

Fall Blowout
North Cape Yacht Club – Fleet 42
LaSalle, Michigan
October 10, 2015

Pos	Skipper/Crew	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	Mike Welch, Fred & William Blackmer	2	1	2	5
2	Jim Davis, Cris Davis, Bill Sommers	1	2	3	6
3	Jack Mueller, Nancy Mueller, ???	3	4	1	8
4	Trey Rose, Allison Frantz, Mike Garza	4	3	4	11



Champions: Mike Welch, Fred and William Blackmer

Last race in a very active MI Lightning District 2015 season. Wind predicted to be very light to very very light.

After falling from 3rd in the MI HI Point standings to 6th and 1 point behind 5th, owning the tie breaker, I just need to show up and race to move into 5th....as long and only if there is one.

Finally got around to replacing my bent spreader from a mid-season knockdown the morning of the race, last one to leave the dock. We hastily paddle out to the start area to find a postponement as the RC waits for the southeasterly to fill in.

Race 1 starts out with a big right shift, boat favored, no tack beat to first mark....which we (Fred Blackmer and his son William and me) find ourselves in first followed by the Trey Rose Ninjas. We finally have competitive boat speed - guess I should have replaced that bent spreader a while ago. Triangle winward/leeward course, so off on a reach, jibe, reach. Rounding the 2nd reach in the lead...until Jim Davis and Jack Mueller get better pressure and sail higher and faster to pass us right away on the beat. We manage to reel Jack back in on the beat and just nudge him out on the run at the finish, 2nd to Jim Davis.

Race 2, wind has gone back left making it a true beat, Jim Davis times his tack to port nicely, into the oscillation and leads at the first mark. With the righty, the reach is deeper, following Jim around, we head high for the passing lane, get a puff just before the wing mark, break the overlap and head on to a tight reach that had all 3 of us on the rail. We hold our lead on the subsequent winward/leeward legs to the finish.

Race 3 had boat favored, we win the boat but no speed. Jack is moving, Jim forces Trey Rose and us to tack right. Jack leads at the mark. Jim crosses us easily on port and carries on.... where we catch some luck - wind oscillates back right, we're lifted up to it ahead of Jim. Jack does what you're supposed to do with a lead: extend it. He's just not catchable. The last beat has Jack tacking on us, us tacking on Jim. Jack cruises to victory, we hold off Jim for 2nd and the regatta win.

We don't do allot of triangle windward leeward courses, allot of fun on a power reach, boathandling is key, Fred and William did a great job. Nice to finish our season on a high note.

Thanks and congrats again to my fellow MI District lightning sailors who did the New Orleans NA's.

Thanks to the RC for getting in 3 good races.

Again, on behalf of all your District Officers, thank you to all who organized, officiated, participated, supported our regattas. It was a fun filled 2015.

See you at our annual meeting & awards banquet December 6th, details and Annual Survey to follow.....as we try and make the 2016 season even more fun!

Mike Welch
MI Lightning District Commodore