

Bruce Goldsmith Memorial Regatta
Devils Lake Yacht Club – Fleet 31
Manitou Beach, Michigan
September 19-20, 2015

Pos	Sail#	Name	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	14148	Mike Thomas	5	1	5	11
2	14975	Skip Dieball	1	12	1	14
3	14249	George Sipel	8	5	2	15
4	14860	Jack Mueller	4	8	3	15
5	313	Matt Morin	3	6	8	17
6	14818	Sjoerd-Jan Vanderhorst	2	11	6	19
7	15513	Trey Rose	6	9	4	19
8	14176	Jacqueline Dieball	9	2	12	23
9	14830	David Laidlaw	16	3	7	26
10	1483	Geoff Moehl	7	4	16	27
11	15430	John McCree	11	7	10	28
12	15531	Mike Welch	10	10	9	29
13	15085	Chris Snyder	12	14	11	37
14	14774	Tom Vickers	13	15	15	43
15	13959	Jeff Clemes	15	16	13	44
16	15148	Jon Cousino	14	17	14	45
17	14842	Paul Nagel	17	13	17	47

As a kid growing up in the Lightning Class at Devils Lake, it only seemed fitting to introduce my daughter, Natalie, to her first Lightning Regatta here on The Happy Boat at DLYC. Natalie had spent the summer in sail camp in Cleveland and after she was done, she asked when we would take her to a regatta. My brother Mike and I circled this weekend at DLYC to be the first (of hopefully many) regattas for Natalie.

Before it was appropriately renamed the "Bruce Goldsmith Memorial Regatta", the Devils Lake Regatta in the fall was always known as the "This One's for Fun" regatta. Well, this year, it was This One's for Fun – WITH KIDS!!! No less than 10 kids under the age of 13 raced on Lightnings in this year's regatta. Meagan Dieball, Mallory Dieball, Dean Dieball, Annika Vanderhorst, Gage Hummel, Grace Hummel, Brooke Snyder, Alex Snyder, Mary Snyder and Natalie Thomas all sailed in, one way or another, 6 of the 17 Lightning Racing! It's awesome to see the next generation of sailors coming up through our class!

The weekend got off to a rocky start on Saturday... With wind speeds in the low 20's and sustained puffs in the upper 20's, the regatta started off with 3 delays and crews watching more college football than gearing up to go sail. While Uncle Mike and I were fine with not sailing, Natalie was completely bummed. After calming her down and getting her a milkshake, we knew she would be ready to go on Sunday.

Sunday brought more of what we were hoping for in her first regatta, 4-8 MPH of breeze so we were going racing! The first race was two laps, WL course with spotty 4 MPH of breeze. Teams that hit the right side off the start extended on the fleet and Skip Dieball was first around the top. We were third at the top and Natalie was pumped. On the second beat, Surge Vanderhorst and Team Morin hit the left side hard and found a few breeze lines to get to the top first and second. Skip and ourselves stayed right on the second beat and rounded third and fourth, respectively. Skip ran down the leaders on the run and the three teams duked it out on the short beat to the finish. Skip slid by both to win the race. Jack Mueller ran us down on the run and finished fourth, we finish fifth.

The second race was started in a very patchy, dying breeze, probably 2-4 MPH. With the light breeze, the race committee decided to change the course to a once around, WL. We started near the boat and tack off the start to head right. Near the top, the wind was swinging 5-10 degrees every few seconds it seemed, but we squeaked around the top first with Jacquie Dieball, with Ernie and Dean crewing, right on our hip. The breeze picked up about then and the two of us extended on the run. We rounded the bottom just in from of Team Dieball and we were able extend to the finish for the win. Natalie was bouncing off the walls with excitement, her first race win. Congrats to Dean too, he was the youngest of the kids sailing at just 5 ½ years old.

The final race of the day was 2 laps, WL course. The wind that started to fill in during the second race was now a solid 6-8 MPH across the course. Skip started at the boat and headed right. George Sipel and ourselves started middle right, and headed out to the right when we were able to tack and cross. Left looked really good early, but at the top the right came in and Geo and Skip were first and second, we rounded third. We made a bad call down the run, gybing inside and George and Skip extended on the fleet. On the second beat we pushed left, and survived to be sixth at the top. Skip and Geo continued extended away from the fleet on the second run, with Skip eventually winning again. We made a good call down wind, again gybing inside and we rounded fifth at the bottom, and finish in the same position.

Sailing in we had no idea the outcome until Surge let us know we were close with Skip. Natalie was so excited that we going to win a trophy, regardless of the place. Not the lesson you want to teach, but it certainly felt good to know we sailed well in her first regatta. It's so cool to go from being the kid on the boat, to having your child on the boat with you!! It will be a great, lasting memory!

At the trophy ceremony, it was a bittersweet reward to our day. As some of you know, this last year we lost our mom, Sue Ann. As the ultimate regatta Mom, she would have been so proud to see her granddaughter sail in her first regatta and come out on top, especially at DLYC. Mikey did a wonderful job telling the story about Mom as we accepted the trophies, explaining how finishing where we did seemed to be destiny. We want to thank everyone that came up after the regatta and gave us hugs, it meant a lot to us!! This one was not only for fun, this one was for Mom!!

Billy Thomas



Team Thomas - Billy, Mikey and Natalie



Left: Tight racing upwind, Center: Team Dieball in the lead, Right: Team Morin



Left: Spinnaker Ninja, Center: Team Sipel, Right: Team Thomas