

# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

## THE WIND

It seems that in most major regattas the winds that are anticipated fail to materialize. This year's Lightning Class World Championship, hosted by Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club on Barnegat Bay, was no exception, as the typical 15 to 25 knot sea breeze took a short sabbatical. This follows true to form, since last year's Atlantic Coast Championship at Little Egg, which we attended in anticipation of the Worlds, had little wind for two days.

## THE FIELD

The competition for this event was impressive, headed by defending World Champion and past North American Champion Jay Lutz, and including present North American Champion Mark Bryant, past World and North American Champions Mario Buckup and Tom Allen, and perennial contenders Matt Fisher and Jim Crane. In addition to these and many other Lightning sailors were J/24 North American Champion Ken Read and other one design sailors who have recently been at the top of the class.

## THE TEAM

Our team included, of course, the skipper and two very outstanding crew, Karen Neri and Betsy Gelenitis-Alison. Karen is a very experienced and hard working crew who had been practicing with us weekends and evenings for several months, while Betsy is three time Rolex Yachtswoman of Year and the World Woman Keelboat Champion.



MARY HUNTSMAN Photo

As skipper, my job description includes starting the boat with free air and steering around the course as fast as possible. But that's where my responsibility ends. The crew, Karen and Betsy, do everything else.

## THE RACING

The winds for the Worlds were difficult, usually very unstable westerlies making the legs of the course quite shifty and very unpredictable. The regatta changed leaders with almost every race. Staying nearest the top were Brazilian Mario Buckup, an Olympic sailor and past World Champion of the Lightning Class, and ourselves.

Going into the last race Mario was first by 4 points over our team with Ken Read two points back, and defending Champion Jay Lutz just one point in back of him. All of us had a real chance to win, which made the last race of the series very, very exciting.

## LAST RACE — THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Finally the southerly that the Little Egg Harbor is famous for came in at full 15 knot force, conditions where we knew we were fast. We felt that to win the Championship we had to have a little faster start than Mario.

Based on the point spread of the first three boats, our wish list was to have relative positions with us first, Ken second and Mario third a quarter of the way up the beat. This positioning would encourage Ken to keep Mario back, therefore widening our point spread over him and perhaps allowing us enough points to win the event.

After two general recalls we had a fair start. The best starters this time were Tom Allen, Matt Fisher and Jim Dressel, all near the left end of the line. Looking at the regatta contenders, Ken Read was first with our team just behind and Jay Lutz next. Mario had a poor start. As the leg continued Ken tried to keep us under cover to maintain the two points he needed to beat us, while Mario was well back.

About three quarters of the way up the weather leg our team moved ahead of Ken into approximately third or fourth place. At the weather mark Matt Fisher rounded first with Jim Dressel second. Larry MacDonald, on starboard tack, approached the mark in third place with us in the same position on port tack. It became evident we could not cross Larry and we had to jibe around, losing several boats to round eighth. Jay was ninth, Mario was fifteenth and Ken Read was about twentieth (we found later that he suffered a collision before the start that put a hole in the bow of his boat and continually filled his bow tank with water).

At this point, in order for us to win we could finish no worse than fifth and put four points between us and Mario, or finish first with three points between us and Mario. In effect, winning would give us a bonus point, a point that we weren't about to lose. As Betsy and Karen would say, we "went to work", looking at nothing but winning the race.

With Karen hiking hard and Betsy trimming the chute in the building southwester our boat gained distance on the leaders but could not pass. However, by the time we reached the leeward mark Mario's position had improved to twelfth, four points behind us and clearly winning the regatta. Starting the second weather leg, Matt Fisher was first with a comfortable lead over Larry MacDonald, Tom Allen, Manuel Gonzalez and Jim Dressel. At the second weather mark Matt Fisher continued to lead with Tom Allen second, Stu Nickerson third, Manuel Gonzalez fourth and our team climbing to fifth.

On the dead downwind leg we passed two boats to round third behind Matt Fisher and Tom Allen. Meanwhile, Mario Buckup moved to approximately tenth place. At this point we were winning the regatta but the very clever Buckup had one last weather leg where he was very capable of picking up several boats. As the leg progressed Mario overtook two or three boats to move into a position to win the event. However, with outstanding physical strength and endurance Karen and Betsy kept our boat flat during 25 knot puffs and Betsy called shifts perfectly to take us from third to first place, winning by a very comfortable margin. As we crossed the finish line Mario was still passing boats but Karen and Betsy had put us into the regatta lead to stay.

The Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club must be commended for the outstanding performance of their regatta committee and race work, especially in the difficult wind conditions of the first race.



