

## 2009 Annual Report Lightning Fleet 50

### Skippers and boats

Alsalam, Nabeel	15142	<i>Shadowfax</i>
Anderson, Joe	14521	<i>Puff the Magic Dragon</i>
Asmus, Emily	12417	<i>Redline</i>
Astrove, Robert	7603	<i>Pandora-II</i>
Boaz, Mark	15386	
Bruno, Marian, and Gary Roberts	15117	<i>Shamrock II</i>
Buchanan, Ron	14485	<i>Deux Poissons Et Un Chat</i>
Butler, John	14592	<i>Beedobeat</i>
Dillard, Jim	15311	
Dixon, Doug	584	
Duncan, Laurie	14187	<i>!Vaya Chica!</i>
Fehrle, Red	14100	<i>Moonshadow</i>
Fulton, Bobby, and Brendan Walsh	11792	<i>Rogue</i>
Gallagher, Frank	14566	<i>Resistance is Futile</i>
Greenwell, James	14532	<i>Boonoonoonos</i>
Grimes, Peter	14019	
Kent, Chris and Megan	12416	
Kirby, Collin	14200	<i>Hubris</i>
Kozel, Chris	14395	<i>String Theory</i>
McDonnell, Peter M.	14375	<i>Out of the Blue</i>
McGee, Patrick	15195	<i>It's The Water ...</i>

McKnight, Patrick	14366	
Metlin, Phil, and Andy Clark	10215	<i>Black Adder</i>
Owen, Chandler	13977	<i>Lord Jim</i>
Palmer, Doug and Kelly	10745	<i>EGV</i>
Pemberton, John	14627	<i>Anger Management</i>
Roberts, Russ	14222	<i>Windchaser</i>
Rogers, Alan R.	3343	<i>Little Bit</i>
Ross, Todd	11453	
Storck, Jeff	15256	<i>Ariel</i>
Swallow, Chandler	15052	
Swanson, Eric	11908	<i>Envy</i>
Thompson, David and Barbara	15228 32	<i>Blue Two</i>
Warren, Joe	14037	<i>Bony Buns</i>
Welch, Rick	14553	<i>Sinistra</i>
Wescoat, Andy	15384	<i>Krusty Krab</i>

## **Officers 2009**

Russ Roberts – Fleet Captain

Bob Wilbur – Fleet Secretary

Bob Astrove – Fleet Treasurer

Joe Warren – Wednesday Night Racing Coordinator / Training Coordinator

Jeff Storck - Scorer

David Thompson - Webmaster

Lightning Fleet 50, based at the Washington Sailing Marina just below Ronald Reagan National Airport, sails with the Potomac River Sailing Association for two series, spring and fall. The

spring series runs from April to early June, and the fall series from September to early November. We sail in the stretch of the Potomac River that runs between downtown Washington and the Ronald Reagan National Airport.

“You sail in Washington?” sailors from elsewhere often ask, incredulously. Yes, it’s good small boat territory: the river runs straight there for well over a mile, SE to NW, with plenty of depth for Lightnings. The wind is often from the SE, well lined up for our course, and when a front comes through, it lines up equally well from the NW. The Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial are visible as we sail, and we have very little powerboat chop. It is true that the winds can be shifty; that puts a premium on alertness and small boat tactics. We have a large fleet of Lightnings -- 37 boats, of which 15 sailed during our spring 2009 series and 16 in the fall.

In addition, Fleet 50 organizes and hosts the Doc Gilbert Memorial Potomac Cup Regatta, our premier event of the year, always held in early May at Leesylvania State Park, on a very wide stretch of the Potomac River about an hour by car south of Washington. For the 2009 Potomac Cup on May 2 and 3, 12 boats from out of town joined 13 from our own fleet. PRO Bruce Bingman, serving in this role for the second year, did a splendid job of setting courses and getting us off timely in challenging conditions. The fleet sailed two races the first day, in winds of about 10 MPH for the first race and 8 MPH for the second. As the wind shifted dramatically and then died soon after the third race start, Bingman wisely sent up the “abandon race” flag, sending us in to shore for our traditional Potomac Cup steak dinner in the shelter of the Leesylvania State Park pagoda. On Sunday we sailed three long races in good northeasterly winds and steady, though not cold, rain. The rain ended as we returned to shore, and most sailors changed to dry clothes for the final barbecue and awards ceremony.

First place in this year’s Potomac Cup regatta was taken by Larry McDonald from the Buffalo Canoe Club. Second, Third and Fourth were Jason Werner from the Eastport Yacht Club, Sam Septembre from Solomons Island, and Philip Lange from Rochester, New York. Nabeel Alsalam, highest finisher from our own fleet, was fifth.

Another major event for Fleet 50 is the Leukemia Cup Regatta, organized by the Potomac River Sailing Association at our usual sailing site the first weekend after Labor Day. Frank Gallagher, sailing with Mladen Karcic and Brenna Copeland as crew, was in top form, with four bullets and a second. Next in line were Nabeel Alsalam and John Pemberton.

Winner of the spring series was Nabeel Alsalam, with Craig Huzway and Stefano de Leo as regular crew. Second was Rick Welch, and Pat McGee took third. Fifteen boats competed in this eight race Sunday series.

Sixteen skippers sailed in the seven Sunday fall series, with Frank Gallagher, again with Mladen Karcic and Brenna Copeland as crew for most races, coming out on top. Rick Welch was second, with Nabeel Alsalam in third.

Several fleet members participated in regattas outside our fleet. Nabeel Alsalam, Jim Dillard, Frank Gallagher, Russ Roberts and Dave Thompson competed in the Dixie District Championships at Solomons Island, where Nabeel took fifth. Nabeel Alsalam and Russ Roberts sailed in the Atlantic Coast Championships, and Nabeel, Russ, and Craig Hutzway went to the North American Championships.

Bob Astrove, who usually leaves more than half of our fleet behind him in his beautifully restored Woodie 7605 took first place --for the fifth straight year-- in the annual woody regatta in Syracuse.

A racing schedule as extensive as ours requires commitment from fleet members; 59 fleet members took one or more day out of their own racing schedule to work as PRO or helper in our races or regattas.

Special mention must be made to Collin Kirby, a young sailor who began crewing with fleet member Pat McGee in 2006, while a junior in high school. The ILCA grant program recognized this potential talent and provided him with his first Lightning through the ILCA grant program in spring 2008, receiving the Most Improved Skipper and Skipper of the Year awards from our fleet that year, after placing 11<sup>th</sup> in his fleet in the Lightning class 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Regatta in Skaneateles, N.Y. and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Junior North Americans in Newport. Most recently Collin crewed for first place winner Allen Terhune in Savannah, during the 2009 Southern Circuit, and again in the Atlantic Coast Championships, and came back with new skills, often picking up thirds when he was able to take time off from school during our fall series, and taking third in the Hampton Fling in November 2009. Watch out for him in the future.

We reluctantly report that our long-time friend, fellow sailor, and current fleet president, Russ Roberts, who lives on his 40-foot sloop has moved it to Annapolis, taking his Lightning with him. We will miss him at our Sunday races, but count on seeing him again at the Potomac Cup or other venues.

Bob Wilbur  
Fleet 50 Secretary