



Italian District Champion, Nando DeAmicis.

ITALIAN DISTRICT

District Commodore Captain Luigi Merola
 District Secretary Nando De Amicis
 District Champion Nando De Amicis
 District Runner-Up Francesco Riti
 Third Luigi Merola

Fleets: Marivela (235); del Garda (249); di Roma (271); di Anzio (278); Lega Navale Italiana Anzio (312); La Spezia (321); Lido degli Estensi (355); Flotta del Faro Cervia (390); Marsala (449); Trasimeno (453); del Conero (466); Flotta del Lario (467).

The most important news of the district is the interest of the Ciga Hotels Inc. in the Lightning Class; the new glass boats of the Salver Inc.; the good results of the Italian skippers in the Europeans held in Greece.

The Ciga Hotels Inc. purchased a new Allen boat and gave considerable support to the participation of the six Italian boats in the European Championship at Pireaus, Greece.

Salver of Brindisi built five wonderful and competitive boats. Unfortunately the better Italian skippers did not race these new boats, but it is hoped they will in the near future.

At the European Championships the Italian District was well represented with Luigi Merola placing 5th, Nando De Amicis 10th, and Roberto Crucitti 13th.

The winners of the more important regattas in our District were: Nando De Amicis of Fleet 249 winning the Trofeo Moratti and the Regata di Primavera, both at Trasimeno Lake; Tino Pernice of Fleet 449 the A. Sassi Memorial Trophy at La Spezia; Maurizio Di Segni of Fleet 312 the District Regatta at Anzio; Claude Lambelet of Fleet 169 the E. Di Lorenzo Memorial Trophy at Senigallia; Roberto Crucitti of Fleet 449 the Marsala Sicilian Championship and the Marsala Capo Boeo's Cup.

Nando De Amicis also won the 1978 Italian Championship at Marsala and everyone was proud of our district secretary's success.

Crews and skippers of the first five places in the 1978 Italian Championships are: 1st, N. De Amicis, G. Rizzieri, D. Pecorella (Fleet 249); 2nd, F. Riti, Caterina Riti, G. Abbate (Fleet 449); 3rd, L. Merola, M. Lo Sardo, F. Lo Sardo (Fleet 235); 4th, G. Pellegrino, G. Messina, G. Di Girolamo (Fleet 449); 5th, R. Crucitti, G. Pecorella, G. Maggio (Fleet 449).

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT 1979 Regatta Schedule

April 28 & 29	Long John	Red Bank, N.J.
Mid-Hudson Circuit		
June 2 & 3	Magnus Pederson	Nyack, N.Y.
June 9 & 10	Hi-Tor Sutherland	Stoneypoint, N.Y.
July 7 & 8	Chelsea Open	Chelsea, N.Y.
July 14 & 15	DISTRICTS	Chelsea, N.Y.
Short Circuit		
Sept. 8 & 9	Whisker Pole	Greenwood Lake, N.Y.
Sept. 15 & 16	Lake Wallenpaupack	Paupack, PA
Sept. 22 & 23	Lake Mohawk	Sparta, N.J.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

District Commodore Pat Corr
 District Secretary Jim Wavle
 District Measurer Denis Farley
 District Champion Denis Farley
 District Runner-Up Bob Hutchinson

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

The Metropolitan District initiated its 1978 sailing season in the accustomed manner with a highly competitive rendition of Fleet 70's chilly Long John Regatta at the Monmouth Boat Club. While several sailors won their turtles early in the puffy April air, Jay Lutz sailed adroitly with two firsts and a sixth to handily lead the field.

On that majestic, albeit sometimes foggy and windless river, Tom DeStasio of Nyack won the spring-time Mid-Hudson Circuit.

Denis Farley nipped Bob Hutchinson by one point to win the Districts which were held at Lake Mohawk in the beautiful hills of northwest New Jersey. Fleet 25 hosted a very well-run regatta with a variety of conditions that truly separated the men from the boys.

Karin Huntsman and Eileen Ewing represented the District in the first Women's Lightning Championship. Jack Huntsman and Kevin Corr competed in the ILCA Junior North Americans where Jack finished with an admirable third.

At the North Americans, three of our skippers sailed well enough to qualify for the World's next year. Jon Schwartz, Denis Farley and Bob Hutchinson finished 15th, 17th and 19th in the top flight, while Bob Held finished a bit further back in the Blue Fleet. In the President's

Cup, John Schneider was 6th, Jack Huntsman 9th, and Sandy Huntsman 20th. The District was certainly well represented by these skippers from the Monmouth Boat Club.

Inasmuch as the Districts were sailed at Lake Mohawk, this year the Short Circuit comprised the June Magnus Pedersen Regatta on the Hudson at Nyack plus the traditional September regattas at Greenwood Lake and Lake Wallenpaupack. Nevertheless, Lake Mohawk skippers captured the first three spots with Bob Graham emerging as the overall winner.

In the District's finale for 1978, Jack Huntsman and his family traveled to Peru in November where Jack was one of the U.S. representatives in the Junior Worlds.

It was a great year for the Metropolitan District and we look forward to renewed action in the Spring of 1979.



Michigan District 1978 Champs. Skipper Garry Demarest (1), Sally Werenski, Jeff Prince.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

District Commodore	Bob Mathers
District Secretary	Jim McCoy
District Junior Commodore	Carl Hesse, Jr.
District Measurer	Robert Knop
District Champion	Garry Demarest
District Runner-Up	Bill McKinley
Junior Champion	Jim Morse
Junior Runner-Up	John Mathers

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); Neahtawanta Y.C. (403); Clark Lake (416); Union Lake Y.C. (458).

Pleasant weather prevailed for the Lake Lansing Regatta. Bill McKinley won for the second straight year. Second and third were Lake Lansing skippers Bob Hill and Ray Yerkie.

