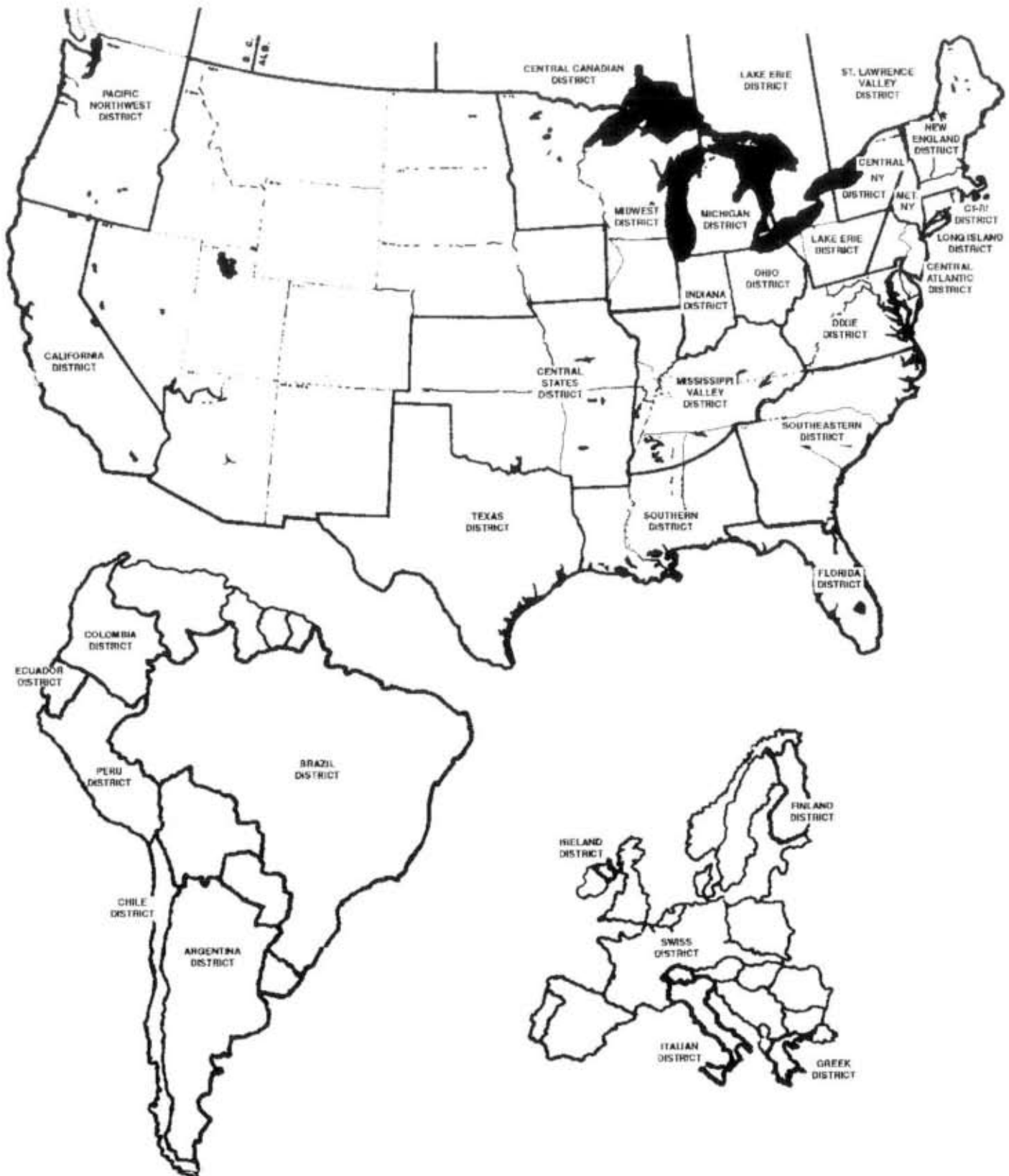


# International Lightning Class Association Districts



# Lightning Districts

## Their officers, fleets, photos and reports.

### ARGENTINA DISTRICT

Contact.....Osvaldo Bordino

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

No report and no new information.

### BRAZIL DISTRICT

District Commodore.....George Rider

District Secretary.....James Sumner

District Measurer.....Claus Bromberg

District Champion.....Claudio Bieckark

District Runner-Up.....George Rider

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

The Districts were held this year in Rio de Janeiro two months before Carnaval in the waters of Fleet 401 at Ilha do Governador. The club provided housing at their newly inaugurated dorms. Some preferred local hotels that overlooked Guanabara Bay and the gorgeous Rio skyline.

This regatta served also as the qualifiers for the PanAmerican Games which were held in Argentina. The expected winds were to be 20 plus, but by regatta time it died down considerably. Claudio Bieckark took top honors and qualified for the Games in Argentina. He sailed with Gunnar Ficker and Marcelo Batista da Silva. Our District Commodore George Rider took second place together with John Jansen and Bernt Bromberg. In third was Star Champion Allan Adler who was in contention for the title but a gybe mark flip over on a gusty day cost him the championship.

Claudio Bieckark took a brilliant third in the PanAmerican Games losing to our World's Champ Tito Gonzales from Chile. - - - Jim Sumner

### CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Elissa Hall McQuillan

District Secretary.....Wendell Harter

District Measurer.....Bruce Arnold

District Champion.....Al Poindexter

District Runner-Up.....Scott Finkboner

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

As usual, the California District started its season with the California Lightning Circuit in San Diego the week before Easter. Hosted by the Mission Bay Fleet, 12 boats participated, with some sailors coming from as far as New Jersey and Calgary, Canada. Overall winners of this series of four regattas were John Lyon, first; Mike Poltorak, second; John Faus, third; Warren Gross, fourth; and Scott Finkboner, fifth.

The District Championships were hosted by the Santa Monica Bay Fleet at King Harbor Yacht Club, Redondo Beach, California, July 8 and 9. Only the Mission Bay and Santa Monica Bay fleets were represented. With eight boats participating, the places were as follows: Al Poindexter, first; Scott Finkboner, second; Carl Eichenlaub, third; Mike Brewer, fourth; and Wendell Harter, fifth.

