

NORTHEAST YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (207)

Ohio-Indiana District

Sailing on Lake Erie, Cleveland, Ohio

Fleet Captain	Lud Lekson
Fleet Secretary	Al Hoegler
Fleet Champion	Lud Lekson in "La Biche"
Runner-Up	Bob Harrison in "Bojan II"

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
462	Calicape	Francis P. Bruce
1824	Bojan II	Janet B. & Robert G. Harrison
3448	Crystal	Jack Hively
5787		Myron Wright

The year 1954 was ushered in with a great deal of enthusiasm, and our hopes were high for a successful sailing season. New officers were elected, and we added a Lightning to our Fleet by converting a Snipe Skipper.

Our indoctrination for the season began at Toledo, with the La Biche and Crystal competing in the Great Lakes Lightning Championships and A.Y.C. Regatta. The La Biche suffered its first serious accident when the rudder broke, resulting in a DNF for the second race of the Regatta.

Procrastination in completing the rudder caused the further demise of the La Biche. On a stormy day at the N.E.Y.C., while coming about for a start, our makeshift rudder broke. The unusually high winds and seas bashed the La Biche against the protective breakwall of the club and the boat was completely destroyed as were our plans for the then young season.

However, not enough races were held to make it an official season, or to unseat the Lekson-Hoegler team as fleet champions.

This incident did not deter the Harrisons, in Bojan II, and Jack Hively and Jon Ruhlman, in Crystal, from competing in the following events: Pymatuning Regatta on July 4th; the Edgewater Yacht Club Regatta; the Cleveland Yacht Club Regatta; the Atwood Lake Harvest Moon Regatta and the 1954 Ohio-Indiana Districts at Cleveland Yacht Club.

Every one of these events were enjoyed by all those who could attend them and credit is certainly due to the hard working committees responsible for their success.

Old Socks, No. 2259, skippered by Myron Wright was sold to Dick Brunner who is now sailing at Mentor Harbor Yacht Club, Fleet No. 37. Myron is building a new Lightning as yet unnamed. I am sure he will be a real competitor for Fleet honors.

Black Cloud, No. 291, skippered by Phil Schloss was sold to J. C. Booth of Shaker Heights, Ohio, who plans to sail it on a lake in Michigan.

Prospective new boat owners for the 1955 season are Phil Schloss and Jon Ruhlman. Jon is not a newcomer, for he has sailed in many of our Lightning Regattas and has done very well. Fleet No. 207 will be glad to have him as a member.

The "Max Lekson Perpetual Trophy" was donated by Max during the 1954 season, and the "Phil Schloss Perpetual Trophy" is being donated by Phil. Keen competition for these fine trophies is forecast for the 1955 sailing season.

THE NEW ORLEANS LIGHTNING FLEET (209)

Sailing on Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans, La.

Southern District

Fleet Captain	Gene Honore
Fleet Secretary	Francis J. Favaloro

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
2363	Annie	Francis J. Favaloro
2677	Whiffenpoof	Gene Honore
5332		Simeon Cox
5596		Joseph Young

Due to the size of this Fleet we were unable to hold regular weekly races. We have, however, participated in many of the Regattas throughout the District. It was, of course, very easy for us to have 100 per cent Fleet turnout for many Regattas. We do feel that our prospects for a larger, more active Fleet next year are very good.

ATWOOD LAKE LIGHTNING FLEET (212)

Ohio-Indiana District

Based on Atwood Lake, Carrollton, Ohio

Fleet Captain	Dr. Bob Deetz
Fleet Secretary	Natalie Male
Fleet Champion	Karl Rollius
Runner-Up	Abe Davis

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
554	Kim	John Male
558	Batten Buster	Albert T. Davis
764	Copperhead	H. Deal
844	Black Blitz	John Rundt
1668	Scot Free	Edw. Brown
1956	Bali Hoo	James Harrington
2727	Snifter	Henry Partridge
3666	Ruth	D. B. Dutton
4370	Lightning Bug	Paul J. Reeves
4444	North Star	Karl Rollius
4518	Hiccups	John Hickox
4700	Bottoms Up	Dave Jones
4766	Ever Luffing	R. H. Vredevel
4884	Happybottom	L. A. Snyder
5314		Dr. L. K. Firth
5334		Tom and Marg. Newman
5338		F. R. Mathews
5431	Buttercup	Dr. R. F. Deetz
5600		A. F. Schontz
5700	Four Winds IV	Ed and Tom McCain
		H. G. Zimmer

The Spring Series just couldn't start too soon for the eager sailors of Fleet 212 on Atwood Lake, So.—many new paint jobs and one brand new boat opened the 1954 sailing season, totaling 19 boats in all. The new boat was No. 5600, skippered by Aaron Schontz and No. 4700 and No. 764 had new skippers. No. 764 was skippered by Hersh Deal and No. 4700's new skipper was Dave Jones. The season opened on May the 16th with the first race of the Spring Series. There were three series consisting of four races each with time out for our sailors to attend regattas away from home. Atwood boats put in appearances at Pymatuning, the Lightning Districts at Cleveland, the Internationals in Detroit, and "Buttercup" placed third in the O.I.C.Y.A. at Buckeye Lake.

Another brand new boat, No. 5700, "Four Winds IV," skippered by Ed McCain joined the fleet during the summer series. At times during the season there was a scarcity of breeze, on the lake that is, but it seemed that it was all stored up for the first race of our Harvest Moon Regatta on September 11th. Despite the 35 m.p.h. gusts of the first race and very light winds of the third race, Bob McClaran of Pymatuning took first place, followed by Francis Wick and Pat Young, second and third respectively.

The Wednesday night races, sailed every other week, had a high attendance this year too, although several nights found the last of the fleet feeling their way home by flashlight.

The wind tried to make up for all of the drifters of the '54 season at the last official race of the year, the Round Robin, when the skippers were all sailing strange boats. Summing up the whole season though, the Atwood sailors have many more pleasant memories than complaints about the weather and are already looking forward with real anticipation to the first race of the spring of '55.

Next year Fleet 212 is very happy to be host to the Ohio Interclub Yachting Association and is going to do all in their power to see that a good time is had by all.

Although we were very happy to have many new members this year we also were sad to lose two of our sailors to Fleet 109 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Naomi and Aaron Schontz have packed up their boat and moved to sunny Florida.

CAPE MAY HARBOR LIGHTNING FLEET (213)

Central Atlantic District

Sailing on Cape May Harbor, Cape May, N.J.

Fleet Captain	Hal Finn
Fleet Secretary	Wally Stuard
Fleet Champion	Bob Morris
Runner-Up	Larry Kenney

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
1831	Flirt	James K. Davis, Jr.
3206	Nimbus	Wayne C. Astley
4226	Blue Angel	Wallace Stuard
4587	Poco	Joseph T. Pocher
		Donald W. Pocher and
		Joan A. Pocher
4589	Banshee	Stephen Stevens

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
4669	Scotch Mist	Donald Pocher
4920	Tackless	Lawrence A. Kenney and Thomas McCloskey
5006	Invincible	U. S. Coast Guard Receiving Center
5072	Black Spot	John A. Kenny
5075	Jolly Roger	Robert Morris, Jr.
5331	Live Roll	W. Howell Finn

The season of 1954 started early this year with the early birds Don Pocher and Bob Morris participating in the Spring Tune-ups at Red Bank. Don Pocher Burst Forth in a Blaze of Glory by beating our up state friends in the first race and then settled down to watch them strike back in the succeeding races. Bob Morris got her going in some of the early races and let the rest of the District know that the "Jolly Roger" was a pirate that could put fear in the hearts of many. As the season progressed Bob Morris felt the effects of "Synthetic-itis a disease that is prevalent in the "Cotton Fields", and soon succumbed to operation "Orlon". Larry Kenney, in "Tackless" had the best luck at the C.A.D. by placing 10th in the final standing despite fouling out in the fourth race. While Morris was struggling to keep afloat at the Atlantic Coast Championships, Larry made a clean sweep of the ocean city Centennial Regatta. Don Pocher traveled to the Nation's Capital and placed third in the President's Cup and but for an unfortunate break in one race had second place well secured. However an assist from Wally Stuard as his crew must be made known since Wally gave up the comforts of his "Blue Angel" to make the trip. In the South Jersey Championships Fleet No. 213 sent five boats and did not include the past champion John Kenney who was unable to defend due to business pressure. Bob Morris despite having his hand broken in one race was able to take second place and Larry Kenney placed a sober fourth. Hal Finn with a boost from our District Champ Jim Carson, made some adjustments on his Lightning, and near the end of the season was pacing our fleet but old man experience usually caught up to him and some avoidable incident eventually took its toll.

When we start to analyze the season's accomplishments we feel encouraged. Our district has proven to all that our competition is the roughest in the entire association and when some of our skippers return with victories over many of these masters we feel quite proud but far from satisfied. We now give notice to all

that we will be heard from and will be striving with determined mind to bring honor and fame to the beautiful waters of Cape May.



Robert Morris, Champion of Fleet 213

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ROYAL ST. LAWRENCE YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (215)

Sailing on Lake St. Louis, Dorval, P.Q.

