

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

BRAZIL DISTRICT REPORT

District Secretary: Cyril W. Milbourne (Sao Paulo)

Deputy Dist. Sec: Fernando Pimentel Duarte (Rio de Janeiro)

Fleets: Flotilha de Lightnings do Rio de Janeiro (84); Flotilha Carioca de Lightnings (144); Flotilha de Lightnings de Sao Paulo (147); Flotilha de Lightnings de Florianopolis (162); Flotilha de Lightnings de Vitoria (234); Flotilha de Lightnings de Pernambuco (245); Flotilha de Lightnings do Parana (259).

District Report: The District of Brazil began its 1954 season with seven registered fleets based in the Federal District (Rio) and in the States of Sao Paulo, Sta. Catarina, Espirito Santo and Pernambuco. During the year one more fleet obtained its charter and this unit known as the Flotilha de Lightnings do Parana is based in the State of Parana.



The 1954 Brazilian Lightning Championship was held this year on Guarapiranga Lake and was organized by the Sao Paulo Fleet. The races were held in conjunction with the regattas of those organized under official auspices to celebrate the IV Centenary of the City of Sao Paulo. Honors went jointly to Fernando Pimentel Duarte (Rio) and Bendito Levi (Sao Paulo) who tied on points. Both sailed brilliant races.

The principal annual event of the season in Brazil continues to be the inter-fleet (Rio vs. Sao Paulo) series of races sailed alternatively in the waters of each fleet. Four boats per fleet participate and sail as a team. The Sao Paulo Fleet won the 1954 series for the "Eterna-matic" trophy for the third consecutive time. The leading helmsmen of each centre participate in this event.

It is evident from reports that the fleets based in Rio and Sao Paulo continue to be the most active, although races were sailed regularly at the other centre. It is rather unfortunate that the distances separating the bases of the various fleets are so far apart. This is a drawback and precludes frequent inter-fleet meetings.

Apart from the individual increase in the Class, it is evident that keenness did not wane in 1954 and we now look forward to a bright 1955 season.

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Eric J. Weisberg

District Secretary: Marold Eyestone

Fleets: Santa Monica Bay Fleet (102); Newport-Balboa Fleet (107); San Diego Bay Fleet (114); Mission Bay Fleet (194).

District Report: We in California, extend our greetings to every member all over the world, and send an invitation to all to come west and enjoy sailing in our waters in all seasons of the year.

The interest in Lightnings in our district has been stimulated considerably with the class hosting the Mallory Series eliminations. Under the able leadership of Carl Ackerman of Fleet No. 114 and Bill Pirie of Mission Bay Fleet No. 194, the S.C.Y.A. and Y.R.U.S.C. Semi Finals were run off in great shape, with Austin



Rounding 1st Mark at Mission, Bay San Diego

Peoples of C.B.Y.C. and Carl Eichenlaub of M.B.Y.C. winning respectively. The finals of the series were held under the auspices of C.B.Y.C. with Cliff Cos of Y.R.A. and the two aforementioned battling in a six race series. Carl Eichenlaub was the winner and represented the District in New Orleans.

Our District Championship Regatta this last July was by far one of the most successful events of the year. Under the superb leadership of Eric Weisberg, Commodore, and the efficient committees from Fleet No. 194 of Mission Bay Y.C. Fun and good racing was enjoyed by all. Ty Vaughn of M.B.Y.C. Fleet No. 194 was crowned the champion with M. Eyestone of C.B.Y.C. Fleet No. 102 second, and Bill Pirie of M.B.Y.C. No. 194 third.

At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to attending the Grand-Daddy of all, the Thanksgiving Regatta at Coronado Y.C. This regatta, like all lightning regattas, promises to be a tremendous success.

Again we send our best regards from the California District to all and to all good racing!

CENTRAL ATLANTIC DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: David C. Langworthy

District Secretary: James G. Carson

Fleets: Barnegat Bay (3); Delaware River Yacht Club (8); Tri-State Yacht Club (18); Little Egg Harbor (26); Metedeconk River (34); Shore Acres Yacht Club (86); Spray Beach Yacht Club (91); Toms River (92); Great Egg Harbor Bay (99); Lavallette (104); Brant Beach (173); Surf City (196); Cooper River (197); Mantoloking (210); Cap May Harbor (213); Brigantine Yacht Club (217); Riverton Yacht Club (228); Lancaster (253).



Top five skippers and crews in Central Atlantic District (L. to R.): Joe Dean, Marge Adams, Ernie Dean, Dutch Sindle, Bob Wood, Harry Sindle, John Teigland, Geo. Thomas, Dick Kira (not present), Dick O'Donnell, Bob Flach, Charlie Dore, Jim Carson, Geo. Francis, Charles Starkey.

District Report: The Central Atlantic District really had a year! That's the only way it can be described. One can get an idea of it by looking at the positions of our District skippers in the Internationals:

Second—Harry Sindle, Atlantic Coast Champion, New Jersey State Champion, and always up top in any regatta, whose consistent effort was topped only by more consistent sailing by our fine International Champion.

Fourth—Marge Adams, Barnegat Bay Champion and one of the most consistent and promising young sailors in the country. Marge has yet to win a regatta but is always just missing. Someday she's going to do more than give us a scare.

Sixth—Charlie Dore, veteran of many Internationals, whose two firsts at Grosse Point went for naught because of a 26th in that fluke first race.

Eighth—Jim Carson, District Champion and a real surprise in his first crack at the "big one".

And who can leave out John Teigland who got us off winging in February by winning the Mardi Gras Regatta at New Orleans? With these five definitely top caliber and several more pushing, you can see why none can rest on his laurels in the C.A.D.

Spring found a number of our stalwarts braving the cold winds of North Jersey in the Monmouth Boat Club Spring Series with Harry Sindle tuning up the new "Flying Dutchman". Harry not only tuned it up, but after the fourteen race series was awarded the first place trophy. The regular season opened in June as eleven boats showed up on Barnegat Bay for the fifth annual Metedeconk River Yacht Club Spring Tuneup Regatta. Jim Carson (1-2-1) found the moderate Bay air to his liking and became the first home club skipper ever to win the regatta after a close battle with John Teigland (2-3-2) and Bob Adams (3-1-3) which was not decided until the final gun.

The following week a somewhat larger fleet sailed the same waters under the auspices of the Lavallette Yacht Club for the New Jersey State Championship. Harry Sindle (2-1-6) nosed out June Merhot (1-8-1) and Jim Carson (4-3-3) to win for the second straight year a topsy-turvy battle.

The annual meeting preceding the District Championship in July was rather peaceful in comparison to the stormy winter meeting which produced a real battle over the number of races the District Championship should consist of. There was the usual roll-call of fleets, with our new fleet No. 253 of Lancaster answering for the first time, reports, and ratification of the Race Committee. A report was made on the new dial type scales purchased by the District. This scale which is easily portable, and which has proved very accurate is available to all fleets in the District for the weighing of boats. Our aim is that every boat in the District should be weighed and its weight recorded on the L.C.A. measurement certificate in accordance with Class rules. In this way a lot of unnecessary weighing at regattas can be eliminated. After the election of officers everyone settled down to the big business of getting five big races into a two day weekend. The first race looked like it would never get finished, let alone in time to get in two more races on Saturday. But, finally the breeze stirred a little and sent the 22 boat fleet skimming over Little Egg Bay. The afternoon was really rugged. Not only were there two races "back to back" but there was a good 25-30 knot southerly kicking things up. Sunday was calm by comparison with perfect sailing weather the two final races going off without a hitch. The wind couldn't have been more cooperative for it provided us with

a little light air, a little heavy air, and just the right amount of medium air to finish things off with. Perfect conditions for choosing true representatives! When the weekend was over and the points added up two skippers had 103 points. Jim Carson (1-5-3-1-2) got the nod over Charlie Dore (2-1-4-4-1). Harry Sindle was third, Marge Adams fourth, and John Teigland Fifth.

At the Atlantic Coast Championship the following week we really got an idea of the power of the District as our boats swept the first five positions. Sindle took top honors followed by Teigland, Marge Adams, Carson, and Bob Adams. Dore lost a chance to win when he broke his rudder midway in the first race.

Bob Adams hit the victory circle with three straight wins in the South Jersey Championship at Brigantine in August and District boats took the first four places in the President's Cup Regatta at Washington, Jim Carson winning all three and Club mate Dave Shay nosing out Don Pocher and Jim Daley for second.

