

Of the five boats from the district that qualified for the North Americans, we had representatives in all three fleets. No ones final standings were startlingly good, but here was some awfully good sailing done by Mississippi Valley District sailors.

After the North American's the local regatta circuit continued with the Carlyle Sailing Association's Labor Day "inpromptu" regatta. This is a regatta that started actually before Lake Carlyle was formed, racing for a case of beer. It has grown from that humble beginning to a good regatta attended by quite a few out of town boats. Unfortunately this regatta has a rival in the southern half of the district where the Island Bay Yacht Club has its McDougal Regatta on the same weekend.

In mid September the Mammoth Whale-of-a-Sail Regatta is held by the Carlyle Sailing Association which is a multiclass, multicourse regatta usually drawing somewhere between 200 and 300 boats in some 15 different classes. In recent years the use of three separate courses and race committees has done a great deal to smooth out the traffic problems that were earlier experienced. We all hope that Lightning participation in the Whale will improve as it has been minimal in the last couple of years.

In late September there is the Watkins Regatta at Kentucky Lake which is an open regatta and usually includes The Lightning Class. The last regatta of the season is the fabled Blue Nose Regatta hosted by Island Bay Yacht Club and Lightning Fleet 262 on Old Hickory Reservoir near Nashville. This is a regatta that is known to many people from outside of the district for its hospitality and good competition.

The Mississippi Valley District has, as detailed above, many regattas and welcomes Lightning sailors from nearby fleets. The particular dates for our regattas for next year are listed in the district ad elsewhere in this book. Please come and visit us.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore Donald C. Brush, Jr.
District Secretary Georges Peter
District Champion John Collins
District Runner-Up Donald C. Brush, Jr.

Fleets: Centerboard Y.C. (14); Merrimac River Fleet (121); Spofford Lake (145); Annisquam Y.C. (151); Marblehead Harbor (189); Bomosee Lake S.C. (227); Lake Dunmore (243); Harraseeket Y.C. (244); Massebesic Y.C. (273); Chequesset (280); Lake Champlain (301); Squam Lake (332); Cohasset (369); Pontoosuc (417); Androscoggin Lightning Fleet (450); Granite Lake (457).

The 1977 District schedule opened in Burlington, Vermont in early June where the Mallet's Bay Boat Club sponsored the New Hampshire-Vermont championships. The "factory team" of Bill Shore and Greg Fisher prevailed, followed by Don Brush Jr., Dave Little, and 16 other skippers on a cold, blustery weekend. Defending District Champion Don Brush won the award for the highest N.H.-Vt. finisher after a close battle with clubmate Dave Little. The following weekend 21 skippers and crews answered the starting gun at Newburyport. The weather warmed up, but controversy plagued this regatta. Both of Saturday's races were protested and no one seems to remember who won the hardware. One week later order (and good racing) was restored at the Annisquam Yacht Club. Greg Fisher bested a field of 14, followed by Jack Burwell, Georges Peter, Don Brush, Sr. (with a pickup crew from Vermont!), and Stu Nickerson.

Three weeks later, the District Championships were hosted by the Harraseeket Yacht Club in South Freeport, Maine. Thirty plus boats contested for the championship and eight North American berths in a regatta that will be long remembered for both the fine competitive sailing under the direction of R.C. Chairman Gardner Brown and the "Down East" hospitality, led by Jack and Marilyn Burwell. John Collins and Don Brush tied on overall low points, with Collins (and crew of Ann Hayes and Larry Fretts) winning his third District Championship in four years on the tie breaker. Dave Curtis finished third after leading the regatta until the final leg. Fred Hamblet (4th) and Georges Peter (5th) also finished in the money.

Two weeks later at Marblehead Race Week, Georges Peter edged out Buddy Duncan and John Collins for the Larsen trophy. Peter and Collins tied for the State of Massachusetts Championship (comprised of the weekend races) followed by Brush, Len Pratt, and Joel Humphrey. The weekend of August 13-14, just prior to the North Americans, both Wellfleet on Cape Cod (22 boats) and Mallet's Bay Boat Club on Lake Champlain (17) hosted Lightning events. At Wellfleet Bill Shore bested Stu Nickerson, both having just returned from the World Championship

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT Regatta Schedule 1978



June 10 & 11	Portland Yacht Club Invitational Portland, Maine
June 17 & 18	Northeast Regatta Mallet's Bay Boat Club Burlington, Vermont
June 24-25	Vermont-New Hampshire Championship Lake Massabesic Regatta Manchester, New Hampshire
July 15-16	State of Maine Championship Centerboard Yacht Club South Portland, Maine
July 21-23	NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP WELLFLEET, MASSACHUSETTS
July 27-30	Marblehead Race Week Marblehead, Massachusetts
August 5-6	American Yacht Club Newburyport, Massachusetts
August 12-13	Mallet's Bay Race Week Mallet's Bay Boat Club Burlington, Vermont
September 9-10	Lake Massabesic Regatta Manchester, New Hampshire
September 9-10	State of Massachusetts Championship Annisquam Yacht Club Gloucester, Massachusetts
September 23-24	Spofford Lake Regatta Spofford, New Hampshire

1978

Ohio District

Regatta Schedule

*Spring Shake Down	Indian Lake Y.C.	May 13-14
*Great Lakes Championship	North Cape Y.C.	May 20-21
**Thundermug	St. Marys Boat Club	June 3-4
**Windshift	Leatherlips	June 10-11
Independence Day Regatta	Pymatuning Y.C.	July 1-2