The next District event was the Lake Cachuma Fall Regatta hosted by the Mission Bay Fleet. Lake Cachuma is located in the

mountains near the city of Santa Barbara. With five boats participating, the final standings were: Mike Poltorak, first; Scott Finkboner, second; Al Poindexter, third; Kirk Johnson, fourth; and Mark Zimmer, fifth. Those attending had a great time sailing, camping out, and telling stories around the campfire in the evening.

The Pacific Coast Lightning Championships were held on September 15 and 16 at the Richmond Yacht Club, located at the north end of the San Francisco Bay. As one might suspect, the San Francisco Fleet hosted the event. Of the nine boats which participated, the five top finishers were: John Lyon, first; Scott Finkboner, second; Al Poindexter, third; John DeBenedetti, fourth; and Mike Brewer, fifth.

Elissa Hall McQuillan will be continuing as District Commodore in the coming year. Consider this an open invitation to participate in the 1996 California Lightning Circuit in San Diego during the week before Easter. For details, contact the Fleet Captain of the Mission Bay Fleet. - - - Wendell Harter



Photos: Audrey Matteson

**The California Lightning Circuit:** Sunday/Monday 3-5 races on South Bay, San Diego -at the Coronado Yacht Club. Sunday after racing a cookout and social evening, figuring out how to get the trailers over to Mission Bay Yacht Club, get back to sail, and then get the cars to Mission Bay. Hmmm.

Tuesday is the "Sail-Around," a 17 mile race starting just north of the "bridge." You usually sail upwind, maybe downwind, plane with or without a spinnaker out the channel to the ocean, avoiding Navy ships and submarines, round the "everybody" mark and go north, by whatever means the wind will let you, outside the kelp beds, for safety and speed, and in the channel to Mission Bay to finish right in front of the yacht club. It can take from three to six hours (more?). It's an experience.

Wednesday is a lay-day. This year two Fleet 194 sailors, also members of San Diego Yacht Club with "big boats," were stake boats for the America's Cup races, and invited those interested aboard for the day's race. Myron Lyon, host to crews from San Francisco and Portland, was the port perimeter stake boat and Carl Eichenlaub was the windward mark stake boat (as he was for every one of the America's Cup race days).



Carl Eichenlaub, boat builder, Lightning NA Champion in 1960 and 1963, Runner-Up in 1962 and who is also indispensable at the PanAmerican Games and Olympics.

Hannah Swett, Lightning Women's NA Champion in 1993 and Dave Dellenbaugh, Lightning World Champion in 1991, were among the Lightning sailors on America's. The American team can be proud of the results of their efforts. We're proud. Weren't they exciting?



John DeBenedetti, right foreground, a Class V.P. from the Pacific Northwest District, enjoying the day aboard Cadenza.



Mighty Mary at the mark.

Thursday there were three races on the ocean. It was a lay-day for Pact 95. They were out practicing and put a mark right by our course. Before the second windward leg of the first race there was a wind shift course change and half the fleet went for the Pact 95 mark before they realized their mistake. So that race was thrown out, which of course was good news/bad news.



Thursday's social evening was highlighted with Scott Finkboner's annual Mahi-Mahi broil. (Unfortunately there were protests to dampen the festivities)



Photos: Audrey Matteson

On Friday 3-5 races are sailed on Mission Bay. Here are windward and jibe mark roundings.



Those who came the farthest earned some recognition. Sue Arnold, who has sailed the Circuit every year, donated, and presents, the Susan B. Arnold Trophy for women who sail the entire circuit and finish highest. This year Audrey Matteson's name (she sailed with John DeBenedetti) will be added to the perpetual trophy and she has a picture to remember it by. John Faus and his trusty crew, Mac DeTuro and Hal Pote, from Barnegat Light Yacht Club in New Jersey, placed third overall. I wonder if those were lucky numbers on his sail, 14139. They have certainly done well all year. Congratulations to John and crew (and to Jack). (Unfortunately, the final presentations were held up hours because of more protests. Be competitive, but protests are avoidable on the race course.) - - - Audrey Matteson



## CENTRAL ATLANTIC DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	John Faus
District Secretary.....	John Williams
District Measurer.....	James Carson
District Champion.....	Keith Taboada
District Runner-Up.....	Jack Elfman

**Fleets:** Bay Head (3); Metedeconk River (34); Lavallette (104); Little Egg Harbor (26); Brant Beach (173); Surf City (196); Riverton (228); Barnegat Light (335); Ocean City (430);

The Central Atlantic District and Fleet #34 proudly lay claim to the 1995 North American Champion. CONGRATULATIONS, BRIAN! Brian also won the Champion of Champions regatta.

Congratulations also to Jack Elfman for winning the President's Cup at the North Americans. Jack was also this year's Mid-Winter Masters Champion.

Our district championship was hosted by the Barnegat Light Yacht Club and was sailed in shifty westerlies with a wide range of velocities over the two days. Keith Taboada beat Elfman by a point and Dave Ruiters was third. Ryan Dunn (Fleet #34) won CAD Junior Championship, sailed at Metedeconk, by beating six other boats with three firsts and two seconds. Allen Terhune was second. Ryan went on to finish tied for second at the Junior NA's.

Ultimate travelers, Paul Gelenitis (the incoming president of ILCA) and Jim Carson went with their crews and families to Finland to participate in the Worlds!