Fleet Secretary J. A. Guest

Fleet Champion E. Botterell & L. Waters

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
1020	Fea II	K. R. Lavers
1620	Gallant	W. F. Drysdale
2327	Jane Ann II	A. E. Wilson
3024	Mildred II	Kiel H. Oxley
3552	Tam	T. A. Monti
3856	Jane Ann	E. Parker
4089	Sea Shell	D. Williams
4157	Andante	Anne Chadwick
4198	Lark	W. Feindell
4199	Frisky Miss	Joan A. Guest
4347	Malish	Arthur Yuile
4628	Alcala	Dr. D. S. Calder
4820	Kelpie	R. S. Tate
4830	Curlew	Dr. E. S. Mills
4839	Peregrine	S. Peck
4859	Wren	R. C. Stevenson
4861	Kittiwake	Doug Ackman
4958	Minwassin	D. R. Smith
5301	Mildred III	Ed Botterell Lynn Watters
5389	Godiva	Bill MacLaren George Layton
5521	Jenjolin	E. S. Laurie

1954 proved to be a very active season for fleet 215.

Mildred III with her crew of Ed Botterell, Lyn Watters and Sam Mislav, showed very well this season. During the month of February when all the other boats were buried deep in snow and ice, Millie and crew were on their way to the Mid-Winter Championships at St. Petersburg, Florida. Skipper Botterell flew down to sail the series and flew back a week later. Mildred III seemed to like the feel of salt water and sailed home in eighth place in

the five race series. In June she won the long distance race at Kingston, as well as the Districts and Club Championship. September was a rather disappointing month, bad luck hit Millie at the Internationals, they broke their rudder when in 3rd position in the 4th race and limped home. However, they received a flag for placing 3rd in the 3rd race, which in a fleet of 40 boats is something to write home about, which is just what they did! Their overall standing was a 17th.

Godiva's crew of George Layton, Don Clarke and Bill McLaren were hot on Millie's tail in many races, and finally won the Iskoodah cup, Millie being 4th. This cup is raced for annually, by all classes and each one handicapped. Despite all this, Godiva won with a fair margin over the other 125 boats. George repeated his feat by being 2nd in the open and 1st Canadian, to win the Canadian Lightning Championships at the Toronto Exhibition with Tom Fallon of the Buffalo Canoe Club 1st in the open.

The Wren Trophy, in which ladies are skippers, was hotly contested again this year, the honors all going to 11-year-old Penny Watters, who with her crew of Ed Botterell and Papa Watters, sailed Mildred III home well ahead of the other 15 boats.

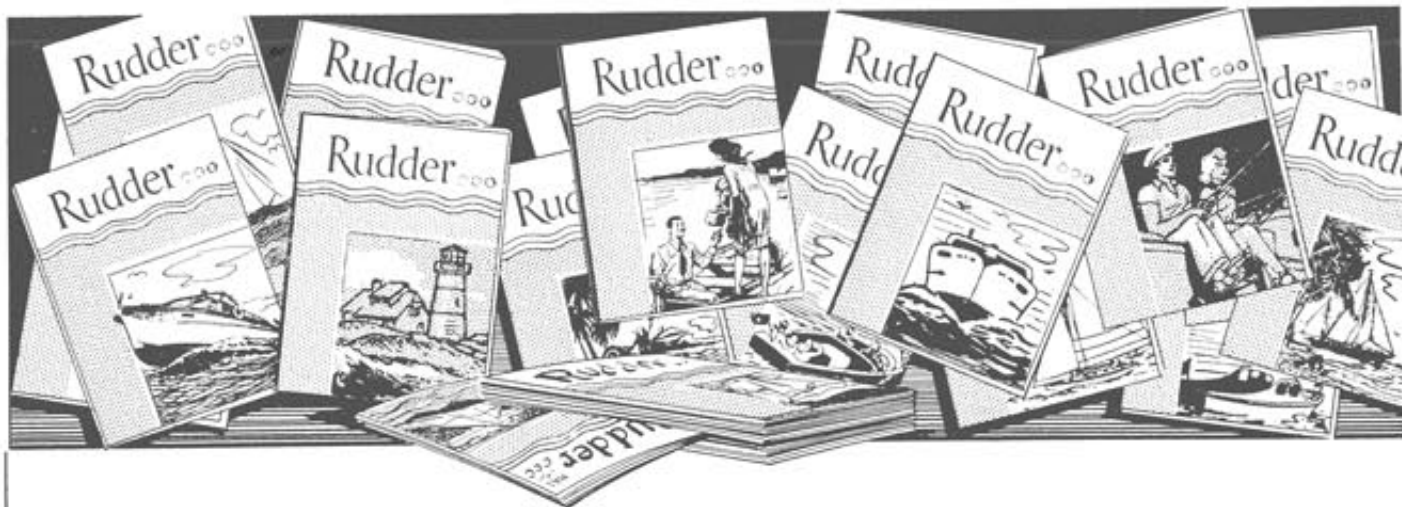
This year we were the guests of Cedarhurst Yacht Club in a three race series. They gave us a wonderful weekend of sailing, warm hospitality and lots of parties. They won the series this year, but we are looking forward very much to the return visit which they will pay us in '55.

Bill Drysdale, Jr. was our Sears' Cup entry but unfortunately was eliminated in the semi-finals. However, Bill has a few years more and we all wish him better luck next year.

Two crews went to the President's Cup, one skippered by George Layton, who was disqualified when in 4th of the overall standings, and the other consisted of an all girl crew, namely, Anne Chadwick, Joan Guest and Edith Townsend. This is the first time in the history of the International or President's Cup that an all girl crew has sailed. They raced well and gained good experience which they will benefit by next season.

A closing note: MILDRED III has just captured the Vermont Lightning Championships, with the all girl crew coming third.

With the close of this season we all hope that 1955 will be even greater.



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Fleet No. 221 Champion—"Silver" skippered by Jim Hamilton, Donny Sprague and Hjalmar (Shanks) Carlson crewing.

and Hjalmar Carlson as crew, trailed "Silver" to Toronto for the Lake Erie Districts, giving Jim and crew the distinction of being the first to represent Fleet 221 at a district meet.

All of the Fleet participated in the home club's regular handicap series, "Silver" emerging with the coveted Wallace Trophy, nosing "Slosh Jr." out by .025 of a point.

Competition was at its highest between the skippers and crews in the series of scratch races for the Sager Lightning Trophy, which was presented for the first time this year. "Silver" emerged victor, capturing the trophy and the fleet championship, with "Wyvern" a very close second.

Fleet 221 is looking forward to an even more active season in '55 with the hope of adding at least two or three more Lightnings to its roster by next season.

GARY BOAT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (222)

Sailing on Lake Michigan, Burns Ditch, Indiana

Fleet Captain	Dr. Antone C. Remich
Fleet Secretary	J. S. McKinsey
Fleet Champion	Walter Frank
Runner-Up	Antone C. Remich, M.D.

Boat No.	Boat Name	Boat Name
107	Thumper II	Dr. Antone C. Remich
161	Rut-Hi	J. S. McKinsey
803	Nimbus	Joe Finnerty
902	Follow Me	Gilbert (Dobby) Carr
1456		George Murphy
4354	Fury	Don McMillan
5210	Gondola	Elio Largura
5675	Nimphius	Walter Frank
5955	Surge On	A. C. (Tony) Remich, M.D.
		John Primich

The Gary Boat Club race series was in a two-way tie in the last of a six race series with Wally Frank in "Nimphius" and Doc Remich in "Fury" leading the pack. It looked like it was the Doc's race with some beautiful spinnaker work, until it was seen that he was using a foot instead of a hand. The accidental wrapping of the sheet around his foot cost him the race when he had to sail off to release it. From then on Frank took a commanding lead. This was cut down on the last leg, but the boats finished in the order in which they stood for the series: Frank, Remich and Primich. Competition was keen. Wally Frank had won the Crocker Cup the previous year in the Club for handicap racing for the sailboats not in the Lightning Class. Now he is the champ of the Lightnings too. Primich sold his "Race Lady" to George Murphy (who will sail the boat in the club next year), and has ordered a new boat for next year. Doc Remich sold his "Fury" to Don McMillan, also a newcomer, and he too is getting a new boat.

The members of the club are grateful to Lill and Ted Berglund for their fine cooperation in acting as the race committee for the series. Ted sure had to do some running around on some of those drifters to find out if Wally was willing to call "Uncle".

Tragedy struck the club on the weekend of the 3rd of October when torrential rains in Gary and Hammond brought water up to unprecedented heights in the Little Calumet River and the Burns Ditch. Water raced down the Ditch at a height never before seen. Cruisers, outboards and sailboats were torn from their moorings and swept out into Lake Michigan. The Coast guard rescued a number of these. Boats from clubs up the Ditch were swept down and damaged boats from our club. Fortunately the Lightnings somehow escaped serious damage with the exception of the "Rut Hi" (McKinsey) which had its mast broken, and Chu-Gin-Su (Smith). We think they will both be back, although it is rumored that McKinsey (who is now on a world tour on the sailboat "Yankee") is going to get a new boat (with hidden atomic power). Our sympathy goes to those who lost boats or whose boats were severely damaged and we hope that when they replace these it will be with boats in our class.

"Doc" Remich trailed his boat to several Regattas including the Hoosier at Wauwasee, Ind., Midwest, President Cup, and the Red Flannel. He was joined in two of these by Wally Frank. We hope with the installation of the new crane (made and donated by Frank and McKinsey) and an adequate hoist next year that trips to outside regattas will be made by more of our members.

Former champ Don Hamilton has returned from a two year stay in the Mojave desert, where sailing was but a dream, and should be a real threat if he gets a boat and returns to the fleet next year.

New sailors Ebert, Largura and Smith will be back next year. We predict that the Clayt Ebert, his slide rule and a new drum will be a triple threat next year.

May the winds blow strong, favorably and at the right times next year.

