

SM Sailing took third place in the US Sailing National Adult Sailing Competition (Mallory Cup) in MN



Skipper Paul Wilson and Team members (left to right:) Christine Persson, Natalie Coleman Fuller and Allison Coleman represented Southern MA Sailing Association in the US Sailing Adult Sailing Championship Mallory Cup races held at the Wayzata, Minnesota Yacht Club last week and won third place.

Paul Wilson asked his former Vineyard Haven Yacht Club sailing coach, Allison Coleman, to join his SMSA team and help him find another team member. Allison suggest her sister Natalie. The first team challenge was to make the weight limit. Their team weight could not exceed 605 pounds. They report that this race was a great incentive to lose that extra weight, and ultimately came in at 582 pounds.

The Coleman sisters grew up sailing at the Chatham Yacht Club and represented their club and Area A in several US Sailing Adams Cup Women's Championships. They both directed area yacht club programs during their college years - Allison at Vineyard Haven and Natalie at Nantucket. Natalie is a Pleasant Bay Community Boating Board Member and chair of the PBCB Campus residential cottage member program.

Michael Hanson, Tim Siemers and Mark Swift, a Minnesota team, took first place with 53 points; Benz Faget, a frequent winner of this series hailing from Louisiana, and his team Randall Richmond and Joshua Deupree took second with 69 points. The Southern Massachusetts team had 86 points, followed closely in fourth place with 90 points for the Ohio team of Ryan Lashaway, Conor Madden and Ryan Kyle.

"Beginning in 1993 the Women's and Men's Championships were held together in

alternate years. Since 2006, the event has been a mixture of a ladder series starting at the club level and a resume application. In 2009, the championships began being held together each year and the two committees merged. The two fleets used the same race course, sailed different classes of boats and enjoyed social events together.

"The joint events have sometimes been hosted by two cooperating, nearby clubs - otherwise by a single club. In 2013, the regulations were relaxed further to allow women to helm as well, reflecting the fact that most boats are now sailed by a mixed crew and the championship was renamed the U.S. Adult Sailing Championship. The championship was expanded from 11 boats to 20 but in 2015 reverted back to its format as a competition between Regional Sailing Associations or RSAs.

"Each RSA within US Sailing is encouraged to submit a representative of its selection. The host club may also submit a representative. Still sailed on provided boats, it is run in a round robin format, providing three days of challenging racing by sailors from around the country." (US Sailing website)