This was a busy year in our district as we joined the Metropolitan district in conducting a series of regattas (The CAD/MET Series) designed to encourage travel to our local events. These regattas subjected our sailors to a wide variety of sailing conditions, and, without a doubt, increased everyone's awareness for the need of speed, boat handling skills and tactics to compete against some of the worlds fastest Lightning sailors. Jack Elfman won the series and Dick Hallagan traveled to enough events and finished second. Look for the 1996 schedule of these regattas in the Flashes. This series is open to all Lightning sailors from any district. To qualify, a yacht must compete in a total of five events with a minimum of two from each district

A number of our fleets' home clubs offer youth sailing programs teaching the kids to compete in Bluejays, Optimists, Sunfish and Lasers. These kids love to sail and are probably dying to try out the Lightning's spinnaker. Let's all make an effort next season to take a kid along as crew to a regatta, or to skipper in a fleet race. Rumor has it that Brian got his start in Lightnings this way. - - - John Williams



Congratulations to Jack, Brian and Gary from the District!



Central Atlantic District sailors at the NA's.



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

## CENTRAL CANADIAN DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	Ross Bailey
District Secretary.....	Malcolm Crooks
District Treasurer.....	Kurt Broll
District Measurer.....	Innes Martin
District Champion.....	Jim Cameron
District Runner-Up.....	Ross Bailey

**Fleets:** Temple Reef Sailing Club (279)

To say that the Districts, hosted by the Dryden Yacht Club, were the high point of the season, would be an understatement. If it wasn't raining, most of the weekend was at least drizzling, so it definitely wasn't the weather that made it so great. No, it was the Dryden Yacht Club, led by Carl and Patty Eisner that made this the best regatta that most of us had ever been to. Dryden, a community of 3500 is 200 miles west of Thunder Bay, and the yacht club is on Lake Wabigoon which nestles right up to the streets of Dryden. The lake itself meanders some 40 miles through beautiful rolling, forested country, with a variety of large open areas connected by narrows. The water is warm; the wind seems to always blow; this is a very pleasant place to sail.

We arrived Friday night in the middle of a torrential down-pour, trying to mentally prepare for the ordeal of pitching our tent, which was to be our home for the Weekend. Instead, members of the club met us in the parking lot and immediately put our crew up in various keelboats. This made the weekend for our two kids (3 and 5) before it even started. After settling our gear we were escorted to the bar for refreshments and a bite to eat. Still raining? No problem.

Saturday morning dawned with only occasional showers but a great pancake breakfast put on by the club drove away any chills and with proper ballast taken aboard, we rigged the boat and got ready to race. Our crew of Robin James, who sails with me on a regular basis, and Bob Maki, another Thunder Bay skipper, were the proper weight for the breezy conditions and we felt we could figure the puffy winds, too, if we kept our heads screwed on properly. Right from the start though, Jim Cameron put his boat into gear and dominated the regatta. In the first race while the rest of us fought for position on the line, Jim dipped the windward end with a few seconds to go, caught the first shift and opened up a nice lead immediately. None of us could reel him in during this race or any of the rest all weekend, despite our best efforts. No matter how well we felt we had played the puffs up the windward legs or down the runs, Jim and his crew seemed to peg them just that little bit better and was always able to stay out ahead.

The sun by no means pushed through the clouds for the sail in. But conditions did brighten Saturday evening and we

enjoyed a great steak dinner, complete with wine made specially for the regatta and boasting hand-printed Central Canadian Districts labels. During the evening we were treated to a sampling of the upcoming prize giving with all sorts of great awards given out for every conceivable reason. Malcolm Crooks, a new Lightning owner from Winnipeg, Manitoba raked off the best, and a heartfelt thank you was given to Tim Maenpaa of Dryden for instigating the idea of the Districts in Dryden.

Well fortified by Saturday night's revelries, including a pontoon boat trip right to the hot spots downtown for the true partiers, we headed back out to the race course and tried to catch Jim once more. The winds blew, and the waves rolled, and the shifts shifted, but we couldn't catch him. So Jim Cameron once more is the champ of the Central Canadian District. Congratulations, Jim, on some fine sailing and thank you Dryden Yacht Club. We really had a wonderful time.

In 1996 the Central Canadian District will host the Canadian Open on Amethyst Harbour at Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, June 29, 30, July 1. The Districts will be held there also, the weekend before. Come to the Canadians for some fine sailing and come to the Districts, too, if you are able.



(s) Blair Sandberg, (m) Mitchel Sandberg, and Andrew Nelson



(s) Mark Sandberg, (m) Robin James and Kurt Broll



(s) Mark Sandberg, (m) Robin James and Kurt Broll  
Photos taken Oct. 1, 1995 at Surprise Lake, near Thunder Bay,  
courtesy of Ross Bailey

## CENTRAL NEW YORK DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	Jean Palm
District Secretary.....	Daniel Koretz
District Measurer.....	Clay Murphy
District Champion.....	Dick Hallagan
Runner-Up.....	JoAnn Jones

**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).

The Central New York Lightning District started out the 1995 schedule with the Newport Invitational Regatta held early in June. This was well attended, with twenty-eight boats registering. The regatta was won by Ched Proctor, who won four of the five races, and thereby demonstrated the skill with which he won the 1993 and 1994 North American Championships.

The District Championship was held at Willow Bank Yacht Club the following week and the club again had great meals and race committee. Dave Bull held a well attended pool tournament at his home after dinner Saturday night. Dick Hallagan won the regatta, followed by JoAnn Jones and Chad Atkins. At the District meeting after the regatta, Jean Palm was elected the commodore, Clay Murphy as the treasurer, and Ed Seyerlein as the assistant measurer.

Keuka Yacht Club held its annual Champagne Regatta on July 8-9. Sailors in nineteen boats enjoyed the sailing, the champagne cocktail party and the dinner. Chad Atkins won the regatta, Bob Cole was second and Landy Atkinson was third. Tom Buechner, who owns a glass studio in Corning, NY, and made the beautiful trophies for the regatta, was fourth.

The Central New York Yacht Racing Association Regatta was held at the Sodas Bay Yacht Club on July 15-16. Seven boats attended and the winner was Bram Palm, followed by Dick Hallagan and Al McReynolds.

The Chaumont Regatta was held next at the Crescent Yacht Club on July 22-23. This regatta was started up again after a six-year hiatus, by the efforts of Jean and Bram Palm who recently moved to the Chaumont area. They, and the other members of the club, did a first-rate job planning and running the regatta. Bram Palm won, followed by Dick Hallagan and Dan Pope.