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Ohio-Indiana Districts

August 5, 6 and 7

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Toledo Ohio

SORRENTO C.R.V. ITALIA LIGHTNING FLEET (223)

Based on Banchina Santa Lucia, Naples, Italy

Fleet Captain		Cesare Ratti
Fleet Secretary		Franco Cavallo
Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
3591	Tropea	Mario Signorini
4522	Squirrel	Giancarlo Gugenheim
4965	Saraco	Cesare Ratti
4966	Fandango	Mario Cavallo
		Franco Cavallo
		Maurizio Piscicelli
		C.R.V. Italia
5184	Lampo	

Sorrento Fleet had a happy season during 1954.

Cesare Ratti, sailing Saraco, finished second in Christmas regatta, and first in one of the European International races, while Franco Cavallo sailed to the victory his Fandango in three races of the same European International.

Our fleet was represented at the Castellammare races, and the event was won by Franco Cavallo with Fandango, followed by Lampo with Augusto Masciocchi.

C.R.V. Italia races, at Sorrento were enjoyed by all. The big perpetual Challenge, which remember an old skipper, Gustavo D'Andrea, who has been a real amateur of sea and sailing, was put, for the first time after the war, as Trophy in the long race from Naples Castellammare di Stabia, Sorrento. This event was won by Fandango, with Franco Cavallo. Next day, in the triangular course at Sorrento, Cesare Ratti, with Saraco finished second, winner was Cosentino of Naples Fleet.

At Mergellina races, Fandango with Franco Cavallo won the Chalel Primavera Cup, while Lampo finished third, with Masciocchi.

C.R.V. Italia Sorrento Fleet, was well represented to the University's Championship at Rappallo, Lampo, with A. Masciocchi and Civita won the series.

For the Italian Championship, held at Gargnano sul Garda, Sorrento Fleet started from Naples with two cars, for the long trip. Fandango was trailed from Cavallo's car. Mrs. Tafuri, Mrs. Cavallo and Miss Cavallo accompanied the gay column. Cesarino Ratti, a really master in wines choice, was the Commander. His opinion was "never move too early in the morning." He recommended "partenza a ora regolare," which means starting not before 11 o'clock, stop at 12:30h. for lunch, rest until 16:00h. about dinner at 20:00h. It was a nice trip indeed.

Although Cesarino had a big roll in the district championship and really when his Saraco is before there is nothing to do for the others. He took the first place in one race, and was runner-up in the district championship. Fandango with Cavallo finished third.

It would have been much to say about the crewmens Capolino and Magri, ladies hair-dressers, and Tafuri, well known under the same name "il Cavaliere" and about his hat. But that will be for another time.

Mario Signorini with Tropea not yet entered in races, but he is training his boys for the job.



Lampo—Sorrento Fleet winner of University Championship.

HENDERSON HARBOR LIGHTNING FLEET (225)

Central New York District

Sailing on Henderson Harbor, N.Y.

Fleet Captain	Frank Bickford
Fleet Secretary	May Robinson
Fleet Champion	Frank Bickford
Runner-Up	Harold Ferguson

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
179	Little Sodus Too	John Jones
708		Harold Ferguson
808	Northlight	Frank Bickford
1809	Jolie	Carol & Jack Pickleman
1926		Jim Seymour
2918		W. M. Pickslay and May Robinson
3417	Hiccup	Ann Dulles
3483		Ralph Johnson
4252		Sandra Hartshorn

Fleet 225 will probably remember 1954 as the year we explored various ways of capsizing. It started on the long distance race—Quebec Head to Kingston, Ontario—opening the EYC Regatta when May Robinson and Betty Ferguson heeled on over into the St. Lawrence. It was surprisingly easy—in that wind. Frank Bickford upheld the fleet honor by finishing the long distance race under his own power and taking a 4th place in the series of course racing that followed. Of course, he had a lot of help from his sons.

In August we returned to Kingston Y.C. for a day of team racing with Fleet 171. They trounced us, but so amiably that we enjoyed it. Let's hope we can do as well by them when they return the visit.

We did a little better against Fleet 9 of Crescent Yacht Club in two very pleasant days of racing, each of us having a chance to play host.

Our home series produced a new and not unexpected champion—Frank Bickford. Now we are all uneasily debating whether he won because of or in spite of his new fiberglass bottom.

The Saturday Series was abandoned to join the other classes in a Handicap Series. Great fun tho confusing. Who won? I dunno.

We closed our season—regretfully—with the Frostbite Regatta. Sept. 19th experimentations in capsizing was continued by Harold Ferguson and Frank Bickford who showed quite clearly it could be done quite easily when flying a spinnaker in a 25-30 knot breeze, centerboards up. Jim Seymour rejoined us long enough to take 1st place and the trophy. John Jones finally got his boat repaired and remasted after a June squall mangled it and came in a close second. Third place went to Ralph Johnson. Last year's winner, Betty Ferguson, was forced out before the start by a broken shroud, but gained a front row seat for her father's acrobatic performance.

BISCAYNE BAY LIGHTNING FLEET (226)

Sailing on Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida

Fleet Captain	Oscar Nelson
Fleet Secretary	Betty Foht
Fleet Champion	Oscar Nelson
Charles Kehoe-Southeastern District Champion	

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
1296	Domino	James Garland
1612	Patricia	George Castle
1808	Echo	George Castle
1830	Belle G.	Dr. Herbert Virgin
1916	Zepher	Howard Foht
2196	Magic Flute	John M. Greist
2675	Honey	Richard Bothfeld
2862	Sea Scouts	Dr. Paul Robertson
2863	Dixie Doodle	James Townley
2896	Ho Hum	Phil Philips
3322	Winsom	Ed. Smith
3800	Hot Foot II	Richard Baltz
4209		Gustave Serino
4509	Dotty Dee II	Dr. Robt. F. Dickey
4510	Blue Heron	John Wilmott

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
4511	Tally-Ho	Dr. Richard Strain
4520	Sandman	Arthur Davis
4655	.....	G. M. Crookson
4756	Winsmore	Paul Palmer & Martin Black
4858	Leslie	Richard H. Bertman and Charles Kehoe
4899	Mist	Sam Zorovich
4939	Malihini	Robert Altemus
5043	Red Pepper	Dr. William Piper
5075	Jolly Roger	Robert Morris
5080	Buccaneer II	Oscar Nelson
5106	Jabo	Dr. Richard Fleming
5253	Glen Gary	Alex Carlin
5410	Nemesis	Harold S. Glander
5466	.....	Linton Smith

BOMOSEEN YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (227)

New England District

Sailing on Lake Bomoseen, Vermont

Fleet Captain	Alberic H. Bellerose, M.D.
Fleet Secretary	Gertrude Bellerose
Fleet Champion	David T. Stagg
Runner-Up	Samuel Stowell

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
506	.....	Rodsell Hart
2821	.....	Edward Ellis
3426	.....	Hobart Smith
4211	.....	Robinson Keyes
4874	Old Stag	David T. Stagg
5107	.....	Lee Wilson
5354	Glory-Be	Arlington Pond
5364	.....	John Hinsman
5477	Yankee Dandy	Samuel Stowell
5590	.....	Christopher Webber
5886	Beau Geste II	Alberic H. Bellerose Joseph L'Heureux

The year of 1954 was a very successful one with a great deal of enthusiasm developed by the skippers and crews, and by their non-sailing friends.

A Saturday and Sunday Series was held starting on May 30, 1954, with nine boats in our Fleet. Eventually, the Saturday Series became tuning races with the interchanging of crews and skippers, which proved to be helpful to the new skippers, and good experience for everyone.

We had several short series during the season. The Fourth of July Series was won by Sam Stowell in "Yankee Dandy." The weekend of July 17, the Fleet Championships were held. The races were closely contested with a triple tie for first place after the first two races. Dave Stagg in "Old Stag" finished first, followed by Sam Stowell in "Yankee Dandy," and Bellerose in "Beau Geste." The weekend following, Sam Stowell represented our Fleet in the State of Maine Regatta where he took first place.

No one from our Fleet sailed in the Internationals, although Dave Stagg was eligible. However, Stowell entered the President's Cup and finished fourth in the final standings.

The weekend of September 11 and 12 we held our third Annual State of Vermont Open Championships for the John and Mary Russell Trophy. Hurricane Edna controlled the air and water the first day, but safe harbor and extremely fine sailing was found at the camp of John Russell, our official starter, while we were riding out the storm. The following day turned out to be ideal for sailing and three races were held. Ed Botteral in "Mildred III" and his famous singing crew, Lynn Waters and Sam Mislav, won first place, followed by Sam Stowell and Dave Stagg of our own Fleet.

This year we had skippers from Canada and New Hampshire, and hope to have some from Eastern Districts join us next year.

At our annual meeting Dr. Alberic H. Bellerose was elected Fleet Captain; and Gertrude Bellerose, Secretary-Treasurer for the year 1955.

We are all anxiously awaiting next spring, as the Fleet has increased to twelve (possibly fourteen) boats. We expect keen competition with the addition of a new Olson and Nichols & Holman to our Fleet.

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RIVERTON YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (228)

Central Atlantic District

Based on Delaware River, Riverton, N.J.

Fleet Captain Bill Mullen
Fleet Secretary Thompson W. Coe
Fleet Champion T. W. Coe in "Jade"
Runner-Up Bill Mullen

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
89	.....	D. E. Sutton
735	.....	Sam Kalkstein
4088	.....	Bill Mullen
4206	Jade	T. W. Coe

The Riverton Yacht Club's Annual Governor's Cup Regatta was the most successful yet for the Lightning Fleet. It was the first time that the Lightnings have been eligible for the Gov. Cup. As a result we tied with the Star Class which received the nod of the Committee over the Lightning Class. Jade, skippered by Tom Coe, swept three firsts in moderate to heavy winds to win the Lopatin Trophy for the fourth straight year. Second went to Bill Mullen with three seconds, followed by Sam Kalkstein, Hank Fretz, Dan Sutton.