Near ideal conditions existed at Crescent Sail Club producing some wild planing legs in Saturday's two races. Sunday's schedule was cancelled as gale winds moved thru. Clarence Holman III won this one with Hank Hodgson second. John Oram was third.

Eight teams of four boats arrived for the Fenton team races. Repeating as the champions were the Douglas Lake Team of Dave Peters, Bill Crow, Gary Cameron, and Garry Demarest.

The Michigan Districts drew 34 to scenic Tawas Bay on Lake Huron.

With four races down and one to go, Demarest and McCoy were tied. The fifth race was started in very light air. McCoy was buried at the start and managed only a 17th. Demarest finished ninth to win the Districts. The results: Garry Demarest, first; Bill McKinley, second; Clarence Holman III, third; George Sipel, fourth; Jim McCoy, fifth.

Saginaw Bay had light winds for its duel regatta. (The regular regatta and the Junior Districts.) Hank Hodgson won two of three races and the overall regatta. The highlight of this regatta (and of the season for me) was the return of one of Michigan's most popular sailors. Joe Disette finished second in this, his first competition after a successful two year fight against a mysterious viral infection. Welcome back Joe!

The Junior Districts was won by Jim Morse, a repeat of last year. Second was John Mathers of Pontiac, Sue Pohly of Fenton was third.

Twenty-five Lightnings raced at Gull Lake. Carl Engels won, the first time in 10 years a local skipper ended on top. Hank Hodgson was second. Third and fourth were Gull Lake skippers, Tim Vandermeulen and Jack Engels. The annual social at Tom Crookson's home featured a cookout and a barefoot soccer game. Ouch!

Hank Hodgson won the Higgins Lake Regatta by taking two firsts in the series.

Beautiful Grand Traverse Bay drew nineteen Lightnings. The winner Sandy Blumenfeld held off John Coll, a Snipe and Thistle skipper from Indiana. Pat Tobin was third.

Pontiac's White Cap Regatta was whitecapless this year. Thirty-seven boats competed. Rick Mullen ghosted his way to two firsts on Saturday. Sunday's races were cancelled as the wind dropped to zero. The results: Rick Mullen, Pontiac, first; Hank Hodgson, Clark Lake, second; Dave Peters, Douglas Lake, third; Alex Clark, Pontiac, fourth.

Appropriately, 35 Lightnings arrived for Devil's Lakes 35th annual, the longest continuously running Lightning Regatta in the world. Bruce Goldsmith tested Michigan waters and found them to his liking with three bullets.

The results: Bruce Goldsmith, first; Dave Peters, second; Merrill Bales, third; Clarence Holman III, fourth; Herm Nickels, fifth.

At Clark Lake the season finished as it started, with Bill McKinley winning. Hank Hodgson was second and Merrill Bales third.

Ron Callahan again managed the promotional Lightning display at the four day Great Lakes Sailboat Show at Metropolitan Beach on Lake St. Clair. Hank worked hard and did a super job.

Our annual December meeting featured Bob Scoville of Scoville Sails speaking on "The Concept of Sail Trim by Performance Analysis."

Hank Hodgson edged Clarence Holman III to repeat as winner of the George Strueland Trophy for performance on the Michigan Circuit.

At Rehoboth Bay Clarence Holman III was third top qualifier and Garry Demarest finished seventh in the North Americans. We are proud to have one of our own, Dave Peters, as President of the International Lightning Class Association for 1979.

MIDWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore	Rick Larson
District Secretary	Donna Larson
District Junior Commodore	Derek Ettie
District Measurer	Nicholas K. Smith
District Champion	Bruce Goldsmith
District Runner-Up	Ron Blair

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

This last year, 1978, was a year of firsts for the Midwest District. It was the first time the Manitowoc Regatta was sailed and the first time in six years the Evans Regatta in Green Bay was sailed. Both were well run and a terrific time was had by all. Be sure to include these regattas on your 1979 schedule.

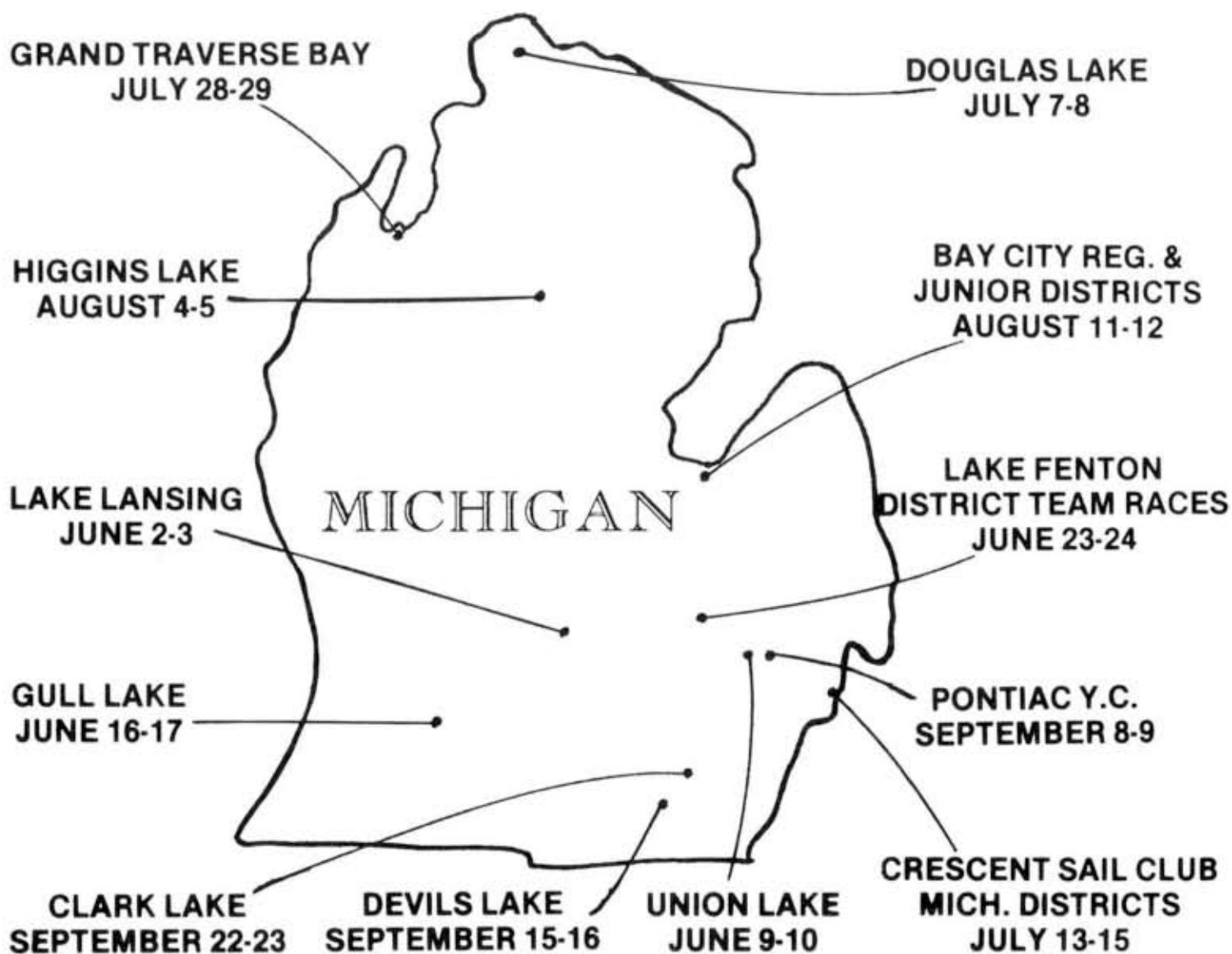
The past year's activity started with the annual Midwinter District meeting in January. Bruce Goldsmith presented an interesting talk that told not how to do it, but rather how not to do it. Does that make sense? At any rate it was entitled "Mistakes Win Races for Others."

