

International Lightning Class Association Districts



Lightning Districts

ARGENTINA DISTRICT

Contact.....Osvaldo Bordino

Fleets: Club Nautico Olivos (206); Buenos Aires (446).

BRAZIL DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Jens Cristiano Ruschmann

District Secretary.....Andrea Cristina Ruschmann

District Measurer.....Claus Bromberg

District Champion.....Mario Buckup

District Runner-Up.....Claudio Biekark

Fleets: São Paulo (147); Guanabara (401); Guarapiranga (462)



Bruno Ruthenberg, Andre and Peter, who sailed to a 7th/27 finish in a beautiful Pellegrino wood boat named "Cezanne."
(editor's note: "Cezanne" was the first European boat I crewed on, in a regatta on the Greifensee in 1983.)
In addition to this "Europeans" finish, these young men went on to place third /17 in the World Youth Championships.



Matheus Biekarck and crew worked hard to bring their "loaner" up to scratch for the Europeans.

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Scott Finkboner

District Secretary.....Elissa Hall McQuillan

District Measurer.....Bruce Arnold

District Champion.....Kirk Johnson

District Runner-Up.....Scott Finkboner

Fleets: Santa Monica Bay (102); Mission Bay (194); San Francisco Bay (372).

The California District starts its season with the California Circuit in San Diego the week before Easter. Hosted by the Mission Bay Fleet, sailors from all three district fleets and from as far away as Portland, Oregon, are challenged by the varying conditions of the four different racing venues. Once again, John Lyon made a clean sweep of the series.

From the Circuit we return to our home fleets to participate in the local racing scenes, and squeeze in the Districts, Pacific Coast Championships, North Americans and Lake Cachuma in between.

Mission Bay was also the site for the Districts. Schedule conflicts and car breakdowns prevented any out of town sailors from competing. John Lyon crewed for a new fleet member, leaving the door open for Kirk Johnson's victory.

Three boats from the district travelled to Klamath Falls, Oregon, for the Pacific Coasts Championships over July 4th weekend. Despite the low turnout, five very competitive races were sailed, including an unbreakable tie at the finish of the fifth race. This tie pushed Mike Molina from San Francisco from second place to third place in the final standings. Scott Finkboner from Mission Bay won the Championship.

For the balance of the summer we sailed at our home ports in anticipation of the Billie Boswell Memorial Regatta at Lake Cachuma in early September, after a five year hiatus due to the drought-induced low lake level. Edna Johnson of Mission Bay organized the event and secured our old camp site, and Mother Nature provided the rest. Great sailing, great sunrises, great night skies, great food - not in that order - and a great time had by all, even Mark Williams. John Lyon won.

Santa Monica is the tentative host for the 1995 District Championship and San Francisco will host the Pacific Coast Championship. Dates to be announced. Lake Cachuma is on again for the weekend after Labor Day - with early record rainfalls up north and a good snowpack in the Sierras, a low lake level will not be an issue in '95. The California Circuit is a must the week of April 9th. Join us if you can.

Elissa Hall McQuillan will be taking the helm for 1995 and Wendell Harter comes on board as District Secretary.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Richard Thomas
District Secretary.....Mark Schneider
District Measurer.....James Carson
District Champion.....Mark Schneider
Junior Champion.....Mike Buczkowski

Fleets: Bay Head (3); Metedeconk River (34); Lavallette (104); Brant Beach (173); Surf City (196); Riverton (228); Barnegat Light (335); Ocean City (430); Tohickon Creek (491).

CENTRAL CANADIAN DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Ross Bailey
District Secretary.....Donna Sutherland
District Treasurer.....Kurt Broll
District Measurer.....Innes Martin
District Champion.....Jim Cameron
District Runner-Up.....Tim Maenpaa

Fleets: Temple Reef Sailing Club (279)

It's easy to look back to the "good old days" when the Central Canadian District boasted great activity from one end to the other and reminisce but it's even nicer to look around the district now and see Lightning activity returning. Fleet 279, in Thunder Bay on Lake Superior, has had good activity on a continuing basis all through the years, but the western end of the district has seen activity dwindle to nothing for the last several years. This summer, Tim Maenpaa, in Dryden, Ontario, purchased a Lightning from the Chicago area and has actively sailed with the Dryden Yacht Club. This is a mixed fleet, mostly keelboats, sailing on Lake Wabigoon. Tim has the whole fleet keeping an eye on his Lightning to the point that they have appointed him Fleet Captain for 1995 in an effort to slow him down. In Winnipeg, Manitoba, Malcolm Crooks bought a Lightning from the Toronto area and is sailing at the Falcon Lake Yacht Club. This is a beautiful lake for sailing with a good history of organized dinghy racing. Here also the Lightning is drawing new interest from the other sailors as Malcolm has been working himself towards the front of the fleet. There are many old Lightnings which are not used all across the district and it is the intent of the active Lightning sailors to get these Lightnings sailing again or encourage newcomers to buy them and join in the sport.