Our fall series was disrupted by Hurricanes Carol & Hazel. Our latest addition to the fleet No. 489 was a total loss due to Hazel efforts.

The outlook for '55 looks good with an increase of two or three boats.

CHINOOK LIGHTNING FLEET (229)

Pacific Northwest District

Eugene, Oregon

Fleet Captain Wilson Jewett, Jr.
Fleet Secretary Robert A. Brook

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
49	.....	J. Hobart Wilson
1696	Whiff-n-Poof	Tom & Barclay Slocum
2169	Prowler	Page Walton
2279	Hakili-Po-O	Manning H. Barber
3201	Dee De	Herbert H. Beeson
3317	Windigo	Wilson Jewett, Jr.
3318	Fetchit	Bruce Gaudion
3758	Debbie	Duncan B. Marsh
4022	Ragtime	Spencer Alexander
4359	Snooper	Ralph Batchlor
4815	Jet	Dr. John E. Tysell
5019	Tombar II	Dr. Donald B. Slocum
5041	Jay Whiz II	Dr. L. T. Campbell
5121	T-Ketl	Robert Brooks
5165	Jani-K	Charles Edwards
5182	Tempo	Virgil Gowdy
5451	Bardick	George Britton
		Foster Anderson
		Lynn Moore

Nineteen Lightnings from the Chinook Fleet No. 229 (the fastest growing fleet on the Pacific Coast) based at the Eugene Yacht Club on Fern Ridge Reservoir in the Willamette Valley. We have two enthusiastic builders and one ardent shopper which gives us very good prospects for three more boats in the spring.

An enthusiastic group of sailors participated in a schedule of races held on alternate Sundays from opening day in early May until late August. The early closing date is due to the low level of the water in the reservoir.

The annual Regatta of the Eugene Yacht Club is held on Memorial Day weekend. By far the most active and largest fleet is the Lightning Class. The Lightning Championship of Oregon held at this time was won by the Barbour Twins in their boat Hakili-Po-O. Twenty Lightnings sailed this three-race two-day affair. This is an annual affair with plenty of good racing, lots of activity and our utmost in hospitality. Skippers everywhere are invited to join us, no entry fee—a real time provided for all.

The Season Championship based on the high points for the season also went to the Barbour Twins with very consistent sailing right at the top.

Two special races held during the summer are the Ladies skipper race—won by Mrs. L. T. Campbell and the Trade Wins—won by the Wendigo, skippered by Charles Wilson. The latter race is a trade around race in which the Fleet Champion and crew sail the last place boat and the last place skipper and crew sail the Champions boat, etc., progressively toward the two middle boats.

A number of our skippers trailed their boats to neighboring states for racing and cruising. Dr. John Tysell and family in Jet won the Seafair Lightning trophy at Seattle. Dr. Don Slocum and family won a daily 2nd and 4th place in the District Lightning Championship at Bellingham, Washington.

The Annual business meeting was held Nov. 20 at the home of Hobart Wilson, Fleet Captain. New officers for the coming year are Wilson Jewett, Jr., Fleet Captain; John Tysell, Vice Captain; Robert A. Brooks, Secretary.

NORWALK YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (230)

Based on Long Island Sound, Norwalk, Connecticut

Fleet Captain David Gregg, Jr.
Fleet Secretary Edward D. Cosden
Fleet Champion W. Adriance Kipp, Jr.
in "Stymie II"
Runner-Up Frank P. "Skip" Raymond
in "Triton"

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
473	White Heron	Robert Tuttle
759	We Three	Edward Cosden
1275	Whim	Bruce Sweet
1858	Whiffenpoof II	David Gregg III
2049	Surrey	Lawrence D. Cavanagh
2485	Lintik	John Firth
3032	Lazy 8	Robert A. Lilly
3164	Hecate	Susanne R. Smith
4074	Triton	Frank P. Raymond
4186	Scud	Howard H. Foster, Jr.
4943	Red Head	Steven Harper
5322	Stymie II	W. Adriance Kipp, Jr.

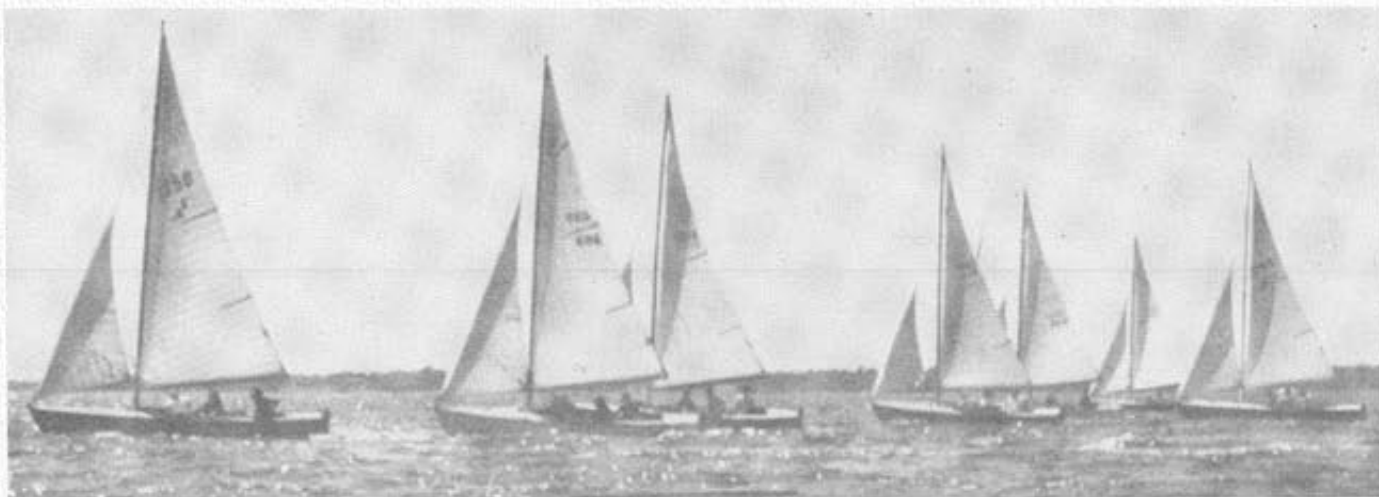
Norwalk Yacht Club Fleet No. 230 started its season officially on June 20th and was active at home and away until hurricanes and school schedules called a halt.

Our Race Committee (Bob Lilly, Chairman) did a wonderful job, and volunteer committee and patrol boats were on hand for every scheduled fleet race as well as for the Long Island Sound Junior Championship series.

The Fleet championship was fought out down to the last day. "Skip" Raymond in "Triton" was only one (1) point behind



Fleet No. 229



A portion of Norwalk Yacht Club Fleet 230 shortly after a start.

fleet champion Ade Kipp sailing "Stymie II." The last race, sailed more by tide than wind, was consequently a nerve tingling experience.

Six Norwalk boats participated in the Pequod Invitation Regatta and the Fleet was represented by Sue Smith sailing "Hecate" in the annual Long Island Sound Lightning Championship Regatta at Noroton. Steve Harper in "Red Head," Skip Raymond in "Triton" and Dave Gregg in "Whiff" represented the Fleet in the Connecticut District Championships. Steve went on to qualify for the Internationals at Detroit but wasn't quite able to bring home any hardware. The measure of enthusiasm at Norwalk is indicated by the fact that Steve sailed in Detroit September 3rd and was back at Norwalk for our September 5th race.

"Skip" Raymond being the 1953 Long Island Sound Junior Champion, Norwalk was host to the 1954 Junior Championship event in which fifteen (15) Fleets were represented. Patrick O'Neal was first place in the Regatta in "Gold Plater" and became the 1954 Junior Champion.

One of the popular annual events for Fleet No. 230 is the "Swapstakes." This race was instituted in 1953 by Bruce Sweet, Fleet Captain in 1953 and owner of "Whim." As the name of the race implies, the Fleet skippers swap boats by lot for this event which has always drawn 100 per cent fleet participation. This year hurricanes disrupted the fall schedule and the "Swapstakes" were not sailed—will be scheduled earlier next season.

LAKE WORTH SAILING CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (232) Sailing on Lake Worth, Fort Worth, Texas

Fleet Captain	Kent Brown
Fleet Secretary	L. W. Nelms
Fleet Champion	O. L. Pitts
Runner-Up	L. W. Nelms

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
777	Triple Pass	Kent Brown
3746		Harold Johnson
5204		Dean Raymond
5219	Duchess	James Stratton
5250	Tempest	Louis W. Nelms
5474		Lloyd Munson
5775	Pam Too III	O. L. Pitts

We had a magnificent sailing season this year, it being superior in almost every respect to last year, which was itself an excellent one. More races were held, more boats were added, and enthusiasm was maintained at the same high level.

One of the accomplishments of which we are most proud is the large number of races in our championship series—38, that, you'll have to admit is a lot of races. Perhaps an explanation of this great number of races is to be found in the fact that all Lightning Class races held at our club count toward the class championship. The championship is won by the skipper having the best average score, providing he has sailed in fifty per cent, or more, of the available championship races. It is interesting to note that no member of our fleet sailed less than 21 (more than half) of these races. The Commodore's Cup, a perpetual trophy, is awarded to our champion, in this year's case, O. L. Pitts. O. L., an easy winner this year, is the only winner of this cup so far, since he won it last year and this is only our second season.