The Skaneateles WOOD Regatta was held at the Skaneateles Country Club on August 12-13, 1995. The regatta was organized by Mike Yates who owns Lightnings # 2 and # 378. Mike with Dave Penfield and Chris Kelwara from Skaneateles as crew finished second out of four boats. Mike has been working hard to generate interest in wood boats and hopes to have another regatta in 1996.

The last event of the year was the CAZ One-Day held at the Willow Bank Yacht Club on September 23. This regatta had twenty boats on the starting line for the seven short one-lap races. We all enjoyed the beef or venison chili for lunch and had a great time sailing. Dick Hallagan was first, Chad Atkins second and Bill Fastiggi was third.

The final standings for the Blue Jacket Trophy were: Chad Atkins, Dick Hallagan, and Landy Atkinson. This trophy is awarded based on the standings for all of the regattas in the District and was donated by Dr. John McIntosh many years ago.

Sailors from the Central New York Lightning District have done well at regattas outside our district. Dick Hallagan placed second in the 1995 CAD/Met Lightning Circuit. Hallagan, along with his crew, Lori Foster and Peg Strahmann, was second at the Pennsylvania Governors Cup Regatta, and Jack Jones, along with Barb Richmond and Rus Mason, was fifth. Dick Hallagan was third at the Borderline Regatta, won the Fall Wind Up Regatta and the Last Blast Regatta. Jack Jones and Barb Richmond were fourteenth at the Fall Wind Up Regatta. Chad Atkins, from the Newport Yacht Club, qualified for the 1995 US Sailing/Rolux Junior Championships, otherwise known as the Sears Cup, which was held at the Chicago Yacht Club in August 1995. Chad with crew Matthew Fleckenstein and Margery Richardson, placed fifth overall, and won the F. Gardner Cox Sportsmanship Award for exhibiting the highest standards of sportsmanship during the championships and, along with the six gold medalists from the regatta, was named to the 1995 US Sailing/Rolux Junior Team. Chad also sailed in the North American Junior Championship and along with Jim Barnash, and Sarah Giambra, placed sixth.

Dick Hallagan, Nancy Bargar and Len Tiedemann won the Master's North American Championship which was held at Malletts Bay Boat Club, Colchester, VT on August 8-11, 1995. Dick and crew were part of a fleet of 27 boats, the most that ever sailed in a Masters Championship. Dave Bull, Dave Bull, Jr., and John Atkins were twenty-third and Neal, Eva, and Andy Smith were twenty-fifth. JoAnne Jones, Kim Browne, and Anne Sterling Bush were third in the North American Women's Championship.

Bram Palm along with Kristen and Peter Hallagan won the 1995 European Open Championship which was held at the Helsinki Yacht Club, Helsinki, Finland on June 26 - July 1, 1995. Bram's father-in-law and Peter's dad, Dick Hallagan, and his crew of Lori Foster and Brian Hughes placed fifth. There were 23 boats in the regatta, of which five were from the USA. Bram, Kristen and Peter placed fifth at the World Championship held at Kuopio, Finland on July 2 - 8, 1995 and Dick, Lori and Brian placed seventh.

Dick Hallagan participated in the Southern Circuit and was ninth overall. Along with his crew of Craig Thayer and Tom Schroder, he was fifth at the Deep South Regatta. With Bob Cole and Tammi Jamison, he was sixteenth at the Winter

Championship at in St. Petersburg. Also at the regatta were Dave Bull, Audrey Matteson and Erkki Lempiäinen who were fiftieth; Allan Crew, John Haiges and Henry Weinfeld who were fifty-second; and Mike Yates, Schyler Barnes and Dave Penfield who were fifty-seventh sailing #378, a "woody." Dick Hallagan was fourth at the Mid-Winter Master's Championship. Dave Bull was tenth, Allan Crew was thirteenth and Mike Yates was fifteenth. Finally, Dick Hallagan was tenth at the Miami Midwinter Regatta.

Our District held a Women's, Junior's and Master's Championship at Henderson Harbor as a warm-up for the North American Championship which would be held a few weeks later. All three fleets sailed together and the sailors in the twelve boats had a good time. Dick Tuttle won the overall title and the Master's. Chad Atkins won the Junior Championship and Jean Palm won the Women's Championship.

The 1995 North American Championships were held at Henderson Harbor Yacht Club August 14-17, 1995. It is not easy organizing a regatta for 100 boats, but the sailors at Henderson Harbor pulled it off with rave reviews. Despite the lack of wind, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Several boats from our district participated in the NA's. Dick Hallagan along with Lori Foster and Alister Thomson were nineteenth in the Championship fleet. Bram Palm, Jean Palm and Dave Baum finished twenty-eighth and Tom Buechner, Barbara Landon and Brent Gillette finished thirty-seventh. In the President's Cup fleet, Clay Murphy, Pam Murphy and Allison Oliveira were nineteenth; Federico Meira, Katherine Meira and Mark Lesinski were twenty-second; Ray Cudney, Joe Homola and Tom Gahagan were thirty-first; and David Raham, Nicole Tanner, and Anne Lockley-Goodsell were thirty-second. In the Governor's Cup fleet, Jesse Miller, Tom Miller and Tom Carson were fourteenth; Dick Tuttle, Sharye Skinner, Geoff Roth/Andy Misco were seventeenth; Ed Seyerlein, Steve Little and Jeannette Little were twenty-six; Paul Jueschke, Kathy Chapman, and Frank Poole were twenty-seventh; Brad Poulos, Todd Schumacher and Dick Leonardo were twenty-eighth; and Craig Thayer, John Boxberger and Dave Poorman were twenty-ninth. - - - Daniel Koretz

Central New York District sailors at the NA's.











Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

## CHILE DISTRICT

Contact.....Alberto Gonzalez Mas

**Fleets:** Aculeo Lake (490).

No report and no new information.

## COLOMBIA DISTRICT

Contact.....Rudi Salmang

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

No report and no new information.

