

## LAKE ERIE DISTRICT

District Commodore..... Dave Sprague  
 District Executive Secretary..... Brian Starck  
 District Corresponding Secretary..... Judy Walker  
 District Treasurer..... Anne Allen  
 District Measurer..... Cal Schmiede

District Champion..... Jody Swanson  
 District Runner-Up..... David Starck  
 Women's Champion..... Sue Rogers  
 Junior Champion..... Dierdre Crampton

**Fleets:** Buffalo Canoe Club (12); Chautauqua Lake Yacht Club (19); Silver Lake Yacht Club (47); Niagara Sailing Club (59); Cuba Lake Yacht Club (115); Flying Beaver (118); Toronto Bay (146); Conneaut Bay (180).

Our district, in years to come, will proudly look back on our two major accomplishments of 1994 -- the Canadian Open at the Buffalo Canoe Club and the North Americans at Hamilton and Toronto. Hosting one major regatta can be a dicey affair, but we managed to put together two outstanding weeks of sailing, attracting the best competition in the class. A great deal of effort went into these regattas, and of course we owe the sailors who organized and ran them a debt of gratitude. They'd probably settle for a beer at next year's regatta, though. In any case, these events were only the highlights of an already exciting season.

It began back in March, when a number of us, including Sprague, Leibel, MacDonald, Walker, the Allens, and newcomer Jamie Guggisberg, towed our boats down South. Larry won at Savannah, earning himself a share with Ched Proctor in the overall circuit championship. Still impatient for our own season to begin, we pulled some more boats out of hibernation for Pymatuning's Spring Classic. This regatta again lived up to the hype it creates for itself every year. Finally, we were ready to begin our own season.

Nine crews waded into the very gradually warming waters of Lake Erie for the BCC's annual Eby Series in mid-May. Dave Starck, coming off victories in the American Airlines Cup of Champions and the Potomac Cup, walked away with this one. June went like this: Chautauqua's Cornball 1. Dave Sprague 2. Dave Wood  
 BCC's NFIR: 1. Jim Allen 2. Brian Starck  
 Cuba Lake 1. John Swanson 2. Skip Wilday

The Districts were now quickly approaching, so we did some "practice-drill" regattas. The Ontario Open at the Boulevard Club was perfect. Thirteen races in two days! Marty Essig dominated the series and won easily. Allan Leibel finished second. Brian Starck won the CNYRA Regatta the following week. Now it was time to get down to business. The Canoe Club hosted another great District Championship. Saturday's ideal sailing conditions allowed the race committee to get off three races, and persuaded us to forgive Mother Nature for Sunday's dead calm. Besides, we were all looking forward to the Canadian Open and NA's. Congratulations on another District Championship, Jody!

Back in May, David Starck sent out post cards for the Canadian Open, promising "6 races, 60 boat fleet, steady breezes, warm water, lots of sun, cold beers, entertaining evenings, and, most importantly, a great time!" Well, only 57 boats showed up, but he did come through on the rest of his promises. Jim Crane, sailing with LED perennial all-stars Peter and Larry Bone, overtook Larry MacDonald (with Ian Jones and Trevor Born) in the last race of the series to win by one point!

We rested for a day, but then it was time to move on to Hamilton for the WJM's North Americans. Local knowledge of the waters off RHYC is always best regarded with a healthy dose of skepticism, but on this week it paid to have a Flying Beaver on board. RHYC's Sue Rogers, with crew Alison Jones and Cheryl Day won the Women's NA's. In the Junior's, Marty Essig backed his victory at the Youth Worlds with a second place finish on his home waters. His crew were Kate Nelson and Nicole Pellegrin. Finally, Jon Rogers jumped on Don Sherburne's boat to help guide him to victory in the increasingly competitive Masters' fleet.

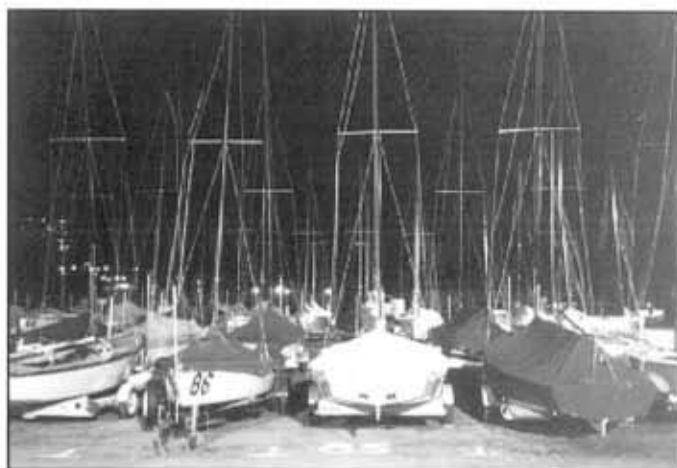
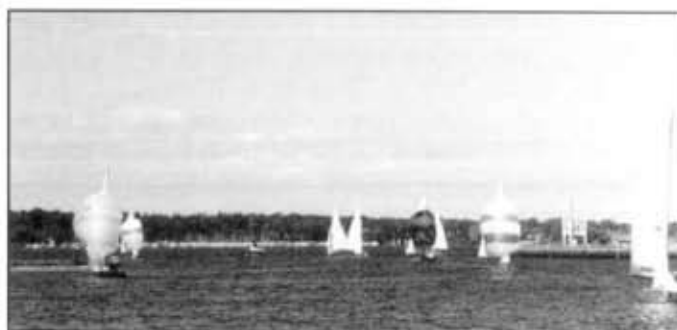
Toronto proved to be a wonderful site for the North Americans, thanks to the efforts of Chairmen Sprague and Curtner and their committee. After three tricky qualifiers, the race committee managed to complete all six championship races by Thursday afternoon. Congratulations to Ched Proctor who won his second consecutive NA's.

Congratulations also to Allan Leibel of Toronto, whose 4th place finish was the best from our district, and to his crew, Jenn Graham and Paul Olivier. Warren Emblidge with Jake Frank and Amy Tillou were runners-up in the Governor's Cup.

