

2019 ILCA Texas Districts Championships Rush Creek Yacht Club – April 27-28, 2019

Boat #	Skipper and Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total	Position
USA15360	Clarke Newman, Deanna Newman, Ralph Bilnoski	1	1	1	3	1
USA 14967	Chris Shipman, James Berry, Julie Anna Brooks	3	3	2	8	2
USA 15485	Stefan Boettcher, Eric Harris, Bob Bielinski	4	2	3	9	3
NGR 15326	Gary Schwantz, Dan Cox, Rob Kerchner	2	4	4	10	4
USA 14344	Robert Phillips	DNS/8	DNS/8	DNS/8	24	5
USA 14975	Bill Dreheim	DNS/8	DNS/8	DNS/8	24	6
USA 15496	Marvin Beckman	DNS/8	DNS/8	DNS/8	24	7



The 2019 ILCA Texas District Championships were held at Rush Creek Yacht Club in Heath, TX on April 27—28, 2019. We had three boats from Houston Yacht Club come up, and we had two boats from Dallas. Saturday was clear and in the 70's, but the breeze was up. With strong southerly winds from 16—18 and gusts to 25, the racing was exciting. The Sea Scout's decided not to go out due to the conditions, so, we had four boats on the water.

The conditions and the courses were very steady, and each race was a copy of the one before it. Team Newman had good starts, but was second or third at the first weather mark of each race. Good crew work handling gybe sets around the offset marks in a breeze was really helpful in gaining advantages down the first runs of each race. We reached the second windward mark in each of the three races in first, and defended down to the downwind finishes. In the third race, we had eight gybes to clear from other fleets and to stay in the maximum pressure down the first run, and my crew handled it flawlessly.

We started the fourth race Sunday morning in breezes of 10—12 with gusts of 15. It was shaping up much like the first three races, but about half way up the first beat, the breeze quickly built to 20—25 with gusts nearing 30. Team Shipman, who entered the race in second, blew out a jib, and had to retire. We got to the windward mark first, and with a good lead in the series, didn't set a chute. We were ready to do so, but no one in the fleet felt like going there. As we gybed for the leeward gate, all of us had trouble. We dug our chine, turned left, and fouled Team Schwantz. It wasn't pretty. Let me tell you, doing two turns in that kind of breeze was difficult and costly. The Sea Scouts were making a gallant effort of it, having reached the windward mark still in contact, but capsized in their gybe. We rounded the gate Team Schwantz, Team Boettcher, and us. Team Newman worked back up to second, only to have the breeze building more, and the race was abandoned as we rounded the second windward mark and sailed towards the finish. It took a group effort to retrieve the Sea Scouts, who were turtled and trunked. Many thanks to Eric Harris and James Berry who did the water work to get them up and in.