## CONNECTICUT-RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT

Contact.....Don Barrett

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

No report and no new information.

*Connecticut-Rhode Island District sailors at the NA's.*



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

## DIXIE DISTRICT

District Commodore..... Phil Grotheer  
 District Secretary..... Jonathan Lange  
 District Treasurer..... Harry Keith  
 District Measurer..... Ron Buchanan  
 District Champion..... Rob Wardwell

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

I usually try to write about regattas and sailing events in a systematic manner, relying mostly on dates and results but this time I want to concentrate on the most important aspect of sailing... The sailors themselves. I started sailing as a young boy in the Dixie District and most of my best friends are people I not only knew as a boy; but also people I meet every sailing season. If it were not for these friendships we create, I wouldn't pack my boat up every other weekend to go sailing. Now that sounds scary, doesn't it?

**FOR A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF EVENTS THIS YEAR:**

The Dixie District consists of a very diverse group of individuals over five states and the District of Columbia. For some reason that D.C. gang always seems to stand out. And that they

did this year with good turnouts across the board. They ran two great invitationals, the Potomac Cup in May and the Leukemia Cup in September. Not to mention solid turnouts at most of their fleet racing series which tend to last a good portion of the season. The Annapolis Fleet had a decent schedule of events with our typical Spring and Summer invitationals and the Frigid Digit for the finale. The summer heat wave slowed down some of the mid summer fleet races due to extreme heat. The Frigid Digit continues to be our strong point and we use that to inspire new sailors to come and see what we're about. Fishing Bay is trying to start an official Lightning Fleet while usually having one big invitational each year. This year's was a great light air regatta. Give them another few years, and they'll have an actual fleet. The Districts were a success at Rehoboth, being a combined Invitational (Districts & Del. Gov. Cup). About 20 boats showed up with Rob Wardwell taking the District and Jon Schwartz from N.J. taking the overall. Hats off to you all....

#### \*\*\*AND NOW A ROAST FOR THE DIXIE DISTRICT SAILORS\*\*\*

I just wanted to mention some of the crazy and colorful people that stood out this year in the way I remember them. (If I leave you out, don't be offended, you got off easy! !!). I'll start with Red Fehrle from Fleet 50 who will always greet you with a smile and refill your beer, but only if you can't play Hacky-Sack. Rick Pelasara is always there to "MacGyverize" your boat when you look the other way. Eric Olsen will travel a million miles to try a new regatta, but only if he remembers to bring his rudder. Amy Deeeeee-Vine is always there to babysit your dog, unless it's during a regatta or party, which seems to be always. There's Mike "Fahngengruven" Beaver who always shows up with "the other" water-mode-of-transportation. At least he always tanks up my motor boat before the weekend. Joe Anderson is a brave soul, always attempting new things to keep his life exciting. Frank Gallagher (I could write a book about this guy) will fly a spinnaker in any, I said any, wind velocity you can come up with. Stuart White will get killed if he keeps hanging out with him. The legendary Buchanan Bro's, Ron and Bucky, are two of my oldest and wackiest friends of all time. Whenever they show up at a regatta, you know the town isn't safe anymore, or boats are going to end up in a swimming pool the next morning, or a bunch of people are going to end up naked in the Atlantic Ocean at 2:00 in the morning. Then there's the Wardwells. Just when you think you know them well as "fast sailing" Bob and "college sailing stud" Rob, along comes little brother Charlie to take over the whole family along with the whole dang Lightning Class. You should see this family working the crowd at a North Americans.

Finally, there's the rest of the beer-drinking, family making, give-you-the-shirt-off-their-back type sailors that make up the rest of our District. I can't wait to be with you all again next season. - - - Phil Grotheer

Dixie District sailors at the NA's.



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

## ECUADOR DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Carlos Lecaro

District Champion.....Juan Santos

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

We began our activities in early January with a schedule for the winter season. We had the sponsorship of VISA-FILANBANCO and the program was to compete in six championships from January to April, and to have an overall winner for the season. Our winter in Salinas is very warm, so it is the best time for sailing and this year was no exception. We had great competition, friendship and parties, all the ingredients that make this class great. At the end of the season the winner was Juan Carlos Plaza, runner-up was Carlos Luis Lecaro, third was Justus Klemperer.

In March, Juan Santos, Oscar Viteri and Werner Moeller went to the Pan American Games representing Ecuador.

In May we were the host of the District Championship, with participation of our friends of the San Pablo Fleet 447. Here are the results: winner, Juan Santos; runner-up, Juan Carlos Plaza; third, Miguel Plaza, Jr.

During the summer we went to Chongon Dam and had a few more regattas.

At the beginning of August three of our youth went to the United States to experience competing against a 16 boat fleet of Juniors from the U.S. and Canada. The Junior North American Championship was held with the Women's and Masters' Championships on Lake Champlain at Colchester, Vermont. Gaston Vedani, Mauricio Burbano, and Justus Klemperer finished fifth overall with race finishes of 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 with a 10 throw-out. Gaston then decided to sail in the North American Championship on Lake Ontario at Henderson Harbor, New York. With his pick-up crew, he did a great job,

placing 19th in the President's Cup. Next year the NA regattas will be in New Orleans in August before the World Youth Championship in New Jersey in September. Perhaps...?

In August we went to Colombia for the annual Salinas-Tominé Cup. It was as always a great party, crazy winds, and good competition. The best finishes from our fleet were Carlos Luis Lecaro in fourth and Juan Santos in fifth.

In November the San Pablo fleet was the host of the Federacion Ecuatoriana de Yachting National Championship so we traveled 700 kilometers up to the mountains for this important competition. At the end of this regatta the winner was Juan Santos, runner-up Carlos Luis Lecaro, and third Lars Dick.

In 1996 we will have again the American Airlines Cup of Champions and we expect that some Fleet 405 members will go to the South American Championship in Cartagena, and the Junior Worlds. - - Carlos Lecaro

An Ecuador District sailor, Gaston Vedani, at the NA's.



