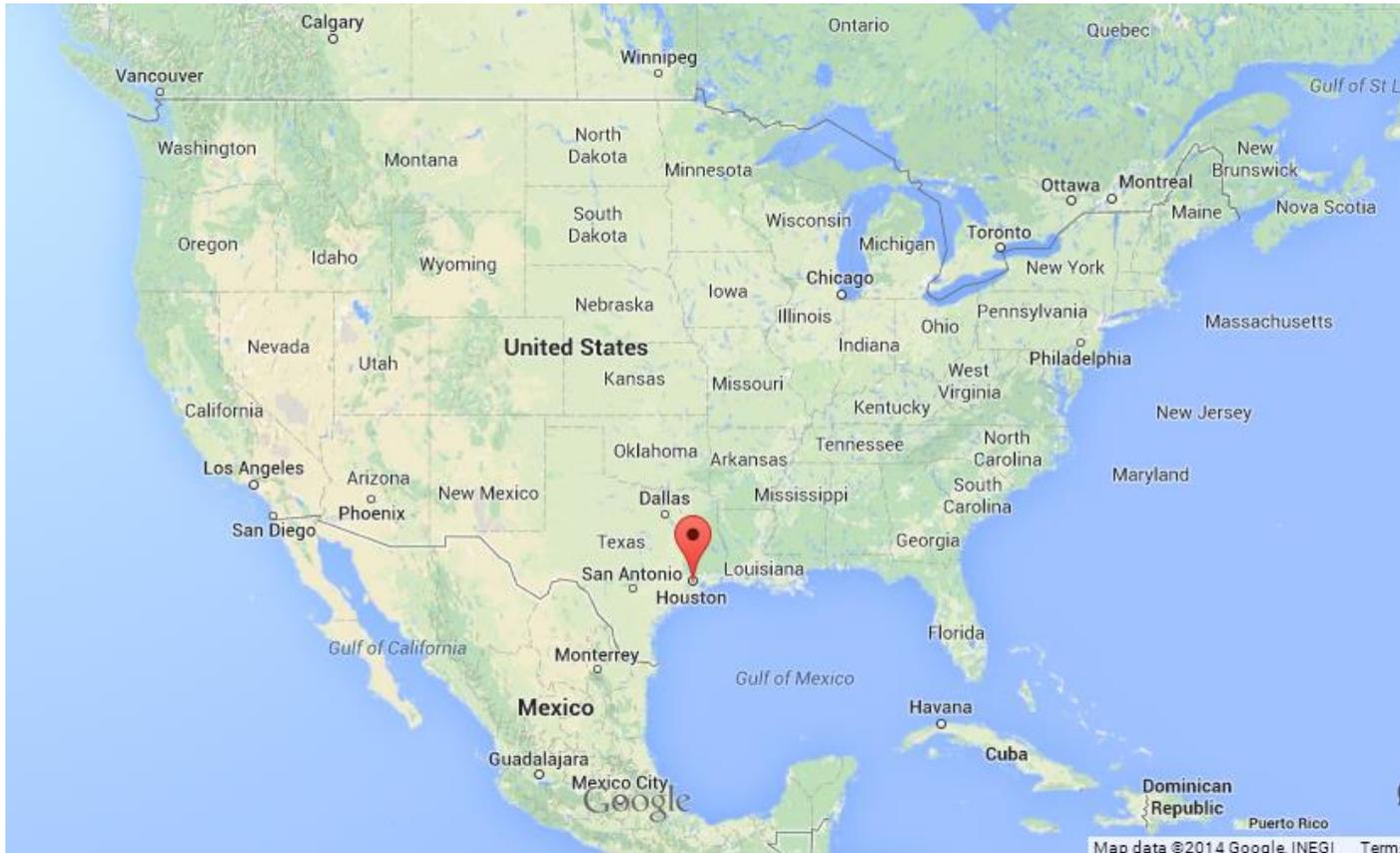
World Championship

Friday, April 29	Registration
Saturday, April 30	Registration, Practice Races & Opening Ceremony
Sunday, May 1	Racing
Monday, May 2	Racing
Tuesday, May 3	Racing
Wednesday, May 4	Racing
Thursday, May 5	Racing
Friday, May 6	Racing, Closing Ceremony