Plans for 1955 undoubtedly will revolve about trying to increase the number of paid-up members in the District and a campaign to get all the boats weighed and recorded properly. The number of races in next year's District Championship will be the subject of a December meeting. One thing you can be sure of, no matter what else happens, there'll be real hot competition next year in at least one District!

Congratulations from the top District to the top sailor in the class, our International Champion, Tom Allen and our neighbor, the Dixie District. Nice going!

CENTRAL NEW YORK DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Donald B. Sanford

District Secretary: Frederick E. Darling

Fleets: Skaneateles Country Club (1); Crescent Y.C. (9); Onondaga Lake Fleet (10); Fair Haven Bay Fleet (15); Canandaigua Y.C. (44); Newport Y.C. (77); Lewis Point Fleet (93); Great Sodus Bay Fleet (108); Red Jacket Fleet (125); Conesus Fleet (140); Genesee Y.C. (148); Owasco Y.C. (149); Cazenovia Fleet (164); Henderson Harbor Fleet (225); Keuka Lake Fleet (252).

District Report: As usual the District sailors shook off their winter lethargy and ushered in the 1954 sailing season with the annual Spring meeting held at the Gardenier Hotel in Newark, New York.

The meeting was held on May 2, 1954 with 8 fleets reporting including the newly created fleet at Keuka Lake, No. 252, a welcome addition to our group.

Commodore Nelson Bruce reported on the preceding year's activities, and Secretary-Treasurer Donald B. Sanford gave his reports which were duly accepted. Announcement was made that Jay Donovan of Newport Y.C. had received his reward for having worked so long and loudly for the LCA, having been elected a national officer and secretary of the Association.

Dates for the classic events of the District were announced and we found ourselves facing the:

Lake Shores Lightning Squadron at Canandaigua Lake

Lewis Point Invitational at Oneida Lake

CNY Lightning Districts at Canandaigua Lake

Sodus Bay Invitational at Sodus Bay

Sentiment was expressed in favor of 5 races instead of the usual 3 to determine the District Champion, but the motion was withdrawn when it became evident that such a plan made mandatory a 3 day regatta, or drastically curtailed dancing and quaffing should we adhere to the usual two day foray.

Dr. Eugene Carpenter presented the slate of officers for the year 1954-5. Dr. Donald B. Sanford of Cazenovia was elected Commodore, and Fred Darling of Newport, secretary-treasurer.

The meeting closed with the showing of excellent movies in color of our 1953 district championship. The pictures were made by Adolph Ritman, brother by marriage of the ubiquitous Herb Mylacraine, of Rochester Y.C. and Newport Y.C., and by Walt Chappelle, famed marine photographer in this area. Warren Duerr of Sodus dubbed in the sound track to complete a very fine film.

The Lake Shores Lightning Squadron regattas now held by member clubs on July 4th weekends, the host's job being assumed from year to year in alphabetical order. Canandaigua Y. C. entertained this year. The first three to place were as follows:

1st—Peter Darling in Calypso, Newport Y.C.

2nd—Dr. Eugene W. Carpenter in HelenHywater, Lewis Point Y.C.

3rd—Art Ries in Skott, Newport Y.C.

In addition to the Jay Donovan Trophy signifying Squadron championships, Pete Darling received a Balfour Lightning plaque designed by our own Cliff O'Kane. It is planned to award a new plaque each year to the Squadron Champion.

The Lewis Point Y.C. on Oneida Lake held its eighth invitational regatta and almost licked the platter clean themselves.

1st—Eugene (Joe) Carpenter in HelenHywater, Lewis Point Y.C.

2nd—Dr. John McIntosh in Blue Jacket, Newport Y.C.

3rd—Howard M. Young in Thunderwings, Lewis Point Y.C.

The Sodus Bay Yacht Club held their second and very successful invitational with the following leaders:

1st—Eugene (Joe) Carpenter

2nd—Dr. John McIntosh

3rd—John Swartz in Mistral, Sodus Bay Y.C.

The District Eliminations brought 33 boats to the Canandaigua Yacht Club. The three winners eligible for the Internationals were:

1st—Dr. John McIntosh

2nd—Dr. Eugene Carpenter

3rd—Dr. A. Jefferson Penfield in McCorkle, Sodus Bay Y.C.

The engineers must have overtrained!

After the final race a meeting of the District was held by Commodore Don Sanford on the lawn. No business was transacted but the Commodore urged that the secretary of each individual fleet assume the responsibility of collecting dues from its members. In this way a far better response can be expected than when the reminding is done by mail from South Haven or by the District Secretary.

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Samuel D. Knox

District Secretary: Wayne L. Brockett

Fleets: Housatonic (6); Black Rock (17); Columbia Lake (49); Branford (63); Candlewood Lake 82; Niantic Bay (85); Groton Long Point (105); Western Narragansett (119); Cedar Point (126); Madison Beach (129); Noroton (134); Thames River (139); Pequot (153); Wadawanuck (183); Watch Hill (195); Norwalk (230); Milford (238); Darien Boat Club (235);

District Report: The District Regatta was sailed on Fishers Island Sound at Stonington, home of fleet 183 and the Wada-

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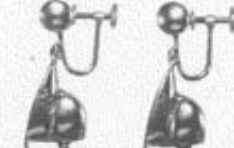
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wanuck Yacht Club. For many of the sailors from further down the Sound it was their first experience with three knot tidal currents, and a said education it was for some. Thirty-seven boats from seven fleets from Noroton, Conn., to East Greenwich R. I., participated. This topped last year's record by three.

The first race, over a three mile triangle twice around, started in a light Northwester and shortly became a drifting match. When the wind finally came up out of the Southwest, Sam Knox in his Hot Canary II, capitalizing on his knowledge of local conditions, pulled out a beautiful lead to win by more than four minutes, followed by Bill Healy from Niantic Bay in Mischief, Wally Crump of Noroton in Trim, Bob Crane also from Noroton in Jimlin II, Bill Jones from Flack Rock in Falcon, and Steve Harper from Norwalk in Redhead.

The second race was planned to be twice around a windward and leeward course out past Latimer Light. It was started in a light Southerly. However, with rain coming down in buckets and with a very bad looking squall making up in the Northwest, Dave Johnstone and his very efficient race committee did the smart thing and called it a day after one round. This one was taken by Wayne Brockett from Branford in his new boat, Rise n' Shine after a ding dong battle with Wally Crump on the leeward leg. They were followed over by Crane, Bill Bindloss of Wadawanuck in Buffo, Dick Chantland of Black Rock in Malolich, Al Kuehl of Branford in His Nibs, and Sam Knox. This left Crump with a two point margin for the two race total. Crump 69, Crane 67, Knox 66, Brockett 64, and Kuehl 60.

The final race, once around a six mile triangle, was sailed in a light Northerly on Sunday morning. Much to the contradiction of the local weather prophets, the wind held steady throughout the race. Sam Knox got the gun at the weather end of the line and was never headed. Bob Crane and Wally Crump were both in the middle of the pack at the first mark and then they both started to go. At the last mark Crane was fifth and Crump eighth with a long beat to weather against a terrific ebb tide coming up. Both skippers started to really pour it on, and at the finish it was Knox, Crane, Crump (by an eyelash over Kuehl) Brockett and Jones.

This gave the series to Crump with 102 points, followed by Knox 101, Crane 101, Brockett 95, Kuehl 92 and Harper 86.

At the annual meeting Knox was elected District Commodore, Crane Vice-Commodore, and Brockett Secretary. The District

reported 195 paid members, more than any other district in the world, 44 more than in 1953 and over double 1952. Who says the Lightning Class isn't the fastest growing class there is? It was also agreed to charge an entry fee of three dollars per boat for future district regattas.

The final haul out was a dilly. Wadawanuck, having no proper facilities for launching or recovering boats, had hired a crane which sat at the water's edge and took out the visiting firemen at the rate of one every three minutes.

On the following week-end the Noroton Yacht Club sponsored the Second Long Island Sound Lightning Championship. This was a three race series and was won by Conn. District Champ, Wally Crump of Noroton Yacht Club. This was Wally's second win in this event.

Another large event was the EGYRA regatta at Niantic Bay. This was won by Sam Knox with Dick Lena of Niantic Bay second and John Pettit of Madison Beach third.

A large invitational regatta was held at Milford, Conn. Wayne Brockett won this one with Al Kuehl also of Branford YC second, and Bud Olsen of Housatonic YC third.