Our season started off at the end of May with the Kam River Slush Cup regatta, sailed in Thunder Bay harbor. Bob Maki, along with crew Steve Cranton and Porter Bailey, won his first Lightning trophy to cap this fun, one day event. The Slush Cup has seen everything from blizzards to gales in the past, but this year we had gentle breezes and sunny skies.

The Central Canadian District Championships were hosted in the community of Red Rock this year partly to help celebrate the opening of a new marina there, but mostly to move Lightning activity around the district, thereby spreading the gospel. This town is set on a huge, enclosed bay of Lake Superior, 60 miles east of Thunder Bay. Great hills protect the bay and of course play games

with the wind before it lands on the water. This made the racing quite exciting, but Jim Cameron pulled out the stops and beat us all soundly. However, Tim Maenpaa placed a solid second to serve notice that new talent is on the way. Jim Mikulinski did a great job as Race Committee, providing us all not only with excellent courses but sunny weather and nice breezes.

Bob Maki, Ross Bailey, Mark Sandberg and Jim Cameron along with their crews traveled the 1000 miles to the Canadian Opens at the Buffalo Canoe Club and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the regatta. While there these sailors were able to obtain permission to host the Canadian Opens in Thunder Bay in 1996. This will be a Canadian qualifier for the '97 Worlds to be held in Montreal so great efforts are being made to make this upcoming Canadians a great regatta.

Another exciting event which is coming to the Central Canadian District will be the Pan Am Games to be hosted by Winnipeg in 1999. We have already started working to ensure that Lightnings are one of the classes in the games and look forward to increased Lightning activity leading up to the Games.

Van and Marg Bailey again invited everyone to sail the Thunder Bay to Amethyst Harbor race, this year in mid-July. The pesky Walsh crew led by Bob Walsh, but ably assisted by Al Francis, could not be beat despite an 18 mile tacking dual and tricky new course rules. The whole fleet arrived within a few minutes after a six hour sail. Who says light, damp airs are boring? The next day Ross and Nancy Bailey, along with niece Kathleen Bailey, won the race around Caribou Island but not before the major trials of getting through the wind shadow of the island's 600 foot cliffs.

At the Loon Lake Regatta, Ross Bailey's new Nickels received a major hole on the windy first day but, after quite the patch job, and redress points, was able to squeak out a 1/4 point margin over Willie Evans for the win. Willie and Jay had been donating all their time to house building this season and to see them sail so well the one time they were able to race has us all wondering how we will keep up with them on a full time basis next year.

Innes and Joan Martin hosted a super weekend at Squaw Bay on Black Bay, Lake Superior, on the Labor Day weekend. On Sunday we all had great racing with solid winds and although Mark Sandberg sailed off with the win, Don Willson in his new Lightning improved continually and won the last race.

Mark Sandburg again showed us all how to do it for the Snow Bowl Regatta sailed at the Sandberg cottage on Surprise Lake, the first weekend in October. Each year this is a match race series with crews drawn by lot. The course is once up and back on this extremely tricky lake, with those waiting to sail perched high overlooking the lake on the Sandberg's deck. Those sailing seemed to have the devil's own time going the right way, despite rampant armchair coaching. Mark sailed the best to take home the Snow Bowl, a nice capping off of his winning the individual season's high points total.

CENTRAL NEW YORK DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Landy Atkinson
District Secretary.....Daniel Koretz
District Measurer.....Clay Murphy
District Champion.....Bram Palm
Runner-Up.....Tom Buechner

Fleets: Skaneateles (1); Newport Yacht Club (77); Willow Bank Yacht Club (164); Keuka Yacht Club (252); Galway Lake Yacht Club (338); Ithaca Yacht Club (484); Port Oswego Fleet (485); Selkirk Fleet (498).

The Central New York District has completed another successful sailing season. We started with the Caz-Flash Bash at the Cazenovia Yacht Club in early June and Dick Hallagan won. Chad Atkins, our up-and-coming junior sailor, was second and Dave Bull was third. Willow Bank lived up to expectations and served great meals throughout the weekend. Everyone had a great time.