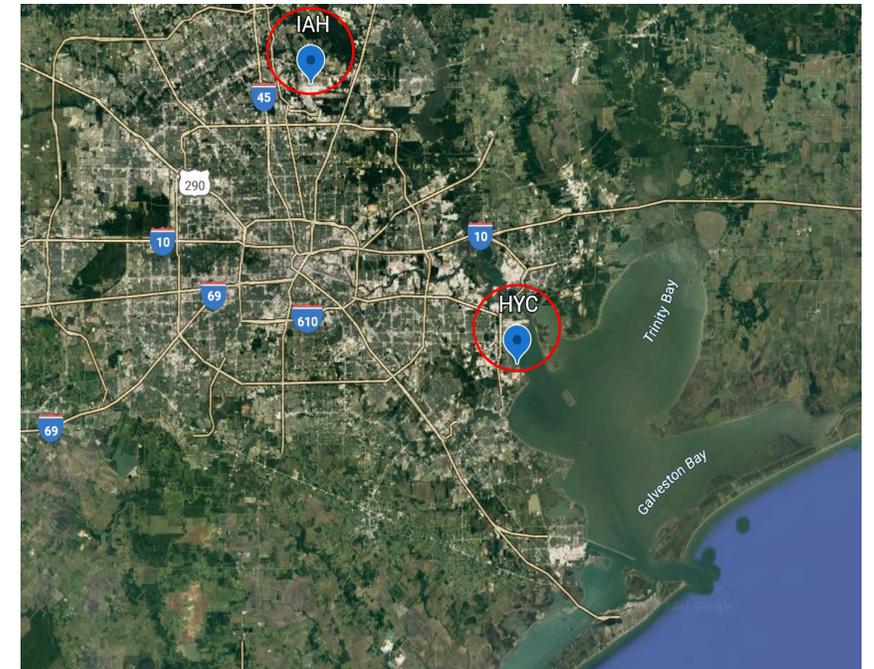


Location

Houston, Texas is located on the Gulf Coast in the southern central USA. Houston is famous for its cultural diversity, and with that comes fantastic foods from all walks of life. In Texas, BBQ and Tex-Mex are popular, but with such a diverse population, everything can be found in the city of 5 million people.



Houston Yacht Club is located 30 miles southeast of Downtown Houston, in the **City of La Porte**. La Porte has a laid back attitude and is popular for fishing and watersports.



Local Attractions

La Porte and the Bay Area are home to many local attractions, including the Kemah Boardwalk, Baybrook Mall, Lone Star Flight Museum, Armand Bayou Nature Center, NASA Johnson Space Center, Sylvan Beach, San Jacinto Museum of History, and the La Porte Bay Forest Golf Course.



La Porte Bay Forest Golf Course



Armand Bayou Nature Center



Kemah Boardwalk



Space Center Houston



Lone Star Flight Museum

Local Attractions

Galveston Island is a barrier island to Galveston Bay. HYC is located at the north end of the bay, and Galveston is 33 miles south of HYC. They have miles of beaches and several major attractions, including the Texas Seaport Museum (if you're not tired of boats yet) which is home to the 1877 tall ship, Elissa.

[Moody Gardens](#) is on the island, on a 242-acre property with several pyramids that are home to a rainforest exhibit, aquarium and more.

[Schlitterbahn Waterpark](#), also on the island, is a 26-acre oasis of thrilling waterpark adventures with both indoor and outdoor areas.