In late August, when the summer breeze begins to subside and the local Old Salts are certain that the lake water isn't getting any warmer, the Canoe Club runs its annual Old Salts' Regatta. Like the Masters', this regatta has grown both in its numbers and level of competition over the past few years -- especially in respect to the party following the races. Some kid named Hallagan ran off with the first place cannon this year. Runner-up Bobby Starck found himself out in front in the last and deciding race but got lost. (He's still learning his way around the course.)

As the season wound down, we shifted our gears from "go-fast" to "party" for the Fall Circuit. The competition was fierce. Silver Lake turned out to be the toughest Saturday night of the circuit, with 31 crews vying for top honors. No winners were declared (although Jon Rogers was in rare form). The races, however, were scored:

Silver Lake's Harvest: 1. Dick Hallagan 2. John Swanson  
 Toronto's Hurrell Shaker: 1. Dave Wood 2. Mike Vollmer  
 BCC..... 1. Cal Schmiede 2. Allan Leibel



THE ROYAL HAMILTON YACHT CLUB  
Home of the Flying Beaver Lightning Fleet 118  
Masters, Women's, and Junior Championships, 1994

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	David Drosdick
District Secretary.....	Franz Schneider
District Measurer.....	Franz Schneider
District Champion.....	Jack Huntsman
District Runner-Up.....	Chris Sprole

**Fleets:** North Shrewsbury (HYC) (11); Paupack (16); Lake Mohawk (25); Chelsea (39); Red Bank (70); Nyack (75); Awosting (95).



## MICHIGAN DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	David Decker
District Secretary.....	Thomas Hudson
District Co-Measurers.....	Leslie Whatley
	Colin Park
District Champion.....	Colin Park
District Runner-Up.....	Mark Whatley

**Fleets:** Devils Lake (31); Western Lake Erie (42); Crescent Sail Club (51); Lake Fenton (53); Pontiac Yacht Club (54); Higgins Lake (110); Gull Lake (137); Macatawa Bay (204); Saginaw Bay (216); Burt Lake (254); Douglas Lake (374); Lansing Sail Club (387).



Most sailors don't realize the variety and challenge the Michigan District can offer. Within a reasonable drive, a sailor can take a Lightning to various locations and meet exciting, interesting Lightning sailors. Following are the reasons why Michigan is one of the best places to own or crew on a Lightning!

Burt Lake (254) Burt Lake is known as one of the best kept secrets in the Midwest. Burt Lake is a large round inland lake that is 78' deep with areas of up to four miles of undeveloped shorelines in northern Michigan. This lake is a part of Michigan's Inland Waterway that stretches across northern Michigan, consisting of two sets of locks. The racing is conducted by a retired navy commander every other Saturday starting July 4th to Labor Day.

Crescent Sail Club (51) Crescent is located on Lake Saint Clair known to some as the sixth Great Lake. This club is located in a major Great Lake shipping lane. You sail in an area where the auto aristocracy mansions had a view of the Detroit skyline and the Canadian shoreline. Lake Saint Clair is one of the most active sailing areas in Michigan. On any given night you can find three or more fleet races on the lake.

Devils Lake (31) Devils Lake is a small inland lake located in Michigan's farm country (Irish Hills). The club house is a beautiful old three story resort from yesteryear. Devils Lake is known for its highly competitive racing that brings some of the top sailors to its regattas.

Douglas Lake (374) Douglas Lake is Michigan's most northern fleet and is located in the center of a State Forest. The homes on this lake are mostly summer homes. The locals know this lake as Little Fish due to its shape. In its heyday, the fleet on Douglas was 25 Lightnings strong.

Gull Lake (137) The Gull Lake Fleet is based out of the exclusive Gull Lake Country Club that includes a Dinner Club with a completely re-sculptured 18 hole golf course. Gull is a large, inland lake located between Detroit and Chicago. It is 110' deep with emerald blue water.

Higgins Lake (110) Higgins is unique due to the fact that its yacht club is located on an island that can only be reached by taking a long journey across the water in your Lightning. This lake is an extremely large inland lake, lined with summer homes, in the central part of northern Michigan.

Lake Fenton (53): Fenton is a small inland lake located next to Flint (Buick City). Fenton is the home of Nickels Boat Works. This fleet hosts the Michigan Team Races which is an event that shouldn't be missed.

Lansing Sail Club (387): Everyone always asks, "Is there a lake in Lansing?" The answer is definitely "yes." They have a very active sailing program. Lansing is located in the center of Michigan. The club has a quaint facility and has one of the most hospitable group of sailors as members.

Macatawa Bay (204): The yacht club is located on Lake Macatawa which has a navigable channel to Lake Michigan. When sailing in this area, you can't help but notice the large sandy dunes that roll into the lake. This area is west Michigan's premier sailing area and the home of the international maxi-racer known as Windquest. Macatawa hosted the 1994 Michigan District Races to which we invited non-Michigan vessels.

Western Lake Erie (42): North Cape Yacht Club is part of a very large marina and is Michigan's connection to

Lake Erie. A very popular spot to sail since it is open water. North Cape is located within an easy drive of two major metropolitan areas (Detroit and Toledo).

Pontiac Yacht Club (54): Pontiac is located on the small lake, outside of Detroit, known as Cass. Its fleet is the largest Lightning fleet in the world. During their weekday races, they are always able to get a large gathering of boats.

Saginaw Bay (216): Saginaw is located at the mouth of the Saginaw River that leads into Lake Huron. This area is a very popular boating area due to the navigability of the Saginaw River and its vicinity to many metropolitan areas. A very active weekday fleet where the waves can challenge the best sailors.

Tawas Bay : Tawas is a unique gathering spot for Lightning sailors. In late July, approximately twenty Lightnings head north along the shores of Lake Huron. Upon arrival, the boats are hauled to a private, deserted stretch of sandy beach. The boats are staged for the weekend along the beach and our camping tents are located on a bluff overlooking the lake.

