

# Michigan District Championship

Women's / Juniors'

Tawas Bay Yacht Club – Fleet 216

Tawas, Michigan

June 29–30, 2013

Pos	Sail#	Skipper	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	14937	Jennifer Princing, Kirsten Corneliussen, Zak Bowdish	2	1	1	4
2	15430	Carrie Houtman, Amy Abramczyk, John McCree	1	4	3	8
3	15313	Emily Simon, Jody Kjoller and Anneliese Kittrel	6/DNS	2	2	10
4	14933	Kaelyn Froeschle, Kim Shotwell, Terry Hart	3	3	5	11
5	15471	Devon Kinney, Charlotte Rose and Trey Rose	4	5	4	13

Principle Race Officer: J.William Coberly

## 2013 Women's Lightning District Championship Recap – Jennifer Princing

The women of the Michigan District are stronger than ever – look out guys.

I had the pleasure of sailing in the Women's Lightning District event on Friday, June 28. This was the third year of the revival of the W's and Junior's regatta in the Michigan District and it's great to have it back. I can remember in the "old days" this being a fun event; I'm not sure when it was discontinued. We've brought the event back under "BCC (Buffalo Canoe Club)" rules which allow for one of the three crew, but not the skipper, to be of any age or gender. This is intended to increase participation by allowing the boat owner to participate and increase the comfort level for all.

This year's edition was held at my home club, Tawas Bay Yacht Club. We always look forward to sharing our beautiful bay and great sailing conditions with visitors. Unfortunately, this morning greeted us grey and chilly with rain in the forecast. My team included Kirsten Corneliussen, a recent University of Michigan graduate who most recently raced with me at the 2011 Rolex Women's Keelboat Regatta and Zach Bowdish, who stepped in after a last minute cancellation. Zach is regular crew on my husband Chris' new Lightning and our J22. Thanks to my brother in law Matt we were sailing the always reliable, always fast Scars & Scrapes #14937.

We left the dock under a steady rain and headed for the racecourse. The first puffs we saw on the water turned out to be "wets", so we adjusted our expectations a bit. We were able to get in a few tacks, a spinnaker set, a couple of gybes, and a douse to work out the kinks. Credit to Zach and Kirsten for working well together. Three other boats joined us on the water – Carrie Houtman sailing with John McCree and Amy Abramczyk. Carrie has been helming the boat regularly in the Bay City fleet and she's tough. Kalyn Froeschle on Terry Hart's Hartbeat. Kalyn is a newer Lightning sailor and by all appearances did a great job at the helm. And Devon Kinney on Spinnaker Ninja. We got in race 1 and were also joined by Emily Simon - the new owner of the old 313. Five boats made for good, competitive fleet racing. Finishes were fairly tight, and determined in some cases by either making or avoiding small mistakes. Kirsten and Zach did a great job for me keeping up the communication and letting me focus on just driving. A highlight for us was coming up the last beat, fairly secure with 2nd place in the race and 1st in the event – when we realized we had a chance to catch Emily for the final win. A couple of good tacks, some good communication from my team, and a small favorable shift put us in front for a great finish.

I always love the opportunity to take the helm. It's a different challenge from my normal crew role and leaves me energized about racing. If your team hasn't incorporated giving the crew a chance to drive once in a while – give it a try. There are things about trim and tune and boat balance that are just easier to feel with the tiller in your hand, so you learn a lot. Getting a different perspective makes everyone on the team better too. I hope the Women's event continues to grow and that we can find a way to bring in a few Juniors' teams too. Thanks to Chris and Jenna and the Scars team of Matt and Bill for making a few sacrifices to let me get some tiller time and participate in these events.