Schlitterbahn Waterpark



Moody Gardens

Local Attractions

If you're looking for a day in the city, **Houston** offers many attractions:

[The Galleria](#) is an upscale shopping mall with over 400 shops, designer boutiques and restaurants, a full-sized ice rink and is just west of downtown.

[The Museum District](#) is just south of downtown and features 19 different museums and 4 walkable zones with something for everyone.

[The Houston Zoo](#) is just south of the Museum District and is home to 6,000 animals from 900 species, all in the sprawling 55-acre complex.



Downtown Houston



Houston Museum of Natural Science

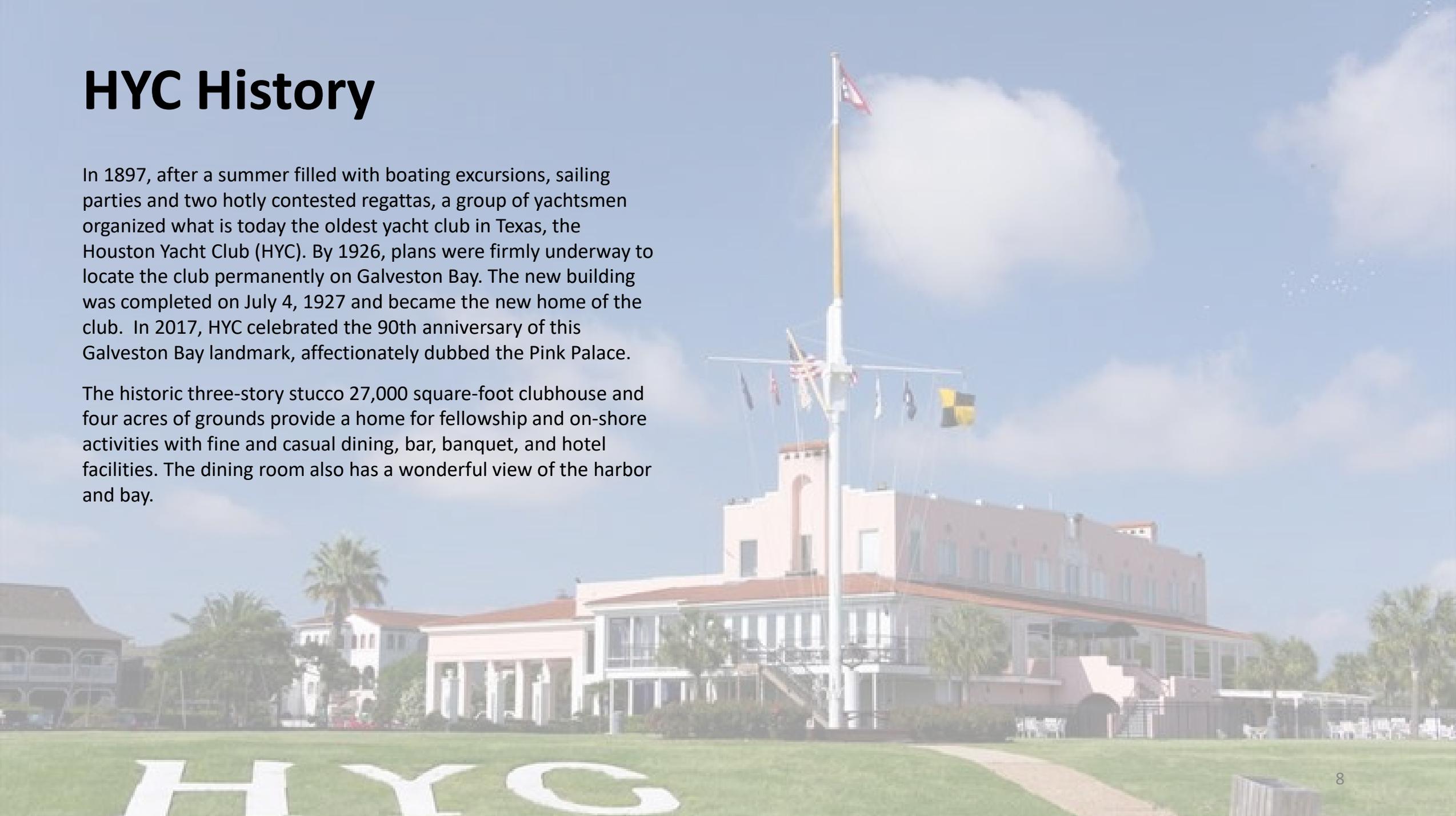


The Galleria

HYC History

In 1897, after a summer filled with boating excursions, sailing parties and two hotly contested regattas, a group of yachtsmen organized what is today the oldest yacht club in Texas, the Houston Yacht Club (HYC). By 1926, plans were firmly underway to locate the club permanently on Galveston Bay. The new building was completed on July 4, 1927 and became the new home of the club. In 2017, HYC celebrated the 90th anniversary of this Galveston Bay landmark, affectionately dubbed the Pink Palace.