Traverse City Yacht Club (326): Traverse is known as the vacation capital of the Midwest. The rolling wooded hills meet the crystal clear waters of this sheltered forty mile Lake Michigan bay. The Lightnings in this area are loaned to TACS (Training Area Community Sailing) which is the third level of a youth sail program.



Three young men from Lightning families represented the United States and Michigan and placed fifth in the World Youth Championship in Switzerland: Andy Paullin (l), Charlie Wardwell (c), and Mike Thomas, skipper.  
Photo: Sue Thomas



## MIDWEST DISTRICT

94 District Commodore.....Dr. Christopher Graf  
 95 District Commodore.....Dan Reichelsdorfer  
 95 District Secretary.....Michou Braun  
 '94 95 District Treasurer.....Meg Huffman  
 District Champion.....Paul Wurtzbach

**Fleets:** Chicago Corinthian (5); Milwaukee Yacht Club (69); Green Bay (112); Lake Davenport (167); Sheboygan (187); Lake Geneva (345); Manitowoc (393); Fond Du Lac (442).

Midwest District started off our regatta schedule with the traditional Lighthouse Regatta in Fond du Lac, WI. Trying something new, Dave Stix organized an on the water clinic/regatta with Ched Proctor, North Sails One Design guru. Ched followed Lightnings around Lake Winnebago with a video camera, providing coaching on everything from starts to trim to crew work. Ched did a light air tacking and jibing demonstration on Saturday, switching crew so people could try out some new things. Après race chalk talks and video reviews over cold beers were done nightly. In all, the regatta was a success and will be done again next year with a new guest Brian Hayes of North Sails One Design fame. By the way, Paul Wurtzbach won the regatta, and a few people tested the water temperature!

Next was the Evans Regatta in Green Bay, WI. After a couple of years of light air, the wind decided to scream down the Bay, providing some great racing. Paul won this one, too, even after having to tip his own boat over to correct a halyard problem! Next came the District Championships at Sheboygan. All six races were sailed on the Big Pond, and once again, Pauly came up on top of the heap. Just as important, we had a lot of good sailors qualify to go to the North Americans in Toronto.... more on that later.

The P & T Regatta in Milwaukee was won by Paul, Mike and Sue again. Next came the Brotz Regatta. Al McReynolds came all the way from the East coast to sail, and went all the way back with the Brotz trophy!

A number of our sailors went up to the Buffalo Canoe Club to race in the Canadian Open to tune up for the NA's. We also had a good number who went over to the Michigan Districts as well. Midwesterners Dr. Christopher Graf and his lifelong crew Jan Graf, and Michou Braun sailed in the Master's at Hamilton, Ontario. Dan Reichelsdorfer sailed with Tom Allen, Sr in the Masters, too. Juniors Peter Orlebeke, Jen Pebaker and Nicole Scmpf raced their last Junior Championship in Hamilton. The Midwest District was well represented at the North American Championships in Toronto, with Bill Faude and crew, Brian Taboada and Jared Drake, finishing 9th in the blue fleet and Paul Wurtzbach and crew, Mike and Sue Elmergreen, also in the blue fleet. Dan Reichelsdorfer and crew, Michou Braun and Peter Orlebeke, almost made the blue fleet, and went on to a solid green fleet finish. Jeanie Ehrenberg and crew sailed well in the yellow fleet.

Paul finished up his championship season with a win in Chicago at the Red Flannels. The Polar Bear Regatta in Davenport, IA, returned after a flood out last year. All seems to be returning to normal in Polar Bear country, we're glad to see. Bill Faude and crew went on to win the Bluenose in Tennessee. New Years weekend found Midwest District Lightning sailors looking for warmer temperatures in New Orleans. Five boats from the northern climes ventured down including Bill Faude, Paul Wurtzbach, Dan Reichelsdorfer, Steve Orlebeke and Carey Long. Although none of us won, we did all finish in the top ten with 4th through 9th wrapped up. By the way, the 1994 Lake Michigan Championship was awarded to crews Mike and Sue Elmergreen. Mike and "Big Sue" sailed all year for Paul Wurtzbach, and when he went to Canada for the Canadians, they stayed and sailed in the Brotz with winner Al McReynolds. Paul gracefully deferred the trophy to them for sailing on the winning boat of every district regatta. Some record, huh?

### Midwest District 1995 Race Schedule

....Regatta	Location	Date.....
Lighthouse Regatta	Fond du Lac WI	June 3 & 4
Evans Regatta*	Green Bay, WI	June 10 & 11
Midwest District	Chicago, IL	July 7, 8, & 9
P & T Regatta*	Milwaukee, WI	July 15 & 16
Brotz Regatta*	Sheboygan, WI	July 29 & 30
Hobleman Regatta	Chicago, IL	August 5 & 6
Polar Bear Regatta*	Davenport, IA	Sept. 9 & 10
Red Flannels Regatta	Chicago, IL	Sept. 23 & 24

\*count for the Lake Michigan Championship

## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Gerry Paoli  
 District Secretary.....Bill Baxter  
 District Measurer.....Bill Baxter  
 District Champion.....Gerry Paoli  
 District Runner-Up.....Dan Moriarty

**Fleets:** Decatur (74); Harbor Island (262); Carlyle (266); Memphis (274); Valley (486).

It is hard to believe that another sailing season has blown by. It seems like just yesterday that Harbor Island was hosting the first regatta of the season with the Tennessean in April. The regatta had twelve boats, made up of local sailors, and one boat from Memphis. The Mid-Continent Regatta, hosted by Carlyle Sailing was the next regatta, with great weather for a good six race regatta. Matt Burrridge sailed flawlessly and walked away with the

win. The following weekend, May 21-22, Memphis hosted the Hernando de Soto Regatta. Crit Currie showed the other sailors that experience does win over youth by beating a twenty-seven boat fleet.