Our District Championship was held at the Keuka Lake Yacht Club at the end of June. Bram Palm was again our District Champion, with Tom Buechner runner up and Dick Hallagan placing third. The Commodore's Trophy was won by Bob Cole, the Rookie Trophy went to Dick Leonardo, and "Ugh" was claimed by Dick Hallagan (how did he avoid it for so long?). Keuka always had a great Saturday night dinner party, and this one was no exception. The wine and hors d'oeuvres before dinner and the post-prandial Cajun music was delightful.

Cory Sertl won the CNYRA Regatta at the Ithaca Yacht Club followed by Jim Staunton and Chad Atkins. Later in July, the Henderson Harbor Yacht Club held their ELYC Invitational Regatta. Dick Hallagan won his second regatta of the year, Mark Schneider was second and Bram Palm was third. This was the best attended regatta of the year with 28 boats on the starting line.

The Newport Yacht Club Invitational Regatta was held at the end of August. This time the winner was Cory Sertl's husband, Mark. Bill Fastiggi and Dick Hallagan were second and third. Brad Poulos did a great job organizing the festivities, which were done with a Mexican motif.

The Caz-One-Day was held at the end of September at the Willow Bank Yacht Club. There were 17 boats at this regatta, which was won by Tom Buechner. Bill Fastiggi was second and the combination of Dan Pope and Tammy Jamison was third. The chili was good, as usual, and everyone had a good time at this low-key event.

The Central New York - Lake Erie Challenge was won by the Lake Erie District based on the results of the Newport and the Silver Lake regattas. As a result, our district will put an ad in the Flashes congratulating the winning district.

The Blue Jacket Trophy had 63 participants this year. The winner was Dick Hallagan by 16 points over Clay Murphy. Landy Atkinson was third, Chad Atkins was fourth and Dave Bull was fifth.



Dick Hallagan checking everything out in Yverdon, Switzerland. His 'boat,' the one on top, had just arrived from Finland.



Dick Hallagan, joined by his son Peter and wife Kristin, who live in Krakow, Poland, during the presentation ceremonies at the European Championships.

CHILE DISTRICT

Contact.....Alberto Gonzalez Mas

Fleets: Acuelo Lake (490).



One of the Chilean boats, 14632, rounding the weather mark at the World Youth Championships.



There were two teams from the Chilean Naval Academy who represented Chile in the World Youth Championship: Perez, Gomez, Guerrero, and DelSolar, Oxley, Mayer



A Chilean, 14231, crossing the finish line in one of the races on Lac de Neuchâtel in Switzerland.

COLOMBIA DISTRICT

Contact.....Rudi Salmang

Fleets: Club Nautico Del Muna (73); Club Nautico El Portillo (501).

CONNECTICUT-RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT

Contact.....Don Barrett

Fleets: Niantic Bay Yacht Club (85); Cedar Point Yacht Club (126); Madison Beach Club (129).

The CT-RI District has experienced a fall off in total numbers on the lines of our member fleets in 1994. We had an influx of sailors in their twenties in the early 90s which have now moved out of the area or have taken a sabbatical from the class. The good news is 'THEY'LL BE BACK'! A survey of some of our dropouts indicate a desire to return when they can. It is unanimously agreed the toughest one-design competition and best organization is in our Class. Never-the-less, district regulars continue to look for ways to encourage new class membership through developing crews and sharing their boats with eager skippers to be.

While our numbers were down, the QUALITY stays at the very best! Connecticut-Rhode Island CONGRATULATES our own: Ched Proctor, North American Champion '93 & '94 and Jim Crane, Pan American Trials winner.

First ten at the District Championships (22 boats) were: Ched Proctor, Dave Peck, Theresa Colantuano, Phil Lotz, Don Barrett, GUEST Stu Nickerson, Jim Crane, Johnny Cuccio, Jody Lutz, Franz Edson and Peter Kelly.

Ched won the Early Bird and the Fall Classic to go with his hard earned victory in Toronto. Dave Peck won the Connecticut Governor's Cup and finished 5th at the NA's.

As district crews reflected on this year's regattas in the various yacht club parking lots, a few names popped out as having 'big years.' Theresa Colantuano had another strong year and is knocking on the door of district leadership. Johnny Cuccio had a breakthrough year with a 5th in the Early Bird, 3rd in the Governor's Cup, 7th in the Districts and finishing with a 3rd in the Fall Classic.

We hosted three visiting teams from the New England District at our Championships: Stu Nickerson, Brian Hayes and Curt Felix. Thanks, guys, the competition is appreciated and we encourage all visitors in the future. Smooth sailing in 1995, hope to see you in CT-RI waters where the competition is hot and the refreshments cool.