OHIO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

C.Y.C. Regatta	-----	July ---
Steeplechase	Cleveland Y.C.	July 29-30
Inter-lake Yachting Assn. Regatta	Port Clinton & Put-In-Bay	Aug. 5
	Put-In-Bay	Aug. 7-8-9

Harvest Moon Regatta	Atwood Lake Y.C.	Sept. 9-10
Sandusky Fall Invitational	Sandusky Sailing Club	Sept. 16-17
Snow Flurries Regatta	Port Clinton Y.C.	Sept. 23-24
Snow Ball Regatta	Buckeye Lake Y.C.	Oct. 7-8
**Fall In Regatta	Cowan Lake Sailing Club	Oct. 21-22

Check *Flashes* or Special Notes for Any Changes

*Races included in Northern Spring Circuit with Indiana Open Regatta

**Races included in Ohio Governor's Cup Series

in Switzerland, followed by David Jones, one of the fine young sailors in the District. Burwell and Dave Fitch completed the top five. In Vermont, Brush, followed by Bill Dunnington, Peter Hubbard, and Pratt, led the field.

At the Junior North Americans in Buffalo two N.E. representatives, Bill Fastigi of Burlington and Tom Wynn of Spofford, qualified for the N.A.'s with 10th and 12th place finishes respectively. The District congratulates both on their fine performances.

At the North Americans, three N.E. representatives, Brush (6th qualifier), Peter, and Curtis qualified for the "Blue" flight. Brush (with a 2nd in race #2) and Curtis were in contention for the top ten until in the final race. In the President's Cup, Collins finished 5th. Other N.E. representatives, in addition to the Junior qualifiers, were Peter Hubbard (with a very creditable 6th in the Governor's Cup). The District cocktail party again provided a welcome respite from the week-long, highly competitive sailing.

Back in New England, the District schedule, concluded with September regattas at Lake Massabesic and Lake Spofford. Don Brush, followed by Buck Wynn and Hale, topped 15 boats from throughout New England, 5 of which capsized in Sunday's gusty 30 knot breezes. At Spofford, Bonnie Shore came from behind on a light air, cold weekend to take top honors in a 30 boat field. Hubbard, Dave Petersen, Don Brush, and John Hughes followed. Undaunted spirits and the usual Spofford hospitality more than overcame the inclement weather at this very popular event.

With nine regattas, a hard fought District Championship, and continued growth of several fleets, the season was an unqualified success. In addition, Stu Nickerson represented the District at the World Championship, and Jack Burwell, Dave Curtis, Don Brush Sr., Don Brush Jr., and Bob Gustafson went to the Southern Circuit. New England was also well represented in the top ten at the two Westport regattas. Most important, however, the District looks forward to 1978, another successful season, and the 40th anniversary of the Lightning Class.

OHIO DISTRICT

District Commodore	Ron Schulster
District Secretary	Burt Preston
District Measurer	Bucky Powless
District Champion	Greg Fisher
District Runner-Up	Jim Dressel
Junior Champion	Will Petersilge
Junior Runner-Up	Richard Wilber

Fleets: Indian Lake (23); Leatherlips (27); Turkeyfoot (33); Pymatuning (36); Toledo (42); Buckeye Lake (43); Rocky River (71); Mansfield (150); Northeast (207); Atwood Lake (212); Cowan Lake (303); Hoover Dam (353); Sandusky Bay (386); St. Marys (400).

Bill Shore was the speaker at our 1977 winter meeting. He reviewed the basic elements necessary for top boat speed and discussed his starting procedure. Afterwards there was a question and answer period.

Indian Lake's Spring Shake Down Regatta started Ohio's racing season. Jack Mueller was the winner with John Mueller second, Bob Strempel was third and Bernie Malcolm fourth. The following week North Cape Yacht Club hosted the Great Lakes Championship regatta. Bruce Goldsmith was the winner with Jim Dressel second, and Garry Demarest third. The Northern Spring Circuit is comprised of these two regattas along with the Indiana Open Regatta. The winner of the circuit was Jack Mueller.

The Thundermug Regatta, sponsored by St. Mary's Boat club was sailed June 4-5. Dick Pugh and Mike Wilkins took first and second respectively.

Leatherlips hosted the Windshift Regatta. Ron Schulster took first, Bucky Powless second, Dick Pugh third, Tom Varley fourth, and Paul Howard fifth.

On the Fourth of July weekend, Pymatuning Yacht Club sponsored their Independence Day Regatta. The winner was Chuck Maltbie, with Bob Baumgardner finishing second, and Rob Ruhlman third.

The Ohio Districts were held at the Cleveland Yacht Club. At the summer meeting it was decided to shorten the District Championship to five races with a throwout. The series continues as a three day event, but with less pressure on the race committee and more time for socializing. Greg Fisher won the District Championship and later went on to place second in the North American Championships (brother Matt took first). Second place went to Jim Dressel, third to Jack Mueller, fourth to George Fisher and fifth to Bernie Malcolm.

Bill Buckles took the honors at the annual Cleveland Yacht Club Regatta with Jack Mueller taking second, and Dave Austin third.

The Sandusky to Put-In-Bay Steeplechase was won by Ron Schulster, Jack Mueller took second and Bob McBride third. The Put-In-Bay Regatta was won by Bill Buckles with Jack and John Mueller taking the next two places.

Atwood Lake Yacht Club hosted the Harvest Moon Regatta September 10 and 11. The winners were George Auer, Rick Cooper, Burt Preston, Nelson Caley and Herb Jestel, respectively.

