

**Fleet 50, Potomac River Sailing Association
Sailing on the Potomac River near Washington DC
Dixie District**

Boat #	Boat Name	Owner
32		Barbara K. Thompson
7603	Pandora II	Robert Astrove
10215	Black Adder	Ted Okada
10226	String Cheese	James W. Greenwell
10527	Confusion	Rob Tompkins
10745	E. G. Vitesse	Walter David Thompson
11288	Bon Joy	David E. Menotti
11369	Many Excuses	Justin Morris
11767	Thunder	Harry H. Keith III
11792	Rogue	Paul A. Maher
11908	Envy	Eric Swanson
11979	Lord Jim	Gloria Gilbert Black
12416		Sam Zadeh
12417	Redline	Doug Taphouse
12473	Chiquita	Jay Gray
13306	Wasabi	Frank Gallagher
13460	Fast 'N Loose	Denise Malueg
13717	Witcher	Robert Wilbur
14019		Dave Millard
14037	Bony Buns	Joe Warren
14096	Gray Ghost	Drew Hudson
14100	Moonshadow	Red Fehrlie
14100	Moonshadow	Amy Devine
14187	!Vaya Chica!	Laurie Duncan
14222	Bathub Gin	Steve Gregg
14375	Out of the Blue	Peter McDonnell
14395	String Theory	Jeffrey Storck
14485	Deux Poissons Et Un Chat	Ron Buchanan
14521	Puf The Magic Dragon	Joseph G. Anderson
14553		Richard Welch
14566	Resistance is Futile	Frank Gallagher
14592	Beedobeat	John R. Butler
14592	Beedobeat	Roger Wright
14627	No More Excuses	Nelson Pemberton
14627	No More Excuses	James Dillard
15142	Shadowfax	Nabeel Alsalam
15195		Patrick McGee
15202		Todd Johnson
1528	Blue Two	David & Barbara Thompson

Fleet Captain	Jeff Storck
Fleet Secretary:& Webmaster	David Thompson
Fleet Treasurer	Frank Gallagher
Fleet Lieutenant for Racing:	Rob Tompkins
Fleet Lieutenant for Development:	Nabeel Alsalam
Fleet Lieutenant for Scoring	Russ Roberts
Potomac Cup Race Organizer:	Rick Welch

MODERNIZING THE FLEET 2004 saw Fleet 50 undertake a modernization program, with several skippers moving up to new boats. First, late in 2003, Nabeel Alsalam purchased 15142 from her first owner, moving up from #14096, *Gray Ghost*. Not to be undone, Pat McGee followed suit by purchasing a brand new NBW Lightning, #15195, moving up from #14187, *Wolf*. Our third 15000-series Lightning joined the fleet in February, when Todd Johnson decided to go for dual fleet membership, coming over from Fleet 329 in Annapolis, and bringing #15202 with him. Then, David and Barbara Thompson determined that they were spending more time fixing 10745, *EGV*, than sailing her, so they ordered a new NBW Lighting, #15228, which was delivered in September. So now, Fleet 50 boasts of four of the 15000 series boats.

But that was not all! Drew Hudson and spouse Sousean Arafeh bought *Grey Ghost* from Nabeel, moving up from #12417, *Redline*. Rick Welch bought #14553 from Jennifer Parrow, moving up from #13460, *Sonho Meu*; and Laurie Duncan bought 14187 from Pat McGee, renaming the boat *Naya Chica!*, and moving up from #13306, *Wasabi*. Then *Sonho Meu* found a new home in North Carolina; *Redline* went to new Fleet 50 skipper Doug Taphouse, and, completing the circle, Frank Gallagher purchased *Wasabi*. We have not had this much change in twenty five years. You definitely need a scorecard to keep up with this action!

In the meantime, Nabeel struggled to name his new translucent-white-hulled boat, trying *Casper* before eventually christening her *Shadowfax*, after the legendary fast white Middle-earth horse from the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. *Shadowfax's* great speed allowed her owner to make many just-in-time appearances. This seems to have paid off for Nabeel (see Fleet 50 Championship series results, below). David and Barbara settled on *Blue Two*, their second blue boat; but Rick Welch and Pat McGee are still working on names for their new treasures.

EVENTS AND RESULTS Fleet 50 sails with the Potomac River Sailing Association, from its harbor at the Washington Sailing Marina, on the Potomac

River just south of Ronald Reagan National Airport. Our season runs from the first weekend in April through the first weekend in November, where we sail on Sundays except during the hot summer months, when we have only Wednesday-evening informal competition. This provides opportunities for our skippers to hit the out-of-town regattas during summer weekends, and to enjoy leisurely cruising when they are not out of town.

We had excellent participation in our local events, and very good results from Fleet 50 skippers who went to out-of-town venues.

LOCAL EVENTS For our first event of the year we hosted the 2004 Dixie District Lightning Labs on a sunny, cool light-air weekend down at Leesylvania State Park. Greg Fisher an extraordinarily good instructor, mentor, and coach showed how to – and helped us to – tune our rigging and set our sails, before taking us out on the water on Saturday for starting drills. 16 boats were there, representing Fleet 50 and several others, including Fleet 52 (Lake Fenton); Fleet 75 (Nyack); Fleet 253 (Susquehanna); Fleet 329 (Annapolis); Fleet 484 (Ithaca); and Fleet 508 (Solomons).