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

## 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).

The 1995 Finnish Lightning season was a busy one. It was also one that we will not forget in a moment. The Europeans and the Worlds brought all the best Lightning sailors of the world to Finland. These were both memorable events that showed us where the top is. Unfortunately, it is still quite far away from us.

The season 1995 started with with the District Championships, sailed outside Helsinki. The regatta, named after Terho Aromaa to honour his long and still continuing work for the Lightning, was a success apart from the weather. The sea outside Helsinki can be cold in May, that is all well and understood. However, with a warm wind from the south, the crystal-clear skies of May turn into an unpenetrable pea-soup fog. In a visibility of a few hundred feet, the 17 strong fleet was putting their dead-reckoning skills to use to spot the marks. After three days, a couple of boats getting lost in the fog, one near miss with a car ferry and an Estonian hydroplane running aground just outside the yacht club, Leo Korhonen turned out in the top of the results sheet. Another not-so-surprising championship for Leo and his crew of Hartti Nisonen and Antti Varheenmaa. A pleasant surprise in the runner-up position was Olli Muroke. This former offshore skipper is sailing only his second season in Lightnings, and the second place in the Districts qualified him for the Worlds, where he went on to parallel the best ever Finnish performance with his 15th position.

The 1995 European Championships were also sailed in Helsinki in late June, under the perfect execution of HSK's racing secretary Eva Lindgren. By this time, the Finnish team had also had their share of practise, and the 6th position of Leo Korhonen looked good. The other Finns in the top 10 were Samppa Salminen and Olli Muroke. Not visible in the results was the convincing performance of Tito Gonzales. Tito finished first in four of the six starts, but two of these being PMS's, "only" finished 7th overall.

The week after the Europeans the fleet travelled 500 kilometers north-east for the World Championships in Kuopio. The folks at Kuopio YC had put up a marvellous organization with good racing, a lot of entertainment for those ashore. The weather was typically variable. The only thing that was not so typical was the storm on day 2, said to be the worst summer storm in a decade. The tired sailors in the sauna in the evening reported boats broaching with all sheets slack.

Even in these conditions, Tito Gonzales managed to show who was the boss. I watched him capsize at the jibe mark of start 2. While I was busy maneuvering our motor boat out of the way of the Lightnings performing jibes, tacks, survival maneuvers and capsizes, Tito righted his Lightning and went on to finish 4th. Not bad.

For the Finns, the Worlds were a slight disappointment. The 15th position of Olli Muroke was good enough, but a lot of us had hoped to do better. It looks like we can just about manage in boatspeed, but are hopelessly behind in sailing the tricky lake winds like those in Kuopio. Well, at least we know where we stand now.

Apart from these big events, the Finnish circuit was as usual. In the five-regatta ranking series Leo Korhonen took home the grand prize, followed by Kimmo Aromaa and Olli Lähteinen. Totally, 23 skippers participated the Ranking Series.

In the Match Race, sailed at HSK in August, the visiting rock star John Winqvist took the first place, closely followed by Peter Graf of Switzerland. John first sailed a Lightning the Tuesday before the races while Peter and his wife Margrit travelled all the way to Finland just to race. The way to go!

With the heavy emphasis on the big events of 1995, we have seen a slight decline in the activity of the "ordinary" Lightning sailor in Finland. Therefore, the Finland District has declared



1996 to be the "year of the ordinary sailor". We will now try to promote the Lightning to those new to sailing and to those "cooling down" after an active racing career. Let's hope we manage to revive the interest in Lightnings in Finland and continue to be the friendliest one-design class around.

For up-to-date information about Lightnings in Finland, check out our Internet page: <http://www.ncscst.fit-tma/lightning.html>, - - - Timo Ahomäki

*Finnish District sailors at the Worlds.*



*Photos courtesy of Juha Hämäläinen*

## 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).

Our BIG news in '95 was earning the Steketee Trophy! This is a "first ever" for the Florida District and we're very proud of all our members' dedication to the Class in attaining this goal.

New boats arriving in Florida this year belong to the Culbertson/Quigley team in Miami and the Haydens in Orlando. Many other owners have upgraded and Lightning interest is excitingly high.

Frank Atkinson, Steve Hayden and Bill Mauk were able to race the entire 1995 Southern Circuit, while others of us participated in parts of the Circuit as well. The "All-Florida-Circuit" was won by Ched Proctor, with Frank Atkinson the highest Florida finisher. Frank is undoubtedly our "road warrior" for '95, driving to regattas in New England, New York, South Carolina, and Georgia, as well as Florida events.

In the "Silver Bird" department, Fleet 461's Hayden family (with "adopted" Barr Batzer), along with Miami's Bill Mauk and Kevin Burnham, represented us at the Worlds in Finland. Steve, Barr and Angie posted a terrific 4th place overall!

Kip Hamblet came out of hiding for the North Americans, and the Hayden team is always a "for sure" NA's attendee. With the '96 venue just a day's drive away, we're already practicing for the coveted spots and are sure to fill our district quota!

We hope to step up the action in the North Florida fleet this year. We've lost our site at Lake Eustis and are looking for another place to sail in the Orlando area. The regattas hosted by Fleet 461 are legend, and we're not prepared to give them up!! Fresh water sailing is an all too rare treat for us!

Though we had hoped for thirty boats at the Districts hosted by Coconut Grove SC, the blustery weather took its toll, and our entries dropped to 23. Still, it was an exciting regatta with excellent boat handling by all the crews. Jeff Linton, Mark Taylor and Allen Capelin of Tampa were repeat champions, with Miami's Eamonn and Heidi deLisser and Cathy Young earning Runner-up honors. "Rookie" Bud Culbertson captured the Masters title, followed closely by Fisk Hayden and Jon Ewing.