Please read the article in this yearbook about past and current CT-RI crews who were on four of the top five teams at the 1994 North Americans.

DIXIE DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	Mike Beaver
District Vice Commodore.....	Christy Dillard
District Secretary.....	Phil Grotheer
District Treasurer.....	Fred Mertes
District Measurer.....	Dave Racine
District Champion.....	Bob Wardwell
Runner-Up.....	Fred Mertes

Fleets: Washington, DC (50); Susquehanna (253); Sassafras River (314); Rehoboth (325); Severn River (329); Swift Creek (496).

The season of 1994 for the Dixie District was again full of excitement. From our first of the season; the Potomac Cup, which always brings in the boats, to the SSA season opener No Gas, the Dixie District Championships which were held in Annapolis, two Rehoboth regattas (Delaware Governor's Cup and the Purnell), numerous club races held between Annapolis, Washington, Sassafras, Susquehanna, Rehoboth and Richmond, to our last of the season, being the Frigid Digit. Most events held in our District this year, that I can recall, were outstanding due to a blessing of great weather, which seemed to cover us all season.

I would like to extend my thanks to all officers of the District, Fleet Captains, race organizers, volunteers, babysitters, dogsitters, and last but not least, the competitors, for giving us yet another reason for not cutting the grass on Sundays.

This summary is mainly a collection of a few articles from the season which covers the No Gas Regatta, the Dixie Districts, and the Frigid Digit (all SSA events). Many other outstanding regattas deserve recognition.

The 1994 Potomac Cup was a great success with 36 boats. People came from all over for this one with Dave Starck from New York winning. The Dillards, with many other volunteers, again made this an unforgettable event. (For a complete article see the late spring issue of the Flashes.)

1994 NO GAS REGATTA

May 28, 29

This event was held continuously for many years until about three years ago when the CBYRA Olympic classes regatta, being in early spring, substituted. Since the Olympic regatta has fallen by the wayside, SSA's Multiclass Spring II regatta has us Lightning sailors calling it the No Gas again. Hopefully in future years this will bring some out-of-towners back.

Eleven boats showed up this year consisting mostly of local boats, with the exception at Rob Wardwell from Richmond, Joe Anderson from Washington and Mike Beaver from Harrisburg. Although a modest turnout, many teams were hot, which made for position juggling throughout the weekend. Saturday started with very light wind that eventually died. A smart move by the Race Committee to hold out for a sea breeze made for three solid races in winds ranging from 8 to 13. After Saturday's races, Doug Heussler seemed a strong favorite to take the event. Although our standing was a tie for third as of Saturday, we didn't worry and still had a confident feeling at the docks about good speed and consistency that day.

Sunday was beautiful with winds out of the same direction but slightly stronger. After the first race, Doug was still on top of the standings with a select few close behind in the numbers. The last race turned things around for us as we juggled between 1st and 2nd with Heussler a few notches back. He tangled with Simeon Coxie just before the last drop mark and had to do a turn within boatlengths of the mark. Bob Wardwell slipped into the act to take the last race, with us and Simeon trailing (Simeon having a partial breakdown). Overall standings were Phil Grotheer 1st, Doug Heussler 2nd, and Fred Mertes in 3rd.



Top-notch race organizing and great conditions were typical at Dixie events this year.

1994 DIXIE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 25, 26

Twenty-five boats turned out for this year's Districts, which was the highest turnout in recent memory. The feeling at the regatta this year was of enthusiasm and spirit. There was that hint of excitement that I used to feel as a kid at the beginning of a District Championship.

A sincere effort was made to do limited boat measurement for each entrant with the option to measure everything if so desired. The purpose of measurement was not to confuse and distract from the regatta, but to instill knowledge in people about their boats and what this class is all about. Several of the entrants had never measured anything on their boat as others made miscellaneous adjustments to keep up with class standards.

Most boats completed sail measurement and hull weight. A few latecomers on Saturday made it difficult to measure because of time constraints since it was a Thistle regatta as well. Volunteers completed much of the measuring on Friday evening.

Now for the good part: Wind, Wind, Wind! I don't ever remember a regatta in Annapolis in the summer when it blew on both days. Saturday started with a strong breeze that kept building all day. Three races were sailed with a mean of 14 to 18 with gusts up to 25. It doesn't take a genius to know that Bob Wardwell will have fun this weekend. He never let up on speed and smarts. After the day's racing, several overturned boats, and many breakdowns, Bob was in the lead. Once back at the docks, during a superb happy hour and dinner, the last of the carnage was towed in from the bay. Among the wreckage was a wooden Thistle that once capsized, couldn't hold the pressure and loading from the swells, and blew out the side of its hull. Many other beer-drinking rubbernecks could tell the story better.