For most of us, we had to wait until June to start our sailing and racing. The busy regatta schedule started with the Icebreaker in Manitowoc which was won by Rick Larson. Apparently the District Commodore was paying attention as Bruce spoke for us for he went on to win the next two regattas: the Evans in Green Bay and the P & T in Milwaukee.

MICHIGAN



DISTRICT



SAIL THE GREAT LAKE STATE REGATTAS



MIDWEST REGATTA

1979 Schedule

Proposed Regatta Schedule



*June 9-10	Ice Breaker	Manitowoc
*June 23-24	Evans Regatta	Green Bay
June 30-July 1	JR. DISTRICTS	To Be Announced
*July 7-8	P & T Regatta	Milwaukee
*July 13-14-15	DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP	Chicago Corinthian
*July 21-22	Oxie	Lake Geneva
*July 28-29	Brotz	Sheboygan
*August 4-5	Hobelman	Chicago Corinthian
Sept. 22-23	Red Flannels	Chicago Corinthian
Sept. 29-30	Polar Bear	Davenport
*Lake Michigan Championship	To qualify, the Districts and 3 other * Regattas must be sailed.	

Rick's streak was broken when he finished second to Bruce Goldsmith in the Oxie at Lake Geneva.

The following week the Districts were held in Sheboygan and the race committee managed to get in four races in spite of uncooperative weather. It was no surprise when Bruce Goldsmith again walked off with top honors.

The Brotz Regatta featured a new winner this year when Matt Burridge of St. Louis showed us how they do it in the Missouri Valley District.

The next two regattas were held at Chicago Corinthian: the Hobelman in August and the Red Flannels in Sept. They were won by Rick Larson and Bruce Goldsmith respectively.

Winding up our season was the Polar Bear at Davenport won by Hank Hodgson.

Yellow boats must be fast because a yellow boat again won this years Lake Michigan Championship. It's either that or out of respect, everyone stayed out of the District Commodore's way as Rick Larson finished the season with four firsts, two seconds and a third to win his first Lake Michigan Championship.

Best wishes to Russ and Amy Crawford who finally tied the knot (I think it was a Spanish bowline with a double running half hitch). They and Nick Smith have taken new jobs out east where they plan to be active in the Lightning class. They will be missed by all.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DISTRICT

District Commodore	Robert Hochstetler
District Vice Commodore	L. M. Bohnenkamp
District Measurer	Stuart Bernstein
District Champion	Greg Florian
District Runner-Up	Robert Wardwell

Fleets: Decatur (74); Harbor Island (262); Carlyle Sailing Association (266); Memphis (274); Louisville Lightnings (470).

This year the Mississippi Valley District Championships were hosted by the Carlyle Sailing Association and as in the past the District Championships and all the many tasks required to get them under way were shared jointly by all the fleets.

The number of boats attending was not as in the past though. This year the count fell below 30 and although not a panic situation - it may just indicate that some of us had to work and could not attend - the concern was that a lack of fleet communication and drive was not exerted to see that all the fleet members were encouraged to attend.

The racing season opened at the Harbor Island Yacht Club Tennessee Regatta with mostly in-house participation, then on to the Hernando DeSoto Regatta in Memphis, again mostly locals with a smattering of Nashville boats. It would be an attractive situation if each year we could have a regatta scheduled just before the districts, at the district location, such as the Wild Turkey was at Ken Lake. The District Championships, sailed in June, was won by a very consistent Greg Florian with both Bob Wardwell and Barney Mead in close pursuit. Matthew Burridge, who had a lock on the championship until the third and final race when a mishap saw a win turn into a 15th, fourth overall. In fifth place was Walter England.

The next weekend Decatur had their big bash, the Intercity Regatta. From reports the racing is fantastic, only exceeded by the hospitality. It would never do to have this over before the districts, it takes a month to recover.