Buckeye Lake's Snowball Regatta attracted some of the best sailing talent east of the Mississippi. Bruce Goldsmith hailed victorious on the water but seemed uninspired at the cocktail party. Greg Fisher took second, Matt Fisher third, Bill Shore fourth, and Mark Bryant fifth.

Cowan Lake's Fall-In Regatta closed the season with perfect weather. Ron Schulster won by an impressive margin. Second was Hank Hodgson, third Burt Preston, fourth George Auer, and fifth Bob Mains.

Ron Schulster's strong finish at the Cowan Lake Regatta made him the second winner of the Ohio Governor's Cup. This trophy is presented to the Ohio sailor with the best overall record in the Thundermug, Windshift, and Fall-In Regattas. Dick Pugh was a close contender until he missed the last two races at Cowan Lake due to illness.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore	Jamie Nelson
District Secretary	George Blumel
District Measurer	Van Conklin
District Champion	Phil Parshley
District Runner-Up	Greg Zettler

Fleets: Maple Bay (64); Vancouver (90); Chinook (229); Columbia (283); Okanagan (368); Juanita Bay (414); Comax Bay (437); Klamath (455).

We're all crazy! This was my conclusion after going over the notes for this report. For the whole summer of '77 our sailors travelled an incredible amount of miles to get to regattas, mid-winter meetings, pick up new boats in the East (6000 miles round trip) and have smashing parties to which the ladies contribute more time and effort than should be permitted by the human rights committee. I ask myself, Why? Well, I came up with the keyword as being COMRADSHIP! What a swell bunch of sailors who certainly look for doing battle out on the course, but even more than that, they know that Tom, Dick, Harry and all the others are there as well and that is why they do it. Conclusion: WE ARE NOT CRAZY, but it helps.

We started our racing season in May at Kelowna, B.C. Many of our sailing buddies were still hibernating (or fixing) and therefore the turnout was light. The racing however was anything but light. On Saturday we had good winds (18-20 mph.) and the planing reaches were exhilarating, only to be outdone by even faster Hobie 16's which make an incredible sound while passing at high speed. Speaking of Hobies, their hulls are lethal weapons as Neil MacGibbon discovered while being on starboard, he was smartly holed by a Cat just at the waterline and it took all his skill to keep the boat afloat and return to the club. A Tupperware lid and some tape solved his problem and he was back racing in the next race. All in all it appeared that Brian Coleman was the man to beat although that turned out to be impossible and he took top honors with Blumel and MacGibbon tying for second. Bob Bazett's party on Saturday was as good as usual and breakfast at Dee's and Neil's was much appreciated.

The following weekend was the Memorial Day Weekend and traditionally we sail in Eugene on this weekend, but the lack of water forced us to move over to Klamath Falls where a total of 27 boats showed up. We had fair winds on Saturday and after two races Jamie Nelson had bagged two first which seemed to be a comfortable situation. On Sunday, with good winds, John Benedetti cranked up his boat and went all the way to take the series. Jamie Nelson was second and Smoke Fischer third. The Portland Fleet dominated the first six spots with the exception of fourth which was won by Ken White of Klamath Falls. It was good to see younger sailors such as Vicki Benedetti, Lisa and Hap Parshley crew with their dad's respectively and do a good job in making the boats go fast. The party at White's was staggering. I never saw so much popcorn in one place as I did at that great party!

The Districts for the Pacific Northwest were held in Seattle this year and offered much excitement with Saturday being a real gear buster. Greg Zettler put on a strong showing during the first three races but bombed out in the fourth which put him in second place. The ever pressing Phil Parsley took honors. Jamie Nelson was third, "Lightning" Rod Johnson fourth and Portland's "Father of Lightnings" John Benedetti came in fifth. Phil's new boat is beautiful and performs equally well with the capable help of his son and daughter. The party at Pam and Kurt Seiffert's lovely home, with 100 sailors attending, was again a success and the feast of boiled crabs was enjoyed by all.

Lack of water was our worst enemy this year and our Portland regatta was no exception. The races had to be moved to Yale Lake, some 40 miles from the dried out reservoir. The conditions were perfect! Clear skies, warm weather and wind ranging from 8 - 14 mph on Saturday and 12 - 18 mph on Sunday. There was no doubt after three races that Zettler was the man to beat. Rod Johnson had problems on the starting line in one race and to top it off split his boom as well. Therefore after some good racing Greg Zettler was first, Kurt Seiffert second, and Rod Johnson third. Yale Lake is very picturesque and perhaps more races will be held here in the future.

In conclusion, the overall winner for this seasons racing was "The Incredible" Greg Zettler. This fellow is unreal and I hope he will offer us tough competition again next year.

In closing, our District is planning to have its first Junior Championship next year, and I can see that we will have some very good junior sailors competing. The need for a builder on the West Coast is apparent and having one would help us greatly.

A note of thanks to Cheryl Zettler for her excellent work in sending race reports and results to *Flashers* to keep us all informed.

So much for this year! We met a lot of people, made a lot of friends, travelled a lot of miles, raced in a lot of races and are ready to do it again next year.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

District Commodore Larry Frost
District Secretary Frances Hughes
District Measurer Buck Ballatin
District Champion Rick Skinner
District Runner-Up L. D. "Debbie" Lallande

Fleets: Southern Yacht Club (62); Mobile Bay Lightning Fleet (135); Shreveport Yacht Club (175); New Orleans Yacht Club (209); Morgan City Yacht Club (443).