Sunday was sunny and beautiful with a lighter breeze of around 10 to 15. Intimate details of the racing that day are hard to recall, but the outcome says it all. Bob Wardwell finished 1st overall, with Fred Mertes 2nd, and Simeon Coxie 3rd.

A successful District Championship consists of efforts from Fleet officers, District officers, club members, and other associated friends. Many thanks go to all of these people who contributed toward boat measurement, social events, race organization, and regatta organization. The Lightning Class would not be as strong as it is if it weren't for strong local activity and organized events such as this

43rd ANNUAL FRIGID DIGIT

October 15, 16

When the Frigid Digit comes every mid-October, any regatta veteran knows to break out the foul weather gear. This year was no exception, when the conditions were extremely favorable and comfortably chilling.

Some of the previous years wind no-shows left a bitter reminder of how conditions play a major role in getting off races. When boats rolled in on Friday night, nerves

agitated, like they usually do, as talk spread about a weekend blowout. This year posed no problems however, as we raced in two of the best consecutive sailing days I can remember.

Saturday started as expected with a 15-25 knot breeze from the north. This prompted the Race Committee to postpone for a while until everyone settled in and virtually all available foul weather gear for miles around was being worn. This wind direction can bring huge swells down the Chesapeake when the courses are set far out. All of the nearby semi-sheltered race areas were not available due to a Naval Academy Collegiate regatta occupying the central Severn River inlet, and the wind direction deemed all other areas not feasible. The outer bay was the only option for us to get races off. Therefore, we had to wait for the wind to diminish. The wind finally fell to 15 knots that allowed a 2:00 pm start. Three races were completed by the day's end.

The Saturday night activities included an appropriate German Oktoberfest meal followed by the live sounds of a local D.C., trio (Group Therapy), who played requests, from older classics to current alternative hits. The band's ability to mix with the crowd and environment made for a great sound that lasted until 10:30.

Sunday was very similar except with 8 to 10 knots from the same direction. The remaining two races were completed under sunny skies.

We would like to thank and congratulate all the participants for this year's event. The Frigid Digit always brings great people to Annapolis each fall and we want to keep it going for years to come.

Comments by Dave Starck: A five race series instead of the typical three is nice for a change.

I would like to congratulate Theresa Colantuano for sailing quite well, and Jody Swanson and Mike Montani for crewing for me.

I would also like to congratulate Phil Grotheer and the Annapolis Lightning Fleet for putting on a super event, both on and off the water.

ECUADOR DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Carlos Lecaro

District Champion.....Miguel Plaza, Jr.

Fleets: Salinas Yacht Club (405); San Pablo Fleet (447).

We are very proud of the team of Miguel Plaza, Jr., José Manuel Gonzales and Juan Andres Baquerizo. They won this year's Districts for the second time in a row. They also became the first Junior South American Champions when they finished third in the 1994 South Americans. In addition, last July they did an outstanding job in Switzerland where they finished second in the World Youth Lightning Championships. There were seventeen boats and eleven countries participating. And this crew will still qualify when the next Youth Worlds are held in the United States in 1996.

The District Championship was held, after an interim of five years, at the lakefront club of the San Pablo Fleet 447 wa-a-ay up in the Andes Mountains at 9000 feet above sea level. It began on May 24 with 15 boats registered and seven belonging to the Salinas fleet down on the coast. It was a fun-filled regatta and a great time.

The trophy presentation was special to Miguel Plaza, Jr., who first came to San Pablo to win an Optimist regatta, and now is the Ecuador District Lightning Champion.

In November 1994 The Federación Ecuatoriana de Yachting held the National Championships for all its affiliated classes. Lightnings went to Salinas to race in a 22 boat fleet, something we haven't seen in decades! These included boats from both Fleet 405 and Fleet 447. The decisive winner was Juan Santos, Oscar Viteri and Werner Moeller with straight wins. Runner up was Juan Carlos Plaza, and third was Miguel Plaza, Jr. Juan Santos and crew will represent Ecuador in the PanAmerican Games in Argentina. Incidentally, Juan Santos went on to win the J-24 and Laser Nationals too, titles that make him the most qualified sailor to represent us in the PanAms.



*Ecuador District Champions
(l-r) Miguel Plaza, Jr., skipper, and crew,
José M. Gonzalez and Juan A. Baquerizo*



The team of Justus Klemperer, Roberto Gonzalez, and Christian Moeller ready to set the spinnaker at the World Youths.