Summer doldrums and fair weather clouds (the windless type) carry us into September and the Impromptu Lightning Regatta at Lake Carlyle and the McDougal Regatta at Harbor Island Yacht Club. The finale of the year is the blustery Blue Nose in Nashville. There are some who feel blustery is a little strong in that no races were sailed due to lack of wind but there is a plus - 50 boats attended and the hospitality and new club house facilities helped to buoy everyone's spirits.

The dates and places for the 1979 Mississippi Valley District races are listed elsewhere in this book so 'Ya'll come'.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

DISTRICT

1979 Regatta Schedule

Date	Regatta	Location	Comments
April 21,22	Tennessean	Nashville	Open
May 5,6	Hernando Desoto	Memphis	Lightnings
May 12,13	Governors Cup	Ken Lake	Open
June 15,16,17	LIGHTNING DISTRICTS	Carlyle	(Measurement June 15)
June 23,24	Inter City Regatta	Decatur	Lightnings, Thistles & Lasers
September 1,2	"Impromptu" Lightning Regatta	Ken Lake	(5 Race Regatta)
September 1,2	McDougal	Nashville	Open
September 15,16	Whale of a Sail	Carlyle	Open (3 races)
September 29,30	Watkins	Ken Lake	Open
November 3,4	Bluenose	Nashville	Lightnings



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

REGATTA SCHEDULE

1979

MAY 19-20	SPRING REGATTA CEDAR POINT YACHT CLUB WESTPORT, CONN.	JULY 21-22	WELLFLEET REGATTA CHEQUESSET YACHT CLUB WELLFLEET, MASS.
JUNE 9-10	NORTHEAST REGATTA NIANTIC, CONN.	JULY 26-29	MARBLE HEAD RACE WEEK MARBLEHEAD, MASS.
JUNE 16-17	PORTLAND YACHT CLUB REGATTA PORTLAND, MAINE	AUG. 4-5	NEW HAMPSHIRE- VERMONT CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAM LAKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUNE 23-24	MASSABESIC REGATTA MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE	AUG. 11-12	STATE OF MASS. CHAMPIONSHIP AMERICAN YACHT CLUB NEWBURYPORT, MASS.
JULY 7-8	STATE OF MAINE CHAMPIONSHIP CENTERBOARD YACHT CLUB SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE	SEPT. 8-9	MASSABESIC FALL REGATTA MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JULY 13-14-15	NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP MALLET'S BAY BOAT CLUB BURLINGTON, VERMONT	SEPT. 15-16	FALL REGATTA CEDAR POINT YACHT CLUB WESTPORT, CONN.
		SEPT. 23-24	SPOFFORD REGATTA SPOFFORD YACHT CLUB SPOFFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore Dr. Georges Peter
 District Secretary David H. Fitch
 District Champion Richard Hale
 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); Bomoseen 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 beautiful Portland Yacht Club hosted the first New England District regatta of the season in picture perfect weather. Eighteen boats competed in the shifty northwest, dying breezes Saturday which turned to brisk on-shore winds Sunday. Phil Griffin of the Connecticut-Rhode Island District bested local Dave White for top honors. A great cook-out and social evening at the White's highlighted a fine weekend.

The following week Lightning sailors found the weatherman's predicted 10-12 knot winds a steady 30 knots with gusts to 37 on Lake Champlain's outer Malletts Bay. The fleet struggled back to the Boat Club with five or six capsize and Jim Russell's broken mast as trip momentos. A fine evening meal signaled the end of festivities as the wind kept smoking on Sunday.

Lake Massabesic hosted this year's New Hampshire-Vermont Championships. Twenty boats battled through the four race series. Dave Fitch of the Spofford Yacht Club kept it close after the first day's three races with three 2nd place finishes to (then District Commodore) Don Brush's 4th and two 1sts. A drifter on Sunday was almost a complete disaster for the Saturday leaders. Final standings were Don Brush, Jr., Dave Fitch, Dick Hale, Don Sherborne, and Jack Burwell. The Hales hosted most of the visitors in their lovely home.

"Don't follow the lead boat, he's confused!" was the announcement from the race committee on fog shrouded Casco Bay. The rains showed no mercy in pelting the fleet with buckets of water and only momentary letups. Dave White led the nineteen boat fleet after Saturday's racing in the murk. Somehow things got turned around on Sunday with Dave White's premature start and Bill Oliver cranking his pretty red lightning into the lead. Final standings in the State of Maine Championship were Bill Oliver, Dave Fitch, Dave White, Don Brush, Jr., and Georges Peter. The Centerboard Yacht Club members traditionally serve a magnificent casserole lunch on Sunday which is greatly appreciated.

All this was a good tune-up for some of the finest District sailing ever, this year at Wellfleet on Cape Cod. All of New England was scorching and the Cape was no different. Stu Nickerson gave all the racers a sailing lesson finishing first in four of the five races, but a disastrous 23rd in Saturday's lone race snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. Dale Hale, ex-505 campaigner on San Francisco Bay sailed a steady series to become District Champion. A close 2nd went to Don Brush, Jr. with 3rd to Maine's Jack Burwell. Stu Nickerson, Hale Walcott, John Collins, Georges Peter, Dave Little, Dave White, and Kurt Kling completed the first 10 boats in the 36 boat competition.

Saturday Night's beach party featured great softball, soccer, and sociability and is a tribute to Stu Nickerson who pulled it off. Bill Oliver did a good job in organizing the measuring, race committee, and numerous details that go into a fine regatta.

The Newburyport Regatta in early August proved to be an excellent tune-up for the North Americans. Marblehead's John Collins liked the light airs to beat Georges Peter and Dave Fitch. Al Dibenardo took 4th representing the host fleet while Jack Burwell and Dick Hale finished out the top six. Beautiful hand-made wire lightnings were attractive prizes given to the top finishers.

