

45th Annual Burl Harmon Memorial Regatta
Indianapolis Sailing Club - Fleet 270
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 5-6, 2007

All the stars lined up in Indianapolis on the weekend of May 5th & 6th to provide gorgeous weather and plenty of wind. This combination is somewhat rare on inland Midwestern lakes.

17 Lightnings found their way to Geist Lake on the northeast side of the City on Friday evening and Saturday morning in bright sunshine. After assembling their boats and registering, skippers attended the noon skippers meeting where Regatta Chairman Pete McGinity and Race Chairman Paul White briefed the group about conditions on the Lake, the sailing instructions and probable courses.

On Saturday, the wind from the east started light at 5 - 8 knots and increased gradually to 17 - 18 by the fourth race. Two races were run on Sunday morning with the wind again from the east-northeast. The first Sunday morning race started at nine in a 7-9 breeze and increased rather quickly to 15-17. This wind held for the rest of the day. A windward - leeward course to the east or northeast was used for both days. Because the wind was quite strong on Sunday morning, both races were completed by 11 a.m. allowing the out-of -towners to get a jump start on the way home. This had never happened before.

Competition was very close and intense particularly at the top of the fleet with the top three boats sharing the wins in all six races. With six races sailed, there was a throw-out. The final standings found Craig Cobbum (2004 Regatta Champion) with his crew of Mark Kilbey and Rick Lemberg in 1st place followed by Steve Webber with his crew of Donna Webber and Stan Cummins in 2nd and John McCree (2003 Regatta Champ) with Dave Corcoran and Sue Alexander in 3rd.

Trophies were presented to the top five Crews with Brad Wagnon with crew Kevin Keller and Michael Richey taking 4th and Eric Brandt with Becky Young and Steve Morrow in 5th. Only one point separated 1st from 2nd & 3rd with 4th only 4 points back and ahead of 5th by only 1 point. The complete standings are attached.

After the racing on Saturday, the participants enjoyed a barbeque steak dinner preceded by the legendary Bill Buckles super blended "smoothies" and "mudslides".

We know there are many more Midwestern competitive Lightning sailors out there and we invite you to come visit next May 3rd & 4th 2008 for the great 46th annual Indy Open Regatta.

Ken McGinity