

2018 brought many achievements for the AYC Roadrunners.

The 2018 TSA Circuit just finished with the final regatta at Rush Creek Yacht Club last weekend. AYC sailors took 1st in Opti White (Keen Cabrera), 1st in Opti Blue (James Brock), 1st in Opti Red (Tony Slowik) and 1st in C420 (Lucy Brock and Julius Heitkoetter). Essentially AYC dominated in 4 of the 6 fleets in TSA! And it didn't stop there: Lucy Brock was awarded the TSA Friendship Award. In the end, three Texas sailors competed in all 13 TSA regattas and 2 of them were from AYC: Kynes and Keen Cabrera. True Road Warriors! None of this would be possible without support from Roadrunner parents, on and off the water. Much gratitude especially goes to Jeff Brock, Robert Cabrera, Paul Carew, Stefan Froelich and all the parents who coordinated boat transportation, coaching and moral support throughout the year.

The RoadRunner regatta this year was a multi-event regatta since it was the USODA Mid America championship, the Texas Laser State championship and the Area F Single-handed Championship. Tony Slowik, Lucas Tenreiro and James Brock qualified for US Team Trials in 2019 during the event. Jeff Brock and I are really grateful for all the support we received from the club and volunteers, without whom we could not put on such an event. We especially want to thank our PROs James Bland, Ray Schull and Jim Casto as well as Constanze and Markus Heitkoetter and team for the amazing food.

Roadrunners also competed in series races, local regattas, and High School sailing. The Endless Summer series was also attended by some of our newer sailors such as Kevin, Zachery, Jack, Sharva and Keira

Many roadrunners travelled further afield during the year. Some highlights include (and I am probably not listing them all):

- James Brock and Tony Slowik competed at Opti Nationals in Florida.
- Wendi, Fiona and Katie Froelich sailed at RS Feva Midwinters at Clearwater Community sailing Center in February, at the RS Feva Worlds in Clearwater Florida in April and in the RS Games in Weymouth, England during the summer.
- Tony Slowik sailed with the Opti US team in Lake Garda, Italy; Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico and in the US Virgin Islands where he was presented with the Pete Ives award for prowess, sportsmanship and determination and good attitude. Plus, he just competed in the 2018 Bermuda Nationals where he finished in 6th place.
- Lucas Tenreiro also sailed with the US Opti Team in Lake Garda, and this past week, he represented USA in the IODA Asian championship in Myanmar.
- Rickie and Abbey Amata sailed sunfish regattas on the East Coast
- Ethan Froelich – competed in i420 events on the East coast and in Europe, including Kiel Week in Germany, where he and his skipper ended up 11th out of 120 boats and 1st their age division. He also completed in the Junior Worlds in Sesimbra, Portugal and in the i420 Worlds in Newport, RI where they were the top US finisher.
- Lucy Brock, Julius Heitkoetter and Taylor Snyder competed in c420 events on the east coast along with friends from Lakewood YC, Rush Creek YC and Southern Yacht Club who formed the GCoast Sailing team, coached by Jeff Brock.

- Lucy, Julius and Taylor became the Flying Scott Junior Champions and qualified to represent Area F at the 2018 US Sailing Triple-Handed National Championship (the Sears Cup) in Michigan this summer, where they received the Sears Cup Sportsmanship award.

Finally, there have obviously been a lot of success among our roadrunners this year but there have also been other less tangible achievements. I am proud to see how much each sailor has grown, made friendships and supported each other. They have developed resilience, confidence, sportsmanship, and the ability to win gracefully and lose graciously. There are so many great values that sailing reaches our kids and we are grateful again this year to recognize and thank the AYC members, AYC board, AYC Fund, and Coleman, Jackie and Tom for their support in every capacity.