

Red Flannels Regatta  
Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club - Fleet 5  
Chicago, Illinois  
Sept 25-26, 2010

Pos	Skipper/Crew	Fleet	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Drop	Total
1	FAUDE/CORKELL/DRAKE	5/CCYC	1	4	2	3	1	1	(4)	8
2	MENGES/MENGES/MORIARTY	266/CARLYLE	4	1	1	1	2	5	(5)	9
3	STIX/DIAZ/BARRY	5/CCYC	3	3	3	5	3	4	(5)	16
4	R.WALSH/COX/NEILL	279/T. REEF	6	2	4	6	5	2	(6)	19
5	ORLEBEKE/ORLEBEKE/ORLEBEKE	442/F. DU LAC	2	7	5	2	6	DNS	(DNS)	22
6	CONSIDINE/CONSIDINE/CORKELL	5/CCYC	5	5	7	10	7	3	(10)	27
7	L.WALSH/OOSTVEEN/CORNESS	279/T. REEF	7	6	6	4	4	7	-7	27
8	GIBSON/JENKINS/WATERBURY	5/CCYC	8	DNF	DNS	8	8	6	(DNS)	44
9	STEFFENSON/HOLTON/ANDERSSON	5/CCYC	10	9	10	9	9	8	(10)	45
10	FRANCESCHINI/LUKEN/FOSSCECO	270/INDY	9	8	9	11	11	9	(11)	46
11	COX/BROLL/HENRY	279/T. REEF	11	11	8	7	10	DNS	(DNS)	47
12	HANSEN/CANO/KIDWELL	279/T. REEF	12	10	11	12	12	10	(12)	55
13	EHRENBERG/MERCER/PETERS	5/CCYC	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	11	(DNS)	67



A very special thanks goes to all the crash boat drivers and the intrepid members of the Race Committee. Sitting on an anchor in big seas is absolutely no fun, but you guys ran great races and we appreciate it.

The 49th Red Flannels regatta was hosted September 25 and 26 by the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club. In addition to boats from the Midwest Lightning District boats traveled to compete in the regatta from Missouri and Indiana and incredibly 4 teams of road warriors drove 13 hours to attend from Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada. Over the past 15 or so years, the late September weather on the traditional date for the Red Flannels has moderated to the point that competitors have begun to refer to it as the "Red Bikini" or even worse, the "Red Thong". Things have gotten entirely too warm and altogether too mild compared with our memories of the past. Apparently gone were the epic north easterlies of years gone by with 6-8 foot breaking waves and capsizes where boats would be retired early for the winter with broken masts. The Red Flannels it appeared, was toothless.

That's why it is so nice to report that even in the globally-warmed era, we can still have a Red Flannels where a few competitors might actually consider wearing Red Flannels under their foul weather gear!

Saturday dawned partly cloudy with a northerly blowing 18-26 at the Harrison Crib. PRO Bruce Thompson assured the fleet that we would have racing that day, but that he wouldn't send us out onto the lake until he was absolutely sure conditions were sailable and safe. After he personally went out to check out the situation, we were off the dock. The breeze had begun to moderate and was from approximately 20 degrees at 14-17 with 4-5 foot waves and challenging chop just waiting to grab hold of the Lightning's hard chine and send it spinning.

Thompson has been running the Red Flannels for more than 10 years and he knows how to keep sailors racing and from the endless reaching behind the starting line between races you sometimes encounter at other events. On Saturday, he provided the fleet with 5 races totaling 20 miles in a 4 hour period. The fleet dragged itself back in to the club. On the day, only a single boat had capsized. Tired smiles were everywhere. Long time veterans of the regatta were glad the regatta had lived up to its name once more. The regatta organizers were pleased to have provided so much racing given the conditions. There was actually a chill in the air in the boat park after sailing. The Thunder Bay sailors, familiar with sailing in big breeze and seas from sailing on Lake Superior every week, were feeling right at home.

Overnight, Carson and Courtney Menges from Carlyle Lake, sailing 15045 and joined by 1/3rd of the 2009 World Championship team, Dan Moriarty were leading the event. Their performance was remarkable for a couple of reasons. #1, It was the first out of town Lightning regatta to which Carson and Cortney had ever brought their boat and there are not normally 4-5 foot waves on Lake Carlyle. 2, Carson and Cortney are not large humans. Together, they probably weigh less than 250 lbs. That made their total team weight somewhere in the neighborhood of 435. They ignored all of this to win the 3 middle races and lead by 2 points. In second place were Bill Faude, Jared Drake and Mary Corkell from the host club who won the first and 5th races. Following those two teams were team Stix from Chicago, team Richard Wash from Thunder Bay with Chicagoan Amy Neill flying the kite and the Orlebeke family in town from Wisconsin including their 12-year-old son Cole.

A lovely evening inside CCYC ensued with the fleet enjoying the properly-priced libations and the fast, friendly and tasty food for which CCYC is becoming well known amongst sailors. It was especially nice that Kristine Wake and boys made the scene, having traveled down from Sheboygan, WI to visit Tobi Moriarty who is temporarily out of sailing condition but in absolutely amazing 'about to be a mom' condition. We had fun!

The Sunday forecast was for 5-10 knots of breeze from the North East. We were actually concerned that there might not be any racing at all as the breeze died. But the fleet found about 3X what NOAA was calling for as we ventured out past the Montrose point. The waves had had the whole evening to become more regular...but they'd ignored the opportunity and retained their random chop between the crests. It was again vintage Red Flannels weather. There were actually opportunities to lose your competitor in the next wave trough. Just like the old days.

It was so windy, that to ensure safety and therefore continued fun for all competitors, the Race Committee declared the regatta complete after the 6th race was completed. The most sailing fun of the day was the wild ride in from the course. Let's just say that the inside of all the boats were thoroughly cleaned out after this regatta—even those who had been visited by lunch-seeking

Thanks also to Bill Gibson, Lightning Fleet 5 Captain for organizing a great event without much volunteer power.

Let us be the first to invite you to the 50th Red Flannels happening next September at Chicago Corinthian. We can't promise vintage big breeze every year but we can promise the regatta fee will be small and the food will be inexpensive, and the beer will be dirt cheap too. We look forward to seeing you next September.

Bill Faude