The historic three-story stucco 27,000 square-foot clubhouse and four acres of grounds provide a home for fellowship and on-shore activities with fine and casual dining, bar, banquet, and hotel facilities. The dining room also has a wonderful view of the harbor and bay.



HYC Amenities

The grand stairway to the right of the spacious lobby leads you to the main floor. The **Dining Room** is decorated with yacht club burgees from all over the world and plaques depicting the private signals of many members. This grand space is where members and their guests enjoy an extensive menu of old favorites and chef specials. A wide selection of wines is available by the bottle or glass.

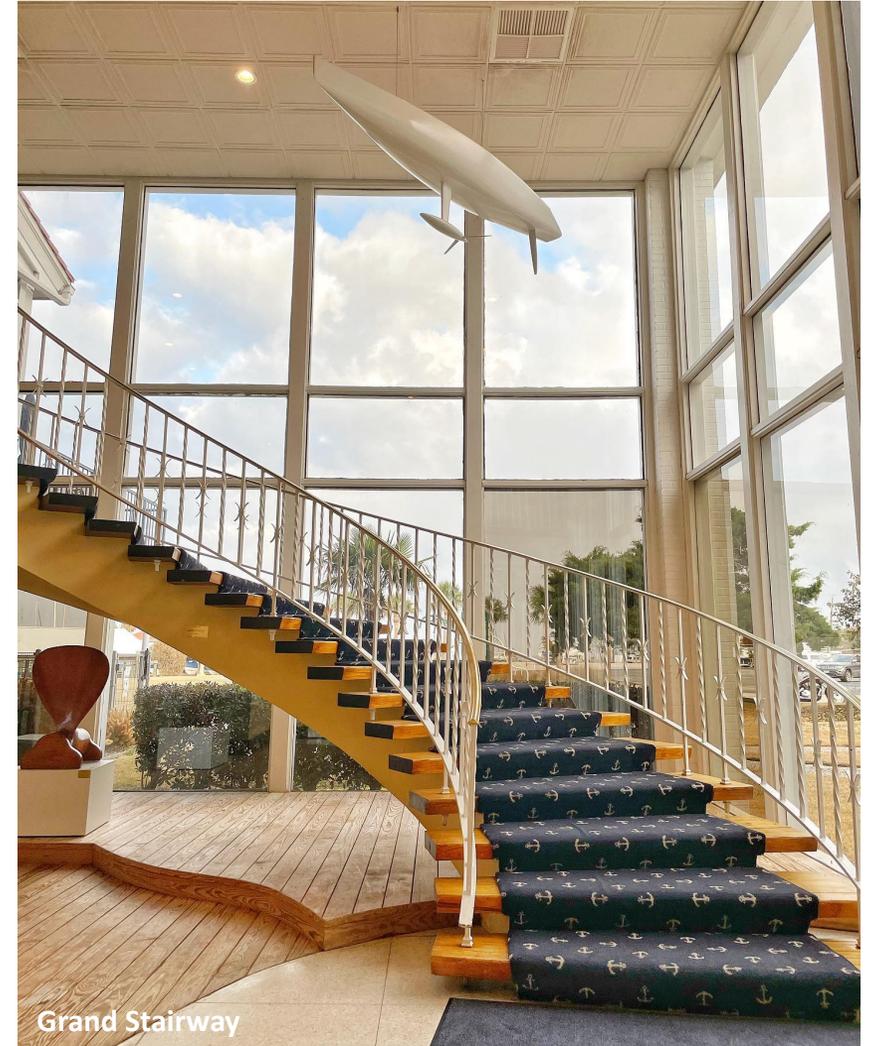
The **Bar** is adjacent to the Dining Room. With views of the bay and a large outdoor balcony, the Bar is a common meeting place for sailors to share stories while enjoying their favorite cocktail or having a casual meal.