The Southern District stretches from Mobile Bay in the southeast corner of Alabama, across the Gulf to New Orleans and north west to Shreveport, Louisiana and is comprised of five fleets totaling 50 or so Lightnings. Regatta competition begins with the Sugar Bowl Classic held around the first of the year on Lake Ponchartrain in New Orleans, on to the Holiday-in-Dixie event in Shreveport the last week-end in April and concludes, usually, with the Jackson Mississippi Yacht Club hospitality shindig the end of October. Fairhope's Wadewitz is calendered the first week-end in October. Besides these always "fun events" there is the Gulf Yachting Association Lightning Class Championships, won this year by Buck Ballatin, and the Southern District of ILCA Championships, captured in 1977 by Rick Skinner. These two events are the main attractions of the year usually drawing Lightnings from all the fleets of the area, and are held in June and July. Southern Yacht Club, New Orleans, has a Labor Day Lightning regatta every year.

Marshall Walker, Shreveport Yacht Club, Tommy Allen, Southern Yacht Club and Buck Ballatin, New Orleans Yacht Club represented the District in The North Americans in 1977. Buck Ballatin took second place in the Governors Cup.

Officers during the first half of the 1977 sailing season were John Butcher, Commodore and Larry Frost, Secretary. New Officers, Frost and Hughes took over at the annual meeting during Southern District Championships.

The Jackson Mississippi Yacht Club annual Hospitality Regatta invites Lightnings to attend their regatta each year late in October. The Lightning Fleet at Jackson is inactive, yet seventeen Lightnings arrived on the scene this year - all from distant yacht clubs. If you sail within 300 miles or so of Jackson Yacht Club, we highly recommend this "Indian Summer" affair.

The Shreveport Yacht Club's "Holiday-in-Dixie" regatta the last week-end in April each year usually fields a large fleet of Lightnings (28 in 1977, 32 in 1976) and always has strong to stronger winds. You are

invited to come to Shreveport's regatta and get a taste of "Early Summer" and great Lightning racing. Fleet 175 at Shreveport Yacht Club is very much alive.

TEXAS DISTRICT

District Commodore Richard Ruimnan
District Secretary Ann Wach
District Measurer Dr. S. R. Newman
District Champion Stephen Craig

Fleets: Dallas Corinthian (35); Rush Creek Yacht Club (435); Galveston Bay Sailing Club (448).

The Texas District has been on a slow downhill slide with the exception of Fleet 435 (Rush Creek Yacht Club) for the past five years. In my opinion, this problem is caused, in part, by failure of builders to reach satisfactory terms with retail dealers. The number of inferior sailboats sold to inexperienced purchasers in this area is incredible. Eventually, many of these people may turn to Lightnings if their sailing experience leads them to an enclave of Lightning people, which in this area is not likely. We feel that more people would buy Lightnings if the boat dealers would sell them. The Texas District now has one active fleet, fortunately it is one of the best.

On the bright side, due to the efforts of Fleet 435 and more notably Jim Craig and Bob Chilton, it appears likely that a Lightning fleet will be started at the Fort Worth Boat Club. Fort Worth has some excellent sailors who for years have sailed keel boats, some of extreme size for an inland lake. The club is experiencing a back to basics movement by a number of sailors who have bought Lightnings. We hope this will be the nucleus of a large and competitive fleet in years to come.

Thanks to the efforts of Duncan Porter, Jim Craig and Jeannie Craig, the Rush Creek Yacht Club has been selected as the site for the 1979 Lightning Worlds. This event will definitely help promotion of Lightnings in our area. The District is sending out a newsletter informing all nonaffiliated Lightning owners in Texas of the worlds site selection and encouraging them to join the I.L.C.A. It is hoped that this effort may increase the District's membership in the I.L.C.A. and permit more of our boats to qualify for the North Americans. For the past several years the District has only been able to send two boats, for 1978 it is our goal to send three.

The District has been doing better in national competition. Our District Champion, Stephen Craig, qualified in the blue fleet at the N.A.'s for the first time in several years. It is hoped that the new boats in Fort Worth will help raise our level of competition.

We are hopeful with the establishment of a fleet at Fort Worth, the coming of the World Championship and the continued promotional efforts of some of our dedicated Lightning pushers, the Texas district will grow and the good news of Lightning sailing will be brought to potential Lightning owners in the Texas District.



Texas District Champions Jeff Grinnan, Stephen Craig & Stewart Thomas.

URUGUAY DISTRICT

District Commodore Homero R. Came
District Secretary Daniel Zannier
District Treasurer Ricardo Molinelli

Fleet: Yacht Club Paysandu (423).

Class activity during last season was normal in our district. The highlight of the year was Homero M. Came's participation in the World Championship at Spiez.

Thanks to Mr. Hans K. Rahn, the Swiss District Commodore, Homero, our top skipper who was in Europe on a business trip, was able to borrow a boat and participate in the Worlds. The boat was rather out-dated; wood, 120 lbs. overweight, and had a tired suit of sails, but with an excellent crew, and conditions similar to those of our home waters, managed a 31st place overall. He was 6th among the Latin Americans at the Regatta. Considering that at 23 Homero was the youngest skipper at the Championship, and that this was his first International Regatta, his results were extremely gratifying.

We are now preparing ourselves for the upcoming South American Championship in Brazil.



Returning to the Club

"LIGHTNING" FILM

You can still schedule the half-hour color film "Lightning" by writing to I.L.C.A. Headquarters.

This 16mm sound/color motion picture "Lightning" gives a brief glimpse of the heart of small boat one-design sailing — the people and their boat.

