

2013 World Championship
Club Velico Castiglione
Castiglione del Lago, Italy
June 7-14, 2013

Reports:

Day 5:

The Race Committee made every effort to get some racing in on Friday, June 14th, the last day of the Lightning World Championship, but the wind did not cooperate and there was no racing. Congratulations to the 2013 World Champions, David Starck, Jody Starck and Ian Jones from the USA. This is David Starck's first Lightning World Championship win. This team hails from the Buffalo Canoe Club, Canada.

Lightning Boat Grant Alum Justin Coplan from Nyack Boat Club, Nyack, New York sailing with Danielle Prior and Mike Carney were runner-up. Last weeks International Master Champion Ched Proctor, Cedar Point YC, Connecticut finished third with his team of Jamie Ewing and Meredith Killion. Past World Champions Tito Gonzalez, Cristian Herman and Alberto Gonzalez, Jr from Chile finished fourth. The New Jersey Team of Will Brown, also a past Boat Grant Alum finished fifth with his team mates, ILCA President John Faus and Matty Schon.

This was the 27th World Championship for the Lightning Class. 2013 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Class. "We are very thankful for the Italian Lightning District and the staff at the Club Velico Castiglione in Castiglione del Lago, Italy. They worked very hard and put on a tremendous event" states ILCA President John Faus. This will certainly go down in Lightning Class history as one to remember. Many sailors traveled to Italy with their families. Castiglione del Lago and the region of Umbria was a perfect setting for sailing and site seeing. With sailors ranging in age from 12 to 79, the Lightning Class still has a lot to offer all age groups.

There were 46 boats from over 10 Countries representing 5 different continents. There were over 30 female sailors sailing in the event, including Rosemarie Hartman from Finland who was sailing with her all junior team in her first World Championship regatta. There were 4 all family teams including, Tom Sutton, Diana Strickler Sutton and Jacob Strickler from Houston, Texas. Jacob was the youngest sailor in the regatta at 12 years old. Tom and Diana were celebrating their honeymoon as the two got married just before the regatta. A perfect honeymoon!

This was a very special regatta for Richard Hallagan from Rochester, NY. He celebrated his 20th Lightning World Championship. He has skippered at more Lightning World Championships than anyone else in the Class. His first Worlds were in 1969 in Argentina. He has sailed in 11 countries that represents 8 different languages. He was presented with a signed regatta poster by all participants.

The next Lightning World Championship will be held at the Buffalo Canoe Club, Canada in 2015 (date TBD). The Buffalo Canoe Club will also host the next Lightning Youth World Championship from June 28-July 2, 2014. The US qualifier for the next Youth Worlds will take place this summer at the [Womens, Junior and Master's North American Championship](#) in Nyack, NY August 14-17, 2013.

Day 4:

The breeze has arrived! We had three great races on the shifty Lake Trasimeno. Justin Coplan from the Nyack Boat Club in Nyack, NY sailing with Danielle Prior and Mike Carney took the first race. Tom Allen IV, sailing with his son Karl and crew Valerie Tardif-Holly won the second race. Race three was won by the family team of Larry, Adam and Joy MacDonald. At the end of this day, a throw out race takes effect. Team Starck is in the lead with 17 points, Team Coplan is in second with 24 and Team Proctor is right behind them with 26 points.

Day 3:

No racing due to no wind.

Day 2:

David Starck from the USA sailing with his wife Jody and longtime crew Ian Jones posted two bullets today to take the overall lead in the 27th Lightning World Championship today. Team Starck sailed very consistent in the shifty breeze that Lake Trasimeno offered today. Lightning Boat Grant Alum Will Brown from NJ, USA sailing with ILCA Class President John Faus and Matthew Schon posted a 3, 6 today and are sitting in second place, 9 points behind Starck. Current World Champions Tito Gonzalez, Cristian Herman and Alberto Gonzalez, Jr. from Chile are in third with 20 points. Racing continues tomorrow in this 9 race series.

