

Press Release

HOUSTON YACHT CLUB WOMEN'S SAILING WEEKEND

The Women's Sailing Association of Houston Yacht Club will hold their annual Women's Sailing Weekend on June 10 and June 11, 2017. The Catherine Spiller Regatta will be held on Saturday June 10. The regatta was first held in 1980 and requires a woman at the helm but allows mixed gender crew. Catherine Spiller was a life-long sailor as both skipper and crew on Galveston Bay. The Catherine Spiller Regatta is the first women-only helmed regatta in the Galveston Bay - Clear Lake area.

The Fairfax Moody Regatta will be held on Sunday June 11. It's deed of gift written in 1996 states that all boats shall be helmed by a woman and have an all-women crew. As a young woman, Fairfax Moody was a member of HYC and a ground breaking pioneer. She stirred up Southern norms of sailing in the 1930's. She was the first female sailor and skipper to compete in the Lipton Cup Regatta in Panama City hosted by St. Andrew's Bay Yacht Club in 1936. There were protests but she was allowed to compete that year. However, all women were thereafter banned from competing in the Lipton Cups until the rules were finally changed by the Gulf Yachting Association in 1948/1949.

Winning women at the helm and in all crew positions are common today. HYC's Women's Sailing Regattas help promote the advancement of women on the water. All interested women are encouraged to sign up for both or either of these regattas. To register, go to the HYC website and, under Racing Information, find a link to the Regatta Network. The entry fee is \$50 for each regatta. There will be an awards ceremony for the Catherine Spiller Regatta and a dinner on Saturday evening and a separate awards ceremony for the Fairfax Moody Regatta on Sunday. Interested persons can call the HYC offices for more information at 281-471-1255 or just register online at houstonyachtclub.com.