Dining Room Entry



Outdoor Dining



Grand Stairway

HYC Amenities

On the ground level, the **Porthole** is the place for laid-back activities. With its modern bar and indoor/outdoor seating, it provides a casual dining and meeting spot, with convenient access to food and drink services while enjoying the pool area.

The beautiful Olympic-size pool and surroundings provide an oasis that includes cabanas, in-water lounges, along with tables and umbrellas. There is also an adjacent shaded pool for young children. Just opposite the pool are bathhouses with showers and changing rooms.

Across the lawn and situated on the harbor, the **Beachcomber** is a large covered outdoor pavilion. It is the perfect venue for many casual gatherings and club events held throughout the year such as the popular lobster and shrimp boils. Many of these events also feature live music and dancing. With its usual bay breezes, it is a popular place to gather for a cookout with family and friends.



Boat Parking

The Club has a large lawn space that can accommodate our event right next to the gate to the beach and beside the pool. Trailers and containers will be as close as possible to minimize walking distance.



Launching

Launching will be from **Shell Beach**, which is accessed through a gate. It is 52m wide and can handle our event traffic. The seafloor is mud with very few rocks and is shallow for quite a way out. It is a beam reach in typical sea breeze direction on entry, and the harbor shelters us from the waves, so it is typically quite calm.