The Governors Cup regatta was sailed at Niantic Bay. It was won by Dick Lena of Niantic Bay with Al Kuehl of Branford finishing second. Sam Knox and Bill Healy tied for third. The Governor's trophy was presented by the Naval Aide to the Governor.

There were many other regattas but as reports were not submitted they will have to go unheralded.

Last invitational regatta of the season was at Milford, Conn. It was put on by the Windjammers Sailing Club and was won by Wayne Brockett of Branford YC with Bud Olsen of Housatonic finishing second.

All of this late racing in between Hurricanes. Many Connecticut boats were lost and our hearts go out to their owners. However they are all planning to buy new ones so the boat builders will have a busy winter. "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good", as the saying goes.

DIXIE DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Herman C. Henschen

District Secretary: Barney E. Mead

Fleets: Washington Fleet (50); Indian River Yacht Club Fleet (72); Sue Island Lightning Fleet (87); Potapskut Lightning Fleet (128); Northeast River Fleet (192); Service Fleet at U.S. Marine School, Quantico, Virginia.

District Report: The 1954 season for Lightning skippers in our District will be one long remembered. This was the year in which Tom Allen from Fleet 192, in "ATOM", won the International Championship at Grosse Point Farms, Michigan. We are all, of course, very proud of Tom Allen and are looking forward to having the Internationals next year on the Chesapeake Bay.

On July 24 and 25, 1954 during our Dixie District championships at Oak Orchard Beach, Delaware, skippers in our District got a preview of things to come when Tom Allen won the Dixie Championships in four straight races against the best skippers in the District. The Indian River Yacht Club did an outstanding job in putting on one of the best Dixie Championships that we have ever had. It was also the best attended to date. Herman Henschen in KIBITZER, George Allison in FLYING CARPET, Barney Mead in SHENANIGAN, and Bill Klarner in SALLY K had a ding dong fight for second, third, fourth and fifth positions. The finish was as follows:

1st—Tom Allen	70.8
2nd—Herman Henschen	56.6
3rd—George Allison	55.4
4th—Barney Mead	55.1
5th—Bill Klarner	54.1

In addition to the usual fleet series, many boats again participated in the Chesapeake Bay regattas. These started early in June with the Potapskut Regatta and ended with the President's Cup Regatta in Washington, D.C. in late September. In all, seven regattas were sailed in competition for the coveted Chesapeake Bay High Point Trophy. Herman Henschen, our District Commodore and winner for the past three years, was nosed out in the final event by Barney Mead in "SHENANIGAN". "SHENANIGAN" won the Potapskut, Baltimore Yacht Club, and Annapolis Regattas. Herman Henschen in "KIBITZER" won the Glenmar, Sparrows Point and Maryland Yacht Club Regattas.

Skippers in our District just can't seem to get enough racing. This year, after the completion of our fall series in the various fleets, we had two frost bit regattas. The first was held at the

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Just after the start Dixie District.

Baltimore Yacht Club in late October. A second was held at U.S. Marine Corps School, Quantico, Virginia on November 13 and 14, 1954. Our newly formed Service Fleet at Quantico played host at this regatta to 24 boats from all over the east coast. Dixie District Skippers were encouraged by the fact that the hot New Jersey boats did not go home with all of the silver.

Much interest was created this year by the publication of our first District news letter called the "Tiller". This news letter kept everyone up to date on what was going on throughout the District including articles on tuning, applying fiber glass, etc.

Lightnings in our District are definitely on the up-swing with quite a few new boats being built at home and more and more people finding that the Lightning is the ideal day sailor for racing and cruising.

We are proud to report that Lightnings were again used on the Chesapeake Bay this year for the selection of the men's regional champion.

GREATER LONG ISLAND DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: James Conner, Sr.

District Vice Commodore: Henry Dailedouze

Fleets: Cedarhurst Yacht Club (2); Sheephead Bay (38); Hewlett Bay (58); Gardiners & Peconic Bays (116); Mattituck Yacht Club (141); Meriches Bay (142); Great South Bay (178); Keystone Yacht Club (208); Port Jefferson (214).

District Report: For the fourth straight year, Billy Uhl of Fleet 141, sailing "Spark" #3524, won the sixth annual Greater Long Island District Regatta. The Hewlett Point Yacht Club, East Rockaway, New York, acted as host on August 7 and 8, 1954. Eleven boats participated in the three races. Second place award went to Robert Grimmig of Fleet No. 58 with his boat No. 1728 and third place was won by Ray Harrington, Fleet No. 58 in his boat No. 3225.

The first race was held Saturday morning with the tension running high and wind velocity low. Despite the fact that this race was sailed at low tide and with a light breeze, the boats from the East end of the Island made a very excellent showing by coming in second and third, Sutter and Uhl respectively, with Robert Grimmig, one of the local boys, taking first place. Bob showed fine sailing ability as he had two hot contenders on his heels throughout the race in one luffing match after the other. Other than young Peter Neyland's broken rudder at the starting gun, this race went off smoothly.

The afternoon race was looked forward to by all skippers with great anticipation as they would be sailing at high tide and with a freshening SSW breeze. Billy Uhl in "Spark" had by this time acclimated to the waters of Hewlett Bay and he took an early lead. Though Harrington and Grimmig tried hard, they never could overtake him. The spectators and race committee boat were treated to an event that is seldom seen in these waters, the planning by Billy Uhl as he was caught by a strong gust of wind.

Saturday night the annual District meeting was held after a dinner at the Hewlett Point Yacht Club. At this meeting James Conners Sr. was elected Commodore for the year 1955 and Henry Dailedouze, Vice Commodore. The short meeting was followed

by an evening of enjoyable entertainment.

Sunday morning the skippers gathered again at the yacht club in preparation for the final race which was held under perfect sailing conditions, fair skies and a steady south wind. Again Billy Uhl stepped out in front and was continuously challenged by Jim Browne and Robert Grimmig but to no avail. The eleven entries finished in the following order.

Wm. Uhl	#3524	5 points	1
Robert Grimmig	#1728	7 points	2
Ray Harrington	#3225	12 points	3
James Browne	#2116	13 points	4
Henry Dailedouze	#2011	16 points	5
Martin Suter	#5344	18 points	6
Peter Neyland	#2622	23 points	7
John Mahoney	#1896	27 points	8
Alex Robb	#432	27 points	8
Hector McKay	#365	29 points	10
Alan Murphy	#1144	32 points	11

I wish to thank the officers and members of the Hewlett Point Yacht Club, and particularly Mr. James Finch, Chairman of the Race Committee, and all others who made this Regatta such a success. I would also like to urge all members of this District to pay their dues promptly in order that we may again be eligible to send two entries to the Internationals.

ITALIAN DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Enzo Di Lorenzo

District Secretary: Mario Cavallo

Fleets: Naples Fleet (191); C.R.V. Italia Sorrento Fleet (223); Marivela Fleet (235); Castellammare Fleet (237); Liguria Fleet (247); Garda Lake Fleet (249).

District Report: Lightning activities in the Italian District is increasing. Season began with Christmas Cup, in Naples.

First European International was organized with the help of Italian Sailing Federation U.S.V.I. and was a big success.

Greece, Finland and Italy entered the races with 11 boats.

A special mention is to be given to Marivela Fleet, because, races, without their most valuable help and organization, never could have been such a success.

The standing, for Nations, wound up as follows:

- 1st—Italy
- 2nd—Finland
- 3rd—Greece

Franco Cavallo, of C.R.V. Italia Sorrento Fleet, sailed his Fandango to victory in three races, Mario Merola of Marivela Fleet and Cesare Ratti of Sorrento Fleet, each won, one race.

Another big event was the military International held at Leghorn, and the standing for nations, wound up as follows:

- 1st—Italy—Marivela Fleet: Capt. Mario Merola, Capt. C. Paolo Mainini and
- 1st—Italy—Marivela Fleet: Capt. Mario Lo Sardo
- 2nd—Sweden
- 3rd—Belgium
- 4th—France
- 5th—Netherlands

The trophy for this event was the President's Cup, which was given from the Italian Republic's President, on year 1950, and was won in the same year from France, in Italy, with Star Class boats,



Going forth to battle in the Italian District Championship.

and in 1951 from Denmark with Dragon Class boats. As this year the organization of the race was given to Italy, the Lightnings were chosen to enter this regatta.

The Italian District Championship was held at Gargnano on the Garda Lake, and was really a success with 12 boats entered, coming from Naples, Castellammare, Taranto, La Spezia, Rapallo.