In June, the Carlyle fleet hosted the Districts. However, the wind did not cooperate this year. Three races were sailed in light air on Saturday and no races were sailed at all on Sunday. Rob Zerban finished the regatta in first, with Gerry Paoli closely behind in second. The Inter-City Regatta was held the following weekend in Decatur. A good time was had by all that attended. Then in September, Valley Sailing in St. Louis held the Muddy Rudder Regatta for the first time since the floods of 1993. Guest skippers included Roger Grohne and Bob Ohlsen of Decatur and Bill Baxter, Sr. and Frank Bermel of Memphis. Bermel sailed consistently to take first place. Next was the Cotton Picken' Regatta held in Memphis the middle of September. Twenty boats sailed a six race regatta in a wide variety of wind. Bill Baxter, Sr. dominated the regatta and Don Sherburne of Nashville was second.

Nashville hosted the last two regattas of the year. The McDougal, which was held two weeks before the Bluenose, had twelve boats and a lot of competition, with Don Sherburne earning the win. The final of the year was the Bluenose. Fifty-nine boats sailed in the late fall classic. The winds this year were uncommonly high, and for the first time in years, there were capsizes. The good folks at Harbor Island did their usual exceptional job and ran a

flawless regatta. Bill Faude of Chicago was first; Brian Hayes of North Sails was second and Dan Moriarty of St. Louis was third.

The sailors of the Mississippi Valley district were also on the road a lot this past year. Ten sailors represented the District in the North Americans, and Don Sherburne of Nashville won the Masters championship. There probably wasn't a regatta within three hundred miles of the district that didn't, at least, have one representative from the Mississippi Valley.

If you are passing through the district please do not hesitate to visit one of our fleets. We would be glad to have you come and sail.

### NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore..... Toni Harrington  
 District Secretary..... Christopher Dwinal  
 District Measurer..... Bruce Atkinson  
 District Champion..... Stuart Nickerson  
 District Runner-Up..... George Deyett  
 District Women's Champion..... Laura Milne  
 District Master's Champion..... John Hughes  
 District Junior Champion..... Andrew Horton  
 District Circuit Champions.....  
 John & Brian Hughes

**Fleets:** Merrimac River (121); Spofford Yacht Club (145); Annisquam Yacht Club (151); Marblehead Harbor (189); Bomoseen Lake Yacht Club (227); Massabesic Yacht Club (273); Chequesset (280); Lake Champlain (301); Squam Lake (332); Bow Lake (493)..

### NEW ENGLAND LIGHTNING DISTRICT- 1995 REGATTA SCHEDULE

DATE	REGATTA	HOST FLEET & LOCATION
JUNE 3,4	SPRING REGATTA	CHAMPLAIN #301, BURLINGTON, VT
JUNE 10,11	MASSABESIC LAKE	MASSABESIC #273, MANCHESTER, NH
JUNE 17,18	MAPLE LEAF CLASSIC	BOMOSEEN #227, BOMOSEEN, VT
JULY 14,16	DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP	CHEQUESSET #280, WELLFLEET, MA
AUGUST 8-11	MASTER'S, WOMEN'S, JUNIOR'S NA's	CHAMPLAIN #301, BURLINGTON, VT
AUGUST 11-18	NORTH AMERICAN'S	HENDERSON HARBOR- NY
AUGUST 26,27	SQUAM LAKE	SQUAM #332, HOLDERNESS, NH
SEPT 9,10	MASSABESIC OPEN	MASSABESIC #273, MANCHESTER, NH
SEPT 16	BOW LAKE ONE-DAY	BOW LAKE #493, BOW LAKE, NH
SEPT 23,24	NEWBURYPORT	MERRIMAC #121, NEWBURYPORT, MA

Ever since my first Lightning regatta in the summer of 1992, I've felt very welcome in the New England District. I guess my participation or naiveté (I'm not sure which, but perhaps both) was enough to land me the office of District Secretary, and the honor of preparing this synopsis of the 1994 sailing season. Fortunately, I participated in six of the ten regattas held in New England this past summer and will be able to highlight these events well. As far as the others go, I'll do my best.

It is becoming traditional in New England that the first regatta of the season be held at Massabesic Lake, home of Fleet 273, near Manchester, New Hampshire. This regatta, held May 14 & 15 has been appropriately named the "Iceberg Regatta" because it is held not long after ice-out on local lakes and ponds. Massabesic Lake is the public drinking water supply for Manchester. Therefore, windsurfers, Lasers and other "wet boats" are not allowed to sail on the lake. However, this didn't stop one Lightning sailor (whose name I won't mention) who crashed and burned 100 yards from the finish line, and first place, in one race. The winner of the regatta was Ray Harrington (Fleet #227), with local Fleet #273 sailors George Deyett and Ken Deyett capturing second and third place, respectively.

The Spring Regatta is hosted every year by Lake Champlain Fleet #301, sailing on Mallet's Bay near Burlington, Vermont. The race committee started seven races in light to medium air and sunny skies during this two-day regatta. Stuart Nickerson of Chequesset Fleet #280 won the 19-boat regatta. Kurt Kling (Fleet #301) was second. Ken Deyett was third, Ray Harrington fourth, and Bill Fastiggi (Fleet #301) rounded out the top five. Lightning sailors in Tennessee and Mississippi aren't the only ones with sightings of Elvis. Saturday evening he was seen playing under the guise of Buck and the Black Cats at Nectar's in Burlington. Just ask Jack and Joanne Jones of Henderson Harbor, New York.

I think that Saturday, June 18 was the hottest wind-free day in the summer of 1994, and coincided with the Maple Leaf Classic Regatta on Lake Bomoseen, Vermont. Saturday consisted of sweating, swimming, drinking, hose-downs and water skiing provided by a generous local. Jack Jones (CNY Fleet #225) made an attempt to appease Mother Nature by drifting across the lake under full sail, but it was not to be. However, he did succeed at delivering us to a local bar where we danced the night away. What Saturday lacked, Sunday exemplified with 25 knot breezes out of the northwest and significant chop. Bill Fastiggi was the first boat out and made several valiant attempts to secure his rudder while sailing downwind from the dock before his centerboard became buried in the mud 50 feet from the rocky shoreline. However, he and his daring crew of Holly Schwartz and Dick Spurlock overcame this minor setback to win the two-race regatta, with Bruce Atkinson (Fleet #227) second and Ray Harrington third.