Filmed on the waters of Tampa Bay during the 1974 Mid-Winter Lightning Championship and at "Red Bank" on the Navesink River during the Monmouth Boat Club Regatta; and on land at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, the movie combines racing shots with regatta activity shots.

"Lightning", of course, stars the Lightning, a 19' centerboard, three man boat, and features Lightning crews and families.

The movie was sponsored by the Lightning Class Association and some of the Lightning Builders and Sailmakers - Allen Boat & Sail Company, Eichenlaub-Mueller Boat Company, Nickels & Holman, Todd Boat Company, Murphy & Nye Sailmakers, Seidelmann Sails, and Shore Sail Company. Steered by Lightning sailor Anthony V. Curto of New York, the movie project began in the Spring of 1973. Tony located and contracted Victor Kayfetz Productions Inc., New York City commercial film producers, to do the job. Victor Kayfetz proved to be a fortunate selection. A sailor himself, a professional perfectionist, Victor has produced a colorful interesting movie. Using sound recordings of on location interviews along with narration against a specially composed musical background the audio portion of the movie complements the film.

One bit of history is recorded in the movie. The designer of the Lightning, Olin Stephens, took time out from his tight schedule during the 1974 America Cup competition to speak about the Lightning and its design.

The rental of the film is \$25.00. For scheduling contact the International Lightning Class Association, 808 High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085.



District Champion Tom Green with Mark and Nina Huza as crew, with a large lead at the Districts.

LONG ISLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore Alan Pearlman
District Secretary Frank Marianaccio
District Champion Tom Green

Fleets: Northport Bay (98); Manhasset Bay (133); Great South Bay (178); Southampton (431).

The Long Island District has had an active year both at home and away. We started the year by sending a contingent to the Red Bank Regatta. Our boats didn't win, but we had lots of fun. After a lot of local sailing the District Championship was hosted by the Southampton Fleet. Their graciousness was exceeded only by the excellence of their courses and the super sailing had by all. Tom Green won all three races by a large margin to lead a Great South Bay Fleet sweep of the top five places. Second was Frank Marinaccio followed by Frank Atkinson, Jr., Frank Atkinson, Sr., and Tom Tyler. Misty Green and Tyler had a great time at the North Americans as our representatives. Our district activities closed with the trip to Cedar Point for their invitational.

The racing membership of the Long Island District has concentrated into two major fleets. The increasing cost of membership at some of the "old line" yacht clubs on the north shore has driven out the Lightning Fleets. There are however rumors of a resurgence of the Setauket Yacht Club Fleet (323). Our Great South Bay (178) and Southampton (431) Fleets are alive, well, and growing as the Lightning makes itself known. 1977 was a good year, but 1978 will be even better.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

District Commodore Tom Bierman
District Secretary Patrick Corr
District Measurer Denis Farley
District Champion John Brewster
District Runner-Up Jack Huntsman

Fleets: Paupack (16); Lake Mohawk (25); Chelsea (39); High Tor (41); Redbank (70); Nyack (75); Awosting (95); Harvey's Lake (350).

The Metropolitan District sailing season got off to an early and chilly start with the Long John Regatta sponsored by Fleet 70 at Monmouth Boat Club. Fisk Hayden mastered the tricky April wind to take two firsts and a 14th to win this regatta.

The Mid-Hudson Circuit was won again this year by the High Tor team of Mark Lewis and George Bitler. They did not have an easy win, though, as Gary Hurban of Nyack came in a close second, only 1½ points behind them.

Our Districts were held at beautiful Lake Wallenpaupack this year. The hospitality of the members of Fleet 16 combined with excellent weather conditions to make a great sailing weekend. 38 boats participated in the regatta, competing for the six available slots for the North American's. For the first time, we had a Junior District's. Jack Huntsman was 1st, Kevin Corr 2nd and Frank Mergenthaler and Kurt Wilson tied for 3rd.

At the N.A.'s, John Schneider captured a 15th and Sandy Huntsman a 28th in the Championship Fleet. In the Presidents Cup, Denis Farley

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

1978 REGATTA SCHEDULE

April 29 & 30 Long John Red Bank, N.J.

Mid-Hudson Circuit

June 3 & 4 Magnus Pederson Nyack, N.Y.

June 10 & 11 Hi-Tor Sutherland Stoneypoint, N.Y.

July 8 & 9 Chelsea Open Chelsea, N.Y.

July 15 & 16 DISTRICTS— Sparta N.J.
Lake Mohawk

Short Circuit

Sept. 9 & 10 Whisker Pole Greenwood Lake, N.J.

Sept. 16 & 17 Lake Wallenpaupack Paupack, N.J.

Sept. 23 & 24 Lake Mohawk Sparta, N.J.



Metropolitan District Winners — John Brewster 1st, Jack Huntsman 2nd, Jon Schwartz 3rd, Denis Farley 4th, Herm Henschen 5th. Jack Huntsman also was the Jr. Champ.

was 2nd, Tom Bierman 19th and Jack Huntsman 26th. Jon Schwartz was 1st in the Governors Cup.

For the first time, our District was represented at the Junior North American's. Jack Huntsman and Kevin Corr made the trip to the Buffalo Canoe Club with Sandy and Mary Huntsman. Sandy and Mary deserve a Medal for putting up with the appetites and antics of six 15 year old boys for 432 miles and a week. When the heavy air and high waves subsided, Kevin finished in 17th place and Jack in 28th. Since both are only 15 years old, we hope to hear more about them in future Junior N.A.'s.

September also means the Short Circuit in the Metropolitan District. Tom Bierman of Mohawk was overall winner this year. Tom was a close second last year.