The race committee, chairman Enzo Di Lorenzo, Vice President Conte Umberto Bettoni, afforded the contestants every facility for a successful regatta.

As established in the first European meeting, last summer, the Italian District of the L.C.A. will organize the European Championship for 1955.

LAKE ERIE DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Ralph H. Franclemont

District Secretary: Cynthia Taylor

Fleets: Buffalo Canoe Club (12); Chautauqua Yacht Club (19); Erie Yacht Club (24); Novice Yacht Club, inactive (28); Silver Lake Yacht Club (47); Niagara Sailing Club (59); Sandy Beach Yacht Club (78); Buffalo Yacht Club (81); Cuba Lake Fleet (115); Royal Hamilton Yacht Club (118); Toronto Bay Lightning Fleet (146); Conneaut Lake Lightning Fleet (180); Tower Yacht Club Lightning Fleet (198); LaSalle Yacht Club (221); Buffalo Sailing Club (258);

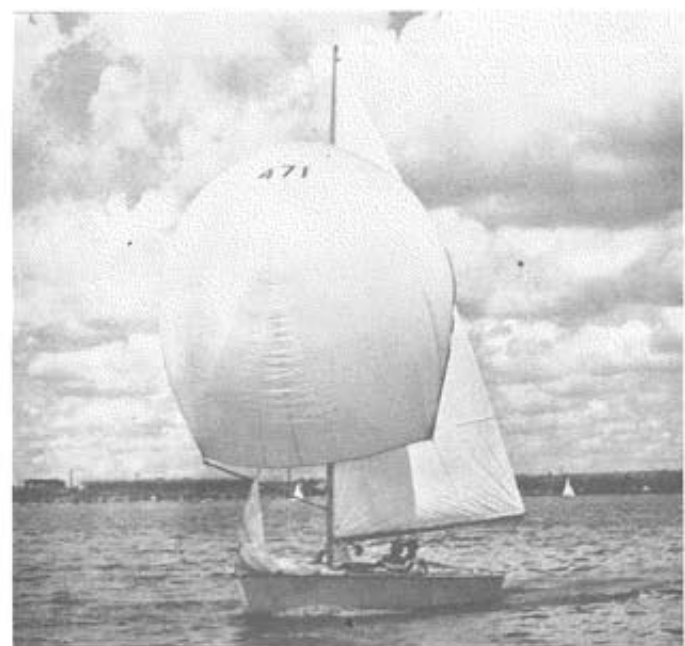
District Report: Defending Champion Tom Allen of Buffalo Canoe Club, piloted his sleek blue-hulled "ATOM" to victory in the Lake Erie District Lightning Championships at the Queen City Yacht Club, Toronto, Ontario, July 31—August 2.

Allen, 1952 Presidents Trophy Winner, with Chris Diefenbach and Ann Smither as crew marked up two firsts, two seconds and a third in the five race series to capture the Smither-Johnson-Eby Trophy for the second straight year.

On leave from the U.S. Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland, where he is a staff member of the U.S. Naval Hospital, Allen entered the Lake Erie Districts to defend his title. He qualified for the Internationals at Detroit when he won the Dixie District Regatta earlier in the season.

Toronto Bay Lightning Fleet 146 was host for the three day meet which was held at the Queen City Yacht Club, Algonquin Island, Toronto Bay, Ontario.

Following Allen in second, third and fourth place respectively were Tom Fallon, 1954 Mid-Winter Lightning Champion sailing Flare, Ralph Franclemont, a new-comer to racing laurels piloting Akela (471), and Karl Smither in Thermis 5M. Fallon, Franclemont and Smither, all members of Buffalo Canoe Club Fleet 12, will represent the Lake Erie District in the International Championship.



Akela, No. 471, owned by Ralph H. Franclemont of Buffalo Canoe Club. Akela finished third in Lake Erie District. One of the oldest boats in the fleet that can still beat a good many of the newer boats.

Pete Grainge of the Buffalo Canoe Club, who purchased Bob Graf's "Rampage" held a solid second place in the Regatta until the fifth and final race when he hit a marker on the third leg and disqualified himself. As a result he ended in 9th place.

The winds and waters of Lake Ontario and Toronto Bay presented a variety of sailing for the 32 contestants on the 10th anniversary of the first Lake Erie District Championship. On Saturday afternoon a 30 mile-an-hour wind with high seas lashed the fleet with Thermis 5M suffering slight damage when the track pulled loose from the boom at the outhaul. The Smither crew lashed the main-sail down and sailed on to finish 19th that day.

A moderate steady South Wester held for both the morning and afternoon races on Sunday. Monday morning a dead calm greeted the fleet as they hoisted sail for a 10:30 start. After baking for two hours under a scorching sun a light 2 mile-an-hour breeze came up and the starting gun was fired. Normally a 2 lap race, the course was shortened to 1 lap when the first boat failed to round the triangle in one hour.

The race committee, bless their hearts, had box lunches and refreshments sent out to the finish line for the fleet and a break was taken before the fifth and final race of the series. Everyone commented that a lunch never tasted as good as it did that day out on the lake. The air freshened and a 7 mile-an-hour breeze carried on throughout the remainder of the afternoon.

At the Lake Erie District meeting, held on Sunday evening, August 1, Ralph Franclemont of Buffalo Canoe Club, Fleet 12, was elected District Commodore and Cynthia Taylor of Erie Yacht Club, Fleet 24, was elected District Secretary for the coming year. The membership voted to accept the invitation of the Erie Yacht Club to hold the 1955 Lake Erie District Regatta at the Erie Yacht Club, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, Penna.

A "well done" was awarded to Commodore Stu Anderson and Secretary Elvira Gorman of the Lake Erie District and also to Arn Gorman, Commodore of the Queen City Yacht Club and his committee for the fine work in making the 1954 Districts such a striking success.

The top 12 final places in the Lake Erie District Championship Regatta were:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Tom Allen—B.C.C. | 7. Jim Taylor—Erie Yacht Club |
| 2. Tom Fallon—B.C.C. | 8. Bob Coleman—B.C.C. |
| 3. Ralph Franclemont—B.C.C. | 9. Pete Grainge—B.C.C. |
| 4. Karl Smither—B.C.C. | 10. Bob Stark—Niagara Sailing Club |
| 5. Dick Bowen—Niagara Sailing Club | 11. Tom Ray—B.C.C. |
| 6. Bill Walker—Erie Yacht Club | 12. Tim Nelson—Royal Hamilton Yacht Club |

Following the District Championship, many sailors stayed in Toronto for the L.Y.R.A. Regatta with the National Yacht Club as host. Karl Smither, defending Champ, was the winner, followed by Grainge, Fallon and Franclemont. Tom Allen, our District winner, was disqualified in the last race. As a result of finishing first and second in the L.Y.R.A., Karl Smither and "Pete" Grainge qualified for the section eliminations for the right to race for the Mallory Cup and the North American Sailing Championship. Karl went on to qualify and, sailing against the best sailors in the country, finished sixth in the eight race series held in New Orleans.

In the Internationals our District Champ, Tom Allen was the winner. Our three District qualifiers — Fallon, Smither and Franclemont—finished 9th, 15th and 21st, respectively. "Pete" Grainge, the only entry from our District, was the President's Trophy winner.

The annual winter meeting of our District will be held in Buffalo on March 19th, at which time movies of the Internationals will be shown.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Roswell W. Chandler

District Secretary: Alice H. Shoemaker

Fleets: Paupack Sailing Fleet (16); Lake Mohawk Yacht Club (25); Lake Hapatcong Fleet (29); Chelsea Yacht Club (39); High Tor Fleet (41); Red Bank on the Shrewsbury Fleet (70); Nyack Fleet (75); Awosting Yacht Squadron Fleet (95); Black Hawk Lightning Fleet (172); Raritan Bay Lightning Fleet (185); Shattemuc Yacht Club Lightning Fleet (224);

District Report: The Metropolitan District Championships were held this year at Lake Mohawk, Sparta, N. J., on July 17th and 18th. Eighteen Lightnings competed for the Cox Memorial Trophy.

June Methot of Red Bank won for the second year with a total of 47 points. Magnus Pedersen of the Nyack fleet came in second,



Metropolitan District Races, Lake Mohawk, N. J.

also having 47 points. Third place went to Barbara Bull of the Red Bank fleet with 45 points.

