

Higgins Lake Regatta
Higgins Lake Boat Club – Fleet 110
Roscommon, Michigan
July 26–27, 2014

Saturday: Steady rain subsiding by noon; SW wind 5-15 kts. - 3 races W-L course; 5 legs.

Sunday: Thick fog dissipating by 11:00 AM; SE wind 3-8 kts. w/ intermittent rain showers, shifting to SW, 5-10 - 2 races W-L course; 5 legs.

Pos	Boat#	Skipper	Crew	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	15474	Rob Linden	Meghan Linder	Casey Ray	NCYC	1	1	4	7	3	16
2	14866	Cameron Carlin	Bill Mauk	Zachary Carlin	SHBC, FL	4	3	6	1	2	16
3	313	Matthew Morin	Kevin Morin	Marcie Levey	CSYC	2	2	1	2	15	22
4	15543	Ryan Flack	Jim Thompson	Madyson Flack	PYC	9	12	2	4	1	28
5	15515	Chris Princing	Jennifer Princing	Jenna Princing	TBYC	3	7	7	10	6	33
6	14690	Nick Harris	Caleb Mathers	Josh Abbott	PYC	7	11	8	3	5	34
7	15430	John McCree	Amy Abramczyk	Maureen Ferries	BCYC	5	5	12	8	4	34
8	14774	Tom Vickers	Harvey Spriggs	Lindsey Vickers	CSYC	6	4	3	14	8	35
9	14628	Andy Monique	Jay Monique	Sam Monique	PYC	8	8	10	5	7	38
10	14301	Ryan Mabie	Jack Greve	Kevin	DLYC(WMU)	12	6	9	6	9	42
11	14933	Terry Hart	Kalyn Froeschle	Jennifer Distefano	BCYC	10	9	5	9	11	44
12	14021	Emery Scheibert	Dave Corcoran	Spencer Doyle	BCYC	11	13	11	13	10	58
13	14054	Alan Krauss	E. Panyard/F. Krauss	Jonathan Krauss	HLBC	14	10	14	12	12	62
14	14511	Matt Warner	Charlene Warner	Addisyn Warner	PYC	15	14	13	11	14	67
15	14449	Dale Krcek	Paul Cuthbertson	Mary Gemberling	PYC	13	15	15	15	13	71
16	11844	Branden Warner	Abbi Warner	Rich Warner	PYC	17	16	16	16	17	82

Race Committee: Stan Dent, Brad Baerlocher, Sharron Murray, Jean Wertman

The 2014 HLBC Regatta was a big success. boats participated in this every other year event.....and despite the rain, had allot of fun as well as challenging sailing. Congrats to Rob & Megan Linden and Casey Ray on their regatta victory. Here’s their story:

Being my first time attending the Higgins Lake regatta I did not know what to expect. My wife Meghan had been there before with Tom Vickers so she gave me a few highlights. Clear water, a club on an island, and a Caribbean meets northern Michigan atmosphere, awesome I thought, and it was. Most of the teams arrived on Saturday morning to a consistent drizzle. Spirits were high though and everyone helped getting the boats through lunching bottle neck and into the lake. For those that haven't been to the Higgins lake regatta, the club is located on an island in the middle of the lake. Boats were towed over and moorings setup. Camping is provided on the island nearby the club house. Soon after arriving on the island the clouds cleared and a nice 8-15kt westerly filled in. Lunch was served following a relaxed skippers meeting conducted by RC Stan and crew. The first two races were sailed in a freshening breeze with short chop. The boats that were able to get off the start and to the middle left of the first beat picked up an island induced left shift and lead around the first mark. Quick oscillations downwind meant that you had to be alert to boats escaping around you in a nice puff. After a challenging race Rob Linden, Casey Ray, and Meghan Linden took the gun followed by Matt Morin, Kevin Morin, and Marcy Levy. The second race proceeded much like the first in a gradually lightening breeze with Team Linden and Morin taking 1st and 2nd. For the third race the RC adjust the course and set off the starting sequence. Several teams were OCS, as the pin end was loaded with boats working to get the left side of the course. The regatta leaders and several others found themselves heading back to the line for a place in the cheap seats. Boat speed was king in the 3rd race with a left over chop and lightening breeze.

The biggest story of the Higgins lake regatta is not the racing or the awesome venue, but the amount of new sailors in the fleet. Sailing with Ryan Flack was his 5 year old daughter Madyson (she won her first race). Chris Princing sailed with his daughter Jenny. Their excitement after sailing could not have been greater. John McCree worked very hard to get quite a few interns from the Bay City area involved with lightning sailing and to the regatta. It was great to see new faces in the fleet and see so much excitement about sailing.