Our congratulations are extended to John Schneider on becoming President of the I.L.C.A.

Our congratulations also go to Bob Hutchinson on his 11th place finish at the Worlds. Hutch was 4th at the Atlantic Coast Championship Regatta at Cedar Point in a fleet of 68 boats.

MICHIGAN 1978 DISTRICT



GRAND TRAVERSE BAY Y.C.
AUGUST 12 & 13

TAWAS BAY Y.C.
DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP
JULY 6 thru 9

HIGGINS LAKE BOAT CLUB
AUGUST 5 & 6

BAY CITY INVITATIONAL &
JUNIOR DISTRICTS
JULY 15 & 16

LAKE LANSING
MAY 6 & 7

MICHIGAN

LAKE FENTON SAIL CLUB
DISTRICT TEAM RACE
JUNE 24 & 25

GULL LAKE
JULY 22 & 23

PONTIAC Y.C. CASS LAKE
SEPTEMBER 9 & 10

CLARK LAKE
SEPT. 23 & 24

DEVILS LAKE Y.C.
SEPT. 16 & 17

CRESCENT SAIL Y.C.
JUNE 17 & 18

PLEASE COME TO THESE MICHIGAN REGATTAS
AND HELP US CELEBRATE THE 40th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LIGHTNING.

COME SAIL WITH US AT BEAUTIFUL DEVILS LAKE HOME OF FLEET 31

Lightning Classes — Oldest Invitational Regatta

35th ANNUAL "This ones for Fun"



C. B. CRITTENDEN
LIFE MEMBER



JACK BEAL
LIFE MEMBER

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1944	C. B. CRITTENDEN
1945	JACK SQUIRES
1946	WALT SWINDEMAN
1947	DICK KRAUSS
1948	DICK KRAUSS
1949	GEORGE MALUDY
1950	DAVE SPITZNAGLE
1951	HERM NICKLES
1952	GERALD MURPHY
1953	WES WIEDRICK
1954	DICK KRAUSS
1955	DICK KRAUSS
1956	WES WIEDRICK
1957	ED & BILL MC KINLEY
1958	BUD NELSON
1959	HERM NICKLES
1960	HERM NICKLES
1961	BUD NELSON
1962	BRUCE GOLDSMITH
1963	BRUCE GOLDSMITH
1964	JEFF MOEHL
1965	DAVE NICKLES
1966	BRUCE GOLDSMITH
1967	BILL MC KINLEY
1968	BRUCE GOLDSMITH
1969	BRUCE GOLDSMITH
1970	BRUCE GOLDSMITH
1971	BILL MC KINLEY
1972	BILL MC KINLEY
1973	GEORGE NICKLES
1974	MERRILL BALES
1975	BOB KNOP
1976	BILL MCKINLEY
1977	BRUCE GOLDSMITH
1978	?



— WINNERS —



— WINNERS —

SEPT. 16 — 17

TROPHIES FOR THE FIRST TEN SKIPPERS AND CREWS, PLUS PARTICIPATION AWARDS FOR ALL ENTRIES.

Contact Jack Tibbs or George Sipel, c/o Devils Lake Yacht Club, Manitou Beach, MI. 49253 for information and accommodations.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

District Commodore	Paul Militzer
District Secretary	Bob Mathers
District Junior Commodore	Carl Hesse, Jr.
District Measurer	Robert Knop
District Champion	Hank Hodgson
District Runner-Up	Garry Demarest
Junior Champion	Jim Morse
Junior Runner-Up	Kyle Militzer

Fleets: South Haven (30); Devils Lake (31); Crescent Sail Club (51); Lake Fenton (53); Pontiac Y.C. (54); Higgins Lake (110); Gull Lake (137); Tawas Bay Y.C. (152); Saginaw Bay (216); Grand Traverse Y.C. (326); Pentwater (340); Douglas Lake (374); Les Cheneaux (378); Lansing Sail Club (387); Nehtawanta Y.C. (403); Clark Lake (416); Union Lake Y.C. (458).

The Michigan District again got off to a tremendous start with our first regatta at Lake Lansing on May 4-5 just about a month after we put away the ice boats. Bill McKinley proved victorious with John Corbett following close behind. Three weeks later all the hot shots headed for North Cape, down on Lake Erie. The reason for all the interest in an Ohio District Regatta is that the Devils Lake Lightning Fleet was planning on holding our Districts at the North Cape Club and everyone was interested in getting a taste of Lake Erie water, ha, ha. Fortunately, however, no one did.

June brought many of our sailors to Crescent Sail Yacht Club on Lake St. Clair with the highlight of having Bruce Goldsmith and Bob Knop give a seminar on heavy air sailing techniques. We then went out into the lake with 23 boats and came back with 10 finishers after two races. Included in the casualties was Bruce with a broken spar. As the Sunday races were cancelled because of too much air, Garry Demarest emerged as the winner with Tryg Jacobson from Wisconsin following in second place. Our next big event was the Michigan District team race. Eight four-boat teams sailed in this closely fought contest. Douglas Lake was first, Pontiac Y.C. second and the host club, Fenton third.

Hank Hodgson was first and Rick Larson second at Gull Lake. Our District Championship followed with Hank Hodgson again coming out on top of the pile. This was a very close contest as we found Demarest, McKinley, Cameron and H. Nickel making up the first five places.

