

Pymatuning Independence Day Regatta
Pymatuning Yacht Club
Jamestown, Pennsylvania
July 6-7, 2013

Pos	Sail#	Skipper	Crew1	Crew2	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	15288	Matt Frymier	Lesley Cook	Greg Maras	1	1	2	1	5
2	15202	Bill Buckles	Stuart Wallave	Scott Vining	7	2	1	2	12
3	15420	Ryan Ruhlman	Tesse Ruhlman	Shane Laplante	4	3	3	3	13
4	15015	John Werley	Bertie Werley	Evan Rumble	2	5	5	4	16
5	15112	David Werley	Matt Werley	Samantha Maras	3	4	4	5	16
6	15000	Tim Werley	Gwen Mulvey	John Bennett	5	10	6	6	27
7	14885	Doug Blackburn	Lis Blackburn	Lauri Cotton	6	10	8	7	31
8	14546	Victor Maras	Patrick Pollock	Sam Werley	8	10	7	10	35
9	13608	Karl Felger	Michael Hampton	Dustin Graef	9	10	10	10	39

The Pymatuning Independence Day Regatta is an annual event that somehow always seems to change a bit without losing sight of its deep history. This multi-class regatta has been running continuously for 66 years and has a history deeply entwined with the Lightning Class.

This year we had Thistles, Lightnings, Flying Scots, J-22s and Highlanders, all with dedicated starts over the weekend of July 6-7. Pymatuning is a great spot for sailing in the Midwest. As one competitor said a few years back, "you show up, you write one check, and you get some great races, some great food, and some great entertainment without ever getting back in your car."

That, along with the wonderful history of this place, is what keeps me coming back every year from my home in California. The combination of multiple classes, challenging weather conditions and inconsistent wind direction made the Race Committee work extra hard to get in four races over two days. The good news is that our PRO was former ILCA Class President Rob Ruhlman, who, along with his crack team, did a fantastic job of managing the race course and start/finish lines.

The other bit of good news was that my crew for the weekend was outstanding. Fellow PYC "lifers" Lesley Frymier Cook and Greg Maras were fantastic, both on the race course and off! What else can you ask for during a holiday weekend? Saturday was what I like to call "classic pond sailing"—light and shifty with some puffs that maxed at 8-9, and 30 degree shifts were commonplace. After several line and weather mark resets, we were off. The conditions made it easy to pass or get passed on shifts upwind and generally pressure downwind, which happened to everyone at least a couple times in this regatta.

We were lucky enough to get off the line well and lead at the first mark, and even luckier to round the weather mark in a puff that we were able to ride right down into the Thistle fleet that was parked at the gybe mark due to lack of breeze. After one of those "pinwheel" mark roundings where the outside boat was making room for nine of her very best friends, the committee thankfully shortened course and finished us at the weather mark. John Werley and supercrew Bertie Werle and Evan Rumble had a strong last leg to challenge our lead, but we were able to hang on for the bullet. John was followed by his brother Dave Werley and Ryan Ruhlman, who did a fine piece of sailing to pass several boats after having to do a 720 right at the start.

The second race was even flukier. We didn't get off the line well, went around the weather mark fourth, but managed to dig low on the first downwind leg and catch a nice personal puff that transported us to the gybe mark second. From that point, the wind lightened even further, and we all managed to semi-sail, semi-drift across the finish line. Bill Buckles was just behind us to finish second, followed by Ryan Ruhlman and Dave Werley.

Sunday brought much more pleasant conditions, with 8-12 from the West. Still shifty, but certainly more fun! The racecourse was set up a bit shorter due to the wind direction, and we managed to get two races in before the starting deadline of 12:30. One of the best things about sailing at Pymatuning is the sportsmanship that is almost always on display. This was abundantly clear during Sunday's first race, when the three lead boats (Ryan Ruhlman, Bill Buckles, and myself, in order) were inadvertently about to cross the very long and restricted start/finish line (it was long to accommodate the 40+ boat Thistle fleet!), which would have disqualified us all from the race. John Werley, directly behind the pack, stood up and yelled and pointed, and we all instantly gybed, saving the regatta for all three of us. What a wonderful display of sportsmanship from a fellow competitor – thanks John! We were able to hang on for a second in that race, as Buckles passed us at the leeward mark. In the last race of the series we were over early, but we were able to find some nice shafts of pressure and favorable shifts up the middle of the first beat to lead at the weather mark and able to hold on for the rest of the race.

For any of you that haven't been to Pymatuning, it's certainly worth a visit. Great sailing, great competition, and great fun. Next season we will host the Independence Day Regatta the weekend of July 5 and 6, and we will also host the 30th Annual Spring Classic in May. Come visit and compete!

Matthew Frymier