The Charter Cup, another perpetual trophy, goes to the winner of a special three-race series held at the close of the season in which no participant may sail the same boat twice, the boats of the participating skippers being drawn for by lot. Louis Nelms got off to a quick start, took two firsts and a third in that order, to win handily this year. Like O. L. and the Commodore's Cup, Louis is the only skipper to win the Charter Cup. Incidentally, the idea for this type of series was borrowed from one of the older classes of the club as it has been found highly successful over the years in combating that "end of the season" lag of interest.

Members of our fleet attended the Shreveport Yacht Club, the Fort Worth Boat Club, the Houston Yacht Club, the Texas District Championship, and the Southwestern Championship Regattas this year. We're almost ashamed to mention our regatta record for the year, as only one of our sailors was able to bring home first place hardware. Kent Brown took his "Triple Pass,"

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No. 777, down to Houston and showed the salt water boys there how it's done. Pitt's third at Shreveport and his fifth at the Fort Worth Boat Club, along with Nelm's fourth at the Districts and sixth at the Southwesterns were our fleet's best efforts at the other regattas.

Everybody, including most of our fleet, took lessons on "How to Sail a Lightning in Fifty M.P.H. Winds" from Eugene Walet and company at the F.W.B.C. Regatta. This guy Walet flies his spinnaker in fifty m.p.h. winds and gets away with it! Two of our members, Kent Brown and James Stratton, joined the "Bottoms Up Club" flying their spinnakers in a vain attempt to stay up with Walet.

Quite a few of our skippers are getting new light boats in the hope of providing better competition at regattas, etc. Pitts has already procured a new boat, Bob Nolan is getting a Lippincott, Louis is building himself a new one, and James Stratton is thinking of buying a Martin built boat. These new boats coupled with the old ones, which are usually sold to club members and thereby retained in the fleet are making for a rapid increase in our fleet's size. Next year we hope to start nine or ten boats at our home events and to be able to send boats to regattas capable of competing with the finest. Take heed, you fellows from Dallas, there's more of us now and we're all "hungry."

FORD YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (233) Sailing on Lake Erie, Grosse Isle, Michigan

Fleet Captain	Robert E. Houston
Fleet Secretary	George Davis
Fleet Champion	Dick Westerman
Runner-Up	Dick Ruffe

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
163	"Zig Zag"	Richard G. Westerman
596	"Shrimp"	Robert E. Houston
1977	Mabees	Andrew TenEyck, Jr.
1982	"Wee Dee"	George G. Davis
3718	"Salty Dog"	Richard E. Drew
4539		Richard G. Ruffe
5130	Mom's Mink	Richard G. and Billie B. Westerman

In 1954 the Ford Yacht Club Lightning Fleet completed a four month racing schedule in its second season, and had an average of 4 boats competing in the 9 races held on Lake Erie. In March and April of 1954 the fleet was increased with 2 new skippers: Andy TenEyck bought "Restless" from John Pausch of Crescent Sail Yacht Club which he renamed "Mabees," and Dick Ruffe bought No. 4539 from Edgar Orr of Macatawa Bay Yacht Club.

Our new long-season rules required that each skipper conduct one race in order to be eligible for the trophies. Each participant could also miss two other races, as only the best six races would count toward the trophies.

Four out of the first 6 races were drifters, and a tabulation showed the defending champion Dick Westerman with only two first places, while in the lead was newcomer Dick Ruffe with three firsts.

Andy TenEyck, another newcomer, also had one first place. Dick and Billie Westerman then bought "Mom's Mink" from Phil Patterson of Saginaw Bay Yacht Club. In the 7th race the purchase paid off with a first place, thus getting the last laugh on those who had seen "Mom's Mink" dunk the entire crew the day before the race. The decisive race, however, was on September 12, 1954. At the first windward mark, it was Ruffe, Davis, and Westerman and remained unchanged on the reach and run. The second time around on the windward leg the positions changed. When the mark was rounded, it was Westerman, Davis, and Ruffe. These positions held on the reach, and on the spinnaker run it was a battle for wind, with Westerman crossing the finish line only feet ahead of Davis.

The 9th and last race of the season was sailed with extremely variable winds. With a complete shift of wind which changed a spinnaker run into a windward beat, Westerman came from behind TenEyck to earn the Bill Was Trophy for the second year in a row.

The Ford Yacht Club held its annual Frostbite Handicap Regatta on October 10, 1954. Twelve Ford Yacht Club boats participated in what should have been called the "Frostbite Drifter." Dick Ruffe's Lightning won the 8-mile Regatta on corrected time in the four hour race.

Altogether, Ford's Fleet had a very enjoyable season and was made more interesting by the fact that six races were held jointly through the summer months with the Grosse Ile Yacht Club's Lightning Fleet. In the Inter-Club Lightning Series, Frank Wolcott of Grosse Ile Lightning Fleet No. 68 won, while Dick Ruffe



Fleet No. 233 just in from a race.

and Dick Westerman took second and third place, respectively.

Ford sailors participated in the Michigan District Race at East Tawas Yacht Club when Dick Westerman and George Davis trailered their boats there. Dick Westerman also took part in the President's Cup Races held at Crescent Sail Yacht Club.

We are all looking forward to another good season and perhaps a larger Lightning Fleet in 1955.

BANDEIRANTE LIGHTNING FLEET (234) Sailing on Lake Billings, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Fleet Secretary	Peter Hirschel
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Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
3079	Kullen	Ulf Rudbeck
4934	Mona Lisa	Peter Hirschel
5252	Skipper II	Fritz Schachtitz

Due to the extremely low level of the lake, little sailing was done this year and more attention was given in finishing our club house.

We hope a bigger report of our activities can be sent to you in 1955.



Fleet No. 234. Our new home.



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President's Cup Winners: Capt. Mario Merola, Capt. d.c. Paolo Mainini, Capt. Mario Lo Sardo.

MARIVELA LIGHTNING FLEET (235) Sailing on Naples Bay

Fleet Captain C. Paolo Mainini
Fleet Secretary Mario Lo Sardo
Fleet Champion Mario Merola

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
4617	Turbine	Sport Velico M.M. Mario Merola
4621	Baleno	Sardella Bruno
4907	Garbino	Carlo Corsi
4908	Tramontana	Roselli Pasquale
4962	Dardo	Paolo Mainini
5745	Turbine 2nd Forano	Sport Velico M.M. Mario Lo Sardo

Marivela fleet entered all races in the season and had big successes.

In the European International at Naples, Capt. Mario Merola sailed to the victory his Turbine, and won C.R.B. Italia Cup. The same skipper, with Turbine finished first in the Yacht Club Canottieri Savoia regatta at Naples, and in the meeting at Anzio.

Marivela fleet won, with Capt. Mario Merola, Capt. C. Paolo Mainini, Capt. Mario Lo Sardo, C.I.S.M. military International regatta. The race was held at Leghorn, organized by Marivela Fleet and from Navy High School.

Five triangular races, changing boat on each race, five contestants: Belgium, France, Italy, Holland and Sweden.

The Italian crew skipper, Capt. Mario Merola, finished first, and the standing wound up as follows:

- First—Italy, 21 points
- Second—Sweden, 17 points
- Third—Belgium, 14 points
- Fourth—France, 13 points
- Fifth—Holland, 10 points

The trophy for this event was the President's Cup, given from the Italian Republic President, on year 1950, and was won in the same year from France, in Italy, with Star Class boats. In 1951 was won in Denmark, from Denmark with Dragons Class boats. As this year the organization of the race was given to Marivela, the Lightnings were chosen to enter this regatta.

A fleet Championship was held from Marivela too, at Taranto, and Capt. Mario Merola won the event.

At Anzio, Marivela Fleet and Circolo della Vela di Roma, organized a Lightning propaganda regatta trying to establish a new fleet at Porto d'Anzio where many Lightnings are.

Seven boats of Anzio entered the race, finishing as follows:

- First—Forano, Marivela Fleet, Capt. Mario Lo Sardo
- Second—Borea, Circolo Tevere Remo, De Rossi
- Third—Dardo, Marivela Fleet, Capt. C. Paolo Mainini
- Fourth—Eos, Circolo della Vela di Roma, Cerulli
- Fifth—Favonio, id. id. id., Arrigo Dominici
- Sixth—Trinacria, Circolo Tevere Remo, Nanni Indri
- Seventh—Uragano, Circolo della Vela di Roma, Benedetti

MILFORD YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (238) Sailing on Long Island Sound, Conn.

Fleet Captain Burvee M. Franz
Fleet Secretary Verna B. Franz
Fleet Champion Norman S. Evarts
Runner-Up Burvee M. Franz

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
219	Foot Loose	Richard P. Evarts
242	Maken	Kenneth Norton
283	Fancy Free	Norman S. Evarts
498	Zig-Zag	Burvee Franz
1383	Malahini	Fred Farnsworth
1529	Vagabond	Robert Peck
1600	Dolly	Elmer Lloyd
1638	Sandal	Henry Burghardt
2054	Angel II	Walter Gerstenberger
2920	Raider	Millard Gill
3447	Minx	William Bechtel
3639		Robert Koehler
4016		John Phillips
4626	Allegro	Norman Borgersen

Fleet No. 238, like Topsy, is growing fast! Chartered in 1953 with six boats, two were added to end that season with eight. With all members of the Fleet pushing interest in Lightnings throughout the Club, the 1954 Season started with eleven boats having added four and lost one. Fleet growth gathered speed during the season when two additional boats were added and the season was climaxed by the transfer of Bud Olson's fast boat from Housatonic Boat Club, Fleet 6, to Norman Borgersen. Thus when moorings were hauled in the Fall, the Fleet numbered fourteen. From small talk going the rounds, there is little doubt but what more boats will be added by race time next Spring.