The next big event was the combination Senior Invitational Regatta and the Michigan Junior District Championship sponsored by the Bay City Lightning Fleet held on Saginaw Bay. The winner of the senior race was again Hank Hodgson with three "bullets" followed by Dave Fury with three seconds and Gordon Gotberg with three thirds. These races were fun but not near as interesting as watching the nine juniors race. Among the nine was this author's little son skippering for the first time in big water with a total crew weight of 340 lbs. This was really exciting as they figured out how to make a Lightning go and finally in the last race popped out in front and lead the fleet for all seven legs. All you dads with kids old enough to hold a tiller should plan on bringing theirs next year. Congratulations to Junior Champion Jim Morse and Runner-Up Kyle Militzer. Good sailing guys! Our last regatta before the N.A.s was held on beautiful Higgins Lake, said to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. This was won by past Michigan District Champion Garry Demarest with this year's Champ, Hank Hodgson close behind in second place.

This year we sent eleven boats to the N.A.s in Buffalo with young Clarence Holman doing the best as he qualified for the Championship Fleet. In addition, we had five boats in each of the other two fleets. Pontiac Y.C. was the best represented with five boats in attendance. After Buffalo, everyone went home and rested up for the biggest regatta in Michigan at the Pontiac Yacht Club. This event has a higher participation record than most districts with 40 to 48 boats usually sailing. This year we held true to our name of the White Cap Regatta with 30 m.p.h. gusts on Saturday. This was enough to do in your secretary with a capsize, turtle, mast stuck in the mud and finally a three piece mast when it finally came up. For the third year in a row Gary Cameron with Garry Demarest as crew was the victor. Bill Campbell tied with Hank Hodgson for second, but the tie breaker gave Campbell the second place trophy. It should be noted that this club gives equal size trophies to the first ten skippers and all of their crews in addition to the perpetual first place trophy.

The season ended with two regattas in south central Michigan. The first was at Devils Lake which again drew Bruce Goldsmith back to Michigan waters. This time Bruce kept his spar in one piece and beat out Garry Demarest for first place. Garry, however, was a close second.

The last regatta was held at Clark Lake. Again Hank Hodgson stole first place honors, but a new name, Dale Mahrle from Union Lake, ended up in second. Dale must have been watching closely when he crewed for Hank earlier in the season. Nice going Dale.

The final activity of the District was the display of a new Lightning at the Great Lakes Boat Show at Metropolitan Beach on Lake St. Clair. Thanks go to Hank Callahan and his gang from Pontiac Yacht Club for this successful undertaking. Some of the comments heard; "Gee, I didn't realize the Lightning had turned into such a sophisticated racing boat"; and, "As soon as I can sell my big boat, I am going back to a Lightning".

Our annual winter meeting held in December brought out about 75 people as Bruce Goldsmith gave us a talk on "How to Capitalize on Other People's Mistakes"

MIDWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore	Eric R. Larson
District Secretary	Donna Larson
District Measurer	Nicholas K. Smith
District Champion	Bruce Goldsmith
District Runner-Up	Gordon Ettie
Junior Champion	Adam Loory
Junior Runner-Up	Karen Cady

Fleets: Chicago Corinthian (5); Milwaukee Yacht Club (69); Green Bay (112); Lake Davenport (167); Sheboygan (187); Lake Geneva (345); Manitowoc (393).

This past season might be remembered for its foggy June, hot (!) July, and rainy August. Come to think about it, we had a good time anyway.

There seemed to be much excitement at January's Midwinter meeting when Fleet 393 (Manitowoc) announced that it would like to host a regatta. Since we had an early June weekend open in our schedule, the appropriately named Icebreaker Regatta was inserted there. However, somebody must have been fooling with Mother Nature as dense fog and high winds combined to wipe out all races. It was a great disappointment to the fine people of Manitowoc who had done everything to make for a good regatta. We all had a good time playing poker and pool and drinking large quantities of beer.

The P & T Regatta in Milwaukee was next. Gordon Ettie, formerly of Atlanta, Georgia and a most welcome addition to our district, showed the way with a first. Second was Rick Larson of Sheboygan and third went to Dr. John Esser of Milwaukee.

Next stop on the Circuit was the Oxie Regatta at Lake Geneva. Always one of the most popular regattas, this year's added incentive was a chance to trade tacks with Bruce Goldsmith. When the spray had cleared after the last race, we found Gordon Ettie again in the victory circle. Rounding out the top five were Goldsmith, Esser, Dick Hinze of Chicago, and Bob Novak of Lake Geneva. As always, a highlight is the Saturday night banquet. After dinner, many of the crews looking for relaxation could be found at the Thumbs Up, swinging and swaying to the gentle and melodic sounds of Rick Larson and his Stumpf Fiddle.

It was apparent that after his two fine showings, Gordon Ettie and his yellow *SaZerac* were strong contenders for the District Championship crown of perennial Champ and favorite Bruce Goldsmith. With all sorts of weather and current conditions, it was a frustrating time for everyone. After 3 races, Gordon held a 1 point advantage over Bruce. The fourth race was won by Bruce with Gordon managing a third in very heavy and building winds, causing the Race Committee to wisely cancel the remaining race. The top five were rounded out by Dick Hinze, Rick Larson, and Dr. John Esser.

In the Junior Districts held in Milwaukee immediately preceeding the regular Districts, Adam Loory of Wilmette, Ill. beat out Karen Cady of Milwaukee. There were six boats competing and we will be trying new ways to increase that number for 1978.

