

Higgins Lake Regatta
Higgins Lake Boat Club – Fleet 110
Higgins Lake, Michigan
August 1-2, 2015

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a building wind; SW wind 13-16 kts Gusts to 20 kts.. - 3 races W-L course; 5 legs.

Sunday: S wind 6-8 kts. with a threat of thunderstorms, wind building to 9-11 knots. Then, suddenly, dropping off to 3-5 knots. - 2 races W-L course; 5 legs. Fifth race shortened to 4 legs.

Pos	Sail#	Skipper	Crew	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	15512	Mark Allen	Jody Kjoller	Heather Judd	PYC	2	2	3	1	1	9
2	313	Matt Morin	Kevin Morin	Marcie Levey	CSYC	1	1	1	5	3	11
3	15147	Sarah Somes	Jim Thompson	Elizabeth Wallace	CSYC	5	5	2	2	2	16
4	15513	Trey Rose	Julie Crane	Josh Hevron	CSYC	4	3	5	6	9	27
5	15530	Caleb Mathers	Morgan Stierly	Nick Harris	PYC	3	7	7	4	11	32
6	14690	Greg Harris	Meghan Harris	Allison Harris	PYC	6	8	9	7	5	35
7	15225	Chris Jacobson	Bob Goddard	Spencer Doyle	BCYC	7	9	8	8	6	38
8	15430	Bryan Bahler	John McCree	Sharron Murray	WYC	12	4	11	10	4	41
9	15531	Mike Welch	Fred Blackmer	William Blackmer	PYC	15	6	10	3	8	42
10	14937	Jennifer Princing	Kalyn Froeschle	Fiona Saunders	TBYC	8	11	4	12	12	47
11	14760	Jo McGlew	George Siegle	Ann Siegle	LSC	11	12	6	11	14	54
12	15085	Chris Snyder	Holly Snyder	Brooke Snyder	NCYC	10	10	DNS	9	15	60
13	14021	Emery Scheibert	Stuart Morley	John Dent	HLBC	14	14	14	13	7	62
14	14054	Alan Krauss	Jack Harris	J. Krauss/R. Warner	HLBC	13	13	12	14	13	65
15	14468	Baine Severin	John Kolstoe	Julie Pierce	LSC	9	DNS	DNS	15	10	66



Champions: Mark Allen, Jody Kjoller, Heather Judd



Runner-ups: Matt Morin, Kevin Morin, Marcie Levey



2nd Runner-ups: Sarah Somes, Jim Thompson, Elizabeth Wallace



Who knew that in Northern Michigan there is a little piece of the Caribbean? Higgins Lake Boat Club is just that. For those that don't know, the Boat Club is located on an island in the middle if Higgins Lake with the only access by boat. Some might think that the logistics of having a regatta on an island are difficult would be impressed by how well the member of the club ran things. You arrive at the nearby boat ramp, rig your boat, load all your gear onto the club pontoon and then sail or get towed to the island. The next step is to set up camp (everyone camps right there at the club), then have lunch at the Tiki Bar while looking out across the pure sand beach to the crystal clear waters of Jost Van Dyke...wait I mean Higgins Lake, WAY too easy to forget where you are.

Anyway, I'm not very good at remembering the details of every race, but here's the highlights: Number one highlight was getting to sail with Jody Kjoller and Heather Judd. I think everyone knows Jody and I believe everyone needs to sail with him. He runs the boat like a Pro and we were very quickly on the same wavelength with our tactics. Heather is a Bay City sailor and relatively new to the Lightning. I started to doubt this on Sunday, as the key to our race wins that day was incredibly fantastic spinnaker trimming on her part. They were both very calm and positive even when I left the vang on at the weather mark and spun the boat out in a gybe. Oops. Saturday had a really great 15+ knot breeze with full on hiking and depowering and a couple really good planes downwind. The courses were well over a mile long giving the chance to really work on boat speed. One of the things I really focused on at this regatta is something I learned from David Stark last year. Basically he said the secret to success in these conditions is to keep a rock steady angle of heel through the puffs and the lulls. To this end I never stopped working the backstay, sheet, traveller and vang. My crew laughed out loud at the spaghetti that was next to me at the end of each upwind leg. Team Morin lead by Marcy Levy, with Kevin and Matt won all three races on Saturday by never making any mistakes.

Now the highlight of the weekend; the party on the island. I didn't realize that the barbeque dinner was BYO. Another oops. Many thanks go to George and Ann Siegle from Lake Lansing who brought enough food for an army and invited us to join them for dinner. I think you can probably imagine the scene: campfire, keg, corn hole, Trey Rose (sporting a yellow thong), amber fluid, etc. It was also Jody's Birthday to boot! But what you can't imagine was the full moon rise over the lake right in front of us while we made s'mores. And then...wait for it....fireworks! No not Trey, real fireworks launched by the neighbors down the beach. What a way to end the day!

Sunday's racing was in less breeze than Saturday and I could tell that my team was ready to sail really well as they were both on the boat and had it rigged before me. We were 4 points out of First place with Sarah Somes and Tre Rose both 5 points behind. Ok, today needed to be our day not to make any mistakes. Ok, I know we weren't mistake free, we did miss some shifts and were on the wrong side once, but again good boat speed and great focus from Heather and Jody got us right back and we won both races on Sunday. Unfortunately for Team Taylor Swift (aka Team 313, aka... you know) didn't plan on Sara Some's team of Liz Wallace and Jim Thompson having a great day and being really fast. They were right on our heels constantly pushing us very hard to be higher and faster and were also the boat that we needed to have between Team Morin and us each race. With Sara so close all the time, they weren't very happy with my adept ability to nail the lay lines, (uh no, how about not nail them? Or find the leeward mark? Sorry Sarah).

Anyway, kudos to everyone at the Higgins Lake Boat Club for a fantastic regatta, for making it all seem really easy, for setting great, long courses and hosting all us crazy square boat sailors. Special thanks to Heather and Jody who sailing with was really the highlight of the weekend. Everyone NEEDS to come sail here and experience this idyllic setting for themselves. Or you could always take your Lightning to the Caribbean. Right?!