We tried a new formula for our Florida District Triple Crown series this year, with a complicated scoring system and an optional fourth regatta tossed in. A dozen boats competed, and the general consensus was that we'll opt for something different in 1996. This is not to say that Jeff Linton was anything but superb, and sailing borrowed boats at that! Going into the last series it was Frank Atkinson by two boats, but he let Jeff slip by at the Florida Sailfest. Other trophies went to John Rouse, Bill Meyer and Reid Hutchinson. Also awarded during the Triple Crown were single event trophies. Jeff won the Chris Young Memorial trophy at Coconut Grove in October, and Reid Hutchinson won the Florida District Commodore's Cup at Ft. Myers in November. Tampa's Thanksgiving Regatta and the December Sailfest at Sanford comprised the rest of the series. Where were you sailing at that time?? Or were you shoveling snow??

At this writing, everyone is buzzing with anticipation about the new Southern Circuit formula, and we are no exception. As our district is host to two-thirds of the Southern Circuit as well as the emerging All Florida Circuit, we are anxious to make March a highlight of your sailing season, and we hope to see many new faces this year. - - - Fay Regan

Florida District sailors at the NA's.



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

## GREECE DISTRICT

Contact.....George Andreadis

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

No Report and no new information.

## INDIANA DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Bill Allen  
317-642-5502

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

The 1995 Indiana District Lightning Regatta was hosted by the Wawasee Yacht Club on June 24 and 25. The Saturday races were finally canceled after several postponements due to a lack of wind or storms. Sunday brought clear and sunny weather, but the light wind conditions were still prevalent. Two races were held with both being the standard drifter with the second being the faster drifter of the two. Exciting! Alan Fox with crew Ned Merrick and Dale Fulkerson drifted to a first. Brad Wagnon and John Nixon followed in Alan's wake for second and third place.

Bill Allen represented the District at the North Americans this year. After crewing for several years for Brad Wagnon at the NA's, Bill decided it was his turn to drive. Brad returned the favor by crewing for Bill. They finished twelfth in the President's Fleet.

The two major district regattas were both well attended. The Indiana Open at the Indianapolis Sailing Club had 23 participating boats and 27 boats participated at the Hoosier Open at the Wawasee Yacht Club. It was a clean sweep by the Park kid. Colin ran away from Bruce Goldsmith, Jim Davis, John McCree and George Sipel in that order at the Indy. He squeaked by Craig Gabel at the Hoosier with George Nickels (the other brother), Bill Faude and Hank Hodgson at a distant third through fifth. --- Bill Allen

Indiana District sailors at the NA's.



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

## IRELAND DISTRICT

Contact.....Raymond Killops

**Fleets:** Killyleagh (427).

No Report and no new information.

## ITALIAN DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Giuseppe Valenti  
District Secretary.....Sergio Rustichelli  
District Measurer.....Gianni Battisti  
District Champion.....Mario Noto

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

Si è disputato sulle acque del Trasimeno, presso il Club Velico "Castiglione" la Quarantaseiesima del Campionato Italiano di Classe, sicuramente un evento storico che merita la attenzione di tutti gli amanti di questo sport, le targhette affisse nel prestigioso trofeo Challenger testimoniano come nella storia del Lightning "Italia" si siano avvicinati nomi celebri della Vela Italiana. La edizione 95' merita sicuramente di essere ricordata tra i migliori Campionati vissuti dalla classe, ha infatti confermato l'andamento tendenzialmente positivo dei partecipanti manifestato in questi ultimi anni, ha confermato la falsa promessa mai divenuta realtà di alcuni equipaggi delle flotte Romane ed in particolare la flotta di Anzio, ha manifestato il graditissimo ritorno degli amici Gardesiani Tremante e Tezza, ha confermato l'assiduità e l'amore per la Classe degli amici Siciliani, ma in particolar modo ha evidenziato la perfetta organizzazione la squisita ospitalità del Club Velico Castiglione nella persona del suo Presidente Franco De Regis, e dei suoi collaboratori. Encomiabile la organizzazione logistica, lodevole la ospitalità. Questo Campionato e da ricordarsi anche come il primo senza NANDO DE AMICIS, l'uomo che ha fatto grande la Classe e che è stato ricordato con grande commozione dall'amico Tezza che gli è stato vicino negli ultimi giorni della sua vita, in suo ricordo è stato istituito un trofeo Challenger assegnato al secondo classificato.

Agonisticamente è stato un campionato disputato su uno scacchiere indecifrabile ed estroverso che ha permesso con buone condizioni meteorologiche la disputa di tutte le sei prove in programma, delle 17 imbarcazioni partecipanti, ha vinto l'equipaggio polizone formato, si può dire sul posto, e diretto dal Campione uscente Mario Noto appartenente alla Società Canottieri Marsala VII zona, con equipaggio Manzo Giuseppe e Rossi Francesco della II zona appartenenti al Club Castiglione, un successo meritato il loro, considerato che il secondo classificato, l'equipaggio Marino, Marino, Linares, appartenente al Circolo Velico Marsala ha totalizzato solamente 11.7 punti statisticamente una media da primato. Eccellente la direzione del comitato di Regata diretto dal Sig. Giulio Cantoro e dai suoi collaboratori tra i quali annoveriamo in Nostro Vice presidente Paolo Rosi. Hanno partecipato tre equipaggi Svizzeri che sono degli abituali del nostro campionato, ancora una volta la flotta di Marsala su barche in legno del prestigioso cantiere De Vita & Pellegrino, ha confermato il ruolo di Leader della Classe, frutto di un sapiente lavoro finalizzato all'ottimizzazione delle prestazioni di questa fantastica Deriva.

The fortieth edition of the Italian Championship, 1995, took place at Castiglione del Lago near Perugia, organized by "Club Velico Castiglione" to which belongs as President our Vice

President Franco de Regis. This edition of the Championship will be remembered as one of the best in the life of Lightning "ITALIA". It confirmed the tendency to increase the competitors, it has signaled the return to regattas of Tremante e Tezza, it confirmed the regular attendance and love for the Class by our Sicilian friends, it has confirmed the false hope of friends of Rome (ANZIO), but particularly it showed the excellent organization and hospitality of the Club of Franco De Regis, and the members of his team. This Championship will be remembered as the first without NANDO DE AMICIS, the man that made our Class great. He was remembered by Tezza during the prize giving. In his memory, as his last will, has been made a Challenger Trophy, assigned to the Runner-Up of the Championship.

