

Michigan District Championship
Bay City Yacht Club
Bay City, Michigan
July 9-10, 2016

Pos	Skipper	Sail #	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Dieball	14867	1	2	2	1	6
2	John McCree	15430	5	1	5	6	17
3	Grant Hilger	15146	2	5	9	3	19
4	Morin	313	6	7	3	5	21
5	Tom Klaban	14842	3	6	1	12	22
6	George Sipel	15470	4	3	7	9	23
7	Jim Allen	15511	9	10	6	2	27
8	Mike Welch	15531	11	9	4	4	28
9	Trey Rose	15513	10	4	10	8	32
10	Bobby Flack	15222	7	8	12	13	40
11	Chris Princing	15553	8	12	13	7	40
12	Matt Princing	14937	12	11	8	14	45
13	Andy M0nique	14628	13	13	11	16	53
14	Jim Schofield	15233	16	14	15	10	55
15	Terry Hart	14933	15	17	14	11	57
16	Warner	14511	14	15	16	17	62
17	Dale Krcek	14449	17	16	17	15	65
18	Chris Jacobson	1522S	19	19	19	19	76
19	John Morley	14515	19	19	19	19	76

District Championships at BCYC, 2016

Great racing, good dinners with friends, premium beer, camping and bonfires, several boats with juniors or interns on the team, a nice mix of post-race activities, and some totally awesome door prizes. Congrats to Ernie & Jacqueline, Will Taylor, this year's Michigan District champions.

Friday, storms then pleasant sailing in gentle ENE 5-12

Hard storms blew through late afternoon. Jimmy Allen showed up with Tyler and Liz, one of several teams with juniors on board for the weekend, and sailed a perfect "practice race", by themselves. Ernie invited juniors Will and Ethan for a practice sail too, but they couldn't get away for a Friday session on late-notice. Local sailors got our mojo going the fleet 216 way, raising tents and flags, grilling in the dry-sail area and sampling the premium brews on tap.

Saturday, cool and breezy, NW 12-22, with puffs and holes

Four W/L races were packed into 3 hours of classic open water sailing, we were all tired at the end of the day. Took a few minutes for our once-a-year race management to get settled in at anchor and empty the puke bucket, but this didn't phase the fleet, lots of new teams were practicing upwind and downwind to get dialed in for a big breeze day on the bay. Local teams race in breeze all season, some warmed up on the shoal near the committee boat, surfing the gybes, then turning up and throwing a breaking 2-3 footer over the bow and down the gear. Good times.

Any top 5 finish was a good finish in this fleet, some hiked really hard and depowered smoothly and took off in big breeze of the early races, others made smart comebacks in the game of holes & puffs in races 3 & 4 that placed a premium on shifting gears to reduce the pounding on port tack. One retire early, one break-down, no capsizes. Points were close and everyone carried at least one solid throw-out into Sunday, except for Ernie's team Dieball, who were out front or matching tacks with the race leader all day.

Saturday evening, clear skies, fun games, warm fires

Plenty post-race festivities, dinner at the club with RaceQ's for the analyticals, followed by a trip to Kokomos for the young and young-at-heart. A couple of fast cars were seeded into the go-kart fleet which brought big smiles for those that asked attendants nicely, a roller coaster ride was a little scarier than it looked from below, and laser tag for the young guns.

For others, the evening brought Frisbee and soccer balls, brews by the fire and camping, or maybe a trip down to Midland street and West Side to sample local micro-brews. Boats, campsites and local homes provided all a free place to stay for the weekend.

Sunday, cool and sunny with slow building thermal, ENE 2-5

We sailed out into the last of the morning breeze, waited at anchor for about 1 ½ hours, talked amongst ourselves, with some mildly inappropriate physical comedy by you-know-who. Maybe one or two teams wanted another race to erase a throw-out, but it didn't look like Sunday was going to match Saturday's epic sailing, so Bruce called it early for the travelers and Euro Cup finals, with just a hint of afternoon thermal across the bay as the last tow line turned into the harbor. Gentle breeze rattling the poplars for mega- door prizes and awards, some made out like bandits and there were prizes for all—we look forward to learning whether the sky-jumping certificate finally gets cashed in this year.

Here's the young Will Taylor's recap from Team Dieball:

The first day of Lightning Districts was an amazing experience. The day started off with good breeze so for a first-time Lightning sailor it was nice to see some of the numerous controls in action. Ernie and Jaqueline were great people to learn from, their knowledge and skills made it very easy to get into the groove of being a lightning foredeck. After a few tacks and jibes I felt comfortable in the boat even before the first start.

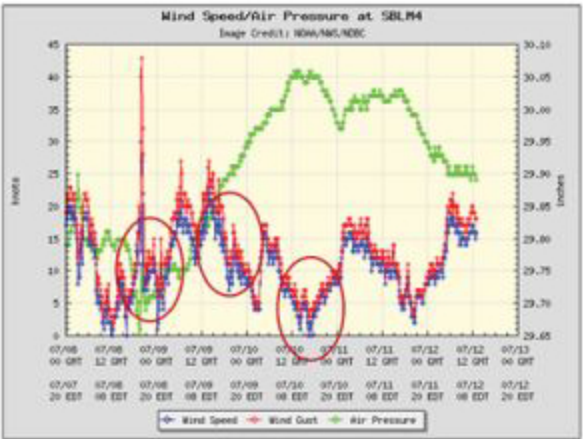
The first start seemed to go by in a flash but I learned a few new starting tactics that I may take with me to the future boats. The rest of the first race was all about keeping boat speed through the waves (lots of jib in and out along with hiking). After working the shore side of the course, we rounded the upwind mark in second. We went into go mode down-wind; keeping the chute full, staying in pressure, and a pump on waves to gain the lead rounding the down-wind gate, helping us stay ahead and finish the first race with a bullet.

The first race gave us momentum to finish the regatta strong with a second in the second and third race and a first in the final race, giving us a steady grasp on the regatta going into the second day.

On land we took care of the boat and I got to meet Ernie and Jaqueline's son Dean. Dean is a fun and energetic guy who is known throughout the Great Lakes lightning circuit, glad I could meet and play catch with him. One good part about the regatta was the post regatta buffet/feast at the clubhouse.

The next day was forecasted for light air so we planned to arrive early so we could paddle to the race course for the start. The race committee was eager to get a start but the wind was not cooperative. No races occurred on the second day leading the regatta to an end.

Thank you to the Dieball family for the opportunity, allowing me to sail and learn from them at an amazing regatta.



Champions: Team Dieball



Runner-ups: Team McCree



2nd Runner-ups: Team Hilger



4th Place: Team Morin