*The team that finished in second place
in the World Youth Championship at Neuchâtel, Switzerland:
Miguel, José and Juan*

*Photos: 1. Melba Plaza
2. Jacques Perret
3. Joël von Allmen*

FINLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Antero Punttila
District Secretary.....Pasi Hannila
District Measurer.....Jari Aromaa
District Champion.....Leo Korhonen
District Runner-Up.....Kari Mäenpää

Fleets: Helsinki(166); Oulu (307); Kemi (310); Jyväskylä (328); Tuusulanjärvi (456); Valkeakoski (468).



Kimmo Aromaa



Lauri Hemming



Samppa Salminen



Future Finnish Sailors

*All the Finnish skippers, some crew, and their children
at the European Championship in Yverdon, Switzerland*

Photos: Audrey Matteson



Erkki Lempiainen



Markku Paloma



Matti Bruun



Antero Puntilla

FLORIDA DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Carol Stout
District Secretary.....Fay Regan
District Measurer.....Mark Bryant
District Champion.....Jeff Linton
District Runner-Up.....Eamonn deLisser

Fleets: Cedar Lightning Fleet (62); Biscayne Bay (226); Lake Eustis/North Florida (461); Suncoast (502).

Cedar Lightning Fleet in Ft. Myers hosted the first Post Circuit Regatta on the weekend following the Miami Midwinter Championships and we congratulate the winner, Liz Lombardo from Sanibel. Watch for this event in 1995.... the race dates March 18 & 19 and all Southern Circuit participants are welcome.

We had a new District Champion this year. Local Jeff Linton, of the Tampa fleet, captured the honors for the host Davis Island Yacht Club with a victory over several past champs, including Eamonn deLisser (2nd), Steve Hayden (3rd) and Frank Atkinson. John Rouse and Bill Mauk picked up the remaining of the top five spots.

Steve Hayden, Barr Batzer and April Richards represented Florida in the Blue Fleet at the NA's while Bill Mauk, Cameron Carlin and Kevin Burnham sailed in the President's Cup. Stu Anderson joined the Masters competition, and next year we hope to be represented in Women's & Junior's as well. Bill, Cameron and Reid Hutchinson also enjoyed the competition in the PanAm Trials in September.

Our Florida District Triple Crown series opened at Coconut Grove with the visitors taking the top three spots....Steve Hayden (Orlando), Jeff Linton (Tampa) and Liz Lombardo (Ft. Myers). Next we went to Liz's Club, the Royal Palm Yacht Club on the Caloosahatchee River where our storm "Gordon" caused the regatta to be ended after four races. The fourth race found only four boats remaining upright for the blast back to shore. Winner in Ft. Myers was Miami's Bill Mauk, followed by Jeff Duval of Gainesville and Steve Hayden. The final regatta at Tampa

found us competing for the Florida District Commodore's Cup, which went to Steve Hayden as the winner of the Tampa event. Carol Stout and Liz Lombardo placed 2nd and 3rd. The grand tally for Triple Crown points was made, and our 1994 Champion is Steve Hayden once again. At times though, during the month long three-regatta series, he was hard pressed by newcomers Jeff Duval, Kevin Bruning and Bill Icely.

The Florida fleets are healthy. While we feel far away from the "hotbed of Lightning activity," our sailors continue to improve and to enjoy the camaraderie of the Lightning Class.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you on the Southern Circuit again this year, but you're welcome to come sail with us any time the snow is piled too high at your home club.



Florida District Champion Jeff Linton (right) and Runner-Up Eamonn deLisser

Photo: Fay Regan

GREECE DISTRICT

Contact.....George Andreadis

Fleets: Salamis Fleet (251); Parthenon Fleet (286).



The two teams from Greece competing in the World Youth Championship at Neuchâtel, Switzerland were Tsarouhis, Kosmadopoulos, Krallis and Peristeriotis, Paris, Peristeriotis

Photos: Jacques Perret

INDIANA DISTRICT

Contact..... Ken Woods
(317) 769-3234

Fleets: Wawasee Y. C. (154); Indianapolis S. C. (270).

The Indiana District championship was hosted in '94 at the Indianapolis Sailing Club on 25 and 26 June. The district races rotate between the Lake Wawasee Fleet and Fleet 270.

The weather conditions on Saturday were ideal with a clear, cumulus cloud filled sky accompanied by steady winds in the 16 to 20 knot range. Regatta Chairman, John McNay introduced Race Committee Chairman, Hans Haupt, Jr. who gave instructions to the participants at the 11 a.m. skippers meeting.

The turnout was disappointing this year with four Wawasee boats and only three local craft. However, those who came out enjoyed some of the best sailing conditions of the season.