The next event of the summer was the District Championship hosted by Bomoseen Fleet #227, sailing on Lake Bomoseen, Vermont. I arrived at dusk on Friday evening to a hamburger and hot dog cook-out prepared for

the Women, Junior and Master competitors. By the appearance of the faces of many of the competitors, it was obvious that the sun was shining on this day and I soon learned that the wind was not as cooperative.

However, the race committee was able to conduct races for the three boats sailed by the Juniors, four boats sailed by the Women and the seven boats sailed the Master's. At the end of the day, Andy Horton was the Junior Champion, Laura Milne the Women's Champion, and John Hughes the Master's Champion.

A major league thunderstorm only allowed two races to be held on Saturday. I don't really recall all that happened on the race course as I was so deep, but I think the strategy was to stay middle right, play the shifts and go fast forward. The downpour ended just in time for a superb barbecue at the local grange hall. Awards were given out to the Women, Junior and Master's and many enjoyed dancing to the tunes of an excellent local band.

The 27 boats that attended the District's competed in two more races on Sunday, followed by a brief District meeting and awards. Stuart Nickerson defended his title as District Champion, George Deyett was second, Brian Hayes (Fleet #189) was third, Bill Fastiggi was fourth, and Don Brush (Fleet #301) finished out the top five.

Although not on the New England District Schedule for 1994, Centerboard Yacht Club (CYC) in South Portland Maine, former home of Fleet #14, hosted the Interclub Regatta this summer. They had a separate start for Lightnings. Four races were held in Portland Harbor within sight of Fort Gorges, Spring Point Light, and the Eastern Promenade. My crew and I won the regatta, Steve Purdy (CYC) was second and his brother Bill Purdy (CYC) was third. The District hopes that Lightning sailing will continue to be active on Casco Bay as many District members have enjoyed sailing there in the past. Portland is a great city for culture, sporting events or just strolling down the cobblestone streets.

Chequesset Fleet #280 sailing out of Wellfleet, Massachusetts on Cape Cod hosted a regatta on July 23 & 24. If you like the excitement of heavy air and a laid-back celebration that follows the races, you should make a trip to Wellfleet. Even though hindered by tides, the race committee was able to start five races, held on courses with nice open reaches that made for nice planing and surfing conditions. I don't think the wind dropped below 15 knots all weekend (night included) and was often in the 20 to 25 knot range. I'm not sure about the rest of the regatta participants, but I particularly enjoyed the steamed clams dug by local Flip Felix, not to mention the barbecue and buffet on the deck of the country club. After two days of racing, the top three finishers were as follows: Stuart Nickerson, 1st, Chris Vann (CT/RI District Commodore), 2nd, and Eric Cutting (Fleet #280), 3rd. We hope that Chris will encourage more sailors from CT and RI to come race in Wellfleet in '95.

Just when I thought my trips to Vermont were completed for 1994, I realized that the Atlantic Coast Championships were to be held in Mallet's Bay on Lake Champlain. Including a PHRF regatta, I made five 4+ hour trips over hilly terrain from Maine to Vermont this



summer. However, considering that the route I take travels through the White Mountains, it wasn't that bad. I do get a kick out of the people I work with, however, who always ask me why I can't find a place closer to sail my boat! I try to explain, but it's tough explaining to those frugal Mainers. The ACC's was the largest regatta held in the New England District during 1994 with 36 boats attending. Champlain Fleet #301 did a good job at organizing the event, and we're sure they'll do an outstanding job with the 1995 Women's, Junior's, and Master's NA's. Saturday consisted of a lot of swimming and some beer drinking in the outer bay while we all waited for the seabreeze to fill in. The breeze lasted long enough to hold one windward-leeward race before the rain and thunder hit. Two races were held on Sunday in the inner bay. The top five finishers were: Stuart Nickerson, Don Brush, Jack Huntsman (METRO Fleet #70), Bill Fastiggi and Larry Colantuano (also Fleet #70).

This year's regatta at Squam Lake (Lightning Fleet #332) was held on August 13 and 14. The number of boats from "away" was down significantly this year due in part to the fact the NA's were held the week of August 5-12. The Hughes family with John at the helm and his wife Eve and son Brian as crew won the regatta. Dwight Gertz (Fleet #332) was second, sailing in the boat which Dave Curtis won the NA's with in 1981. Christian Watley (Fleet #332) was third, Patrick McCormack (Fleet #121) was fourth and Jack Russell (Fleet #332) was fifth.

I think the highlight of this year's regatta hosted by Merrimac River Fleet #121 was the amount of local participation. Of the 13 boats in the regatta, nine belong to Fleet #121. For the past three summers I've participated in this regatta and have always marveled at the 15 odd Lightnings in the yard, of which only five or six participate in the local race. According to Fleet Captain Al Lavender, they were very happy with participation throughout the year and look forward to one or two more boats on the line for 1995. After five races, the results were as follows: Bruce Atkinson 1st, John Hughes (Fleet #121) 2nd, Al Lavender (also Fleet #121) 3rd, and Chris Dwinal (Brunswick, Maine, U) 4th.

Every year the Massabesic Yacht Club invites Lightning sailors to participate in its Open Regatta. The open regatta typically includes starts for Windmills, 420s, Day Sailors, Lightnings and keelboats. This year's Lightning regatta was won by George Deyett, his father Norm Deyett (Fleet #273) was second, and Bob Shapiro (Fleet #493??) was third.

The final regatta of the 1994 season was held at Spofford Lake hosted by Fleet #145. Apparently, after two races on the first day, there was a tie for first place. Due to lack of wind and rain on Sunday, a coin toss decided the winner to be Tom Fitch (Fleet #145) Randy Locke (also Fleet #145) was second, and John Hughes was third.

