

Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

1994

District Commodore..... Jon Schwartz
District Secretary..... Gary Hurban
District Measurer..... Franz Schneider
District Champion..... Jack Huntsman
District Runner-Up..... Frank Mergenthaler

1995

District Commodore..... Gary Hurban
District Secretary..... Jon Schwartz
District Measurer..... Mary Huntsman
District Champion..... Jon Schwartz
District Runner-Up..... Sandy Huntsman

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

Editor's note: Last year, in spite of conscientious organizational efforts, three reports were mislaid. I apologize to the districts and fleet. I am including those reports this year because I feel recognition for efforts and achievements are valid any time.

The Met District kicked off the 94 season in February by helping Sandy and Mary Huntsman run the Lightning exhibit at the Atlantic City Sail Expo. Those of us who took turns at the booth found it to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience as we discussed Lightning sailing with past, present, and prospective Lightning owners. It was great to see the enthusiasm which so many people had for the class.

We held our mid-winter meeting at Nyack Boat Club in March which was followed by a four hour talk by Dave Perry on the tactical application of the rules.

Our first regatta was the Long John in Red Bank in April. Dick Hallagan outsailed 27 other skippers in 15 to 25 knot winds to take a first in some very keen competition. Brian Taboada took a 2nd and Geoff Moore took 3rd.

The Magnus Pederson Regatta was held at Nyack in June. Gary Hurban took a 1st, followed by Bill Cook, then Joan Hurban. Jack Huntsman retained his title as District Champion in a one-day five-race regatta at Red Bank. Frank Mergenthaler was runner-up and Sandy Huntsman was 3rd.

We were represented by five boats at the Atlantic Coast Championships - in Mallets Bay, where Jack Huntsman was 3rd and Larry Colantuano was 5th.

The NA Masters, Women's, and Juniors were held on Lake Ontario in Hamilton. These races were sailed in all conditions, including storms with winds over 30 knots. Sandy Huntsman lost a tie-breaker to settle for a second in the Masters, while Joan Hurban took a 4th in the Women's, and David Clauson took a 7th in the Juniors. Jon Schwartz, Jack Huntsman, Gary Hurban, and Joan Hurban trailed the yachts to Toronto the following week to represent us at the NA Championships.

The Whiskerpole Regatta was sailed in the deep water at the north end of Greenwood Lake this year. The top three finishers were Gary Hurban followed by Bob Sengstacken, then Jim Morris.

In September, the action shifted to Lake Wallenpaupack, where Dick Hallagan nipped Mark Schneider for 1st place in the Pennsylvania Governor's cup, and Bob Bush finished a close third. Stan Moldawsky's famous Dixieland Band topped off a great weekend for the 18 boat fleet.

Dick Hallagan struck District gold once more in October at the Last Blast Regatta in Nyack. A competitive fleet of 21 boats

sailed in brisk winds with Jack Elfman taking a 2nd and Ray Harrington taking a 3rd. - - - Gary Hurban

After returning from a relatively successful North American Championship of my own it was nice to reflect on Brian's unbelievable series. (Nov. 95 Flashes "From the Outhouse to the Penthouse"). More notably was the total domination of Gary Hurban, our District Commodore, in the Governor's Cup at the North American Championships. He had enough blue flags to wallpaper a bathroom.

Our season starts early in February when Mary and Sandy Huntsman normally recruit many Lightning sailors to help promote the I.L.C.A. Again this year it was a huge success - THANKS to all that helped.

The first major regatta for us in the northeast is the Long John Regatta which is the last full weekend in April. The weather this year was like a normal July weekend. Attended by over 30 boats we had another great time. Jack Huntsman won, with (father of the famous Sara Mergenthaler) Bill Mergenthaler second, Gianni Cuccio third, Josh Adams fourth, and Keith Taboada fifth. The New Jersey State's were won by "the now on a roll and retired" Sandy Huntsman. He did receive stiff competition from Matt Smith who was second, Sara's Dad third, Brian Taboada (not yet famous) and Franz Schneider fourth.