The week-end proved to be quite a lively one in all respects. Saturday was a semi-drifting race with Henry Abreu of Chelsea finding some secret air pockets and sailing across the finish line much sooner than most of the others. June Methot was second and Magnus Pedersen third.

Sunday morning for the second race there was wind and wind to spare. Out came the storm gear or you were soaked. The spinnakers seem to pull the boats right out of the water and everyone was thoroughly exhausted by the end of the race. Barbara Bull emerged the victor, Magnus Pedersen second and John Spurdle third. One sad note in this race—right close to the finish line with victory in sight, Charlie Allaire broke his mast and couldn't finish.

The wind was still in evidence for the last race. June Methot won this one, Magnus Pedersen was second and Barbara Bull third, the same order in which they finished the series. Trophies were presented to the winners and gifts for all crew members.

Socially for the week-end there was a cocktail party given by Commodore and Mrs. Harrigan and a dinner dance on the Mohawk boardwalk.

The 1955 districts will be held at Chelsea, N. Y.

June Methot competed in the Internationals and did well. She seems to have captured honors practically every month. In the month of June she was second in the N. J., championships and won the Women's. In Aug., at the National Sweepstakes Sailing Regatta June won the first place in the lightnings. For the fall series of the Raritan Club June won another first place.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Joseph Stueland

District Secretary: L. G. McKay, Jr.

Fleets: South Haven Yacht Club (30); Devil's Lake Yacht Club (31); Crescent Sail Yacht Club (51); Lake Fenton Yacht Club (53); Pontiac Yacht Club (54); Grosse Ile Yacht Club (68); Bayview Yacht Club (83); Higgins Lake (110); St. Joseph Harbor (113); (Fleet 123, 124, and 131, inactive); Gull Lake (137); Tawas Bay Yacht Club (152); Watkins Lake Yacht Club (155); Omena-Traverse Yacht Club (174); Leland Yacht Club (184); Northport Point (202); Macatawa Bay Yacht Club (204); Saginaw Bay (216); Ford Yacht Club (233); Burr Lake (254);

District Report: Michigan District had many fine regattas all with large attendance. Foremost was the Internationals at

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Crescent Sail Yacht Club-Fleet 51, in Detroit. Buffalo stole Michigan's thunder by winning both the Internationals and the Presidents cup. Tom Allen sailing out of Maryland, while in the service, instead of Buffalo won the Internationals and Pete Grange in the old Rampage won the Presidents Cup. All those who attended will remember the wonderful time Crescent, Bay View and Grosse Pointe Clubs showed the visiting sailors.

The District regatta with Tawas Bay, Fleet 152 as host, had 41 boats signed up and 38 racing to make this the largest regatta in the District history. Old man wind and weather were very kind to us and the 3 day, 5 race series were sailed under nearly perfect conditions on beautiful clear Tawas Bay.

It was a thrilling championship which started a little late, Friday morning due to light air. This gave us all a few minutes to drift around and renew acquaintances and everyone was enjoying the loaf until Barney Crittenden "quietly" called for the race to start.

The race proved nip and tuck, all the way but at the finish it was Dr. Jerry Murphy of Mt. Pleasant first, Jim Schudel of Detroit second, Wes Wiedrick, Detroit, third; Herm Nickels, Fenton, fourth and Hank Cawthra, Detroit, 1953 International champ, fifth.

The race committee, headed by Barney Crittenden, decided that the wind which had built up was too good to waste and that the second race would start on time. Consequently, some went without lunch.

For the second race the wind had freshened to seven or eight miles. Some places changed and the winning gun went to Hank Cawthra. Murphy was second and an improved sailor, Ralph

O'Hara, Detroit, was third. Warren Jones of Detroit was fourth and Joe Stueland of St. Joe took fifth.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear, the wind eight to 10 mph., out of the southwest. At the end of the day's racing, Cawthra and Murphy were tied for first place, Wiedrick third, Nickels fourth, Schudel fifth, Stueland and Clarence Holman, Fenton tied for sixth, while Ed McKinley of the home fleet and Alex Carlin of Higgins Lake and Warren Jones were tied for eighth. Twenty-eight points separated 10 boats.

The beautiful weather held and Sunday morning found the fleet starting right off the Inland Waterways Commission pier where everyone could see the race. It was stakes to port, twice around, in a four or five mile wind, the water a brilliant, sparkling blue. Many of the skippers got over anxious and at least five were called back after the gun. Doc Murphy proved his mettle in passing four boats to move from fifth to first to win the last race and the "hardware".

Wiedrick and Cawthra were tied for second in points but the place went to Wiedrick who had beaten Cawthra in three out of the five races. Jim Schudel was third in the last race to place fourth in the series. Joe Stueland was fifth and Herm Nickles sixth, followed closely by O'Hara and Carlin.

Thus ended the series of fine sailing and shore entertainment with the famous Michigan District Barefooted Philharmonic keeping the Tawas Beach club jumping until the wee hours on Saturday night.

While on entertainment, our barefooted Philharmonic also played at the Higgins Lake invitationals, the Internationals cocktail parties, the Devils Lake Regatta, the season's final at Lake



A perfect start for the fourth race in the Michigan District Regatta on Tawas Bay, July 23rd.

Fenton. Not only did the old minstrels Gerry Murphy, Buzz Morley, Sid Mitchell, Charley Grant, Al Oberson, and 2 new comers, Babe Teske, and Jim Dreyer, provide lively dancing music but their playing lent a background for the continued resailing of the day's races.

Fleet competition throughout the District was high plus many well attended hard raced regattas. We had the annual Shakedown Regatta at St. Joseph. Then the brush up for the District at the Tawas's 4th of July Regatta. The Detroit Kendell series, followed by the popular Higgin's Lake Summer Invitationals, and the Leland Yacht Club Invitational both in the North Woods. Then it's to the lower part of the State at Devil Lake "This one is for fun" and final White Cap at Lake Fenton.

The members of the District are proud of Barney's fine job as President of the Association and wish to extend him a big "Thanks".

The top ten in 1954 Districts were Murphy (183); Wiedrick (176); Cawthra (176); Schudel (162); Stueland (159); Nickels (154); Jones (152); Carlin (149); O'Hara (145); and Holman (143).

MIDWEST DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Walter W. Roller

District Secretary: Dr. Henry C. Schultz

Fleets: Chicago Corinthian (5); Burnham Park (56); Neenah-Nodaway (67); Milwaukee Y.C. (69); Decatur (74); South Shore (79); Green Bay (112); Island Bay (117); Ivy (160); Gary Boat Club (222); Harbor Point (231); Kentucky Lake (242).

District Report: The 1953 season began with the winter meeting in the Congress Hotel, Chicago, on February 13th. Thirty persons representing nine fleets attended. Champion Bill Wingard extended the invitation of Fleet 5 to sail the District eliminations at Montrose Harbor. This was unanimously accepted and the date was set for the week end of July 24th and 25th. Following the business meeting the Commodore gave a talk on imperviousness in sail cloth which was later published in the Yearbook. The meeting concluded with movies of the 1952 District and International regattas.

The District Regatta was most successful from every angle. Chicago Corinthian Lightning Fleet really extended themselves and the weather-man co-operated. It was completely covered in the August issue of Flashes and Bill again won, followed by Leo Maurer, Earl Ross, the Gimbut brothers and Ernie Boehm. Only



Left to right (standing): Alix Gimbut, fourth place; Earl Ross, third; Leo Maurer, second, and Bill Wingard, first. Kneeling, Al Berg, Fleet 6 regatta chairman, (left) and Walter Roller, Midwest District commodore.

Earl Ross and Leonard Gardenier represented the District at the Internationals and had a wonderful time even if they didn't show up too well in the standings.

The Chicago Lightning Squadron is a very live organization, and again put on their Red Flannel Regatta, but this time they needed both red flannels and swimming suits. Green Bay puts on a lively season and produced a hot boat by Bob Tillman. Both Milwaukee fleets sparked new progress, and our most Southern fleet on Kentucky lake built a floating club house, and two boats made a round trip the 200-mile length of the lake. They also have one of the new lightnings built in Holland, Chicago sported many new boats and staged the Mallory Cup eliminations. Many of our southern fleets suffered low water and did not participate in our regatta, but we hope for a better season in 1955.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Samuel Stowell

District Secretary: Evelyn Stagg

Fleets: Centerboated Yacht Club (14); Pistagua River (22); Prouts Neck (94); Boston Harbor (100); Taylor Pond (101); Merrimack River (121); Spofford Lake (145); Annisquam Lightning Fleet (151); Wollaston Bay (165); Wequaket Lake (181); Marblehead Harbor (189); Portland Yacht Club (190); Bomosee Yacht Club (227); Lake Dunmore (243); Harraseeket Lightning Fleet (244); Winnepesaukee (246); Sandy Bay (248).

