

The 2024 Catalina 22 National Championship Regatta was held on Lake St. Clair, Michigan, located approximately 45 minutes northeast of Detroit. Catalina 22 sailors made the trip to Michigan from 13 other states including Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington state. Twenty-six boats participated. This was truly a national event.

This year's National Champion (and Spinnaker Fleet Champion) is Doug Thome. Doug has served as Class Chief Measurer for multiple terms and knows the inside outs of the Catalina 22 quite well. As a Tactician, Doug has been on almost a dozen winning National Champion Catalina 22s during the past 15 years (crewing as Tactician for National Champions Justin Chambers, Keith Bennett, and Dennis Slaton). Hailing from Buford, Georgia near Lake Lanier, Doug is an incredibly talented sailor who consistently displays his talent to win races at all levels.

In the Silver Fleet, intended for lessor experienced skippers and crew, Mark Breeden took top honors. Hailing from Winchester, Kentucky, and as the winner of the Silver Fleet, Mark will be moving up to Gold Fleet in future Catalina 22 National Championship Regattas.

Principal Race Office (PRO) Hal Smith and the Race Committee provided the Catalina 22 Racers with ten races over four days. Hal Smith and his wife Sally are from Pensacola, Florida. Hal and Sally are also Catalina 22 National Champions (1981). Hal served on the Catalina 22 National Sailing Association Board in the early 1980s as Rear Commodore. As a US Sailing certified National Race Officer, Hal, his wife Sally, along with Ted and Dora McGee, perform Race Committee work for a variety of one-design regattas throughout the Southeast. The Catalina 22 National Sailing Association has been most fortunate to have Hal and Sally supporting the Catalina 22 National Championship Regatta for quite a few years. Hal knows the Catalina 22 Class very well and does an excellent job as PRO. Of course, Hal always runs a tight ship and had an excellent race management crew with him that also included Dora McGee and North Star Sail Club members.

The Catalina 22 National Sailing Association was fortunate to have the services of college student and aspiring photographer Eric Weist (Weist Photography) who took over a thousand excellent photographs of the event. Eric's photographs are available at [www.catalina22.org](http://www.catalina22.org).

Thank you to outgoing C22NSA Vice Commodore Jim Hodson, the entire North Star Sail Club membership and their leaders, Catalina 22 Fleet 130, Matt Bounds, and all the other volunteers who worked hard to organize and host this year's Catalina 22 National Championship Regatta on Lake St. Clair, Michigan. What started as an idea back at the 2022 Catalina 22 Nationals in Pensacola followed by a bid submitted in July by Jim Hodson, eventually evolved into excellent teamwork by the North Star Sail Club to make this week's racing event a reality. Everybody worked together to help bring nearly thirty Catalina 22s to Lake St. Clair for a fun, competitive, and exhaustive week of sailing with ten races completed.

Next year the Catalina 22 National Championship Regatta will be held in Fort Worth, Texas and hosted by the Fort Worth Boat Club. At this time, the event is scheduled for June 7 through 12, but this is subject to change until the Notice of Race is posted at the end of this year. Julia Brandt joins the Board of the C22NSA as our new Vice Commodore – responsible for leading the National Championship Regatta effort at the Lake Worth Sailing Club in 2025.