## LIGHTNING WORLDS — 1985

Fin. Pos.	City & Boat #	Yacht Name	Skipper & Crew	City	RACE FINISHES						Pts.
					1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	US 14021	Eclipse	William Shore, Karen Neri, Betsy Gelenitis	Newport, RI	1	13	5	2	(15)	1	22
2	BL 12812	Flash Rider	Mario Buckup, Michael Anthony Norris, Christina Maricke Martin Norris	Sao Paulo, Brazil	(10)	1	6	9	1	8	25
3	US 11739	Speedy Again	Jay Lutz, Jody Lutz, Dick Escalera	Kemah, TX	16	(17)	1	5	4	5	31
4	US 10956	Schuss	Matt Fisher, John Irvine, Neal Fowler	Westerville, OH	5	2	12	12	(17)	2	33
5	X 11099	Pixie	Manuel Gonzalez-Mas, Rodrigo Zuazola, Luis Herman	Santiago, Chile	(24)	15	2	10	3	4	34
6	US 13926	Stagger Lee	Ken Read, Michael Bella, Ted Mount	Newport, RI	7	10	(14)	4	2	13	36
7	US 10565	...	Mark Bryant, Cory Fischer, Rob Ruhlman	Buffalo, NY	3	(36)	4	3	22	9	41
8	US 11136	...	Stu Nickerson, Barbara Nickerson, Chris Hamblet	Marchfield, MA	2	(33)	27	1	9	7	46
9	US 13902	Boogie Woogie	James Crane, Brenda Allen, Roel Hoekstra	Norwalk, CT	9	14	3	(15)	6	15	47
10	KC 11814	Innisfree	Larry MacDonald, Mike Montani, Richard Hayden	Toronto, Ont.	(25)	3	22	11	11	6	53
11	US 12065	Loosie Lucy	Jim Alman, Kim Brown, Eric Sheeder	Miami, FL	11	7	(21)	6	19	10	53
12	US 13927	...	Philip Lotz, Wendy Lotz, John Verclley	Riverside, CT	8	12	15	13	7	(22)	55
13	US 14011	Atom	Thomas Allen, Jim Allen, Linda Quigley	Buffalo, NY	17	20	10	8	(21)	3	58
14	US 13250	Sloopy	Jim Dressel, Will Petersilge, Kathy Dressel	Columbus, OH	6	16	(18)	14	16	11	63
15	US 12355	Shadow	Richard Hallagan, David & Peter Hallagan	Newark, NY	14	(32)	11	21	10	23	79
16	EC 13792	Wasp	Carlos Lecaro, Larry Colantuono, Tony Fink	Guayaquil, Ecuador	13	6	(23)	23	20	18	80
17	US 13675	...	Jon Schwartz, Wil Jeffers, Eric Maurer	Highlands, NJ	4	25	28	16	(33)	12	85
18	US 13922	Baccara	James Neville, Candy Neville, David Bargar	Chagrin Falls, OH	(31)	22	7	20	5	31	85
19	US 13285	...	Bob Wardwell, Christy Wardwell, Ted Ganley	Signal Mt., TN	18	(24)	9	17	24	17	85
20	US 13782	Men at Work	Jack Huntsman, Henry O'Hern, Randy Dickerson	Red Bank, NJ	19	19	(36)	22	12	19	91
21	US 13987	Gandalf	Thomas Allen, IV, Jane Allen, David Adams	Buffalo, NY	15	18	17	24	(30)	21	95
22	US 13859	Wild Goose	Don Brush, Ann Brush, John O'Kane	Charlotte, VT	22	(37)	16	7	28	25	98
23	US 11379	Shazam	Fisk Hayden, Steve Hayden, John Pope	Fern Park, FL	(34)	9	20	18	23	33	103
24	US 11502	Shazam	Daniel Dressel, Mike Gaber, Rick Kirby	Columbus, OH	33	5	24	28	(39)	14	104
25	US 14032	Aplomb	Donald Barrett, Michael Castine, Patricia Jeske	W. Granby, CT	12	34	13	31	14	(35)	104
26	US 13710	Fuzzy Blues	Jim Carson, Brian Taboada, Leonard Dooren	Brick, NJ	21	21	25	25	(27)	16	108
27	US 14001	...	Jody Swanson, Joe Starck, Michael Healey	Amherst, NY	(29)	8	26	27	25	26	112
28	KC 13659	In Lieu	David Sprague, Ted Shore, Felicity Clarke	Toronto, Ont.	23	4	31	26	(40)	29	113
29	KC 13515	Wild Blue	Ross Bailey, Blair Sandberg, Don Shanks	Thunder Bay, Ont.	27	11	29	(39)	18	28	113
30	US 13998	...	Clarence Holman, III, Lambert Okma, Amy Hodgson	Fenton, MI	(37)	26	19	33	13	27	118
31	X 11450	Macuco	Felipe Cubillos S., Patricio Javier DeVicente M., Manuel Jose Phillips	Santiago, Chile	20	30	32	37	(38)	24	143
32	US 13886	Mouette	Georges Peter, C. H. Ritt, III, Allison Peter	Barrington, RI	(40)	29	34	32	31	20	146
33	KC 13509	Rythm & Blues	William Layton, Paul White, Paul Isabelle	Dorval, Quebec	28	(35)	30	29	34	30	151
34	KC 13671	'EH'	Susan MacDonald, Larry MacDonald, Sr., Liz MacDonald	Hamilton, Ont.	30	31	38	30	26	(41)	155
35	CB 13446	Sunshine	Phillippe Jacob, Mateo Obregon, Jorge Londono	Bogota, Colombia	32	(38)	33	35	32	32	164
36	I 13706	Lily Bay Tam	Pasquale Vitaggio, Antonio Nizza, Alessandro Messina	Marsala, Italy	35	27	35	(42)	29	38	164
37	KC 11177	Pampero	P. E. Sulman, Wayne & Katherine Sulman	Markham, Ont.	(38)	28	37	34	35	36	170
38	L 13828	Jamsk	Hannu Hurskainen, Jouni Hurtta, Pekka Hurskainen	Pori, Finland	39	(40)	39	36	37	34	185
39	US 11798	Sock It To Um	Michael Meierdiecks, Diana Meierdiecks, David Velez	Kailua, Hawaii	36	39	(40)	38	36	37	186
40	US 12209	Scrap Metal	Jack Elfman, Holly Elfman, Richard Warren, III	Doylestown, PA	26	23	8	19	8		DSQ