District Report: The New England Lightning Association was off to an early start for the 1954 season with a mid-winter meeting on January 2nd in Cambridge, Massachusetts to plan for the summer sailing season. It was decided to hold the District Regatta at Marblehead, the first time it has been held on salt water. Acting as host to a purely Lightning regatta was therefore new to Fleet 189, and much time and effort were put into the planning. It was held July 31st-August 1st. On Saturday morning the first race was sailed in extremely light and wispy air, which changed to a hearty sou'wester in the afternoon, knocking out three boats. The unfortunate sailors who suffered damage to their boats and were out of the running were Dr. Dean of Spofford and Ed Gleason and Thistlewait of Marblehead.

The morning race ended in a photo finish with Dick Price of Marblehead just a hair ahead of Sam Stowell. Edgerton in "Stardust" was close behind, followed by Carlton in "Donelen". The afternoon brought a real blow and the Bomoseen fleet came into its own with Stowell in first place with his fleet "Yankee Dandy", Stagg also of Bomoseen second, Ashley of Marblehead, third, and Bellerose of Bomoseen, fourth in "Beau Geste". There was some readjustments of points, however, at the end of the first two races. Commodore Stowell ran into hard luck in both races and was disqualified on both counts. This left Dick Price in his "Celeste" in the lead with 61 points, Henry Ashley's "Six-Bits" with 60, and Dave Stagg with 59 in "Old Stag".

The race Sunday morning found a light west-northwest wind, but variable, with pockets of no wind at all. At the second buoy, coming in on a spinnaker run, the wind died completely and the entire fleet piled up. It looked possible to walk all the way from the buoy to the committee boat. When the jam finally cleared, Price and Ashley were leading, and were close all the way in. This tied the regatta in points, Ashley was first, edging out Price, giving them each 88 points. As he had won the most times, the District title was awarded to Ashley. Dave Stagg of Bomoseen was third with 81 points, Bill Edgerton of Annisquam was fourth with 75 points, Len Pratt of Spofford, Peach and Carlton of Marblehead, and Bellerose of Bomoseen all finished with 74 points.

The annual meeting was held in conjunction with a cocktail party and banquet Saturday evening held at the Eastern Yacht Club. Commodore Stowell announced that for the first time three boats were eligible to go to the Internationals from this district. (This is due to a great deal of time and effort spent by Sam in an intensive drive for membership increase in the National Association, and to build up enthusiasm in the district.) At the Meeting, Stowell also suggested State regattas for each member state, as a good way to keep and build up interest. He was unanimously re-elected Commodore and Mrs. Stagg was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

There were six fleets represented at the District Regatta, and one of the new fleets, 246, represented at the meetings by Dr. and Mrs. Deneault, who later in the season lost their Lightning in Hurricane Carol. We hope that another year more fleets will be able to participate, as it is regattas among members which make such fun for Lightning owners.

The greater part of the Marblehead Fleet suffered some damage in Hurricane Carol. Three were safe at the Internationals



Commodore Stowell and his crew, Jim Brousseau and Dave Stowell at State of Vermont Regatta.

which were the same week-end. Even on the lakes Carol did her damage, and at Bomoseen Dr. Bellerose's boat was a complete loss, while others had minor damage and some overturned at their moorings. Strong winds also played havoc at Marblehead Race Week, previous to "Carol", and seventy or eighty boats were tipped over one afternoon.

"Edna" arrived in time for the State of Vermont Regatta, held the week-end after the Internationals and President's Cup Regatta in which Commodore Stowell placed fourth. Crews of three Canadian Lightnings which came to the St. of Vermont Regatta did not seem to mind doing their sailing indoors on Saturday. A cocktail party and dinner was held that night. Sunday was a brisk bright day with steady (for Bomosee) breezes and all three races were sailed. The first two races ended with the same results—Botterel and Waters first, Stowell second, and Stag third. In the third race, Fred Harris of Spofford was first, Johnson of Montreal second, Stag third, with Botterel and Waters followed closely by Stowell. This left the Canadians in the title position, with Stowell and Stag tied for second. This was awarded to Stowell on the basis of beating twice. Commodore of the Bomosee Fleet, Bellerose, awarded a silver bowl for first place—the John Donahue Memorial Trophy, given by John and Mary Russell of Rutland, Vermont. Smaller bowls were awarded for second and third positions.

Early in the season the State of Maine regatta was held in Casco Bay. This has been an annual event for some time, and is sponsored by the Centerboard Yacht Club. All three races were held in very light winds. A clean sweep was made this year with Sam Stowell taking three firsts and thereby winning the title. Gardner Brown of Taylor Pond was second in his "Egabeva", and Richard Winkel, also of Taylor Pond, was third in his "Papoose".

OHIO-INDIANA DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Cal Yaudas

District Secretary: Carleton Allan

Fleets: Maple City Fleet (21); Indian Lake Fleet (23); Leather Lips Fleet (27); Turkey Foot Fleet (33); Pymatuning Fleet (36); Mentor Harbor Fleet (37); Toledo Fleet (42); Buckeye Lake Fleet (43); Edgewater Fleet (45); Cincinnati Fleet (57); Rocky River Fleet (71); Commodore Perry Fleet (103); Port Clinton Fleet (136); Mohican Fleet (150); Lake Wawasee

Fleet (154); Northeast Fleet (207); Atwood Lake Fleet (212); Kiser Lake Fleet (241).

District Report: The Ohio-Indiana District which seems to be a real traveling group raced over most of the eastern half of the United States in the year 1954. We started off our business year with the annual winter business meeting being held at Atwood Yacht Club. Our racing year started with four boats, (Pat Young, Dick Krauss, George Fisher, and Pinky Allan), going to the Mardi Gras regatta in New Orleans in February. The next weekend was the St. Pete mid-winter where we were represented by nine boats.

Our first big regatta of the northern season was the Great Lakes Championships in Toledo which had a turnout of twenty-eight Lightnings including some of our hot friends from Michigan district. This regatta is held around Decoration Day weekend and provides a good regatta to tune up your boat and find out how it is going.

Next weekend Ohio-Indiana sent a contingent to Detroit for the Kendall Cup where Swindeman got a first, Bob Englebeck a third and Cal Yaudas a fourth. After another successful Frosh-bite regatta at Toledo we traveled to Wawasee at the western end of the Ohio-Indiana District for fleet 154's first invitational regatta. There was an excellent turnout and the regatta couldn't have been better. There was a souvenir boat paddle for everyone and plenty of hardware for the winners, (Swindeman first, Garinger second, Allan third).

Fourth of July weekend Pymatuning at the eastern end of the Ohio-Indiana district held their fine regatta and party. In the series it was Yaudas first, McClaren second, Wick third.

Cleveland Ohio Yachting Club was our host for the district championships and the races were beautifully run, only being marred by lack of wind. At the annual meeting retiring district Commodore Robert McClaren gave his report on the past successful year and the new Commodore Cal Yaudas and Secretary Carleton Allan were elected. The series has been covered in the Flashes. C.Y.C. is to be complimented, the food was wonderful, the races beautifully run, and the hospitality unexcelled. Our qualifiers were, Swindeman, Krauss, Charley Judd, and Doc Barnes.

The qualifiers went to Detroit for the Internationals and Geo. Maludy, Oliver Bardes, and Pinky Allan went to Detroit to race in the President's Cup. It seemed to be a bad year for all of the O-I participants and none of us did too well.

At the Interlake Yachting Association regatta at Put-In-Bay in August, Swindeman was first, Allan second and Jim Schudel of Detroit third.

In the fall series of regattas that are so popular in the O-I district Atwood Yacht Club had their first in September. They showed everyone the good time you always have at Atwood and also showed us that it can blow at Atwood. This was won by Bob McClaren first, Francis Wick second, and Pat Young third.

Some of the bunch went to Devils Lake regatta and then came to Port Clinton for the annual Show Flurries regatta. Twenty-eight Lightnings participated in two races on Saturday under ideal conditions and one in wind and rain on Sunday. Pinky Allan got first, Wes Weidrick of Detroit second and our district Commodore Cal Yaudas third.