Many of our Regattas this year were attended by record numbers of sailors. The Last Blast Regatta which was hosted by Nyack Yacht Club was attended in late October by 28 boats. This Regatta had hot competition and was won by "Tricky" Dick Hallagan with this year's President's Cup Winner Jack Elfman second. Nyack also hosted the Atlantic Coast Championships which had over 40 boats along with our Districts. The Districts were won by Jon Schwartz and followed by the "multi-talented" Sandy Huntsman (not to be confused with Jack), Gary Hurban-third, Kathy Connell-fourth, Bill Mergenthaler-fifth.

The Atlantic Coast Championships were attended by a lot of "normally Blue Fleeters" like the winner Stu Nickerson, Tim Healy, Bill Fastiggi, Don Brush, Ched Proctor, Brian and Keith Taboada, and it was great to hear that Bill Shore is back. Oh, the first five finished as listed. These races were sailed Saturday and on Sunday (July 30) the Magnus Pederson was sailed.

The main thrust of our district has been to increase participation of Lightning sailors from not only our own district, but also surrounding districts. This past year the Central Atlantic District and ourselves started a circuit in conjunction with each other. We have a total winner for both districts. The process has increased the number of sailors at many of the regattas. Winner of the Central Atlantic/ Metropolitan District Circuit are, in order: Jack Elfman, Dick Hallagan, Bob Bush, Gary Hurban, and his better half Joan.

Here's the proposed schedule for the 1996 season.

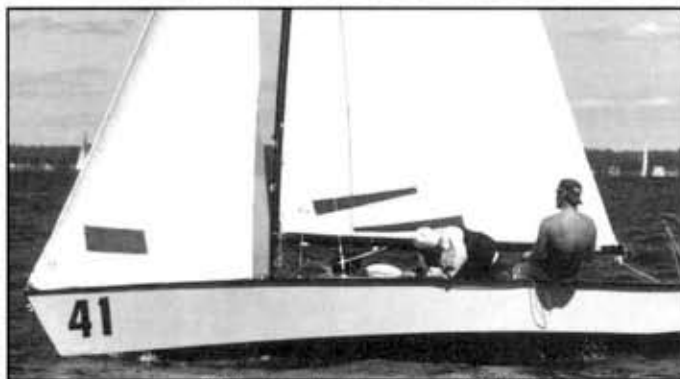
CAD/MET April 27-28	Long John Regatta - Red Bank
May 26	Cold Duck - LakeWallenpaupack
CAD/MET June 1-2	Magnus Pederson - Nyack
June 8-9	A,W.S. Open - Greenwood Lake
June 29-30	Metropolitan Districts - Red Bank
CAD/MET September 7	Whisker Pole Regatta - Greenwood Lake
CAD/MET Sept. 14-15	PA Govenor's Cup - Paupack Fleet 16
CAD/MET October 12	Last Blast Regatta - Nyack Fleet 76

Note: CAD/MET indicates regatta is part of the Central Atlantic and Metropolitan District Circuit. - - - Jon Schwartz

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Metropolitan District sailors at the NA's.





Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	Tom Hudson
District Secretary.....	Larry Koster
District Co-Measurers.....	Steve Thomas
	Colin Park
District Traveling Champion.....	Dan Norton

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).

Michigan was honored with the establishment of the Mackinaw Island Fleet with their first annual regatta. We hope they will make formal application to the ILCA office and pay their fleet dues so we can include their fleet number and boats in the district. For those who are not familiar with Mackinaw Island, it is an historic vacation island mecca where cars are prohibited. It is located at the top of the Michigan mitten where three of the Great Lakes meet (Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and Lake Superior). We had to ferry the boats over to the island due to the unpredictable weather, the turbulent seas, and the legendary strong currents that are always present. Since cars are non-existent, horses were considered as a mode of transporting the boats to the launch site. We had one participant (Road Warrior) drive due north from Nashville, Tennessee (Fleet 262), approximately a 16 hour drive to be part of these MACK races and Bill Baxter, Jr. made a 19 hour drive from Fleet 274 in Memphis.