At the 1993 Winter Meeting, it was decided that the New England District Circuit Championship would be decided by the best overall finish in four regattas - Iceberg, Wellfleet, Merrimac River and Spofford Lake. No boats participated in all four regattas and only one participated in three regattas. Therefore, for their perennial

participation and success, co-skippers John and Brian Hughes were awarded the 1994 Circuit Championship.

The New England District was well represented at the 1994 North American Championship, with Stuart Nickerson, Lisa Brauer and Brian Hughes earning a 2nd place finish in the Blue Fleet. Maria White, sailing with Tito Gonzales, won the qualifiers and was third in the Blue Fleet. Curt Felix, sailing with Tom Allen, Jr. was 10th, Andrew Horton was 14th and Bill Fastiggi was 18th in the Blue Fleet. Don Brush won the President's Cup, Brian Hayes was 7th, Georges Peter was 15th and George Deyett was 18th. Ray Harrington won the Governor's Cup and Kurt Kling was 5th. Andrew Horton won the Junior NA's and Sean Carroll was 8th. David German also participated in the Masters' Championship.

New England Lightning District sailors participated in many regattas outside of New England including the American Airlines Cup of Champions in Ecuador, the Southern Circuit, Early Bird, District Championships and Fall Classic Regattas at Westport, CT, Junior Worlds in Switzerland, Caz One-Day in New York, Pan Am Trials and Fall Regatta at Southampton, NY, and the Last Blast Regatta at Nyack, NY. Notable finishes include Andy Horton's fourth place finish at the Junior Worlds, Bill Fastiggi's second place finish at the Caz One-Day, Ray Harrington's first place finish and Curt Felix's third place finish at the Southampton Fall Regatta, and Brian Hughes' (sailing with Jack Elfman) first place finish and Ray Harrington's third place at the Last Blast Regatta. There are probably other regattas and notable finishes I've missed, but it takes awhile for the Pony Express to deliver to Maine.

We were all happy with the number of regattas held in the District during 1994 and look forward to greater participation in 1995 from New England District sailors as well as sailors from our neighboring districts in Connecticut/Rhode Island, New York and Canada.



*Christy Jones and a smile that exemplifies the spirit of the New England District.*

## OHIO DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Dean Caley  
 District Secretary.....Dick Pugh  
 District Champion.....George Fisher  
 District Runner-Up.....Rob Ruhlman

**Fleets:** Indiana Lake (23); Leatherlips (27); Turkeyfoot (33); Pymatuning (36); Buckeye Lake (43); Rocky River (71); Mansfield (150); Atwood Lake (212); Cowan Lake (303); Hoover (353).

As is the custom, Pymatuning Yacht Club's "Spring Classic Regatta" kicked off the District sailing season in early May. Over 20 boats braved the cold, rainy and windy conditions. Dan Norton from Devils Lake showed that the winter had done nothing to dull his skills by winning the regatta. Also in May was the "Great Lakes Championship" at North Cape Yacht Club. Since its resurrection this regatta has quickly become one of the premiere early season stops for the top sailors in the Midwest. Mike Thomas made it two regatta wins in a row for Devils Lake.

From the large water of Lake Erie the District schedule moved to the intimate surroundings of Leatherlips Yacht Club in Columbus. The "Windshift Regatta" in early June was also eagerly anticipated because we all believed that Tom Varley would be unveiling his new boat. Alas, the fleet was disappointed as the new boat was not ready. Dick Pugh was best able to overcome the disappointment and to go on to win the regatta. June is also the month of

Cleveland Yacht Club's Regatta. Only three boats attended this year with Dave Gall winning all of the races.

The District Championship was hosted by the Cowan Lake Sailing Association in July. Besides running an outstanding regatta the host fleet also set the Championship up as a charity event. All of the profits went to "Goodwill Industries". The sailors of Fleet 303 put an enormous amount of effort into this undertaking and were able to raise over \$600 for Goodwill. They are to be congratulated.

On the water the Fisher family continued their winning ways with Matt finishing first and George second. Kurt Andrews won the first year award by being the highest finishing first time skipper at Districts. The only disappointment at the regatta was that Tom Varley still did not have his new boat.

The week after the N.A.'s the fleet traveled to Indian Lake for the "Stumpbuster Regatta". The first day saw winds reach the high twenties, causing the occasional unrehearsed fire drills to be performed by members of the fleet. The regatta was won by Skip Dieball. This was Skip's first Lightning regatta! However, his win was not a complete surprise since he is a former national champion in the Interlake class. Since this was Skip's first Lightning regatta win Ohio tradition dictated that he have a post-race dunking. The dunking party appeared to be led by Tom Varley, who, by the way, didn't have a new boat.

If it's September in Ohio it must be Atwood Yacht Club's "Harvest Moon Regatta". Kurt Andrews again

## 1995 OHIO DISTRICT REGATTA SCHEDULE

<b>May 13-14</b>	<b>Pymatuning Yacht Club</b>	<b>Spring Classic Regatta</b>
<b>May 20-21</b>	<b>North Cape Yacht Club</b>	<b>Great Lakes Championship</b>
<b>June 10-11</b>	<b>Leatherlips Yacht Club</b>	<b>Windshift Regatta</b>
<b>June 24--25</b>	<b>Cleveland Yacht Club</b>	<b>CYC Regatta</b>
<b>June 24-25</b>	<b>Indian Lake Yacht Club</b>	<b>District Championship Regatta</b>
<b>July 1-2</b>	<b>Pymatuning Yacht Club</b>	<b>Independence Day Regatta</b>
<b>August 26-27</b>	<b>Indian Lake Yacht Club</b>	<b>Stumpbuster Regatta</b>
<b>September 9-10</b>	<b>Atwood Yacht Club</b>	<b>Harvest Moon Regatta</b>
<b>October 7-8</b>	<b>Buckeye Lake Yacht Club</b>	<b>Snow Ball Regatta</b>
<b>October 14-15</b>	<b>Cowan Lake Sailing Assoc.</b>	<b>Fall-In Regatta</b>



showed why he is one of the fastest rising sailors in the District by winning all three races. Dave Gall finished second, and in doing so wrapped up winning the Governor's cup for the second year in a row. The cup is awarded to the lowest scoring boat in any four District regattas and who has also competed at the District championship. The record for the Governor's cup is seven wins held both by Dick Pugh and Tom Varley. Speaking of Tom, he finished third at Atwood in his old boat.