Last regatta of the season was the Snowball at Buckeye Lake where we had almost perfect sailing weather and an excellent time. This was a hard fought three way battle with it ending Bob Englebeck first, Allan second and George Fisher third.

Our midweek meeting will again be held at Atwood Yacht Club. Plans are already being made by many for this winter with some going to New Orleans and some to St. Pete or both. Walt Swindeman, Dick Krauss and your district Commodore Cal Yaudas are lucky enough to be going to Argentina for the big deal there.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Eric Dowell

District Secretary: Ed Estlin

Fleets: Maple Bay (64); Royal Victoria Yacht Club (66); Kitsilano Yacht Club (90); Lake Washington (132); Bellingham Yacht Club (158); Tacoma Yacht Club (159); Chinook (229).

District Report: The Great Pacific Northwest again produced Great Weather for cruising and racing in this 1954 season. With fleets operating from mid-Oregon to Southern B.C., interest could never have been keener. Three major events for District participations were offered for all-comers, each being well represented.

First, was the P.I.Y.A. held under changing weather conditions in Bellingham, Washington. This Regatta combines all



Jack Abel and Des Sessinghaus, champions of the Pacific Northwest District, coasting along in their "Holgazan."

recognized classes of the Northwest. In the Lightning Class, Grant Butt of Maple Bay, sailing his "Jolly Roger", took top awards.

Second and most important was our Lightning District Championships, held again in the "neutral" waters of Bellingham

Harbor in the latter part of July. Sponsored in 1954 by the Victoria Fleet and ably engineered by Bellingham members, the series proved the best yet.

Again Jack Abel and Des Sessinghaus from Tacoma sailing "Holgazan," proved too much for all competition, winning three firsts in three races. Perennial winner until last season Eric Dowell, Commodore, finished second in his "Ariel". Third prize was taken by Pete McTavish and his lovely wife sailing "Sub-deb" from Seattle.

The fine turnout and response from Eugene and Portland, lack of protests, beautiful weather and wonderful comradeship assures next season, sponsored by Seattle, to be even better.

Third came the Cowichan Bay Regatta, held on Labor Day Week-end by the Maple Bay Yacht Club, not far from Duncan B.B. Eric Dowell finished first, Grand Butt second and Roy Murdoch of Victoria third.

As a postscript we of the Pacific Northwest District invite all Lightning enthusiasts to visit with us and enjoy the most beautiful cruising waters in the whole world.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore Morgan Powell

District Secretary..... Mrs. Howard Rees

FLEETS: St. Petersburg, Fla. Fleet (109); Savannah, Ga. Fleet (127); Tampa Bay Fleet (168); Miami, Fla. Fleet (226); Aiken, S. C. Fleet (257).

DISTRICT REPORT: Southeastern District activities for 1954 got under way with Miami's Sunshine Regatta.

In February the scene shifted to the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on Tampa Bay for the annual Mid-Winter Open Championships where Tom Fallon of Buffalo took first place honors in a fleet of 58 boats. The District Championships were held in Miami in June. Charlie Kehoe took top honors and was followed by Oscar Nelson in second place. Third place went to Jim Kirk of St. Petersburg. The annual District Meeting was held and Morgan Powell and Mrs. Howard Rees of St. Petersburg were elected Commodore and Secretary of the District. St. Petersburg was named as the site of the District Championships for 1955. During the summer months all fleets were active in determining Fleet Championships and in participating in neighboring regattas. John Baker won the Savannah Fleet Championship. John Mc-

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Intosh of Savannah won the Savannah Yacht Club's three day annual 4th of July Regatta and he also annexed the Demere Bowl, emblematic of the South Atlantic Lightning Championship at Mt. Pleasant, S. C. in July with Ross Allen as the runner-up. St. Petersburg's Fleet Championship was taken by Morgan "Pidge" Powell and top honors in Fleet 109's long series on Tampa Bay went to Wallace Rifeley.

In August the Gulf Yachting Association Championships were again held in St. Petersburg and Morgan Powell in his "Red Witch" copped top honors for the third consecutive time.

District representatives to the Internationals were Jim Kirk and Glenn Watkins of St. Petersburg inasmuch as Charlie Kehoe and Oscar Nelson who were the one and two in the Districts were unable to attend. Ross Allen of Savannah Fleet No. 127 was elected Chief Messurer of the Lightning Class Association.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Charles L. Gambel

District Secretary: Ethan Allen

Fleets: Lake Pontchartrain Fleet (62); Mobile Bay (135); Shreveport Fleet (175); Pass Christian Fleet (179); New Orleans Fleet (209); Bay Waveland Fleet (211); Gulfport Fleet (236); Biloxi Fleet (239).

District Report: The sailing season opened January 2 and 3 with the Annual Sugar Bowl Regatta sponsored by the Southern Yacht Club and the New Orleans Mid Winter Sports Association. This series is part of the Sports Carnival of football, track, tennis and basketball games. This was sailed as a three race series, but shortened to two races, due to a heavy fog Sunday morning. Thirteen boats representing several of the fleets started. Gene Walet won with two firsts; Juby Wynne, second, with two seconds; Paul Shreck sailed his Major Domo to a third.

The Annual Mardi Gras Regatta sponsored by the Southern Yacht Club for Pontchartrain Fleet No. 62 was sailed on February 13 and 14 under ideal conditions, sunshine and fresh off shore breezes. The Mardi Gras Regatta, held a week before St. Pete, is proving a popular stopping off place for boats from the Mid West and Atlantic Coast on their way to St. Petersburg. Twelve boats from the Mid West and Atlantic Coast sailed with thirteen boats from the Southern District in the Regatta. The first race found Dick Krauss leading the fleet to the weather mark. Too much French Quarter the night before must have been the reason for his going about the mark the wrong way and, being disqualified. The race wound up in a three way battle between Teigland, Prados, and Christman; Teigland beating Prados by forty-two seconds. Christman finished third.

The second race was won by Teigland, who stole the start and was never headed, winning handily. In second spot was Paul Schreck's Major Domo; Carlton Allen of Port Clinton, Ohio sailed his boat to third place.

The breeze picked up for the third race Sunday afternoon. A real contest developed between Gilbert Gray and Teigland, Gray going on to win. Teigland finished second; Bill Somner, third.

Teigland trailed his Seductress II a long way to win the

Mardi Gras, with two firsts and a second. Cliff Prados finished second in his Dixie Doodle II. The Elda, sailed by Gilbert Gray, finished third in the series.

The members of the Southern District: Juby Wynne, Horace Thompson, and Louis Koerner trailed their boats to St. Petersburg to sail in the Mid Winter Championship.

The Shreveport Spring Series sailed on Cross Lake May 7 and 8 was won by Juby Wynne of Pontchartrain Fleet No. 62; Cliff Prados of Shreveport, second; Horace Thompson, Bay Waveland, third.

Two weeks of sailing on Mississippi Sound opened with a Regatta at Gulfport, Miss. July 1 and 2. Sixteen Lightnings entered. Spirit II, sailed by Gene Walet finished first; Margaret Butte's Miss Cookie III, second; the Elda, sailed by Joe Young, third.

Then the scene moved to Biloxi for their fifty-fifth Annual Regatta; Gene Walet taking first place; Juby Wynne, second.

The Pass Christian Regatta held on July 9, was won by Walet, sailing Wi-si-kat; Bill Somner sailing Smokey, second. Third place was won by Margaret Butte.

The Bay Waveland Yacht Club held their Regatta July 10 with Juby Wynne, first; C. W. Cleveland, second.

The District Championship was sailed again at Bay St. Louis under the sponsorship of the Bay Waveland Yacht Club. The Five race series was won by Gene Walet; Horace Thompson, second; Juby Wynne, third.

Two skippers from our district sailed in the Internationals, Gene Walet and Horace Thompson. Gene Walet placed third in the series.

Cliff Prados brought further honor to the Southern District by being elected to serve as president of the L.C.A. for the year 1955. Best wishes for a successful sail, Cliff.

The Annual Overton Regatta at Fairhope sailed in honor of Ed Overton was won by Walet; Juby Wynne, second; Paul Schreck, third.

The Mallory Series for the North American Yachting Championship, sailed on Lake Pontchartrain, home waters of Fleet No. 63, was the sailing event of the year for the Southern District. The boats loaned by owners for this event came from six fleets of the Southern District and were very evenly matched. Eight identical sets of dacron sails, made by Paul Schreck especially for this series, were used. Three Lightning skippers competed in the series; Gene Walet of Pontchartrain No. 62, winning; Hank Cawthra, Crescent Sail Yacht Club, third; Karl Smither, Buffalo Canoe Club Lightning Fleet No. 12, finished sixth.