Sunday morning greeted the competitors with dense fog. It was clear from the bottles, cans, and shot skis remaining on the bar that a good time had been had by all the night before. Fortunately strong coffee, bagels, and egg bake can cure all but the worst hangover. The fog cleared mid-morning and the race committee sent us out. Team Morin was leading the regatta into Sunday, hoping to hold on through the rapidly shifting breeze. They managed a solid first race in the top 3 behind Bill Mauk and Cameron and Zach Carlin to comfortably lead the regatta. Only needing to finish 2nd from last to secure the regatta win they lead out of the start of the last race. Storms approaching from the west disturbed the gradient wind causing big shifts down the first run. 2nd beat became a fetch to the windward mark. The wind died only to return several minutes later with a vengeance from behind. Team Flack with 5 year old daughter Madyson somehow escaped the chaos to lead by 200yds over 2nd place, team (insert 2nd place team here). The wind gods were not kind to team Morin leaving them in last place by the finish line. Team Bill Mauk and Cameron & Zach Carlin put together a great day with a 1,2 for Sunday to tie for the regatta lead with Team Linden.

The Higgins lake boat club put together a great regatta. I will definitely be coming back in the future. I would like to give a big thank you to everyone that put some much effort into make it a great weekend. Thank you.

Rob

Well, another Higgins lake event is in the books. Very successful again; going to every other year really seems to have helped this event. There were 16 boats even though 3 or 4 teams dropped out just before the weekend, so it could easily have been 20+! But perhaps we should acknowledge the downside. We arrived and unpacked in light rain on Saturday, leaving a wet boat cover to be managed. We packed up just before a drenching downburst Sunday afternoon that soaked every piece of gear we owned that didn’t float, towed back to the mainland in light rain, and spent two days drying out.

In between, we enjoyed a quintessential gathering of the clan on Treasure Island, the jewel of Higgins Lake, with 16 teams that included future district champions, family teams with remarkably young kids and first-time helmsmen, old friends that have sailed together for many years, pick-up teams sailing together for the first time, college teams, womens teams, past and future junior teams. I don't think there is a more beautiful place to sail in Michigan! We were on an island in the middle of the lake, surrounded by crystal clear blue waters, a nice beach, and a clubhouse with restrooms and a place to cook. We camped, we slept in hammocks, we cottaged with old friends. We grilled dogs and burgers and delicacies, we shared beer and wine, and Scotch or Irish whiskey, and traditional rum beverages and fruity beverages too. Tom Vickers was extremely happy to share his Scotch with whoever would walk by. We played games of skill and chance, and volleyball. We kayaked around the island, and learned the importance of a drain plug. We took pictures together at sunset overlooking the lake, toasted marshmallows over the embers of a roaring fire, and awoke in the morning to the sound of giggling children and thick fog that surrounded the boats on their moorings.

There was some racing too. Once skies cleared Saturday afternoon, perennial PRO Stan Dent treated us to three races in SW 5-15 on the deep side of the island, a long pre-NA style W/L with large oscillating shifts, and two shorter races that placed more premium on boat-handling and starts. Some of the younger/lighter teams had some moments of hard hiking. Sunday came and it was foggy. So foggy they kept us on shore! Of course there was no wind either. But once the fog lifted and the breeze filled in, we were coaxed into two more races in a slowly building SE 3-8 on the sheltered side of the island. In the final race of the weekend, the expected SW 5-10 arrived on the run, collapsing the breeze, inverting the fleet, and shuffling some of the scores.

While the rain filled our boats, Rob and Meghan Linden and Casey were crowned Higgins Lake Champions (on tie-breaker), with 'local' Cam Carlin, son Zachary, and Bill Mauk awarded runner-up. The brothers Morin and Marci unexpectedly dropped to second runner-up in the final shift of the day, and the family teams of Ryan and Madyson Flack and Jim, and Chris and Jen and Jenna Princing moved up into the trophies. Special recognition trophy was awarded to first-time helmsman Branden Warner, sailing with Abbi and Uncle Rich, the younger half of the two-boat family campaign of super-dad Matt Warner. Then as we were getting ready for towing boats over to the mainland ramp, they called us in off the water to take shelter as the thunderstorms hit us, with an amazing amount of water! Oh well, most people just shook it off and got a little wet, but they all went home happy!

Many thanks to regatta organizer John Dent, Brad Baerlocher, and all the many volunteers that registered us, fed us and ferried us to and from the island.

John McCree
Christopher Princing