Matt Fisher returned to his home of Buckeye Lake to win the annual "Snow Ball Regatta". Tom Varley did not attend the regatta leading your author to speculate that he must be using the weekend to pick up his new boat.

The season ended in mid-October at the "Fall-In Regatta" at Cowan Lake. The lively Thomas family ended the Ohio season the same way they began it at North Cape, by winning. Tom Varley ended the same way he began it, still in his old boat!

The District is looking forward to the '95 season when three questions will be answered:

#1 Can Dave Gall three-peat the Governor's Cup? #2 Will somebody with a last name other than Fisher win the Districts? #3 Will Tom Varley ever get his new boat?



*Tom Varley and his old boat!*

*Photo: Steve Weeber*

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Bruce Deitz  
District Champion.....Bruce Deitz  
District Circuit Champion.....John DeBenedetti

**Fleets:** Maple Bay (64); Vancouver (90); Seattle (132); Chinook (229); Portland (283); Okanagan (368).

The Pacific Northwest District season was highlighted by the return of Fleet 90 at Kitsilano Yacht Club, Vancouver, B.C. Our District Championships were held there this year in very nice conditions: a good westerly out of the Georgia Straits on Saturday, and a flatter

southeasterly on Sunday. Jerry Neuburger pounded on the fleet to win, taking four of the five races! Our thanks to the many people in Vancouver who helped pull this off. It was a well organized, fun event.

We also hosted the Pacific Coast Championships in Klamath Falls again, in light to moderate winds. We could not hold off Scott Finkboner of San Diego, who won the event. A good time was had, though.

Elsewhere on our own Northwest District circuit, it was a Jerry Neuburger year! He won regattas at Eugene, Vancouver Lake and Kitsilano, to tie the circuit up tight!

The annual team races were not held this year as we need to sort out the borrow boat problem. We're looking forward to '95!

## PERU DISTRICT

Contact.....Francisco Ayula

## ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY DISTRICT

District Commodore.....David Browne  
District Secretary.....Terrill Scott  
District Measurer.....Tony McBride  
District Champion.....J.F. Simard  
District Runner-Up.....Neal Burnham

**Fleets:** Lake Deschenes (188); The Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club (215); Pointe Claire Yacht Club (499).

The good news first, our district won in it's bid to host the 1997 Lightning World Championship. Of course we haven't forgotten the old adage about never wishing for anything too much, because you just might get it. We're pickled tink anyway.

The season started late due to hard water that stayed until one glorious weekend in April. Peter Hall won the scheduled, cancelled and rescheduled Good Start Regatta in late June in a fleet of only 5 boats. The Districts on July 2 and 3 drew ten boats and J.F. Simard won, Neal Burnham was second and Tony McBride finished third. The best attended District event was the Archie Cameron Memorial trophy sailed September 11, 1994 and 13 boats battled it out with Peter Hall, J.F. Simard and Tim Harris finishing one, two, three.

Pointe Claire Yacht Club hosts the Canadian Open in 1995. It is scheduled for August 5 and 6, before the Masters in Burlington, Vt. and the NAs in Henderson Harbor N.Y. For World hopefuls in 1997, this regatta is a chance to sail on the World's track and get a handle on the current and the quirks of the St. Lawrence River. We expect to welcome over 40 boats from Canada and the North East. Billeting is offered as part of the usual Pointe Claire Yacht Club hospitality, so book early by calling 514 695 2441 or faxing 695 2341.

On the road this year Peter Hall and JF Simard are both to be congratulated on their top ten finishes in the Canadian Open and Peter has qualified for the March 1995 PanAm games in Argentina. Congratulations are also in order for Nabil and Beverly Tabet on the arrival of their first born, a son, Daniel, born in the spring.



*The St. Lawrence District team, Kevin Vines, skipper, (r), Roach and Leger at the presentation ceremonies of the World Youth Championship*

*Photo: Audrey Matteson*

## **SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT**

District Commodore..... Will Sloger  
 District Secretary..... Richard F. Mayne  
 District Measurer..... John Pelosi  
 District Champion..... Robert E. Harkrider  
 District Runner-Up..... Will Sloger  
 Junior Champions..... Will & Josh McIntosh

**Fleets:** Savannah (127); Clark Hill (257); Lake Lanier (348); Catawba (365); Greater Charleston (429); Waccamaw (463); Wake (481); Tennessee Valley (500).

## **SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

District Commodore..... Larry Frost III  
 District Secretary..... Frances Frost  
 District Measurer..... Larry Frost III  
 District Champion..... Lawrence N. Frost III  
 District Runner-Up..... Lawrence N. Frost, Jr.  
 GYA Champion..... Larry Frost, Jr.

**Fleets:** Mobile Bay (135); Shreveport Yacht Club (175); New Orleans Yacht Club (209).

This year has been a very productive one from an organizational standpoint even though our class participation has dwindled. This year the fleet known as Southern Yacht Club Fleet 62 has been rechartered. Longtime Fleet 62 sailor and friend to the class Gene Walet III donated his Peron Cup for our GYA Championships. This was the trophy that he won in Argentina in 1955 for the Pan Am games.

This year's sailing activities were few, but when we did get together good sailing was evident. Larry Frost III traveled the most this year, not only to the usual district regattas, but he also made his first National's. The event was a great learning experience and meeting place.