Four races, back to back, were held on Saturday afternoon. The course was a triangle plus windward. On Sunday morning, the winds were lighter at 6 to 8 knots from ESE and SE. Two races were completed using the same course.

The contest for District Champion was very close between Craig Cobbum, Doug Schmahl and Alan Fox, all from Wawasee. Craig just edged out Doug for the Championship. Interestingly, both of the top two threw out a 3rd place finish in the best 5 of 6 format.

Congratulations to Craig Cobbum, ably assisted by crew Brad Wagon and Ryan Miller.

Also, the District would like to thank Ken McGinty who religiously records our sailing results for the Yearbook and Lightning Flashes.

IRELAND DISTRICT

Contact.....Raymond Killops

Fleets: Killyleagh (427).

The highlights of 1994 in our district were our fleet's 50th anniversary (front page, Oct.-Nov. *Flashes*) and the opportunity for four of our young people to meet and compete against seventeen crews from ten nations on a beautiful mountain lake in French Switzerland.



An exciting start for the boys from Northern Ireland in the World Youth Championships in Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Photo: Joël Von Allmen



Andrew Killops raises the flag of Ireland as the Irish national anthem is played at the opening ceremonies of the World Youth Championship.

Photo: Audrey Matteson

ITALIAN DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Giuseppe Valenti

District Secretary.....Sergio Rustichelli

District Measurer.....Gianni Battisti

District Champion..... Giuseppe Alagna

Fleets: Garda (249); Lega Navale Anzio (312); Marsala (449); Trasimeno (453); Como (466); Savio (476); Roma (479)).

We had a great 1994 sailing season. In our district the most important events were the European championship in Switzerland, organized by La Matelote Club of Yverdon, and the Italian Championship organized by Circolo Nautico Reggio on the sea of the Straits of Messina. In the first event, eight Italian crews participated, of which five were from 449 fleet of Marsala, two from 453 fleet of Trasimeno, and one from Rome, Fleet 479. Italy obtained the second position with crew Alagna, Alagna, Paxia, the third position with Rustichelli, Sauro, Mearini, the fourth with Noto, Parrinello, Spano, the fifth with Marino, Marino, Linares, and others. With regard to the second event, the

Italian Championship this year took place on Reggio Calabria on the sea of the Straits of Messina, from April 23-26. There were only eleven crews, one of which was Swiss, Claude Lambelet. Giuseppe Alagna, from the Società Canottieri Marsala, on a De Vita & Pellegrino boat, won the Championship. Thanks to F.I.V (Italian Sail Federation) that has held us in great esteem, because the Lightnings have developed true champions.

During this year we worked on a plan to modify the rudder of our Lightning. With the help of my friends of 449 fleet Marsala and of Giovanni Pellegrino (Life Member of I.L.C.A.), the builder of the most competitive Italian Lightning, we are working for the realization of a new rudder. It is our belief that Sparkman & Stephens, planned the Lightning to be really "one-design," and it is true because only with some little alteration, such as an aluminum mast and new riggings, it has been possible to make progress in performance. This plan, for a new rudder, was born from the observation that in hard conditions of wind and sea, and with spinnaker up, it is very hard to regain the trim, and that is because the rudder doesn't allow making any correction when the boat is lopsided. So I planned a foolproof-as-possible rudder, and after many corrections suggested by Gianni Pellegrino, he made a wood prototype. During 1994 this rudder has been used on our boat for many tests, also during regattas on the sea, and showed good performance and better controllability of the boat in hard conditions of wind and sea, and with spinnaker. We know the economic problems coming from this plan, but the idea that the Lightning keeps one young for one's years, can justify this change. For this reason the name of our plan is "RUDDER 2000." This plan, on an experimental basis, has received from Chief Measurer Paul Gelenitis the official authorization of the I.L.C.A., so it will be used on six boats at the next Italian Championship. Also, we are sending a prototype to Audrey Matteson in the United States. We hope her skippers in the many districts where she sails will evaluate it, too.