Rehoboth offered challenging sailing to the New England and District sailors. Georges Peter, Dick Hale and Don Brush, Jr. (Smythe Trophy) did well in the qualifiers to place in the Championship fleet. Jack Burwell just missed the blue flight to be first qualifier in the President's division. Dave White also sailed in this fleet. Dave Fitch was second qualifier in the Governor's division followed by Raymond Harrington of Lake Bomoseen and John Hughes of Malletts Bay. Congratulations to fifth place trophy winner Don Brush, Jr. in the Championship Flight.

Post Labor Day racing found Dick Hale taking the Massabesic Fall regatta while on the same weekend at Annisquam Yacht Club, John Collins, Don Brush Jr., Georges Peter (host club), Jack Burwell and C.

H. Ritt (back from Washington) capped the first five places. All of Saturdays races were cancelled in 30 knot plus winds.

Picture perfect weather greeted thirty-one entrants at Lake Spofford's circuit (circuit) finale. In the two-race series, Don Brush, Jr. came from behind to edge Phil Griffin, while World Champion Bill Shore, Stu Nickerson and Dave Fitch took 3rd through 5th places. All sailors agreed that we may never hold the Lightning North Americans at Lake Spofford, but it was probably the closest place to heaven that weekend!

OHIO DISTRICT

District Commodore Burt Preston
 District Secretary Jim Disch
 District Measurer Bucky Powless
 District Champion Greg Fisher
 District Runner-Up Greg Fisher
 Junior Champion Jack Mueller

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); St. Marys (400).

Officers for the first half of 1978 were District Commodore Ron Schulster and Secretary Burt Preston. Change of officers took place at the Ohio Districts on July 14.

Spring regattas this year included the Spring Shake Down at Indian Lake Yacht Club and the Great Lakes Championship at North Cape Yacht Club.

The Bruce Girkins Memorial Trophy was created this year and will be presented annually to the winner of the Great Lakes Championship at North Cape Yacht Club beginning in 1979.

Regattas the first part of the summer were the Thundermug at St. Mary's Boat Club, The Windshift at Leatherlips, and the Independence Day Regatta at Pymatuning Yacht Club.

The Ohio District Championships were held in early July at Pymatuning Yacht Club in near perfect conditions for both racing and social activity. After five very successful races, Greg Fisher was the champion. Jack Mueller, who was leading the regatta going into the last race had problems on the starting line and ended up two points short of Greg when all was done. The remaining nine qualifiers for the North Americans were: (3) Jim Dressel, (4) Matt Fisher, (5) Chuck Maltbie, (6) Randy Ruhlman, (7) Bill Buckles, (8) Dick Pugh, (9) Barry Wilson, (10) Peter Swartz, (11) George Auer. Matt Fisher went on to place second in the North Americans with Jim Dressel close behind finishing third.

Cleveland Yachting Club Regatta, held July 29-30, saw Matt Fisher first, Jim Dressel second, Bill Buckles, third.

At the Harvest Moon Regatta at Atwood Lake, September 9-10, Tom Varley was first, Rich Cooper second, Warren Schieser third, Joe Streb fourth, and Dick Waller fifth.

The Snow Ball Regatta at Buckeye Lake October 14-15 as usual, saw the top competitors in the world on the starting line. Finishers were: (1) Bill Shore, (2) Bruce Goldsmith, (3) Matt Fisher, (4) Jim Dressel, (5) Tom Allen.

The Ohio season ended at the Fall-In Regatta at Cowan Lake Sailing Club October 21-22 with Dick Pugh first, Ron Schulster second, Burt Preston third, John Lay fourth, and Ken Irwin fifth.

Ron Schulster won the Ohio Governor's Cup for the second year in a row with strong finishes in the Thundermug, Windshift and Fall-In Regattas.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore Ken White
 District Vice Commodore George Blumel
 District Secretary Frank Wise
 District Measurer Van Conklin
 District Champion James Nelson
 District Runner-Up Ken White
 Junior Champion Phil Parshley Jr.
 Junior Runner-Up Margo Marlatt
 PNW Circuit Champion Greg Zettler

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

1979

Ohio District

Regatta Schedule

*Spring Shake Down	Indian Lake Y.C.	May 12-13
*Great Lakes Championship	North Cape Y.C.	May 19-20
St. Mary's 400	St. Marys Boat Club	June 2-3
Regatta	Leatherlips	June 9-10
Independence Day Regatta	Pymatung Y.C.	July ----
<hr/>		
Ohio District Championships	-----	July ----
C.Y.C. Regatta	Cleveland Y.C.	July 28-29
Steeplechase	Port Clinton & Put-In-Bay	August 4
Inter-lake Yachting Assn. Regatta	Put-In-Bay	August 6-7-8
<hr/>		
Harvest Moon Regatta	Atwood Lake Y.C.	Sept. 8-9
Sandusky Fall Invitational	Sandusky Sailing Club	Sept. 22-23
Snow Flurries Regatta	Port Clinton Y.C.	Sept. 29-30
Snow Ball Regatta	Buckeye Lake Y.C.	Oct. 13-14
Fall In Regatta	Cowan Lake Sailing Club	Oct. 20-21

Check Flashes or Special Notes for Any Changes

**Races included in Northern Spring Circuit with Indiana Open Regatta*

Lightning Sailors of the Pacific Northwest launch boats and begin sailing about the first week in April. The hardy ones, that is. This year a group of sailors from Lightning fleets in Oregon, attempting to get a jump on the rest of us, mushed their way through the snow covered passes of the Siskiyou's to Lotus Land for the 12th Southern California Circuit. Although bedazzled by an over abundance of sunshine and tanned flesh (its called a mono-kini, Dennis) Jamie Nelson, Phil Parshley, Dennis Torgeson and Ken White managed to collect a little silver.

Each year our season officially gets underway with the mid-winter meeting held in early February. This year Mark Bryant regaled us with go-fast ideas and racing disaster stories. The highlight of his talk was "Skippers I have sailed with" or "Earplugs, the crews salvation".

