

Mississippi Valley District Championship
Harbor Island Yacht Club - Fleet 262
Nashville, Tennessee
June 20-21, 2015

POS	SAIL#	TEAM	CLUB/FLEET	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOTAL	NET
1	15364	Gerry Paoli, Susan Paoli, Ian Moriarty	CSA/266	1	5	1	2	1	6	16	10
2	14176	William Hofmeister, Mandy Hofmeister, Don Kaufman	HIYC/262	4	1	2	1	2	7	17	10
3	15308	Bill Killebrew, Michal Osborne, Michael Dunn/Kathy Osborne	HIYC/262	5	2	3	5	5	1	21	16
4	15566	Terry Burke, Bryan Burke, Henry Tellini	CSA/266	3	8	7	3	4	3	28	20
5	14191	Greg Florian, Colin Florian, Nick Florian	Decatur, IL	2	4	4	6	7	5	28	21
6	15078	Anthony Passafiume, Sarajane MaMahon, Nathan Rottering	HIYC/262	9	3	5	4	3	8	32	23
7	14065	Carl Panetta, Lynn Jones, Joshua Panetta	DSA/274	7	6	6	7	6	2	34	27
8	15206	Lucas Hofmeister, Joey Roberts/Joey Groszek, David McMullen	HIYC/262	6	9	8	8	8	4	43	34
9	14666	Crit Currie, Richard Murff, Tim Ryan	DSA/274	8	7	9	9	DNS	DNS	53	43
10	15445	Dan Moriarty	CSA/266	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	60	50
11	14488	Bill Baxter	DSA/274	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	60	50
12	15078	Bruce Richards	HIYC/262	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	60	50

Regatta Chair Bill Killebrew, Registration Rob Hempel
PRO Bruce Richards, RC Peter Bennett, Denis Colby, Mark, Rob McDonald, Paul Latour
Stand by protest committee Jim Waller, John Robertson, Paul Latour

On the weekend of June 19-21 competitors from Carlyle, Nashville, and Memphis came together at the Harbor Island Yacht Club for the Mississippi Valley District Championship. As some of you may know I recently took a job coaching sailing at JWorld Annapolis. Most people would think you'd be crazy to leave Annapolis to go sail on Old Hickory, but they likely have never been to Old Hickory. Affectionately referred to as Nashvegas for its memorable or not so memorable parties and roulette styled sailing arena, I plan to be coming back to Harbor Island for years to come.

I arrived in Nashvegas mid afternoon on Friday and was greeted at the air port by Gerry and Sue Paoli. (two of my favorite people to sail with) With the news that they had already rigged the boat, I grinned knowing it was going to be a laid back Friday evening going into the regatta. The familiar Harbor Island gates opened and I immediately felt at home. We were quickly met by The Hofmeister's, Team Killebrew, and the rest of the early birds. They introduced us to the beer coolers for the weekend placed nicely under the tiki bar down by the docks. Gerry silenced the crowd to have them listen to "the best sound at the lake" as he opened his first ice cold brew *Pffft - Clink*. Everyone cheered in delight.

After kicking back a few cold ones and sharing many stories, the group slowly thinned out as Team Burke arrived. We backed the new NEW Topflash 2 into a spot and put it to bed for the night. The forecast for the next day was for some misty remnants of tropical storm Bill and some gusty breeze.

We awoke to some light rain that would quickly move through. The boats were splashed and the fleet made its way out to the course. The breeze was gusty and very shifty, it was a gear shifting kind of day and we knew we would have to be on our toes. After tuning up and gathering the best data we could on the conditions the first sequence was under way. Our PRO Bruce Richards was bound and determined to get us six races in two days, courses as even as possible, and with the distance one might find at a North American Championship. We got off the line with a beautiful boat end start and had a nice early lead. It wasn't spoken but we knew we had a huge target on our back, as the old saying goes, "Never lead a race too early in Nashville." Extending our lead on the first run we breathed a little easier. But it wasn't over yet, as the fleet clawed their way back. Going into the finish our heart rates were up as multiple boats nipped at our heels, but we managed to hold on and successfully lead an entire race on Old Hickory. That would be the only time that happened in this regatta. The next five races would each be a battle. We traded races with team Hofmeister and at the end the day, with four races in the book we were one point behind the local favorites.

There was the usual post racing libations ashore followed by dinner at the Pour House. We ate and drank our fill then made our way back to the hotel where we quickly passed out.

The next day we were blessed with more breeze that would lighten as the temperature rose. We knew what we needed to do: beat team Hofmeister. The opposite, I am sure was their plan. Gerry seemed to be lining up for another phenomenal start, but we ended up a nose over early. We quickly spun around and refocused. With clear air we stayed in phase and let Legs do what she does best, stretch her legs. By the windward mark we were in the lead with the second place boat close behind and Team Hofmeister a few boats back. We focused mainly on covering them. They were climbing through the fleet well though and we were pushed into winning the race. The top five boats finished within 1-2 boat lengths of each other, thankfully with us at the front of the pack. Now we were tied and winning the tie breaker. As the temperature rose the competitions similarly heated up. The wind had lightened significantly going into the start of the last race. We were slow off the line and out of phase the entire first leg. Sitting in last place at the first mark we just had to stick with it and try to get in front of team Hofmeister. As it was we were both sailing our throw out race, but we wanted to reel them in just in case this changed. We were able to pass two boats on the second beat, one being team Hofmeister, and coasted into the finish line with the regatta secured.

The top three boats ended up being Team Paoli, Hofmeister, and Killebrew. It was a wonderful weekend of racing and camaraderie. A huge thanks and props goes out to the fleet at Harbor Island who put on a wonderful event as always, their hospitality is hard to beat. District Commodore Killebrew put on a wonderful show of organizing the event. PRO Bruce Richards used the great weather he ordered for us to the fullest, getting us six tightly fought races.

Finally, to those within and beyond the district: It should be noted what a wonderful district we have. The Mississippi Valley District is home to some great Lightning sailors, regattas, and personalities. I am happy to consider these people close friends and even family. Home of The Mid-Continent regatta in Carlyle the last weekend of April, The Hernando Desoto Regatta in Memphis in mid May, and The Famous Blue Nose Regatta in Nashville the first weekend in November.

As the incoming District Commodore I encourage all Lightning sailors to come visit the MVLD and see what its all about at any of these regattas. I certainly have some work to do to follow up Nashville's showing this year at the Districts.

Best,
Ian Moriarty
Mississippi Valley District Commodore