

Windshift Regatta
Leatherlips Yacht Club – Fleet 27
Powell, Ohio
June 9–10, 2007

Pos	Sail#	Skipper/Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
1	15317	Steve Weeber, Donna Weeber, Stam Cummins	Cowan (303)	2	1	1	3	(5)	4	11
2	15172	James Taylor, Karla Varley, Jim Diemar	Cowan (303)	1	2	4	2	4	(6)	13
3	14897	Kurt Andrews, Mike Mirarchi, Sean Dillon	Leatherlips (27)	4	7	2	(8)	2	2	17
4	14952	Tom Varley, Jon Varley, Zack Austin	Mansfield (150)	5	3	(8)	6	3	1	18
5	14110	Dick Pugh, Nate Ireland, Bridget Irelane	Cowan (303)	3	6	(7)	7	1	3	20
6	15191	Eric Brandt, Becky Young, Josh Lehman	Leatherlips(27)	7	4	3	1	7	(8)	22
7	14390	Jim Stone, Ed Auer, Marty Calabrese	Mansfield(150)	6	5	5	4	(8)	5	25
8	14925	Mike Brock, Mike Lovullo, Jim Fenzl	Cowan (303)	(8)	8	6	5	6	7	32

On June 9 Leatherlips Yacht Club (LYC) welcomed 8 Lightnings for the annual Windshift Regatta. If ever there was an accurate name for a regatta it's the "Windshift". LYC sits on a section of the Scioto River outside of Columbus, Ohio. The river has been deepened and widened by the nearby O'Shaughnessy Dam. The word "widened" is relative. In most places the river is less than 200 yards wide. And of course it's in a valley. This combination leads to sailing conditions that have been described as challenging, vexing, frustrating, infuriating, maddening, and several other adjectives not fit to print. Over the last six years no one has been able to deal with the unique conditions better than Cowan Lake's Jim Taylor. Jim had a six year winning streak going in to this year's regatta, tying Tom Varley's record.

Saturday produced a warm, sunshine filled day. Winds averaged 5 to 10 mph out of the NE. By Leatherlips standards the shifts were moderate. In other words, no 120 to 180 degree shifts, only 30 to 90 degree shifts. Race one had Jim Taylor finishing in his customary 1st place with Cowan Lake fleet mates Steve Weeber in 2nd and Dick Pugh in 3rd. Race two had the same two 1st and 2nd place boats, only reversed with Weeber 1st and Taylor 2nd. Tom Varley finished 3rd. After two races the regatta began to look like a two boat contest with Taylor and Weeber tied with 3 points. Race three turned out to be a pivotal race in the series. The race started with a large right hand shift with most of the fleet plied up at the windward end of the starting line. Weeber got the worst of it getting off the line dead last. As the rest of the fleet sailed off to the left side of the river, Weeber worked the right side. He recovered to a close 2nd around the windward mark. With some good crew work he was able to pass the leading boat downwind and held on for the win. Leatherlips sailors Kurt Andrews and Eric Brandt used their local knowledge to finish 2nd and 3rd followed by Taylor in 4th place. The last race of the day saw Eric Brandt get the lead just before the weather mark and win the race. Taylor passed Weeber just after the weather mark to finish 2nd with Weeber finishing 3rd. The totals for the day were Weeber with 7 points, Taylor with 9 points, and Brandt had 15 points.

Sunday started with the same weather except the wind was stronger at 7 to 13 mph. Jim Taylor was looking to use his match racing skills to gain an advantage over Weeber at the start. Weeber on the other hand would have none of it. Neither Weeber nor Taylor got a good start. That honor went to the crafty veteran Tom Varley who timed a hole shot at the committee boat to take the early lead. However, it was another veteran, Dick Pugh who dusted off his skills to win the race. Kurt Andrews finished 2nd and Varley was 3rd. Taylor and Weeber were 4th and 5th.

The sixth and last race would allow a throw out for the series, which had the potential to shake up the standings. The wind had shifted to the east, so a very short, seven legs W-L course was set. The 1st and 2nd place boats once again resumed their dance during the starting sequence. Weeber got the best of it when Taylor was over early and had to spin around the pin to restart. For the rest of the race, Weeber loosely covered Taylor. With legs that averaged only 3 minutes, the action was fast and chaotic. The three man, 700 lb., 350 sq. ft. spinnakered boats did their best impersonations of college FJ's. After only 22 minutes Tom Varley won the race with Kurt Andrews 2nd and Dick Pugh 3rd. The race was Kurt Andrew's third 2nd place in four races moving him into 3rd place overall. Jim Taylor finished 2nd overall, with Steve Weeber holding on to his two point lead from the day before to win the regatta.

The fleet owe thanks to Eric Brandt and Kurt Andrews for their efforts to set up the regatta. A special thanks was given to George Auer who traveled from his home in Cleveland to literally run the races single-handed. Without his selfish service the regatta would not have been the success that it was.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Weeber, #15317