The Pacific Northwest Lightning District circuit is comprised of eight regattas hosted by various Yacht Clubs in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon between mid-May and the end of October. A District Championship (junior and senior), a District Team race and a Pacific Coast Championship regatta round out the racing program. At the beginning of the season the district could boast of twelve active individual circuit regatta winners, four active skippers who have won the District Championship and three who have won the Pacific Coast Championship. Formidable opposition. By the end of the season three new circuit regatta winners and a new District Champion had joined this select, but beatable group. The results of the eight circuit regattas were as follows:

Regatta	Place	Winner	Fleet
Blossom Time (Kelowna, B.C.)	1	Bob Bazett	368
	2	Jim MacDonnell	368
Memorial Day (Eugene, Ore.)	1	Phil Parshley	283
	2	Greg Zettler	414
VLSC (Portland, Ore.)	1	Greg Zettler	414
	2	James Nelson	283
Midsummer (Klamath Falls, Ore.)	1	Dennis Torgeson	283
	2	Ken White	455
Kitsilano (Vancouver, B.C.)	1	Greg Zettler	414
	2	John Benedetti	283
Labour Day (Maple Bay, B.C.)	1	George Blumel	64
	2	Dennis Torgeson	283
Lake Chelan (Chelan, Wash.)	1	Frank Wise	414
	2	Bob Bazett	368
King Olaf (Seattle, Wash.)	1	Rod Johnson	414
	2	John Benedetti	283

Five races were sailed in the Blossom Time regatta under clear skies and light winds in 28 degree C (82 degree F) weather. Bob Bazett, a new winner, demonstrated his new boat and sailing skills by winning four of the five. Even those who didn't pick up a trophy had something to take home - a sunburn. Memorial Day drew twenty-seven skippers from five fleets. Gool 'ol Fern Ridge Reservoir performed as usual providing everything from dead calm, 180 degree wind shifts, to MY GOD HIKE! Phil Parshley, defending District Champion, and Lotus Land traveler, demonstrated that last year was no fluke and set himself up as the skipper to beat this season. Unfortunately, Phil was able to sail only sparingly for the rest of the year; depriving the remaining skippers of a truly fine competitor.

Again twenty-seven skippers lined up for the gun at the VLSC regatta on Vancouver Lake. Normally there is ten to twenty feet of water in this flood control basin. But not this year. One out-of-town skipper with a forty boat length lead and three boat lengths from the finish line in very light air found himself being inexorably overtaken. Sail adjustments, each more frantic than the last, availed nothing. Finally an abnormal heeling angle was tried - and the boat moved - and stopped. MY GOD, WE'RE AGROUND, quietly spoke the skipper. The lead had shrunk to one-quarter boat length at the finish line. Having the bottom so close to the top truly adds another dimension to Lightning racing. Three points separated the top three competitors going into the final race. Centerboards were up to avoid grounding in the starting area and a forty-five degree windshift occurred five seconds before the gun. Greg Zettler was the only skipper to successfully handle both adverse conditions and, believe it or not, did a horizon job in twenty-five knots of wind.

The Klamath Fleet did it again, hosting a fantastic Pacific Coast Championship regatta. Being one of the smallest fleets in the District, they showed that small numbers can bring off big things. Five very tough races were sailed in two days by thirty skippers from eight fleets in the two Districts. One-half point separated Myron Lyons (Fleet 194, San Diego) and Greg Zettler going into the final race. Ten miles later in

15 knot winds Greg tacked on Myron's lea bow two boat lengths from the finish and won by less than one foot.



Aloha - The Culver Hilton, Nan and Jack Culver, proprietors.

A tired but spirited Klamath Fleet hosted their annual Midsummer regatta one week later. The races featured one real gear buster and Dennis Torgeson, sailing with his family, outlasted his battle weary competitors and won his first circuit regatta.

The first salt water regatta and the second one with sunshine (both in British Columbia) found fifteen boats on the line at Kitsilano in early July. More than the usual number of freighters were anchored in English Bay making winds more like lake, than ocean sailing. Using a substitute crew, Greg Zettler gave a sailing demonstration winning all races by comfortable margins.

So back to Eugene for the District Championship. (By the way, the average skipper must travel over 4500 miles to attend all District events in one year. Those who live on the fringe of the District travel over 6000 miles.) Temperatures were in the nineties and winds were light to non-existent. The first two races on Saturday were abandoned and the third finished at sunset. The last weather leg was sailed directly into the setting sun causing many skippers to over-sail the finish line. Two races were completed in light and fluky winds on Sunday. Of the top five finishers, which included three past District Champions, only Jamie Nelson was able to sail consistently. Jamie is a first time winner of this regatta and the second Portland sailor to win in as many years. Earlier, the first Junior Championships were held. Also in light and fluky winds. Most of the young people crew for their fathers and it was interesting to note the similarity in racing tactics. The last race was started after 8 P.M. and finished just at sundown. It was a winner-take-all last race and the lead changed hands at least five times during the four legs. This caused alternating cheers and groans from the parents watching. Due to the distance from the finish line, it wasn't until the committee boat had docked that the spectators knew Phil Parshley, Jr. had nosed out Margo Marlatt at the finish to win. And so Portland made a clean sweep of the Districts.

The Labour Day regatta has to rank as the "Soggiest" of the year. That good old Northwest rain just keeps falling. Five races were sailed in the most beautiful setting for racing in the District. That light air master, George Blumel, sailed for three thirds, a second and a first while everyone else was alternating good with bad finishes. District hot-shots had best keep an eye peeled for the third place finisher Don Munro and his new boat *Hot Chocolate* on the circuit in '79.

Lake Chelan surprised everyone this year with winds on Saturday that peaked at forty knots. Generally, three knots is considered heavy air. Making use of ten years experience as crew and skipper in this

regatta, Frank Wise finally won his first circuit event. That new boat does make a difference.