In the big series of the season, the Sunday Afternoon Series, Norman Evarts again took first place by a wide margin with seven wins and two seconds. Of the original ten races scheduled only one was blown out because of high winds. Although some of the early races in light airs seemed to indicate that Norman and his crew in Fancy Free might be in for some stiff competition, the second half of the series proved to be a runaway for this fast combination. Final point scores were 49½ Norman Evarts, 44¼ Burvee Franz in Zig Zag, 38¼ Bill Bechtel in Minx and 37 Bob Peck in Vagabond.

In most races Fancy Free with Norman at the tiller, wife "Bobby" and daughter Linda, age 5, as crew, finished way ahead of the rest of the Fleet. The strong tidal currents around Welch's Point and Charles Island proved the undoing of some of the newer skippers. Many experienced the frustrating feeling of seeing the lead boats round the bell outside of Charles Island with an outgoing tide and dying breeze which contributed to many DNFs during the season. Experience is the best teacher and next year the complexion of things is bound to change.

In the Saturday Afternoon Series "Minx" Bechtel eked out a win with 22½ points in best five out of six races. This was only ¼ points over Bobby Evarts in Fancy Free, Walter Gerstenberger in Angel II, a 1954 addition to the Fleet copped third place in the series.

The Fourth of July Series consisting of three races was won by the Fleet Champion, Norman Evarts, with two wins and a second for a total of 18½ points. Some weird changes in a very



Before the start. "Last Chance" Regatta, Milford Yacht Club, Sept. 26

light breeze in the Sunday race contributed to a first place by Zig Zag, but things were back to the usual pattern in the two Monday races with Fancy Free taking both.

The Wednesday Evening Series of five races proved to be one of the most interesting of the season. Very high winds in the first and last race, with zephyrs in two races and a drenching rain in one race caused some fussing amongst skippers, but otherwise contributed to a very fine group of races. Although it may be getting monotonous, it must be reported that Fancy Free also won this series.

Bob Peck in Vagabond did a consistent job in the evening series to come in Second and Zig Zag nosed out Angel II for third place.

As a departure from the regular races a time handicap race was held on September 5th with handicaps calculated on previous race results. The starting time for each boat was varied according to these handicaps with the idea of bringing all boats to the finish line in a heap. Since the Firefly Nationals were in progress over the regular inside course, the handicap race was held over a leeward windward outside course. Some of the skippers had their spinnakers flying as they went over the starting line. Elmer Lloyd in "Dolly" a newcomer in the Fleet, did a fine job and led the Fleet to the finish line. Norman Evarts in the scratch boat with a thirteen minute start behind the lead boat sailed through all of the Fleet except Dolly to take second place. Bill Bechtel, Henry Burghardt and Burvee Franz finished almost in a dead heat for third place, proving that the time handicaps were not too far off. All skippers agreed that this race proved a welcome interlude from the regular races.

In the Tri-Club Regatta sponsored jointly by the Housatonic Boat Club, Windjammer Sailing Club and Milford Yacht Club, Wayne Brockett and Al Kuehle, both from the Branford Yacht Club, duplicated the 1953 Regatta by taking first and second places respectively. This race was well attended with representatives from five clubs competing.

One of the most popular events of the racing season is the Last Chance Regatta run by the Windjammer Sailing Club in cooperation with the Milford Yacht Club. This race sailed on Sept. 25, in the waning days of the season, attracted sixteen Lightnings. Wayne Brockett was talked into trailing down from Branford and won this one, taking second place in the morning race and first place in the afternoon race. Norman Evarts did a fine job in the morning race taking first place, but got hung up in

the afternoon race when he ran up against the old bugaboo of a dying breeze and outgoing tide at the windward mark outside Charles Island.

Hurricane "Carol" hit the coast of Connecticut with devastating results on Aug. 31. Three of the Lightning Fleet were toppled and Ken Norton broke his mast when it got hung up under an adjacent mooring chain. Walter Gerstenberger and Elmer Lloyd were luckier when their boats received only superficial damage. When Hurricane "Edna" struck there was ample warning and most of the Lightnings had been hauled out to high ground.

Norman Borgersen served notice in two pick-up races early in October that his newly acquired boat will be out to give Norman Evarts a run for his money in 1955. Elmer Lloyd picked up a world of experience during the season and his boat is expected to show much better in 1955. Rumor has it that Walter Gerstenberger is buying a brand new boat, so all in all, the 1955 Season looks to be more active and interesting than 1954 for Fleet No. 238.

LONGHORN LIGHTNING FLEET (240) Sailing on Eagle Mountain Lake, Ft. Worth, Texas

Fleet Captain R. B. Hardin
Fleet Secretary Roy Loveless, Jr.
Fleet Champion
Runner-Up

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
5204	Pam Too	O. L. Pitts
5205	Wi Si Kat	R. B. Hardin
5249	Marilyn	Roy Loveless, Jr.

Longhorn Lightning Fleet (240) Sailing on Eagle Mountain Lake, Fort Worth, Texas. Our fleet comprising of only three boats has limited fleet activities to Bruch Races, however the entire fleet has trailed to Lake Worth-Dallas and Shreveport to sail with these fleets. Our club was host to 23 Lightnings for our spring regatta and put into competition the Loffland Trophy this past year and it was won by Gene Walet of New Orleans. There are two additional boats now on our lake and we are hopeful of starting competitive races next season.

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KISER LAKE FLEET (241)

Based on Kiser Lake, near St. Paris, Ohio

Fleet Secretary Howard J. Hadley
Fleet Champion Ralph Pauley

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
504	Lodestar	Maurice E. Herrold
1286	Will-o-Wind	Howard J. Lewis
1802	HeHoHa	Howard J. Hadley

KENTUCKY LAKE FLEET (242)

Sailing on Kentucky Lake at Kentucky Lake State Park, Ky.

Fleet Captain R. M. Watkins
Fleet Secretary Mimmie Lowry

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
247	MadCap	R. M. Watkins
533	Pest	R. M. Watkins
2716	Windie	Shirley Cannon
		William Parker
2775		Bernard Fischlowitz
4125		Mimi Lowry
4167		French D. Helsley
5766		Sam Gugenheim
		Don MacKenzie

Fleet No. 242 continued to grow during the season, and prospects are brighter for the addition of two more Lightnings by next spring. The fleet formed the muscles for organizing the Kentucky Lake Sailing Club, during the past summer. The Club has purchased a 52 ft. quarters boat with two decks and it will be the center of activity for sailing. The fleet participated in two Regattas held at Kentucky Lake State Park. The first of which was sponsored by the Paducah Junior Chamber of Commerce and the second was sponsored by the Kentucky Lake Yacht Club. These two events were very successful and will be continued annually.

Races exclusively for Lightnings were held only infrequently and the fleet was not represented at the District Championships.

HARRASEEKET LIGHTNING FLEET (244)

Sailing at South Freeport, Maine

Fleet Captain John H. Henshaw
Fleet Secretary Dalene Powers
Fleet Champion Dalene Powers
Runner-Up John H. Henshaw

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
444	White Mist	William Elliot
563	Rascal	L. M. C. Smith
665	Tigger	Henry Bird
2595	Firefly	So. Freeport, Yacht Basin, Inc.
3204	Sandpiper	John Henshaw
3277	Nipper	Dalene Powers
3306	Ega Beva	Henry Douglas
3308	Nancy B.	G. Lumsden
3689	Skip It	O. C. Rhodes

Fleet No. 244, with nine boats in the water, has grown considerably from the original four of two years ago when we started to get organized.

This year we had two series of races through the summer. Only four races were held in the Saturday series as two were halted by violent thunder squalls after which assistance to capsized boats prevented finishing the races. Ega Beva won the Saturday series with a perfect score of three firsts; the three best races being counted in each series.

Five races were held in the Sunday series which Sandpiper won over Nipper, the runner-up, by a very narrow margin.

Nipper, by virtue of very consistent sailing in both series, won the Fleet Championship by one point over Sandpiper.

Henry S. Parker, Jr. who sailed the Firefly to three firsts in the Saturday and Sunday series, but who could not race often enough to qualify for Fleet honors, went to Blue Hill and won the Maine State Championship in the Mallory Cup Eliminations with Henry Douglas and Gardner Brown crewing for him. Later at East Greenwich, Rhode Island, in the semi-finals, this same crew came in the closest kind of second, barely missing the trip to



Spinnaker Duel, Fleet No. 244.

New Orleans in spite of sailing a part of one race with the tiller broken off where it joins the rudder.

Sixteen skippers competed for the Weiner Trophy representing the sailing championship of the Harraseeket Yacht Club. Each skipper sailed four races in four different boats and met every other skipper twice in a series of eight races. Going into the last race, Harry Parker was tied with Dalene Powers. At the last mark, Harry caught and passed Dalene to win the Weiner Trophy for the fourth year in a row by the narrow margin of one and one-quarter points.

Fortunately, our Fleet came through the thunder squalls and Hurricanes Carol and Edna with little damage. Lightning No. 563 lost her mast when she capsized during Hurricane Carol.

In the Casco Bay Interclub Regatta, Gardner Brown, a member of the Harraseeket Yacht Club and of Fleet No. 101 at Taylor Pond, won in the Lightning Class on the first day with Sandpiper No. 3204 fourth in a fleet of twenty-five boats.

With our boats hauled out for the winter, we look forward to 1955 with hopes for a season as interesting and successful as this last one.