The Championship was won by the crew Mario Noto, Giuseppe Manzo, and Francesco Rossi, on ITA 14361, runner-up was Antonio Marino, Alessandro Marino, and Francesco Linares, on ITA 13402, and third has been Giuseppe Alagna, Mario Alagna, and Francesco Parrinello on ITA 13481. All on De Vita & Pellegrino boats, who are the leading builders in our District.

At the end of December the annual Winter Criterium was held in Marsala where, in addition to the Sicilians, four Swiss crews participated which included a sailor from the USA, Audrey Matteson, and one from Finland, Erkki Lempiäinen. Also Sergio Masserotti, from the fleet of Rome, and his family came to race and celebrate the New Year. - - - Giuseppe Valenti



*Sail measurement*



*ILCA Vice President Franco DeRegis*



*Circolo Velico Castiglione*



*Runner-Up - Nando DeAmicis Challenger Trophy  
Antonio Marino (c), Alessandro Marino (l) and Francesco Linares*



*Setting up during measurement.*



*The 1995 Italian District Champions  
Mario Noto (c), Giuseppe Manzo, and Francesco Rossi  
Photos: Giuseppe Valenti*



## 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..... Allan Leibel  
 District Runner-Up..... Skip Wilday

**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).

Lake Erie District experienced success early this year. Larry MacDonald, sailing with Jody Swanson and Rick Hayden, won the first leg of the Southern Circuit at Savannah. Dave Starck, with crew Kevin Robinson and Maria White, then captured the Winter Championship at St. Pete's. The final leg at Miami was won by Larry's partner in the Circuit, Ched Proctor, with whom our district's Ned Roseberry sailed. Tom Allen Jr. finished third for that series. MacDonald and Proctor shared the overall Circuit Championship, while Allen placed fourth.

Allen's greatest accomplishment of '95 came a few months later at the World Championship in Finland. Sailing with siblings Jane and Jim Allen, Tom placed second to Chile's Tito Gonzalez. The Allens thus claimed the best finish by a North American boat and another part of Lightning Class history. Our district takes great pride in their achievement.

Our own season begins each year in mid-May at the Buffalo Canoe Club's Eby series. John Swanson took that one, followed by Dave Starck. Then Chautauqua hosts its Cornball Regatta the first weekend in June. Seventeen boats competed for top honors in two light-air races on Saturday and two medium-air races on Sunday. On Saturday night the club held its annual Monte Carlo and Auction Party. Everyone had a great time. Our district then travels to Newport YC's Reunion Regatta. Ched Proctor, with Kathryn Josenhans and Ned Roseberry, walked away with that one. The BCC holds its annual Niagara Frontier Invitational the following week. Festivities began Friday night with live music and beer out in the boathouse. In a repeat of Chautauqua's conditions, we had light winds Saturday, partied vigorously Saturday night, and woke to fresher breezes Sunday morning. The last regatta of June is Cuba Lake's Bolde Mothers' Intergalactic Championship. Both days were light there, but consistent enough for two exciting races each day. The results looked like this:

Chautauqua's Cornball: 1. Dick Hallagan 2. Skip Wilday  
 BCC's NFIR: 1. John Swanson 2. Tom Allen, Jr.  
 Cuba Lake: 1. David Sprague 2. John Swanson

The District Championship was held at Silver Lake this year. Several new boats and some new skippers showed up for a great regatta. Toronto's Allan Leibel and his crew of Jenn Graham and Paul Olivier won the Championship for the second time in three years. Skip Wilday was runner-up, Dave Sprague placed third, John Swanson, fourth, and Dick Aubrecht, fifth. The Jerry Blake Awards for outstanding crew went to Mike Hendrix, who sailed with Wilday, and Paul Olivier.

Leibel's crew continued to dominate our district on the national level. They placed fourth in the Canadian Open, secur-

ing a birth for the '97 Worlds in Montreal. Dave Sprague, David Wood, John Gorrie, and newcomer Scott Warrener also represented our district well at the Open.

Leibel led the way at Henderson Harbor, too, finishing seventh overall. Tom Starck won the Thermis trophy, annually awarded to the highest placing first-time skipper, who does not otherwise win a trophy. He and his crew, Jim Starck and Garrett Mayer, finished eleventh. Tom Allen, Jr., Tom Allen, Sr., Jim Allen, newcomer John Schimert, and Brian Starck also qualified for the top flight. Dave Sprague and Skip Wilday both sailed well in the President's Cup, while Cal Schmiede and Scott Warrener raced in the Governor's Cup. Sue Rogers, sailing with Anne Marie Shewfelt and Helene Michaud, won the Women's Championship for the second consecutive year, while Cal Schmiede, Larry MacDonald, Sr. and Larissa Higgins finished second in the largest Masters' Championship to date.

After the North Americans, we naturally emphasize sailing's social side over its competitive side. The Old Salt's Regatta, for which every crew member must be over fifty, is held the last Sunday of August at the BCC. This year's rookie, Ed Roseberry, was awarded top honors -- after he showed us his driver's license. Our Fall Circuit is made up of three regattas: Silver Lake's Harvest Regatta, Toronto's Hurrell Shaker, and the BCC's Fall Regatta. We were blessed with fresh breezes for all three, although the temperature was a bit cooler than we might have expected this year. Hamilton's Turkey Regatta ended the season for us with a one-day, ten-race series. --- David Starck

The Fall results follow:  
 Silver Lake's Harvest: 1. Dick Hallagan 2. Skip Wilday  
 Toronto's Hurrell Shaker: 1. Allan Leibel 2. Cal Schmiede  
 BCC's Fall: 1. Dick Aubrecht 2. John Swanson  
 Hamilton's Turkey: 1. Larry MacDonald 2. David Starck

Lake Erie District sailors at the NA's.