The last circuit event, the King Olaf, was won by Rod Johnson sailing his last Lightning regatta (he says). Rod, who is a past District Commodore, District Champion and prior holder of most other District honors, is moving to a Thunderbird in quest of a world championship.

The District Team race was won by Columbia (Portland) Fleet, soundly thrashing defending champion Juanita Bay (Seattle). Thus Portland won three of the four District honors this year almost completely replacing Seattle as the home of Pacific Northwest Lightning champions. Greg Zettler of Juanita Bay held off total domination by Portland by winning the PNW Circuit Championship. That's three in a row for Greg.

An end of an era occurred this fall with the retirement of Nan and Jack Culver. They have been mainstays of the District and Chinnok (Eugene) Fleet for more years than they care to count. The "Culver Hilton", where Lightning sailors gathered to exchange sea stories and enjoy the best of hospitality, will be sorely missed. Fittingly, the "Grey Fox" and his Nan won the last Oregon Invitational regatta of the season, the Columbus Day regatta at Newport, before moving to their retirement home on Orcus Island in the San Juan archipelago. Wishes for fair winds and smooth seas from your friends.



Winners of the Peruvian elimination for the first World Youth Lightning Championship, Augusto Navarro-Mulanovich, Carlos Navarro-Mulanovich (skipper), and Antonio Fortunio-Oliveira.

PERU DISTRICT

District Commodore Carlos Navarro, M.D.
District Secretary Hector Sabogal
District Treasurer Roger Vansprangh
District Champion Cesar Zanatti
District Runner-Up Carlos Navarro, M.D.

Fleets: Club de Regatas Lima (261); Yacht Club Ancon (264); Yacht Club Peruano (265); Universitario de Regatas (424); Peruvian Naval School (452).

This has been a very exciting year for our district because Peru was to host the First World Youth Lightning Championship. At the time of this writing crews from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, sent in their entries. Just recently we held a National Youth Championship as a qualifying series for this world event. Our national champion was Carlos Navarro-Mulanovich (skipper - age 14) with Augusto Navarro-Mulanovich (age 13) and Antonio Fortunio-Oliveira (age 16) as crew. The other three crews that qualified were: 2nd; Alex Zimmerman (skipper, age 18) with Felipe Barclay (age 19) and Miguel Chavez (age 15); 3rd; Edmundo Deville (skipper, age 19) with Marco Garcia (age 17) and Victor Boucher (age 18); 4th; Hector Sabogal Jr. (skipper, age 15) with Gisella Sabogal (age 17) and Mauricio Barbis (age 16). We hope they will represent us well at the Youth World's.

We are also getting ready to host the next South American Championship, to be held in Ancon-Peru in March of next year.

Finally immediately after the Youth Worlds the Peruvian National Championship will be held. This year we think there will be about 25 fiberglass boats in competition, the biggest number ever for this event. We will send a separate report for the Lightning Flashes in January. Also there is a special report regarding the First World Youth Championship in another section of this year book.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

District Commodore Sam Cheek
District Secretary Mickey Boyd
District Measurers Bert Berry & Paul Rodesiler
District Champion Tom Waters
District Runner-Up John McIntosh

Fleets: Savannah (127); Clark Hill (257); Lake Murray (341); Lake Lanier (348); Catawba (365); Lake Hartwell (391); Triad (415); Greater Charleston (429); Palmetto (440); Wateree (459); St. John's River (461); Waccamaw (463).

A good time was had by all in the Southeastern District under the capable leadership of Ken Wallace of Lake Lanier fleet. For the first time, we sailed under a uniform set of Race Instructions, and it was a big improvement for the 62 skippers who sailed, 25 of whom qualified for the Circuit Championship.

Unfortunately, Augusta had to pass on their opening regatta, but they plan to have a big one this year with their growing fleet. On April 22, Wateree welcomed us with open arms - thank goodness because the temperature dropped to 32° Saturday morning. But 26 boats braved the chill and enjoyed the good wind and sun on both days, especially Tom Waters, Will Sloger, and Gordon Kellogg who took top honors in that order.

Our last regatta on October 7-8 at Lake Lanier was another COLD one. But a roaring fire in the club house kept those poor souls who forgot their thermals warm all night in the 37° weather.

In between we had a variety of weather and wind, or lack of. Palmetto Fleet won the attendance trophy (if we had one) with 35 boats, but unfortunately, not much wind. We got two races in after losing one to time limit and protest. Lenny Krawcheck who just joined us this year from the Y-Flyers, liked that light stuff fine - won the silver, followed by Will Sloger and John McIntosh.

Triad regatta also had little wind on May 20, but it got better on Sunday as a dandy storm came through for a speedy wind-up, much to Tom Waters, Randy Brooks, and Tom Hudgens' liking.

Lake Lanier had nice warm weather for the Districts and 29 boats weighed and measured in for three days of lovely cool breezes. Tom Waters won this one again, followed by Johnny Mac, Pete Russell, George Scarborough (another Y-Flyer convert), and Gordon Kellogg.

In July, 26 skippers at Savannah and 29 at Charleston found out that patience and guile paid off - patience waiting for the wind in Savannah, and guile in Charleston for figuring out how to sail around a big freighter anchored in the middle of the course. Lenny Krawcheck, Tom Waters and George Scarborough had the most patience, and John McIntosh, Lenny and Tom had the most guile.

By September, the wind hadn't picked up much at Lake Waccamaw for 19 boats who could only find enough of the stuff for two races. John McIntosh, Tom Waters and Pete Russell found what was there to finish 1, 2, 3.