Two weeks later we hosted the 2004 Doc Gilbert Memorial Potomac Cup regatta, under the supervision of event organizer Rick Welch, where 33 Lightnings and 6 Hamptons watched in disbelief as once again Dick Halligan (Fleet 77) led us around the course to take an unprecedented fourth-regatta-in-a-row first place, and his fifth within the past 7 years. Pierce Barden (Fleet 51) took second place, and our own Frank Gallagher took third.



We participated with enthusiasm at the 2004 PRSA Spring Regatta on Memorial Day weekend, where 13 Lightnings mixed it up with 28 other boats, including Albacores, Buccaneers, Interlakes, Hamptons, Lasers, and Penguins. Frank Gallagher took first place on a tiebreaker in the Lightning division; Nabeel Alsalam was second, and Todd Johnson third.

We participated with even more enthusiasm at the 2004 President's/Leukemia Cup, sailing in nice weather with 16 Lightnings in a fleet of 102 total boats on two courses. Nabeel took first place in both events, with Frank Gallagher second and Rick Welch third in the Leukemia Cup.

In the meantime, we had an opportunity to complete 44 races in the PRSA spring and fall series, over sixteen Sundays this season. Steve Gregg, a recently arrived collegiate sailor, surprised us with a first place finish in the spring series, followed by Nabeel, Rick Welch, Drew Hudson, and Paul Maher. The top 5 fall series finishers also were close to each other in finishing, with Frank Gallagher in first place, followed by Rick Welch, Steve Gregg, Nabeel, and Pat McGee. For the entire season (61 races), with credit for participation in local regattas as well as the PRSA races, Nabeel took first place, followed by Frank Gallagher, Rick Welch, Steve Greg, and Pat McGee. During our season we had 25 fleet skippers participating in at least one race during the year.

OUT-OF-TOWN EVENTS During the summer our fleet was well represented in the Dixie District championships at Havre de Grace, where Nabeel Alsalam, Todd Johnson, Frank Gallagher, and Pat McGee qualified to attend the 2004 North American championships; and Steve Gregg, Bob Astrove, and Joe Anderson also competed aggressively. Bob's #7603 was likely the oldest boat to have competed in the Dixie District Championships in 30 years.

Nabeel also went to the Atlantic Coast Championships in Toms River, NJ, where he placed 25th out of a fleet of 52 starters, in heavy air conditions.

Bob Astrove drove #7603 to the Woody Regatta at the Onondaga Yacht Club in Syracuse where he took first place with his dependable crew of Billy Astrove and Matt Klice. David Thompson and Joe Kimak also participated, serving as crew on other wooden Lightnings.

In the meantime, three Fleet 50 skippers took Special Olympian Sailors to the Maryland Special Olympics Championships, July 31 - August 1. Frank Gallagher, Aaron Boesnecker, and Joe Warren took their boats and some Special Olympians to the 2004 Maryland State Special Olympics Sailing Championships on the St. Mary's River on the Eastern shore. They had a good time and the three special Olympians sailing with them enjoyed six races in winds that ranged from 3 to 18 knots.

Then Nabeel went to the North American championships in August, with regular crew Russ Roberts and new recruit Lisbet Kugler, and placed a respectable 21st in the Green Fleet, while Pat McGee, with crew Ian MacLeod and Jose Monteiro, placed a respectable 17th in the Yellow fleet, in very challenging wind and wave conditions. Todd Johnson also competed in the Green Fleet, placing 29th.

In October, Nabeel, Pat McGee, Joe Anderson, and Steve Gregg sailed in the SSA Frigid Digit in Annapolis, another weekend regatta in heavy wind conditions. Then, on October 23rd and 24th Bob Astrove motored down to Kerr Lake for the Borderline Regatta, where he took first place in the Hull Number Handicap Series.

Finally, on the first weekend of November, Nabeel and crew went to the Hampton Fall Fling, where they took second place.

We look forward to next season's events, when we will once again host the Doc Gilbert Memorial Potomac Cup at Leesylvania, as well as the 2005 Dixie District Championships.

GAINS AND LOSSES We said a sad farewell to some long-time friends of Fleet 50. On June 22 Fleet 50 Lifetime Member Mike Arnold passed away after a long illness. Kitty Racine of the Rehoboth Bay Sailing Association, a long-time friend of the Lightning class and many Fleet 50 members, passed away on July 25. Then on September 6, lifetime Fleet 50 member Frank Gentile passed away, after a long illness. We will miss them all.

New to the fleet this year are skippers Jim Greenwell (1026), Doug Taphouse (12417); Sam Zadeh (12416); Todd Johnson (15202); and Ron Buchanan (14485). Todd and Ron will maintain dual-fleet membership, Todd in Fleet 329 (Annapolis), and Ron in Fleet 509 (Hampton). New crewmembers include Andy Baker; Sheila Conlin, Wayne Creed; Lisbet Kugler; Rebecca Newhall, Michelle Savage; Scott Shaw; Bradley Taylor, and Genie Williford.

2005 should be an exciting year for Fleet 50, following a very exciting and satisfying 2004.