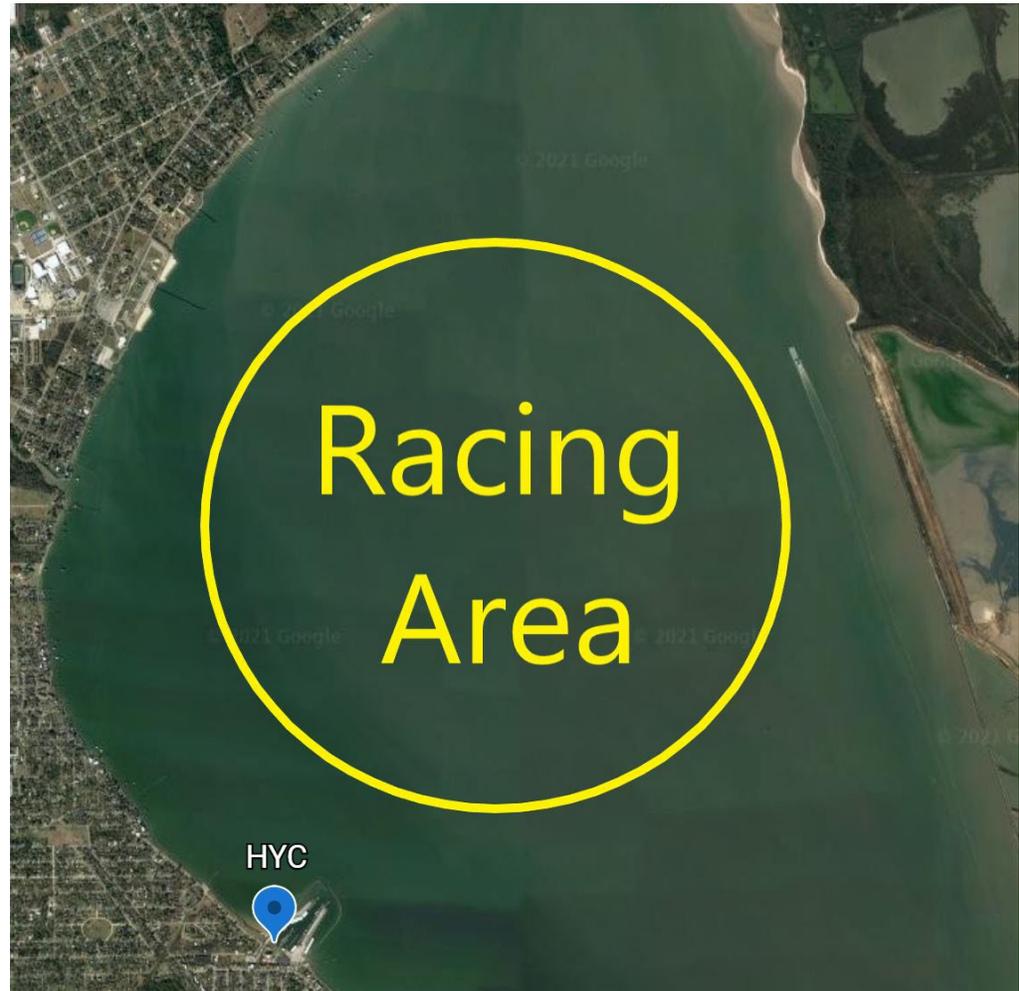
HYC Harbor and Grounds



Shell Beach

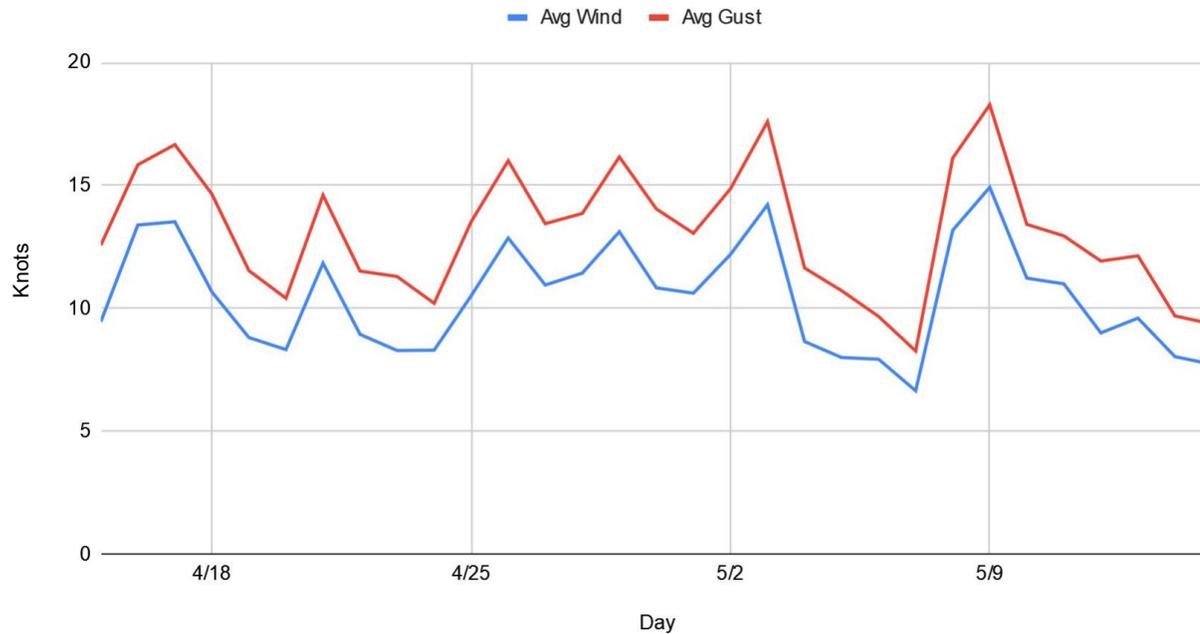
Racing Area

The racing area is bounded by the mainland to the west and north, Atkinson Island to the east and the Bayport Channel to the south. We have a roughly 2.75 mile diameter circle in which to locate the course.



