

USSailing Mallory Cup Championship 2016

The SSYC Mallory team was Talbott Ingram, Dave Whittle, Stuart Van Winkle, and Lee Ingram. We were honored to represent SSYC and NJYRA for this prestigious USSailing Adult Championship event to compete against top sailors from around the country. It was very exciting and unique racing on San Francisco Bay hosted by the Saint Francis Yacht Club.

With the Golden Gate Bridge off to the left, Alcatraz to the right, Sausalito across the bay, large naval ships and container ships passing by, and rounding marks for large sailboats just 100' from their Club the view was spectacular. The venue was quite impressive with a displayed half models of all the America's Cup boats and many other sailboats, as well as the numerous dining rooms and public areas that allowed a symphony performance, an auction and a junior event to occur at the same time as our USSailing event.

The twenty races were held over four days, plus the practice day which was essential for us since we only had one hour of light air practice before heading to the West coast. The races were held in their fleet of J-22s. We switched boats each day for a modified round robin. The nine other competitors came from all corners of the country and had either won their qualifying races or were selected to represent their region based on their winning resume for the past three years. The competition was very keen, which made the starts and mark roundings very exciting. Fortunately their boat handling was superb and with everyone knowing the rules in detail, there were no collisions. Throughout the four days of racing the winds were consistently from the west, but the velocity and strong current would be a constantly changing factor in the racing strategy.

Thanks to my talented and dedicated crew that worked as a team, we were able to coordinate our efforts and finish in fifth place. It was exciting to have won a light air and a heavy air race, as well as getting two second place finishes. With a little more practice we would have been more consistent and probably able to move up a place or two. One of the highlights for our team was being awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy that was voted on by all the other competitors. This Championship will always remain as a very memorable and exciting event.

We want to thank SSYC's members for their support and encouragement.

Talbott Ingram