As in recent past years, two major regattas fell on the same weekend: Sheboygan's Brotz and Chicago Corinthian's Hobelman. This unfortunate scheduling conflict cut down somewhat on the level of competition, but not on the enthusiasm of the participants. Both regattas reported good times and each crowned a new champ. Gordon Ettie continued his steady sailing with 2-1-5 finishes for first place with Dick McClure of Chicago, Hinze, Dennis Burke, Chicago, and young Dave Blair, also of Chicago behind him in that order. In Sheboygan, Rick Larson finally put his act together with 1-1 finishes followed by Mike Elmergreen, Karl Miller, Richard Bemis, and Eric Graf. All but

MIDWEST DISTRICT

1978

Proposed Regatta Schedule

June 3-4		
*June 10-11	Ice Breaker	Manitowoc
June 17-18		
*June 24-25	Evans Regatta	Green Bay
July 1-2		
*July 8-9	P & T	Milwaukee
*July 15-16	Oxie	Lake Geneva
*July 21-22-23	DISTRICTS	Sheboygan
*July 29-30	Brotz Regatta	Sheboygan
*August 5-6	Hobelman	Chicago Corinthian
August 12-13		
August 19-20		
August 26-27		
September 23-24	Red Flannels	Chicago Corinthian
September 30 —		
October 1	Polar Bear	Davenport

*Lake Michigan Championship

To qualify, The Districts and 3 other (*) Regattas must be sailed.

Miller, who's from Manitowoc, are from Sheboygan.

With the summer racing out of the way, the heartier sailors converged on Chicago and Davenport for the "Red Flannels" and the "Polar Bear". Both regattas enjoyed heavy winds the first day, resulting in some capsize and very exciting reaches for those brave (?) enough to fly spinnakers. The Red Flannels Champ is Bruce Goldsmith with out-of-staters Corbett (Michigan), Johns (Michigan), Gall (Kansas), and Peters (Michigan) all within 5 points. Mike Steffenson demonstrated his fine local knowledge and ability with three bullets to win the Polar Bear. Next in order came Gene Mathews, Henry Neuman, Jim Flick, and Ken Jensen all of the host club except for Mathews from Lake Geneva.

Five of the District Regattas must be sailed to qualify for the Lake Michigan Championship. Gordon Ettie won this year with his wife and son as crew. Congratulations on a super summer of racing.

1978 is a year of hope for Green Bay to renew its Evans Regatta. With 10 active boats, and possibly several more over the winter, their future looks very bright. Manitowoc also has good news in that they will have 2 new boats for next year.

If the weather person cooperates, next year will be a very good year.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DISTRICT

District Commodore	Roger Miller
District Vice Commodore	Robert Hochstetler
District Junior Commodore	Matthew Burridge
District Measurer	Stuart Bernstein
District Champion	Robert Wardwell
District Runner-Up	Augie Paoli

Fleets: Decatur (74); Harbor Island (262); Carlyle Sailing Association (266); Memphis (274).

The Mississippi Valley District is a long narrow north-south district. As its active fleets tend to have two centers one in the northern half and one in the southern half our District Championship alternates. In 1977 the District Championships were held at Kentucky Lake through

the courtesy of the Ken Lake Sailing Club. Our districts are run on a joint venture basis with all fleets contributing effort and manpower. In even numbered years District Championships are held at Lake Carlyle in middle Illinois on the same joint venture basis.

The 1977 District Championship had for some members of the district been preceded by enjoyment of the Southern Circuit in March and for others at the Tennessean Regatta in Nashville in April, the Hernando DeSoto Regatta at Memphis in early May, the Kentucky Lake Governors Cup in mid May or the Wild Turkey Regatta at Kentucky Lake in late May.

In this year's district regatta a newcomer to the district, Bob Wardwell won and became the District Champion. He has moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee where he and his Lightning are orphans, but fall within the geographical boundaries of the Mississippi Valley District. We were happy to welcome Bob even if he did walk off with all the silver. The runner-up was Augie Paoli of the Carlyle Sailing Association. Third place was Matthew Burridge of the Carlyle Sailing Association. Fourth place went to Bob Hochstetler of the Harbor Island Yacht Club at Nashville. Fifth place was Tom Hudgens also of Harbor Island Yacht Club. This year after much debate we tried a six race series with one throw out. The weather and water cooperated to make it a howling success. Following the racing Roger Miller of Decatur was elected to the office of District Commodore. Bob Hochstetler of Nashville was elected Vice Commodore. This year there is a new district office that has been created in conformity with the policies of the ILCA and that is Junior Commodore. Matthew Burridge of the Carlyle Sailing Association was elected to this position.

Following the districts the season continued with Decatur's "Inter-city Regatta" which occurred in late June.

This year strangely enough the midwest was blessed with wind during July and August and great local sailing was had by all fleets at their home locations.

In mid August the district sent two boats to the Lightning Junior North Americans at Buffalo. One of these boats skippered by Matthew Burridge of the Carlyle Sailing Association with crew of Ron and Randy Dibler wound up third.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

DISTRICT

1978 Regatta Schedule

Date	Regatta	Location	Comments
April 15, 16	Tennessean	Nashville	Open
May 6, 7	Hernando Desoto	Memphis	Lightnings
May 13, 14	Governors Cup	Ken Lake	Open
June 15, 16, 17	LIGHTNING DISTRICTS	Carlyle	(Measurement June 15)
June 24, 25	Inter City Regatta	Decatur	Lightnings, Thistles & Lasers
September 2, 3	"Impromptu" Lightning Regatta	Carlyle	(5 Race Regatta)
September 2, 3	McDougal	Nashville	Open
September 16, 17	Whale of a Sail	Carlyle	Open (3 races)
September 30, October 1	Watkins	Ken Lake	Open
November 4, 5	Bluenose	Nashville	Lightnings