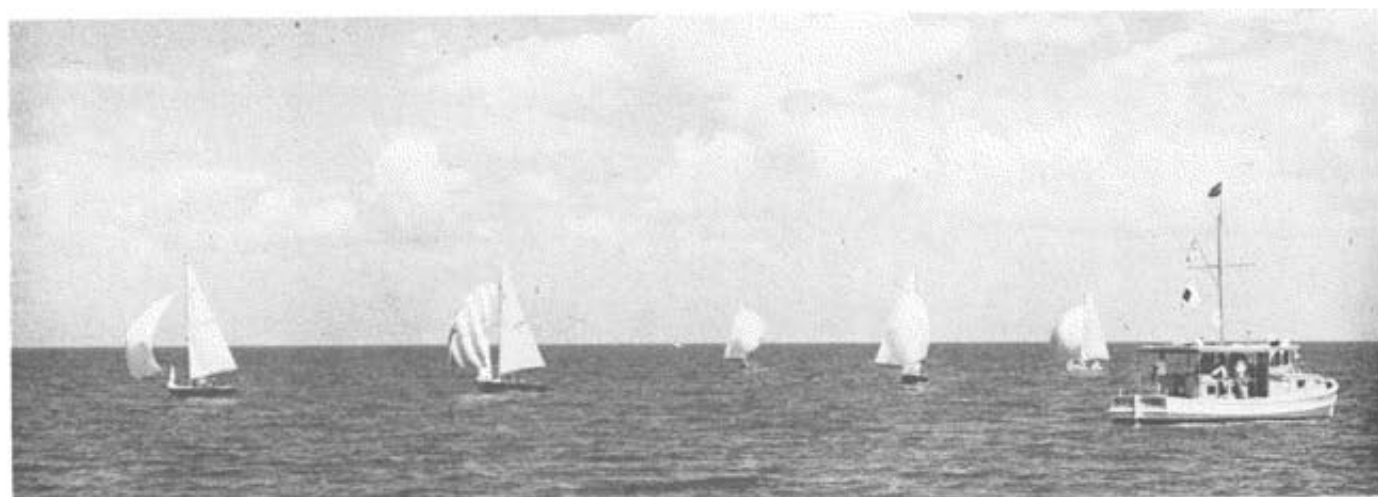
SWITZERLAND DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: Dr. Peter Ehret

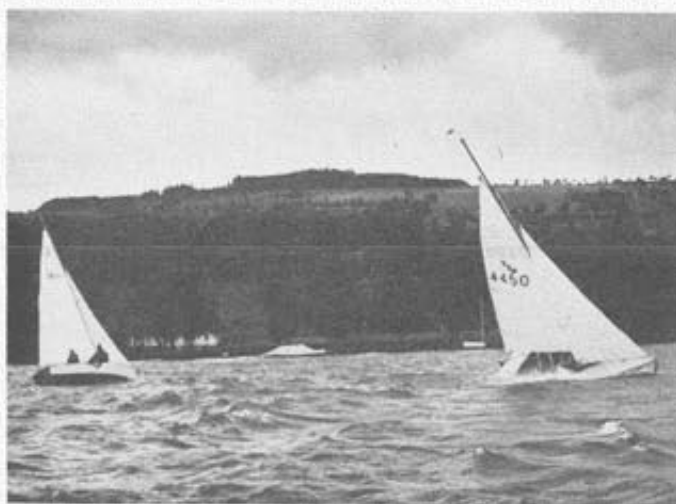
District Secretary: Hans A. Luthy

Fleets: Flotte des Trois Lacs (169); Zurichseeflotte (219); Sempacherseeflotte (250).

District Report: The two Fleets 169 and 219 have existed for some time and now the new Sempacherseeflotte joined them. In spring 1954 the committees of the three Fleets met at Bern



Coxe taking the 1st race. Walet pushing to take second spot.



Rail Down and Going Away in the 1st Swiss District Championships.

and decided to have a better contact, to visit each other, to organize races and meetings. The mainpoint was to organize a District of Switzerland. For this reason the Executive Committee of the LCA was asked to acknowledge a District of Switzerland. If this new District would be granted, there are great possibilities that many of the skippers on the other lakes could be gathered and interested in the International Lightning Class Association.

In July 11 Lightnings of the 3 Fleets started in the first Switzerland District Championship on the Lake of Sempach. Right at the beginning—the first race went over a course of 10 miles—the sailors from abroad and home could see that this small lake can ask the utmost of ship and crew. The blasting westwind had capsized already after $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour 4 boats, 2 crews had to give up. The second regatta saw rough wind too and only the third one was run with smooth breezes. In the 2 races with fresh to strong gales, especially "Bosco III" (J. P. de Bosset, Neuchatel) and "Schuffti" (O. Weber, Kilchberg, Zurich) fought out a good many hard and eventful battles. With 2 1st. and one 2nd. place "Bosco III" won the Championship followed by "Schuffti" and "Quand-Meme" (H. Luthy, Schottland).

In 1955 we hope to have a very close contact with Lightning skippers and Fleets of our land, as well as with other European countries.

TEXAS DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: R. R. Nolan

District Secretary: Arthur P. Nazro

Fleets: Dallas Corinthian (35); Southmost (40); Corpus Christi Fleet (218); Lake Worth Sailing Club Fleet (232); Fort Worth Boat Club "Longhorn Fleet" (240);

District Report: The District activity this year was again in the Dallas Fort Worth Area where Fleet 35, sailing on White Rock Lake and consisting of members of the Dallas Sailing Club with eleven boats and the Dallas Corinthians with 16 boats, once more head the list. We hope that next year will see the Southern members of the District represented.

The Annual Texas District Regatta was held on White Rock Lake and can be summed up in one word: Scoot. Sailed in three races with light-to-medium winds, Sam Townsend, Fleet 35, led a sixteen boat fleet with a perfect score and won the Neiman-Marcus Trophy donated this year as a permanent District trophy, with Al Spalding (35) second, Bob Mead (35) third and Louis Nelms (232) fourth. Sam went on to represent the District at Grosse Pointe. At the Annual Meeting, Bob Nolan and Arthur Nazro were elected Commodore and Secretary for the coming year.

Other highlights of the District's year were the Fort Worth Boat Club's Annual Regatta won by Gene Walet with Sam Townsend second and the Southwestern Regatta with 22 Lightnings entered, won by A. B.

Already several new boats have been ordered in the District and everyone is looking forward to a bigger and better year in '55.

WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND DISTRICT REPORT

District Commodore: John L. Seymour

District Secretary: Mrs. Fred Hibberd

Fleets: Western Connecticut Fleet (7); Larchmont Fleet (32); Little Neck Bay Fleet (55); Cold Spring Harbor Fleet (89); American Yacht Club Fleet (96); Northport Bay Lightning Fleet (98); Execution Rocks Lightning Fleet (106); Mamaroneck Fleet (122); Manhasset Bay Fleet (133); Hempstead Harbor Fleet (138); Eastchester Bay Fleet (163); Greenhaven Lightning Fleet (260).

District Report: Election of officers to serve the Lightning Class Western Long Island Sound District during 1955 was the principal business of the District's annual meeting held December 15, 1954.

Frank Sheldon of Western Connecticut (Riverside) Fleet No. 7 was named Commodore to succeed retiring Commodore John L. Seymour of Execution Rocks Fleet No. 106. Wait Jackson of Larchmont Fleet No. 32 was named Vice Commodore. Mrs. Fred L. Hibberd of American Yacht Club Fleet No. 96 was re-elected Secretary and Robert W. Paul of Hempstead Harbor Fleet No. 138 was re-elected treasurer.

The District includes all Lightning Fleets from Northport, Long Island and Riverside, Connecticut, as far west as Little Neck Bay.

The District's haul-out rule was amended to provide that normal haul-outs be limited to three hours in any calendar week rather than unlimited "one tide" haul-outs. The provision for one longer haul-out in each calendar month was retained, but "emergency" haul-outs for damage or other reasons must be approved by individual Fleet Captains and reported to the District Commodore.

Dates and location of the 1955 District Championships were discussed. Mrs. Hibberd, whose son, Fred, holds the championship, said she would see if American Yacht Club would be willing to act as host.

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