



2010 CT & RI Lightning District Championships

July 10th & 11th - Madison, CT

Skipper's Name	Sail Number	Club	Race											Total Points	Series Standing
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
Adams Ed	14950	SNP	2	2	1	4	2	3						14	1
Peck David	15215	NBYC	1	1	3	9	3	4						21	2
Crane Jim	15380	NYC	4	3	2	7	9	12						37	3
Cuccio Gianni	15111	CPYC	7	4	8	10	6	2						37	4
Barrett Don	14417	NBYC	6	5	16	2	7	7						43	5
Spira David	15405	CCS	5	21	5	8	4	5						48	6
Colantuono Theresa	14619	NBYC	11	21	17	1	1	1						52	7
Hertzer Dan	14848	NBYC	10	6	7	3	13	13						52	8
Greifzu John	15356	SYC	3	21	10	5	8	8						55	9
Goldman Josh	15171	CPYC	8	21	14	6	5	6						60	10
Hayes Neil	10801	HYC	18	21	11	11	12	9						82	11
Cuttler Jim	14342	MBC	13	21	6	15	11	17						83	12
Millhiser Tim	15400	MBC	15	21	12	14	10	11						83	13
Van Chris	15130	NBYC	9	21	13	12	14	15						84	14
Fried David	14889	CPYC	12	21	9	17	15	10						84	15
Swiggett Jeff	14765	MBC	17	21	4	18	17	14						91	16
Sulzbach J M	11933	MBC	16	21	15	13	16	16						97	17
Stach Robert	14055	NBYC	14	21	18	16	18	18						105	18
Healy Bill	11912	NBYC	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	19
Proctor Ched	14821	CPYC	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	20

High pressure sprawled over New England on July 10-11. Regattas in Newport, Cape Cod, and Boston saw little or no racing..

There was also little wind on Long Island Sound for the CT-RI Districts at the Madison Beach Club. But RC chairman Rob Coster got in 6 races, by starting precisely on time, keeping both the courses and the time between races short, and leapfrogging the course after each upwind finish. Two of the races had so little wind that spinnakers could not be flown, and one required anchoring in the strong spring tide. But the racing was surprisingly good, even though we never touched the hiking straps.

Dave Peck dominated the first day with two wins. The second race hinged on anchoring ability. We studied a chart and made sure we had enough line flaked and ready to pay out, and made big gains in the anchorfest to finish second. Others, who tried to hit bottom with only the 50' tow rope, were washed off the course. We felt sorriest for Theresa Colantuono, who let herself get a bit too far downcurrent and then vainly fought for 30 minutes to make it back to the pin. All she needed was 1 boatlength. Two-thirds of the fleet did not finish.

Theresa redeemed herself on Sunday. Sailing with husband Larry and her 10 year old son Parker, she won the last 3 races, putting Larry's trick traveler system (pulls to weather of centerline) to good use. While there was no anchoring on Sunday, a cross-course tide of nearly 2 knots made things very difficult. A quick jibe at the weather mark to stay upcurrent was key, and saved us in a number of races.

The weather mark approach was just as tricky, because the current was not of constant strength. At one point we were shy of the starboard layline in foul tide about 100 yards out, and I got nervous. "Let's tack," I announced.

"Why?" asked Carol Cronin (my forward hand and 2000 Olympian).

"I hate it when you ask questions like that!" We didn't tack and passed 4 boats that overstood. Sure helps to have brains on board. Our middle hand was 17-year old Dylan Vogel who will be a 3-time Sears Cup finalist by the end of the summer. The finals this year are in Lightnings again. Now if I can just get him to stop calling me Mr. Adams.....

Before the final race on Sunday, we asked Chairman Coster if we'd make it back to watch the start World Cup final. "You don't need to watch soccer," he said. "It will be 0-0. Nobody ever scores. Spain will win in overtime." Spot on again.

Ed Adams