Day 1:

The Lightning Worlds began today on Lake Trasimeno in Castiglione del Lago, Italy with only one race in breeze from 6-13mph. 46 boats from 10 countries took to the line. Sailors ranged in age from 12 to 80 years old. Current champions, Tito Gonzalez, Cristian Herman and Alberto Gonzalez, Jr took the bullet in the first race. Gonzalez is a five time Lightning World Champion from Chile. Lightning Boat Grant Alum Justin Coplan from Nyack Boat Club, NY finished second with his team of Danielle Prior and Mike Carney. David Starck sailing with his wife Jody and Ian Jones all from the Buffalo Canoe Club, Canada finished third. A second race was started by was abandoned due to lack of wind.

Preview:

The Lightning World Championship starts on Monday, June 10. 46 boats from 10 different countries - Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, Greece, Italy, Nigeria, Switzerland and the United States will be in competition for the 27th title and the field is stacked. Five time ('95, '99, '03, '05 and '11) Lightning World Champion Tito Gonzalez will be there with his reigning champion crew of Cristian Herman and his son Alberto Gonzalez, Jr. This Chilean Team will certainly be one of the favorites.

Two other World Champions are also in the mix, Canadians Peter Hall ('89) and Larry MacDonald ('97). Hall comes off a recent Soling World Champion victory. MacDonald makes this bid with his family team of son Adam, who is the current Lightning Youth World Champion and daughter Joy.

Jody Swanson Starck and Ian Jones won the World Championship in 1997 crewing for MacDonald. This duo is sailing with Jody's husband, David Starck. This American team are the current North American Champion's and have been winning numerous regional regattas over the past year. Starck has been runner up at the Worlds, but has never captured the title.

Brazilian Mario Buckup has won the 1975 Worlds and has won the South American Championship 5 times. Team Buckup is an all family team with Mario's wife Thelma and son Marc.

Amy Smith Linton two time World Champion crew has teamed up with ILCA Past President Steven Davis (skipper) and ILCA Class Secretary Laura Jeffers. Linton won her previous two titles in Europe; Marsala, Italy in 2001 and Athens, Greece in 2007 and is hoping to bring her European luck to this US Team.

Allan Terhune from Annapolis, Maryland USA has won the North American Championships twice ('03 & '08) and was runner-up at the Worlds in 2007. Terhune is sailing with his wife Katie and Sam Perisi.

Tom Allen IV is also another North American Champion and World Champion runner-up. Hailing from Buffalo, NY this team includes Allen's son Karl and Canadian Valerie Tardif-Holly.

Urs Wyler from Switzerland is a 12 time European Champion. He and his crew of Gilbert Durr and Walter Durr are familiar with shifty lake sailing.

Ched Proctor is a 4 time North American Champion, ('93, '94, '00 and '11) and he just won the European Open Championship and International Master Championship this past week with crew Jamie Ewing and Jay Lurie. Meredith Killion replaces Lurie this week and this team is hoping to post back to back regatta titles.

In addition to Team Proctor's success last week, Team Robles from Chile finished second and posted all top single digit finishes.

Gary Schwantz, European Champion in 2010 is sailing with Ilsa Kercher and Timo Schmidt. They are looking for a top finish in the Worlds.

Matt Burrige, 2 time North American Champion crew (05 & 06) has teamed up with skipper Jeff Coppens and Matt's son Patrick to try and capture the title.

The Lightning Boat Grant program will be well represented with 3 past participants all sailing in the competition. Justin Coplan and Will Brown have both taken part in a Lightning World Championship. Last year's recipient Jamie Simmons will be making his first showing at a World Championship.

8 Italian Teams bring local knowledge and will be tough competition.

Dick Hallagan from Rochester, NY has participated in 19 Lightning World Championships; this regatta marks his 20th Lightning World Championship, experience is on his side.

Racing begins at noon Italian time tomorrow. Live streaming video of the racing area will be available for viewing once racing begins. For more information log on to [www.lightningclass.org](#) or visit International Lightning Class on [Facebook](#).

Photos By Giorgio Brusconi

