## N．A．QUALIFYING SERIES－ 1989

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# The 1989 NA's 

by Bill Pictor

The July Flashes article announcing the 1989 North Americans promised, "fun, fine sailing, camaraderie and extensive experience in running major events." The North Cape Yacht Club delivered as advertised, along with fine weather and for us, in 14377, a North American Championship.
Our quest began with the crew assembling for the trip to Ohio at $2: 30 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. Saturday. This was my first NA's with Tom, although I had been fortunate to sail previous championships with Lightning greats Ed Roseberry and Rick Hayden. Joining us in the middle was David Adams, Tom's proverbial crewmate of the past, who was enticed out of retirement for another chance at the ole mug.
We arrived mid-morning. Mike Huffman, who graciously lent us his new boat, had us parked in \#88. We did our boat rigging and fitting between the Montreal group, keepers of the world's largest tool box, and the ever entertaining Chicago contingent. Most of Saturday was spent tinkering and tuning. We missed the practice race but felt the boat was well set up.
Sunday morning after the skippers meeting we joined the other 109 boats for the short sail out to the 'qualifiers'. Tom's strategy was to have good starts, stay out of trouble, sail conservatively and finish among the top ten.

The committee worked very hard to get four good races in despite shifty and uncooperative wind conditions. With one bad race dropped we did qualify for the blue fleet, more than ten places behind Jim Crane and Tom Allen, Sr., the "Arnold Palmer of Sailing". The four races did give us the opportunity to fine tune the boat and practice our team work. On Tuesday morning we were all starting over.

The first race had more breeze than any of the qualifiers. We tried to be aggressive and went for a boat end start. That got us called over early. After restarting, we headed left on a lift. It continued and increased. After one quick hitch we went back for more and came in on port tack lay line third! The next two legs were a parade with the top ten boats bow to transom. Crane, Park, Wardwell, Krawcheck and Tom, Sr., our closest competitors for the series, were all in line. The next beat we were forced left early, did not go back soon enough and lost three boats. The final leg saw Park and Wardwell catch us at the end and drop us to ninth. The qualifier leaders continued their trend, Crane, first and Allen, second.

Race two started in less wind and we rounded the put up mark fourth. The second reach was frustrating, with boats and wind all over the leg; Bob Wardwell went over us. We crossed the finish line seventh. Tom reminded the crew on


Photo credit: David Watt
the way in that, in this game, the idea was to sail forward and he with the most points does not win.

Wednesday morning saw moderate winds with a shift more towards the west. We rounded the first mark with familiar company, Krawcheck, Park, Crane, Wardwell, and Oldham. The first pack got a blast and pulled away from most of the fleet. The next two legs were close with one boat right behind the other. Mark Bryant was just off our stern. I was assigned to watch the wiley competitor's every move. He's going up, now down, he's reaching for a cigarette, now he's scratching his -... At the last take down we were leading and felt we wanted to favor the left side of the course.

Most of the competition went right towards the end of the leg and we were forced to split with John Oldham to cover the rest. For the last 50 yards first place was up for grabs. We were able to cross half a boat length ahead of John to take the gun. My first in a North Americans!

Race four began with Tom's suicide start. With ten seconds to go we were being forced behind the committee boat. Tom elected to sail around and in front of the bargers, duck the stern of the boat and harden up just as the gun went off. Dave and I were impressed!

We rounded the weather mark third, behind Kraweheek and Greg Fisher. The lead changed several times in the light and flukey conditions. The final results were Lenny, Greg and us.

The sail to shore was much happier after day two. We were satisfied with our light air speed and performance. We still hoped that some time during the regatta we could put our heavy air crew weight to good use.

In a word, race five was frustrating. We wanted to go right off the line, so we did, and watched the left side come in. The downwind legs were spent fixing a loose forestay and trying to get to free air. Upwind careful compass reading directed us to tack from $10^{\circ}$ down to corresponding headers. After a course change for the last leg we worked the right side and ended 9th. Colin Park finished first, Jack Huntsman second, and Mark Bryant was third.

The mood on \#88 was not exactly festive after race five. but we felt fortunate to salvage a ninth and a third in the standings. We were glad to be still in contention for the top.

Thursday evening while dining on "North Cape Cafe's" fine Mexican cuisine, we noticed more than the usual zephyr blowing through the tortilla chips. Before dessert was over we watched one boat, crew apparently still suffering from the effects of the lunar eclipse, go out for a quick and wild spinnaker drill. That night we went to sleep dreaming of wind and white caps.

The next morning the first glance through the royal purple curtains, out of our royal purple room at the Knights Inn, was disappointing. It looked like another beautiful day with only moderate breeze. The breakwater at the Club however, was wet for the first time all week and the wind speed indicator was showing 15+. Our dreams had come true and for the lighter crews, their nightmares were about to begin.

We left the dock early that day, anxious to try out our hiking muscles. Tom, after studying the different mathematical possibilities, felt we needed to finish 5 th or better and ahead of Park and Wardwell, in order to win. Our strategy was to sail our own race, concentrate on finishing as well as we could and keeping an eye on the competitors.

After one general recall, we started near the boat and went right. That quiekly proved to be an error, so we worked left
whenever we could, rounding the first mark 15 th. The reach was tight, the most exciting and wet downwind leg we'd had all week. After the jibe we went high and managed to pick up a couple of places. At the take down, Colin who had gone low, was right by us. We had a bad rounding and Colin was able to get by us. We then engaged in a short tacking dull. He split off to the right and we favored the left side of the beat. Towards the end of the leg the wind picked up. We were able to put the beef out and the after burners on. By the put up we were seventh or eighth. The reach, which was again tight and wild, saw Tom lose his normally cool demeanor for the only time in the regatta. Unable to work around a seemingly slower competitor our Captain requested, "Get that */c" boat going or get out of the way"!