PERNAMBUCO LIGHTNING FLEET (245)

Sailing on Recife-Pernambuco, State of Pernambuco, Brazil (245)

Fleet Captain Justan Goncalves
Fleet Secretary Jayme Teixeira Leite

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
4242		Jayme Teixeira Leite
5342		Vanildo da Cunha Antunes
5382		Justan Goncalves

We had no regattas this year, because our boats are under construction, and we intend to start Sport activities next year.

WINNIPESAUKEE YACHT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (246)

Sailing on Saunders Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee, Glendale, N. H.

Fleet Captain Chester G. Larson
Fleet Secretary Robert D. Stewart
Fleet Champion Arthur G. Dwyer in
"Spalpeen"
Runner-Up Robert D. Stewart in "NightCap"



Saunders Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee.

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
81	Nimbu	Lawrence W. Guild
268	Firefly	Dr. Fred J. Deneault
1139	Nancy Lou	Reg. B. Babin
1936	Nightcap	Robert D. Stewart
1947	Blixten	Chester G. Larson & Carl Henrikson
2041	Willen	William R. Loughlin
3606	Sally Dick	Dr. Frank Flagg
3834	Spalpeen	Arthur G. Dwyer
4207	Leftwind	John Mullins
5643	Kickatoo	Kenneth Taylor

The 1954 WYC sailings began for many of our enthusiasts by Memorial Day, on May 31st. From that time each Sunday through the month of June a series of tune up races was held.

Beginning the weekend of the Fourth of July our summer series started with the Yacht Club's annual Regatta being held, and Fleet 246 was honored by the attendance of several outside boats, one of which, No. 5282, DONELEN, skippered by Donald Peach of Marblehead, Mass., who came forth to capture the honors for this annual event.

The regular Fleet 246 summer series ran an exciting and varied course through the months of July and August with a continuous battle for position and points being fought much of this period especially between Dwyer's "Spalpeen", and Stewart's "NightCap". At this period, "Spalpeen", and "NightCap", having accumulated a majority of points, many of their gains were seriously endangered and were constantly being upset throughout these races by Doc. Deneault's "Firefly", and Larson-Henrikson's "Blixten". However, despite the continuous threats of this competition, the ultimate victor and Fleet Champ proved to be Art Dwyer.

Hurricane CAROL caught Winnepesaukee fairly well prepared thanks to the vigilance of many of WYC's members and especially one, namely Wally Kramer, who managed to get most boats to shelter in time. Unfortunately the one boat which could not be reached in time and which was ultimately lost to CAROL's ravages, was Doc Deneault's "Firefly", No. 268. Despite this setback, Doc's spirit is undaunted, and he expects to be afloat with us again this coming season with a new boat.

In late September, Ken Taylor with "Kickatoo", and Bob Stewart's "Nightcap", part of Fleet 246 invaded Lake Massabesic in Manchester to attend the Massabesic Yacht Club's annual regatta. Four Lightnings participated in the competition with Len Pratt sailing "Bon Joy" of Fleet No. 145, copping the honors again for his third straight year. "Nightcap" placed second, with "Kickatoo" bringing home a successful third as representatives for Fleet 246. Following this regatta all present were treated to a grand cookout as further hospitality of our Massabesic hosts.

On the agenda for the coming 1955 season, with the greater part of eight out of ten boats in the Fleet, a very active season—weather permitting!—is anticipated. At our annual Fleet meeting held at Captain Larson's home in Concord on September 17th, our schedule of activities for 1955 was formally adopted to include three series of races plus several miscellaneous events. These will include the first series beginning the last two weekends in June—(18th and 19th, 25th and 26th) which will be distance

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obstacle races; our second series commencing July 3rd through the 24th, and the final summer series from August 7th through the 28th. The Fleet expects to give awards for the first position in each series, with the Yacht Club trophy going to the winner of the three series overall. Come the weekend of July 31st, or possibly the weekend before, (depending upon the date of the N.E. District Championships), Fleet 246 will be sponsoring the first State of New Hampshire Championship Invitation Regatta.

In addition to our active racing program for '55 the Fleet has scheduled for the first full-moon Saturday in July and in August, a family cruise-race to one of the distant Winnepesaukee islands, to be followed by a cookout, on each occasion, and a return moonlight sail for those who are not planning on sleeping out aboard on location!

At any rate, we of Fleet 246 and Winnepesaukee Yacht Club, in closing a happy 1954 season, and as most all sailors do, are anticipating the forthcoming 1955 season as one of greater thrills in racing, cruising or just plain sailing of our Lightnings, and are also looking forward to extending our hospitality to other enthusiasts whom we hope will visit our beautiful Winnepesaukee Shores in this season which will be soon upon us.

SANDY BEACH LIGHTNING FLEET (248) Sailing at Rockport, Massachusetts

Fleet Captain	David Lamb
Fleet Secretary	Jean Worthington
Fleet Champion	William Wertenbacker
Runner-Up	Jean & Betsy Worthington

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
1755	Babalu	David & Mary Lamb
2342	Quantum	William Wertenbacker
3521	Spook	Joan Binney
3571	Let's Go	Dr. Gordon F. Hull, Jr.
3862	Pogo	Jean & Betsy Worthington
4549	Marauder	Rosamond Wheeler

This year we lost two members, but gained two new ones, so the number of "Lightnings" in our fleet remained six. We had active and enthusiastic participation in all the races in July and August.

We participated in races in Annisquam and Marblehead again this year, but without spectacular results. The main credit we deserve is that we came back in one piece, without any mishaps.

The competition in the weekend races during the whole summer grew to a climax in the last two weeks of August. Each boat was about a half point apart, so each race was very tense. There was a tie between the "Spook" and the "Pogo", which was very dramatic. Both boats had their spinnakers up, and both sails had a beautiful sag. The "Pogo" was trying to out do the "Marauder", and succeeded, but while she was ruffing up the "Marauder", the "Spook" came into tie with her.

Unfortunately the "Spook" forgot a ground rule, so she did not win the August series. The "Quantum" had better luck and won. The "Pogo", "Spook" and "Babalu" came in close behind.

If the "Let's Go" gets a new mast and the "Pogo" gets a tiller, and everyone comes back in fine shape, next year we can have another great year. Especially if we don't have any hurricanes.

SEMPACHERSEE LIGHTNING FLEET (250) Sailing on Lake of Sempach in Switzerland

Fleet Captain	Dr. Peter Ehret
Fleet Secretary	Hans A. Luthy
Fleet Champion	Hans A. Luthy
Runner-Up	Dr. Peter Ehret

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
4513	Pilax	Franz Beck
4722	Sidian II	Dr. Peter Ehret
5181	Quand-Meme	Hans A. Luthy
5275	Kon-Tiki	Hans Notzli
5276	Bounty	Evi Heer
5563	Pinggi	Charlotte Meier

This was our first year as an organized, chartered Lightning Fleet and it was quite a successful one.

Since some year Lightnings are sailing in the races of the local Yacht Club. The Sempachersee is a marvellous lake for racing-sailing, without any steamers and not much motor-craft, for the most parts good winds. Beside other sailing boats 10 Lightnings are stationed on this little lake near Luzern in the middle of Switzerland.

Several Skippers decided at the beginning of this year to develop the Lightning Class. First of all they gathered this "wild" Fleet into an organized and chartered one. They intend to



Plenty of wind for Fleet No. 250.

organize races and meetings in connection with other Fleets of the country.

The activity during the year consisted principally in two race series. A four Sunday series was run during the summer for determination of Fleet Champion. This competition was open till the last regatta at 26th September. After a very hard struggle "Quand-Meme" could win the title followed by "Sidian II", "Pilax", and "Kon-Tiki".

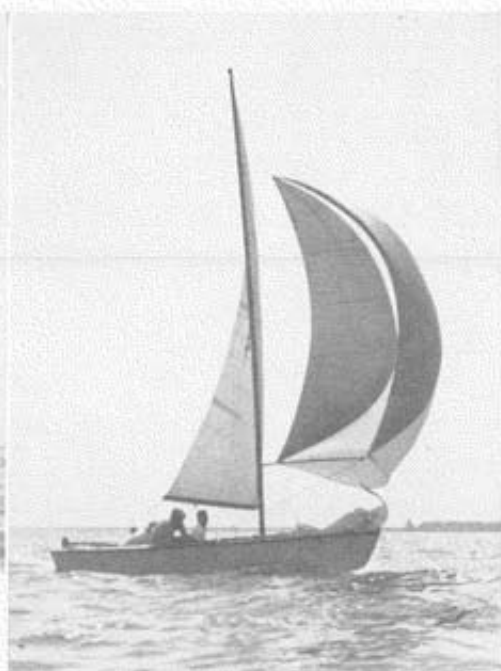
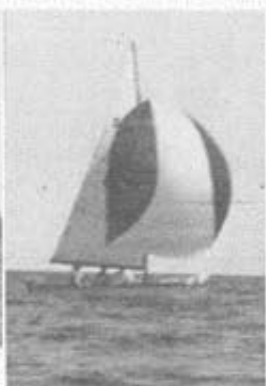
An open seven-race series was sailed during the "Sempacherseewoche" from 18/24th July. After two very hard wind races and five with changeable airs the series and the "Redfock Trophy" was won by the boat of the new Vice President, Oskar Weber, Kilchberg, Lightning Fleet Zurichsee.

Beside these two series the most important event of this season was the first district Championship of Switzerland, which our Fleet had the honor to organize. 11 boats of 3 Fleets started. The first clear winner was J. P. de Bosset, Neuchatel, in No. 4450 "Bosco III" with 2 first places and 1 second one in very hard wind races. He was followed by Oskar Weber in No. 3811 "Schufti", Zurichseeflotte and Hans Luthy in No. 5181 "Quand-Meme" as first of the home fleet.