( ) Throw-Out Race



LEHYC



Ed Serrill

# PHOTOS BY MARY HUNTSMAN

Jay Lutz

Bill Bentley

George

Olin Stephens



Jim Carson

Nancy & Jim Dressel

Fisk Hayden    Jim Carson    Dick Thomas



Sam Merrick



Bob Wardwell



Jim Alman



Jack Tibbs

Eric Maurer

Sue MacDonald



Matt Fisher







**Charlie Howe**



**Ken Read**

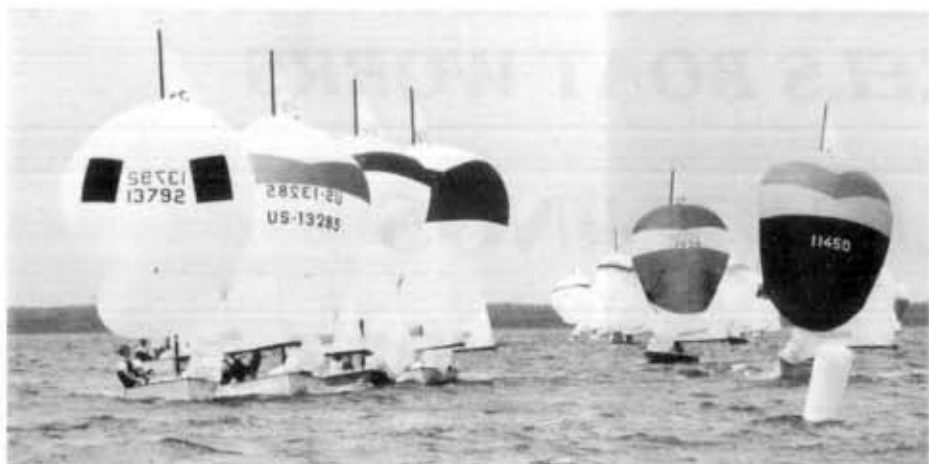


**Dave Sprague**











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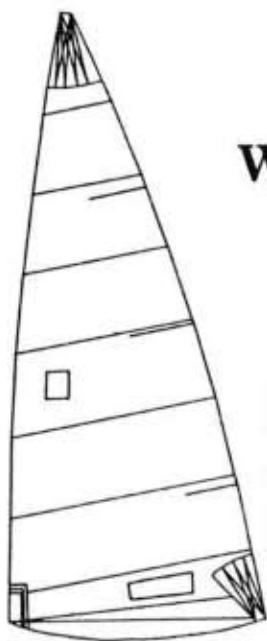


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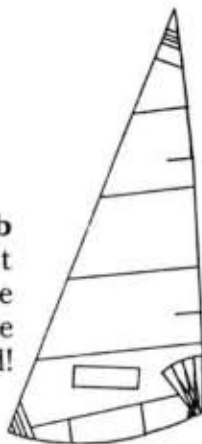
*Shore Sails announces. . . .*  
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**Shore's New All Purpose Main**

The first new main made its debut in the World's this past summer. **Result — 1st!** The next three which were put into production went to the NA's. **Results — 1, 2, 5!** Now the added durability of radial corners makes this main unbeatable.

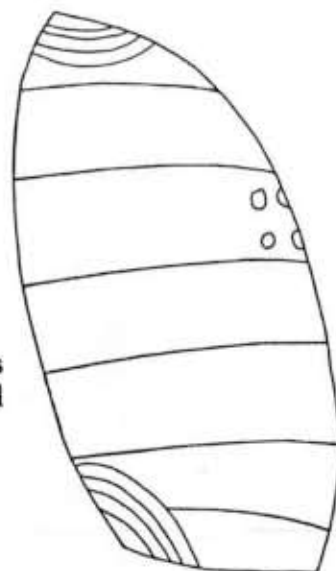
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