Lake Hartwell did a lot better with the wind, even though Sunday was mighty dreary as 26 crews managed to keep warm. As usual, good sailors can sail in any conditions as Lenny Krawcheck, John M., and Will Sloger proved. And then that cold fall wing-ding at Lake Lanier for the Atlanta Cup and the last try for the McIntosh circuit trophy. Will Sloger won the Atlanta Cup, with Tom Waters second and Bob Wardwell from Chattanooga, (who sailed with us a couple of times this year) came through for third. For the circuit, no one could catch the top three by sailing at Atlanta, but the other places were still up for grabs, and our final results were as follows: 1st Tom Waters; 2nd John McIntosh; 3rd Lenny Krawcheck; 4th Will Sloger; 5th Gordon Kellogg; 6th Pete Russell; 7th George Scarborough; 8th Randy Brooks; 9th Sputter Howard; 10th Harry Hintz.

At the North Americans, John and Pete made the Blue fleet, Tom the Gold, and Lenny and Gordon the Green. Mary Oetgen and Sputter Howard did well in the Junior Championship, and we are mighty proud of Ann Boyd and her crew of Liz Canniff and Kelly Oetgen for coming in second at the Women's Championship.

We hope to have the sun, thermometer and wind all straightened out for the Ice Breaker and Deep South in March - but no guarantees!!



Tom Waters and crew receive trophy from D.C. Ken Wallace.
Photo Credit — Lucia Pulgram

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

District Commodore	Robin Bernhardt
District Secretary	Barney March
District Measurer	Buck Ballatin
District Champion	Cal Herman
District Runner-Up	John Butcher

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

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT SCHEDULE

April 21-22	Augusta Sailing Club	Augusta, Ga.
May 5-6	Lake Murray Sailing Club	Columbia, S.C.
May 19-20	High Rock Yacht Club	Lexington, N.C.
June 8-10	DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS	
	Wateree Sailing Club	Camden, S.C.
July 14-15	Savannah Yacht Club	Savannah, Georgia
August 4-5	Charleston Yacht Club	Charleston, S.C.
September 8-9	Lake Waccamaw Sailing Club	Whiteville, N.C.
Sept. 22-23	Western Carolina Sailing Club	Anderson, S.C.
October 6-7	Lake Lanier Sailing Club	Flowery Branch, Ga.

The Southern District stretches along the Gulf Coast from Mobile Bay in southeast Alabama to Shreveports' Cross Lake. We are more fortunate than our cousins to the north in that our milder climate permits year round sailing.

Our season usually begins with the Sugar Bowl Classic in January hosted by the Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans. The same club hosts the Mardi Gras Regatta in mid-February while the rest of the country is buried in snow.

Early April brings the "strong to stronger" winds on Shreveports' Cross Lake for their annual Holiday In Dixie Regatta. This year was no exception as a fleet of more than 20 boats did battle with 90 degree shifts and 15 to 20 m.p.h. gusts.

Life member Gene Walet organized and directed our annual District Championship Regatta. This was held at the Gulfport Yacht Club on the beautiful Mississippi Sound. Thanks to excellent committee work, we were able to sail a full series despite light winds. Cal Herman of New Orleans won the series with John Butcher of Shreveport runner-up.

The Gulf Yachting Association Championship was sailed on Mobile Bay hosted by the Fairhope Yacht Club in early August. Once again, Cal Herman was off and running. Buck Ballatin was runner up in the series, sailed in very shifty northerly winds. A delightful party was held at the home of Lucy and Rick Skinner for the out-of-town sailors.

Buck Ballatin and Tommy Allen represented the district at the North American Championships. From all reports, the light and variable syndrome was prevalent there too.

In early October, the Fairhope Yacht Clubs' annual Commodore Wadewitz Regatta was held. With Shirley Ballatin as crew for the first time in 12 years, a subdued and therefore very unfamiliar Buck Ballatin won the Commodore Ed Overton Lightning Championship.

Later in October, the official season ended with the annual Hospitality Regatta hosted by the Jackson Yacht Club in Jackson, Mississippi. This Regatta is very appropriately named in that the people in Jackson make every effort to see to it that the visiting yachtsmen have an enjoyable weekend. This is true even though the Lightning Fleet at Jackson is no longer active. Since Jackson is very centrally located, we would like to invite our neighbors in Dallas, Memphis, and Nashville to sail with us there next year. The Regatta is traditionally held the third weekend in October.

We would like to thank Larry and Fran Frost for jobs well done as District Commodore and District Secretary during the 1977-78 season. At the District Regatta, Robin Bernhardt was elected District Commodore and Barney March Secretary for the 1978-79 season.

TEXAS DISTRICT

District Commodore	George Hatfield
District Secretary	Regina Ploch
District Measurer	Dr. S. R. Newman
District Champion	Glenn Darden
District Runner-Up	Bob Chilton
Junior Champion	Steven Craig
Junior Runner-Up	Clarke Newman

Fleets: Dallas Corinthian (35); Rush Creek Yacht Club (435).

The Texas District has had a milestone year in 1978.

Glen Darden and Bob Chilton (8th and 11th respectively in the North Americans) qualified for the 79 Worlds to be held at Rush Creek Yacht Club, and as a side bet cooled the "Texas Turkey" talk which we have been hearing for the past few years. Steven Craig was runner-up in the Junior North Americans and is a sure contender at the Junior Worlds in Peru. Glen, for icing on the Texas Turkey cake won, the USYRU Mallory Competition Championship in LIGHTNING'S for 1978.

With 95 or so percent of Texas District Lightning activity centered around Rush Creek Yacht Club, we address ourselves to the most urgent priority of expanding our fleet base. Years back a number of Texas fleets went by the wayside for reasons of old age (boats and people), however several members of the Fort Worth Boat Club have either purchased Lightnings or indicated good interest in Lightnings. At Chandlers Landing Yacht Club (up-lake from Rush Creek) a prime mover has bought a new Lightning and we have much interest there.

Along the Gulf Coast we have little, if any, interest in the Lightning. As a show of strength we plan on a massive demonstration on the starting line at the Houston Yacht Club Mid-Winter Regatta in February.

The publicity from the Worlds will help us with our promotional efforts to grow, and we look forward to this main event.