Through all of the regattas and events, we, in the Southern Districts, would like to thank all of the clubs which have had a part in sponsoring Lightning sailing in the South. The major regattas include Holiday in Dixie, Shreveport LA, which was held in April and was won by Steve Harris. In May, Larry Frost III won the Juby Wynne Memorial Day Regatta in New Orleans. The Districts were then sailed in Pensacola and won by Robert Bernhardt. The GYA Championships were sailed on the Mississippi Sound at Long Beach MS, and was won by Larry Frost Jr. And the last big event of the year is the Sugar Bowl Regatta in New Orleans which should be well attended.

## **SWISS DISTRICT**

District Commodore..... Jacques Perret  
 District Secretary..... Kathy Cairns-Herzog  
 District Measurer..... Urs Wyler  
 District Champion..... Urs Wyler  
 District Runner-Up..... Jacques Perret

**Fleets:** Lac de Neuchâtel (169); Sempacher-Hallwiler-/Vierwaldstätter-/Greifensee (250); Murtensee (358).

1994: A Great Year for the Swiss District with the organization of the 42nd European Championship in Yverdon and the 9th World Youth Championship in Neuchâtel. (see separate reports)

Besides both of these great events, we have sailed our three traditional regattas in Sempach, Murten and Neuchâtel. Furthermore, five boats have participated at "la semaine du Joran" in Neuchâtel to train before the Europeans.

To note: The participation of our youth crew, Alexandre Perret/Sebastien Girod/Ludovic Robert, at our sailing activities, the European (22/27) and the World Youth (12/17).

Felicitations to our new European Champions: Urs Wyler/Gilbert Dürr/ Walter Dürr.

Thanks to all who helped us by organizing the World Youth. A special thanks to the Lightning owners who lent their boats for the Youth.

Next year we plan to participate with five or six boats at the Europeans and the Worlds in Finland and we decided at our annual meeting to encourage a great participation for the next Winter Championship in Marsala.



*Winners of the 42nd European Championship  
Gilbert Dürr (l), Urs Wyler, skipper(c), and Walter Dürr (r)  
Urs - three times Champion, five times Runner-Up*



*The second best Swiss boat in the Europeans  
Thierry Monnier (l), Audrey Matteson, Jacques Perret, skipper, (r)*



*A past European Champion, twice Runner-Up  
Christoph Lüthy, skipper, and Constance Fischer.  
(third crew, Hans-Peter Huber)*



*The newest boat in Europe, 14664  
Matthias Knoepfel (l), Peter Graf, skipper (c), Margrit Graf*



*A past Runner-Up European Champion and ILCA Vice-President  
Claude Lambelet, skipper (r), André Glauser (c)  
and Jean -Pierre Monnier (l).*



*The Swiss ILCA Vice-President  
Gilbert Despland, skipper (l) and Laurent Schneider  
(third crew, Eva Huber)*

*Photos: Audrey Matteson*





*Commodore of the Swiss District - of the first generation  
of Lightning sailors in Switzerland*

*Photo: Audrey Matteson*



*The second generation raising the Swiss flag at the World Youths.*

*Photo: Joël von Allmen*



*Here is the third generation. Will they sail Lightnings?*

*Photo: Audrey Matteson*

## TEXAS DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Ardis Good  
District Secretary.....Jennifer Eldredge  
District Measurer.....Dr. Sylvan Newman  
District Champion.....Jim Alman  
District Runner-Up.....Scott Anderson

**Fleets:** Dallas Corinthian (35); Rush Creek Yacht Club (435); Lake Conroe Yacht Club (505).

District activity was officially kicked off this year at the Holiday in Dixie Regatta. Steve and Patty Harris with Bruce Bierlink won the regatta and two Rush Creek boats also participated. Steve entertained us all with S.O.B.'s - a driving technique that he must have learned in Michigan.

The next stop was Rush Creek for the Spring Dinghyfest where the Harris' won again. Second was the Bill Baxter III team, and third was Rush Creeker Jenny Eldredge with tactician Chris Shipman and Mike Dill. In May, four boats from the district participated in the Hernando de Soto Regatta - the Shipman did his usual - called excellent, excellent tactics and Jenny listened (of course!) to place second. Memphis hospitality was enjoyed by all at the Currie's house on Saturday night - and the Texas boats were smart enough not to drink that million proof stuff with gold flakes suspended in the bottle.

Jim Alman won the districts held at Rush Creek in June in very challenging conditions. Second was Rush Creeker Scott Anderson. The Harris' from the Conroe Yacht Club sailed in the districts as did John Wascom from White Rock, everyone else was from the Creek.

The Rush Creek boat of Deanna Gronke, Maura Power, and Jenny Eldredge sailed in the Women's Lightning North Americans and placed third. Two boats from the Texas district sailed in the NA's. Steve and Patty Harris with Bruce Bierlink sailed in the blue fleet and did great - also in the blue fleet was Paul Harvener, tactician Chris Shipman, and Jenny Eldredge from Rush Creek.

After the NA's, everyone reconvened at Rush Creek for the Fall Dinghyfest. The Harris team from the Conroe Yacht Club placed third with teammate Bruce Bierlink. It was Bruce's last regatta as a Texan on the Harris boat since he moved to San Francisco. Jim Alman once again dominated the regatta with a first followed by Jenny Eldredge with tactician Stephen Craig and Mark Alholm.

Also in the fall was the Commodore's Cup in Conroe. Kelly Shipman, Chris' wife was named wife of the year by surprising Chris with a boat - this was Chris' first regatta in the boat. Local Steve Harris won the regatta, Scott Anderson from Rush Creek placed second, and Chris Shipman placed third. Two other Rush Creek Boats also participated.

Chris Shipman skippered Paul Harvener's boat with Paul and Melissa Fisher also on the boat for the Bluenose - they finished 13th while the other Texas boat didn't fare as well but did practice a few capsize drills. The Toys for Tots Regatta in Conroe brought light and shifty winds in December and it wasn't as cold as usual - Steve Harris once again won this regatta.

The season will close with the Sugar Bowl Regatta the last week of December. The Harris team and Chris Shipman from the Conroe Yacht Club plan to attend along with a Rush Creek boat or two.