Sailing Conditions

Avg Wind and Avg Gust by Day During Sailing Hours 2016-2021



Average air temperatures in May are a low of 66°F (19°C) and high of 82°F (28°C). The racing time (11AM-3PM) temperatures average 75-80°F (24-27°C), with average water temperature of 77°F (25°C).

This chart shows the average wind strength at HYC from 11AM-3PM over a 6-year period from April 15 to May 15. This is not a 24-hour average, but zoomed into our racing times. The southeasterly sea breeze is quite reliable this time of year, and we should be past the time for major cold fronts, which would come from the north-northeast. They tend to fizzle out by late April.

The bay averages 10-12 feet deep, and if the southeasterly sea breeze has been going for some time, there will be chop. If we get an unlikely cold front, then it can be flatter depending on the strength of the wind. The early fleet on the race course typically will be in flatter and somewhat lighter conditions than in the later afternoon. The tides are less than 2 feet, so the current flow is negligible.

Principal Race Officer, Billy Richnow

A native Texan, Billy Richnow has spent over 20 years as a US Sailing Regional Race Officer, served as three-time Fleet Captain of HYC, is a past Club Champion and most importantly for this event, served as Principal Race Officer of the 2007 and 2012 A-Class World Championships. His resume was hard to trim down for size purposes, so below are some of his primarily multihull events.

- Six-time Principal Race Officer for Hobie Cat Mid-Americas Regional Regatta
- 2001 Principal Race Officer for Nacra North American Championship
- 2003, 2005 and 2007 Principal Race Officer for Sailing World NOOD Regattas
- 2003 and 2008 through 2019 Principal Race Officer for The Great Texas 300 Race up the Texas Coast
- 2004 Safety Boat Officer for US Olympic Trials for Laser/470
- 2005 Principal Race Officer for Tornado North American Championship at HYC
- 2007 Principal Race Officer for A-Class Mid-Winter Regatta
- 2007 Principal Race Officer for Formula 18 North American Championship
- 2007 and 2012 Principal Race Officer for A-Class World Championships in Islamorada, Florida
- 2010 Principal Race Officer for US Sailing Multihull Championship at HYC
- 2012 Principal Race Officer for A-Class National Championship at HYC
- 2018 Mark Boat Officer for Laser National Championship at HYC
- 2019 Mark Boat Officer for Etchells North American Championship at HYC



Medical Facilities and Safety

Home to the world-renowned Texas Medical Center, there is easy access to medical facilities throughout the greater-Houston area.

Houston Methodist Hospital is only a 15-minute drive away from HYC. We take safety very seriously, and we will have safety personnel on the water. HYC has a Safety Action Plan and will be working with First Responders throughout the event.



Travel

For domestic flights, Houston's **Hobby Airport (HOU)** is 20 miles away and is served by Southwest, American, Delta and Allegiant Airlines.

For International travelers, **George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)** is rated as the #1 US Airport and is located 43 miles north of HYC.

Below is a summary of international flights as of Sept 29, 2021.