With the last leg of the race to go we had one boat to eatch. "THE" Jody Swanson rounded just behind us shouting words of exhortation, "Go get'em, you guys" and "Hike harder, you bums!"

We tacked to clear our air and worked up the left side of the beat. With one quarter of the leg remaining we had picked up Lenny Krawcheck and hung on to finish fifth. A quick double check of the finishes confirmed our placement and the celebration began.

It was a thrill for me to sail with Tom and Dave on the winning yacht. They are fine gentiemen, both on and off the water. Congratulations to Colin Park, Bob Wardwell. Jim Crane, Lenny Krawcheck, Tom Allen Sr., and their crews for sailing an excellent series.

The North Cape Yacht Club and the Ohio District put on a great North Americans. I am sure the week was enjoyed by all sailors and spectators.


## NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP - 1989



## 1990 North Americans

Women's, Juniors' \& Masters' Regatta


Newport Yacht Club
August 14-17
Regatta Chairman: George Sereno (716) 544-8196
Women's \& Juniors'
Crew Hotline: Pam Tuttle
Housing Chairman: Jim Gocker
(315) 696-5856
(716) 381-0596

Championship Regatta


## Rochester Yacht Club August 17-24

Regatta Co-Chairmen: Dick Hallagan (315) 331-5664
Mark Sertl
(716) 442-7511

| 16 | 14341 | Jody Lutz. Brian Taboada, Will Truslow CT/Metedeconk River Yacht Club | 10 | 21 | 15 | 17 | 4 | (23) | 67 |
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| 17 | 14345 | George V. Fisher, Karl Enckson. Barry Vanderhorst Columbus. OH Buckeye Lake Yacht Club | (30) | 20 | 16 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 74 |
| 18 | 11486 | David Starck, James Starck. Thomas Starck Buffalo, NY/Buffalo Canoc Club | 21 | 16 | 13 | 11 | (22) | 16 | 77 |
| 19 | 14360 | Tim Naeser, Melissa Bontemps, Hrian Hayes Huntington, NY/Cedar Point | 3 | 26 | 29 | 12 | 18 | (30) | 88 |
| 20 | 14130 | Jed Dodge, Rich Mangan, Jean Hallagan Sodus Point, NY Oswego Yacht Club | 20 | 19 | (33) | 28 | 5 | 17 | 80 |
| 21 | 14175 | Jay Mann, Perry Owen. Trevar Born T.M.R. Quebec Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club | 26 | 29 | 19 | (31) | 20 | 4 | 98 |
| 22. | 11958 | Frank Mergenthaler, Dave Watts, Mike Mergenthaler Red Bank, NJ/Monmouth Boat Club | 23 | 15 | 11 | 30 | (34) | 20 | 99 |
| 23 | 14049 | Sean Fidler, John Lauderbach, John Bennett Troy Troy, MI Pontiac Yacht Club | 29 | 27 | (36) | 9 | 16 | 27 | 108 |
| 24 | 14200 | Tony McBride. Andrew Shea, Bill Lewis Beaconsvield, Quebec Pointe Claire Yacht Club | 17 | 14 | 22 | 23 | (33) | 32 | 108 |
| 25 | 13888 | Curtis S. Felix, Flip Felix. Mark Schiffenhaus Brookline, MA Chequessett Yacht Club | 22 | 10 | (27) | 27 | 25 | 25 | 109 |
| 26 | 14322 | Bruce Goldsmith, Sherry Goldsmith. Terry Timm Manitou Beach, MI Devils Lake Yacht Club | (DSQ) | 32 | 10 | 21 | 36 | 11 | 110 |
| 27 | 13608 | Matt Frymier. Ernic Dieball, Skip Dicball Orange Village, OH Pymatuning Yacht Club | 27 | 30 | 20 | (34) | 14 | 19 | 110 |
| 28 | 13973 | Skip Wilday, Eric Knight, Doug Matteson Olean. NY Cuba Lake Yacht Club | (33) | 24 | 21 | 29 | 12 | 26 | 112 |
| 29 | 13686 | William G. Fauds, Paul Wurtzenbach, Dean Cady Jr. Chicago, IL/Milwaukee Yacht Club | 31 | 17 | (34) | 16 | 31 | 21 | 116 |
| 30 | 13911 | John M. Melntosh, Kelly Oetgen, David Copestick Hilton Head Island. SC/Savannah Yacht Club | 11 | 18 | 30 | (35) | 30 | 29 | 118 |
| 31 | 10165 | Dan Norton, Linda Schulte, Jim Kapnick Adrian, MI Devils Lake Yacht Club | 32 | (36) | 12 | 26 | 23. | 33 | 126 |
| 32 | 13587 | Ross Bailey, Nancy Bailey, Don Shanks <br> Thunder Bay, Ontario Thunder Bay Yacht Club | 19 | 33 | 24 | 24 | 26 | (35) | 126 |
| 33 | 14149 | Garry Demarest. Paul Baily, Michael Gaines Traverse City. MI/Grand Traverse Yacht Club | (34) | 22 | 32 | 15 | 24 | 34 | 127 |
| 34 | 14285 | Rob Ruhlman, Abby Ruhlman, Greg Maras Euchid, OH Pymatuning Yacht Club | 24 | 31 | 18 | (32) | 32 | 24 | 129 |
| 35 | 14327 | Don Brush. Ann Brush. Philip Russell Charlotte, VT/Mallets Bay Boat Club | 25 | (35) | 31 | 33 | 21 | 31 | 141 |
| 36 | 14009 | Mike Dow, Rick Northrop, Eric Peterson | 35 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 35 | (DNS) | 175 |

36 Boats DNF $/ D N S=37$ Points $\quad D S Q=38$ Points