The Fleet is looking forward to another fine year in 1955 and has the prospects of counting some new boats among its regular active members.



Irven Spear in Lil-Arrow II. Champ of Fleet No. 252.



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KEUKA LAKE LIGHTNING FLEET (252)

Sailing on Keuka Lake, New York

Fleet Captain..... Ralph Waldorf
Fleet Secretary..... Irven Spear
Fleet Champion..... Irven Spear
Runner-Up..... John Kalinich

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
501		Ted Daddow, Jr.
585		Fredrick and Katalina Clark
695	Gee-Jay	George and John Kalinich
1536		Raymond and Marjorie Brayer
2772	Lil'-Arrow II	Irven Spear
2842		C. W. Crockett
3361	Alert II	Fred L. and Lucille Gorman
4973		Percy Orr
4219	Kathleen	Ralph and Helen Waldorf

Races began July 4, with John Kalinich taking the honors. Then began our regular Sunday races that determine our fleet champion. As it turned out John Kalinich and Irven Spear were neck and neck all through the season, but Spear finally gained a fraction of a point or so and remained fleet champ for this season.

Irven Spear won the Labor Day series of races in a close race. Many meetings were held last season to determine racing schedules and procedures, with special aid to newcomers as to racing rules, general boat up-keeps and bilge talk.

On the whole, I think our fleet had a very successful season and we are looking forward to an even better one in '55.

SUSQUEHANNA LIGHTNING FLEET (253)

Sailing on Susquehanna River, Long Level, Wrightsville, Pa.

Fleet Secretary..... Dr. Charles K. Doland
Fleet Champion..... John V. Clippinger
Runner-Up..... Robert S. Mayo

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
552		Charles K. Doland
1098		John Clippinger
1875		Claude Wallick
4261		Robert S. Mayo
5394		J. Paul Lyet
5624		J. Charles Myers

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Susquehanna Lightning Fleet No. 253 is based at Long Level on the Susquehanna River between Lancaster and York and included sailors from these areas plus Harrisburg.

Lightning Skippers met in March and agreed to petition the LCA for a Fleet Charter and the charter was duly granted. Racing took place each Sunday and picnics and dinner meetings were held also.

During the 1954 racing season William Broske of Camp Hill started to build Lightning No. 5693 and Walter Gordon of New Cumberland started to build Lightning No. 5792. So we expect these two boats to be ready to race at the start of the 1955 season.

During the yachting season we also had Jonathan Owen with Lightning No. 5711 and Harry J. Irwin with No. 5604 join us and they will be members of the Fleet in 1955. They are from the York, Pa., area.

During the summer Broske, Clippinger and Doland went to Little Egg Harbor to observe the Central Atlantic District Championships and were entertained royally by the group there. Thus we were able to meet the officials, see how a real Lightning race was handled along with the weighing of boats and measurements of sails.

With ten boats in the Fleet we expect to have a full racing season in 1955.

BURT LAKE YACHT CLUB (254)

Based on Burt Lake, Mich., Indiana River, Mich.

Fleet Captain..... T. O. Dunlap
Fleet Secretary..... Anne J. Harris
Fleet Champion..... Charles U. Harris
Runner-Up..... T. O. Dunlap

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
45	Sualdan	A. W. French
1271	Pixie	W. West Jordan
1662	Cement Mixer	Tom Gleason
2845	QTPi	T. O. Dunlap
2848		Camp Algonquin
3346		Irving ImOberstag
3386		Ted Arbaugh
4417	Twice Struck	Charles U. Harris
4948		J. Parlin

Fleet No. 254 was chartered in 1954 and sails under the auspices of the Burt Lake Yacht Club in Northern Michigan.

As a fleet whose owners are chiefly vacationers and residents of a summer colony its racing season is restricted. Its 11 races were sailed over the Club's three excellent 6 mile triangular courses.

Fleet Champion Charles U. Harris with a crew composed of daughter Anne and son Jack retained the championship by a narrow margin. Second place was won by Commodore T. O. Dunlap.

As a result of the formation of the Fleet interest in Lightnings has showed a marked increase and several new boats are expected on the Lake next year.

The Fleet is a member of the Northern Michigan Yachting Association and the NAYRU under whose rules it sails.

DARIEN BOAT CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (255)

Sailing on Long Island Sound, Darien, Conn.

Fleet Secretary..... Luin P. Fitch
Fleet Champion..... James W. Safford

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
2136	Galatea	Gardiner Lane
2682	Pied Piper	Luin P. Fitch
3101	Avenger	James F. Snowden
3367		Hays Clark
5405	Pepper	James W. Safford

Fleet 255 was organized this spring just in time for a full season of races. By midsummer our fleet numbered five boats, when Hays Clark and Jim Snowden added their names to the roster.

We sailed in fast company in July, when we accepted an invitation from our neighbors, The Noroton Fleet. All 255 boats managed to avoid last place and even beat a few more experienced skippers.

The 1955 season should be bigger and better with experience gained this year and, if what we hear is true a larger fleet.

FLEET
184
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Brushing on Clark Hill Reservoir.

CLARK'S HILL LIGHTNING FLEET (257) Sailing on Clark Hill Reservoir, Clark Hill Dam on the Savannah River

Fleet Captain	Jane Wright
Fleet Secretary	J. Stewart Petersen, Jr.
Fleet Champion	J. Stewart Petersen, Jr.
Runner-Up	Robert Swingle

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
1551	Contessa	Robert Wright
2028	Joda	Thaddeus Spencer and James Ralston
2995	Jebo	Robert Swingle
3250	Red Witch	J. Stewart Petersen, Jr.
5681		Wendell Wilson

Lightning Fleet No. 257 enjoyed its first year of organized sailing on beautiful Clark Hill Reservoir. Nineteen races were held with one scheduled every other Sunday and three series of three races each on Memorial Day, Labor Day, and the Fourth of July.

No. 257 was not represented in any of the major Lightning races this year and has to make a good deal of progress before becoming a "red hot" racing fleet. However the competition within the fleet was certainly fierce as seen by the fact that each member won at least one race. Already the familiar cry of "wait til' next year" is heard.

The fleet champion was J. S. Petersen sailing "Red Witch" with runnerup going to Bob Swingle in "Jebo". A beautiful perpetual trophy was donated to the fleet by Bob and Jane Wright.

Next year's plans, besides an enthusiastic amount of bottom polishing, sail buying, etc., include doubling the number of boats by at least a factor of two, and holding weekly races plus a long distance race. It is also hoped that the fleet will be in a position to race with the Atlanta and Savannah Fleets.

BUFFALO SAILING CLUB LIGHTNING FLEET (258) Sailing on Lake Erie, Buffalo, N. Y.

Fleet Captain	William C. Agnew
Fleet Secretary	Robert G. Haefner
Fleet Champion	Arnold Miller and William Agnew
Runner-Up	Ralph Auricchio

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
680	Thunderbolt	Byron L. Seniff and Andrew J. Nezezon
2073	Question Mark	Richard J. Carrel and Robert G. Haefner
2220	Thunder-N	William C. Agnew and Arnold Miller
2943	Ranetom	Thomas J. Rice
2992	Shasta	Ralph Auricchio

All very new and eager, but inexperienced people comprise the sailors of Fleet 258. That may seem odd, but we are.

We all helped everyone put their boats in the water and tune-up but this was difficult as none of us knew how. Being members of the Motorboat Club of Buffalo, all the other experienced skippers are "Stink Boaters" which contributes nothing to our learning, but we started racing with a copy of "Sailing to Win" in one hand and a line or tiller in the other.

We have all Lake Erie to sail on but it seems each time we have a race our fleet and two or three lake freighters are competing to get out of the one and only opening from the inner harbor to the Lake. This usually adds up to quite a race.

Our official racing calendar consists of two major series. The first being the Stransky Cup. This series was won by Thunderbolt, No. 680, which by the way is past International Champ (1941). The Thunderbolt was skippered by Seniff and Andy Nezezon with Jorge Holland as crew. This being the boy's first year of sailing, we considered it quite a feat.

The second series, which determines the Club Champion is the Rowe Trophy Series. This year traditional sailing weather prevailed (25-30 miles wind per hour the first day and 0.5 the second). Our champ this year is Bill Agnew and Arnie Miller with Betty Miller as crew racing the Thunder-N No. 2220. A very close second place went to Ralph Auricchio in Shasta No. 2992 with Frank White and Doug Doonan crewing. Doug, by the way, has a comet but I suppose there has to be some of those too. Third place went to Dick Carrel and Bob Haefner with Peg Macklin as third member of the team in the Question Mark No. 2073.

We had two disasterous events this year. During Hurricane Hazel, in 80 mile an hour winds, Tom Rice's Renetom No. 2943 was blown on the Beach and her starboard side badly beaten.

The other disaster was cold, wet weather which meant the close of the sailing season and early storage of boats.

This one really hurt!



Fleet No. 258 Champions. Bill Agnew and Arnie Miller.

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Following Events and Plan to Attend

Great Lakes Championship Toledo Y.C.	May 29, 30
Frostbite Regatta, Toledo Y.C.	June 4, 5
Ohio-Indiana Districts, Toledo Y.C.	August 5, 6, 7
Interlake Regatta, Put-in-Bay	August 9, 10, 11
Harvest Moon Regatta, Atwood Yacht Club	No date set
Pymatuning Yacht Club Regatta	July 2, 3, 4
Snow Flurries, Port Clinton Y.C.	Oct. 1, 2
Snow Ball Regatta, Buckeye Lake Y.C.	Oct. 8, 9