Departure Airport	Airline	Stops	Estimated Flight Time	Economy From (USD)
Amsterdam	Delta, KLM	Non-stop	10.5 hr	\$802
Frankfurt	Lufthansa, United	Non-stop	11 hr	\$712
London	American, British Airways, Lufthansa, United	Non-stop	10.5 hr	\$1,072
Rome	Delta, KLM, Lufthansa, United	1-stop	14 hr	\$915
Paris	Air France, Delta	Non-stop	10.5 hr	\$850
Geneva	American, Air France, British Air, Delta, KLM, Lufthansa, United	1-stop	13-14 hr	\$700
Barcelona	American, British Air, Delta, KLM, Lufthansa, United	1-stop	14-15 hr	\$600
Gdansk	Delta, KLM, Lufthansa, United	1-stop	14 hr	\$775
Sydney	Historically available on United; may return when borders reopen	Non-stop	17-18 hr	TBD
Auckland	Historically available on United; may return when borders reopen	Non-stop	13-14 hr	TBD

Accommodations

There are several new hotels in La Porte and the surrounding areas, including options for longer, extended stays. Home rentals are also available on [Vrbo](#) and [Airbnb](#).

- [Home2 Suites By Hilton La Porte](#)
1251 S. 13th St.
- [Candlewood Suites La Porte](#)
1250 S. 13th St.
- [Hampton Inn & Suites La Porte](#)
1328 Highway 146 South
- [WoodSpring Suites La Porte](#)
1506 West Fairmont Parkway
- [La Quinta Inn La Porte](#)
1105 Highway 146
- [Holiday Inn Express & Suites La Porte](#)
908 West G Street
- [Best Western Plus Seabrook Suites](#)
5755 Bayport Boulevard
- [Seaside Hotel and RV Resort](#)
4001 Old Hwy 146
- [Quality Inn & Suites Seabrook](#)
2720 Nasa Parkway
- [Hampton Inn NASA-Johnson Space Center](#)
3000 Nasa Road One



International Shipping and Logistics

The Port of Houston is ranked #1 in the US in total and foreign waterborne tonnage and in total vessel transits. Bayport Terminal and Barbour's Cut Terminals are 5 and 6 miles away from HYC respectively by truck.

Currently **Hecny Group** is working with both MSC and CMA to negotiate round trip ocean freight rates for all competitors participating in the 2022 A-Class World Championship. Our goal is to secure either carrier as a primary sponsor of the regatta to provide discounted shipping costs.

In addition to the transit time provided on the next page, we are also working on shipping options from Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. The US-Europe return transit times are short, allowing a full summer sailing season in Europe after the event.



HYC and Bayport Terminal

International Shipping and Logistics

Ocean Transit Times (Port to Port)



MSC

- Rotterdam, NL to Houston: 16 Days
 - Houston to Rotterdam: 14-15 Days
- Bremerhaven, DE to Houston: 15-16 Days
 - Houston to Bremerhaven: 16-17 Days
- Le Havre, FR to Houston: 18-20 Days
 - Houston to Le Havre: 15-20 Days
- Felixstowe, UK to Houston: 16-21 Days
 - Houston to Felixstowe: 16-21 Days
- Genoa, IT to Houston: 24-29 Days
 - Houston to Genoa, IT: 23-25 Days
- Barcelona, ES to Houston: 21-23 Days
 - Houston to Barcelona: 17-22 Days
- Gdansk to Houston: 25-26 Days
 - Houston to Gdansk: TBA

CMA

- Rotterdam, NL to Houston: 20-23 Days
 - Houston to Rotterdam: 16-23 Days
- Bremerhaven, DE to Houston: 18-24 Days
 - Houston to Bremerhaven: 18-24 Days
- Le Havre, FR to Houston: 23-26 Days
 - Houston to Le Havre: 12-18 Days
- Felixstowe, UK to Houston: 31-33 Days
 - Houston to Felixstowe: 21-22 Days
- Genoa, IT to Houston: 26 Days
 - Houston to Genoa, IT: 26 Days
- Barcelona, ES to Houston: 22 Days
 - Houston to Barcelona: 32 Days
- Gdansk to Houston: 28-30 Days
 - Houston to Gdansk: 25-30 Days

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