*Our District Commodore Giuseppe Valenti and crew, Marcello Maggio and Marcello Paxia, at Yverdon, Switzerland
Photo courtesy: Giuseppe Valenti*



*World Youth crews: (l-r) Linares, Coronello, Marino-skipper; and Montalto, Maggio-skipper, Prinzivalli,
Photo: Audrey Matteson*



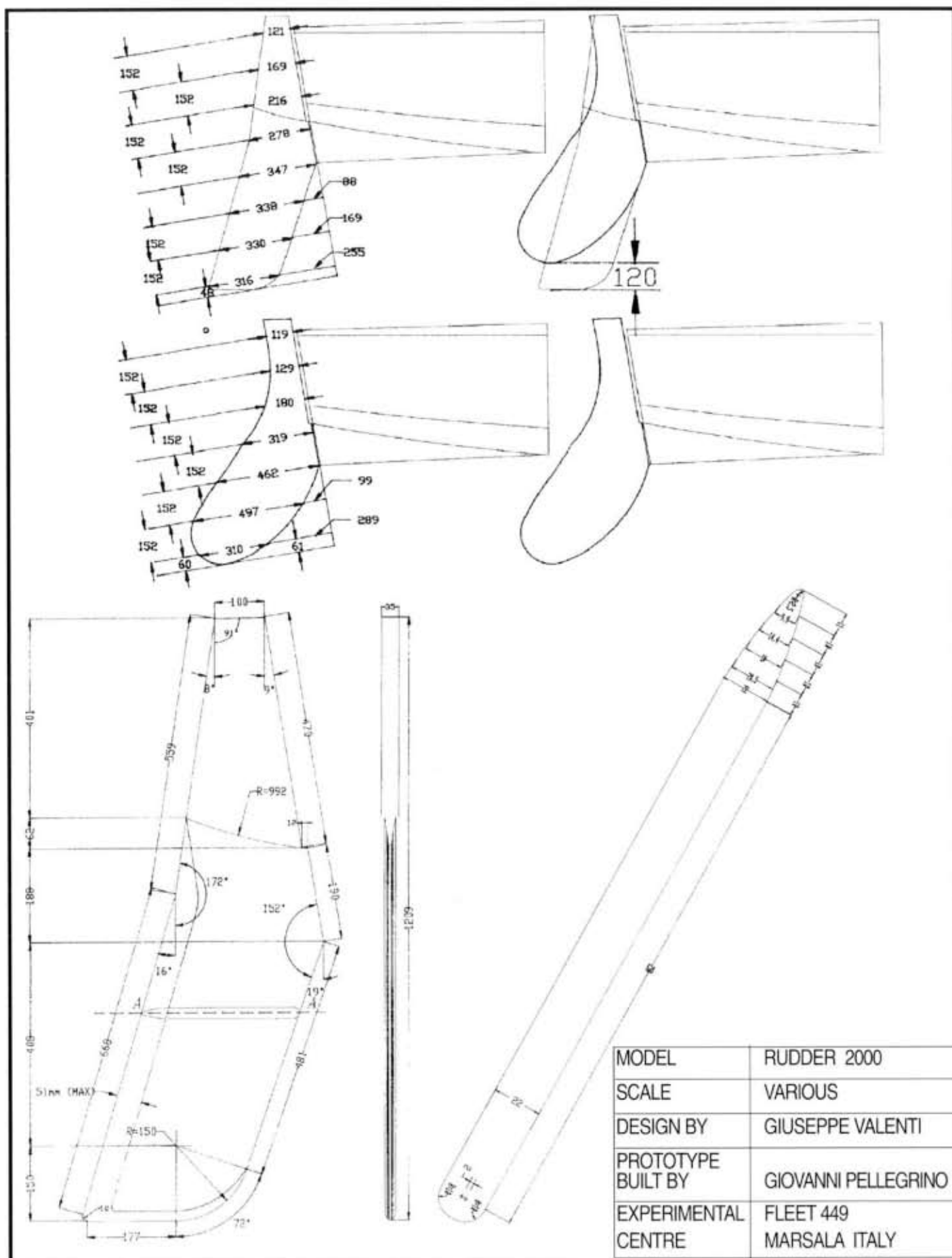
The Italian youth team of Marino, Linares and Coronello as they cross the finish line of the World Youth Championships in Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Photo: Joël von Allmen



Gianni Pellegrino, Audrey Matteson, who first sailed on a Pellegrino boat in Switzerland in 1983 and has been the only American to sail in the European Winter Championships in Marsala, Sicily, and Mrs. Pellegrino

Photo: Audrey Matteson's camera



The Italians dominated
the European Championship
with six boats placing in the top ten.



Giuseppe Alagna, skipper (l), Alagna, and Paxia - 2nd



Mario Noto, skipper (c), Parrinello, and Spano - 4th



(If this photo isn't Sergio Masserotti (r) and crew - 8th, it should be.)



Sergio Rustechelli, skipper (l), Scarpocchi, and Mearini - 3rd



Antonio Marino, skipper (c), Linares, and Marino - 5th



Giuseppe Valenti, skipper (c), Paxia and Maggio - 10th tie