Some highlights & memories of the 1995 Michigan District season.

- The Michigan Districts drew 40 competitors that included some out-of-District boats. Special commendations should be given to Tom Vickers and the group at Crescent (fleet 51) for the hard work in sponsoring the Michigan District that included fabulous meals, lodging accommodations and the unforgettable Casino Night.

- Michigan experienced the usual active season. Beside the weekly club races, Michigan hosts 11 regattas during the season.

- Six new boats were delivered within the District.
- Lake Lansing became weedless.
- The creation of the Mackinaw Island Fleet.
- Western Lake Erie's (North Cape) explosive growth of 22 Lightning members with 18 boats after being reactivated only 3 years ago.

- Michigan was honored by competitive teams traveling to Michigan's Regattas from Tennessee, Canada, Missouri, Wisconsin, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

- The incredible winds experienced at the Gull Lake's Regatta that caused two-thirds of the fleet to go for an unplanned swim before they reached the first weather mark.

- Western Lake Erie's (North Cape) regatta had to get assistance from a contract towing service to help in the recovery of a boat in the frigid, spring season, waters of Lake Erie.

- Sailing over the sand bar to the north end of Devils Lake.
- Sailing in Lake Macatawa to find wind, instead of sailing in the calm open waters of Lake Michigan at Fleet 204's regatta.

- Some thought Adrian Irving (Chicago Corinthian) joined the Michigan District. He participated in the races at the Michigan Districts, Western Lake Erie (North Cape), Fenton's Team Races, and the Devils Lake regatta.

- Higgins Lake Yacht Club's island location, which was hit by a tornado a week earlier was still a picture perfect weekend at a beautiful location with steady winds, sandy beaches, and refreshing crystal clear waters.

- Pontiac started the construction of their new club house.
- Michigan having the largest Lightning Fleet (Pontiac).
- Northern Michigan cottage fleets at Burt Lake and Douglas Lake.

- The camaraderie at the Team Races at Lake Fenton.
- The hospitality at the Saginaw Bay Yacht Club.
- Michigan sponsoring 12 boats at Henderson Harbor for the 1995 North Americans.

- Michigan sponsoring 2 boats in the 1995 Masters.
- Jane and Jim Allen (Pontiac) attending the Lightning Worlds in Finland, finishing in an overall 2nd Place with their brother Tom Jr.

- The Michigan District having over 150 registered members.
- Joe Dissette (Saginaw Bay) celebrating his 50th year of Lightning sailing on his 33rd Lightning.

- John Dent's (Higgins Lake) Lightning getting caught in a tornado while it was stored on his boat lift causing an interesting marriage of his boat and his lift.

If you ever schedule a vacation in Michigan during the 1996 season, give us a call. We will have a regatta waiting for you.



Thirteen Lightnings being ferried to Mackinac Island escorted by Barb Gillespie and Mary Karl from Gull Lake.



The famous Mackinac Island Hotel greets the Lightning sailors as they arrived for the 1st Annual Mackinac Island Regatta.



Photos: Tom Hudson

A Lightning being transported, in the rain, by a mower, on the automobile free island known as Mackinac.



Michigan District sailors at the NA's.





Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

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MIDWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore 95/96.....Dan Reichelsdorfer
 District Secretary.....Michou Braun
 District Treasurer.....Meg Huffman
 District Champion.....Mike Huffman

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 kicked off another successful year with the Lighthouse Regatta in Fond Du Lac, WI. Once again, we were fortunate to have North Sails and Lightning guru Ched Proctor to help us all tune up with on the water coaching during the races. Winning the regatta was perennial champion Bill "Bun" Faude and crew. Second place went to Dan Reichelsdorfer and crew, and in third was Mike Huffman and crew. Next came the Evan's Regatta in Green Bay, WI. With fluky weather and a great squall, Ric Larson and crew won the event, with Adrian Irving and crew coming in second. Dan Reichelsdorfer and crew rounded out the top three. The District Championships were hosted by Chicago Corinthian. Three days of great racing were experienced by a fleet of close competitors. The race committee did outstanding work to pull off the seven race series. Winning the battle was Mike Huffman and crew. Second place was decided on the very last race by one foot, Dan Reichelsdorfer and crew edged out Dave Stix close behind in third place.

In the meantime, two MW District sailors went far across the ocean to sail in the land of the midnight sun, Finland. Bill Faude and Paul Wurtzebach both survived the shipping and traveling and wind and sailing at midnight with great results, third and eighth respectively. Congrats to Bun and Paul and their crews!!

The P&T regatta in Milwaukee WI was sailed the weekend of July 15 & 16. Participation should be at an all time high for this event next year, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the P&T. It will be held the weekend of July 6 & 7. This year, the winner was Bill Faude and crew.

Sheboygan hosted the annual Brotz Regatta with boats traveling from Lake Carlyle (St.Louis) to sail with us. Winning this year was Paul Wurtzebach and crew, with Matt Burrige from Lake Carlyle second and Ric Larson third.

Next came the North Americans at Henderson Harbor, NY. Paul Wurtzebach, Ric Larson, Dan Reichelsdorfer, Adrian Irving and newcomer Scott McBurney all trekked east to attend. Paul sailed to a Blue fleet performance, with Ric Larson finishing 10th in the President's fleet and Scott McBurney having a great first showing finishing in the Green, too. Dan Reichelsdorfer finished Runner Up in the President's flight. Adrian Irving sailed to a seventh in the President's flight.

Fall regattas saw travels to Davenport IA for the Polar Bear. Local Mike Steffenson won the event, with Ric Larson coming in second.

The annual Red Flannels in Chicago saw the largest fleet for this season of over 25 boats. With competitors from Michigan, Indiana and Mississippi Valley districts, the fleet looked strong, but in the end the winning was all Fleet 5, Paul Wurtzebach, Bill Faude second and Mike Huffman in third.

Midwest District sailors hosted the US Sailing Sears Cup sail-offs in Milwaukee, and the National Championship in Chicago. Many Midwest boat owners loaned boats and sails so that juniors could participate, and get into the boat! Teams of junior sailors participated in district regattas to tune up for the event. This is a great way to introduce these young sailors to

the atmosphere of our class and set a hook early to lure them back as members. Many thanks go out to Mike Huffman, Fleet 5 and all who loaned boats, spare parts and equipment to ensure a well run event.

Looking forward to 1996, the Midwest District will again have a full season of racing. The schedule is as follows:

Lighthouse, Fond Du Lac, WI	June 1 & 2
*Evans, Green Bay, WI	June 15 & 16 ,
*P&T, Milwaukee, WI	July 6 & 7 ,
*MW Districts, Green Bay, WI	July 12, 13 & 14
*Brotz, Sheboygan, WI	July 27 & 28
Hobelman, Chicago, IL	Aug 3 & 4
Polar Bear, Davenport, IA	Sept 13 & 14 (tentative)
Red Flannels, Chicago, IL	Sept 21 & 22 ,

The Great Lakes Championship series will consist of the Evans Regatta, the P&T, the Districts, and the Brotz, with the Districts mandatory and 2 of the other three needed to qualify. The 1995 winner of the Great Lakes Championship was Ric Larson.

This year's Lighthouse Regatta will feature Brian Hayes of North Sails for another great tune-up regatta. This regatta will also be sailed under the 1996 experimental rules by decision of the district. US Sail Senior Judge Dean Cady will be conducting a rules seminar before the start of the regatta. The emphasis in the district is to try to get more of the fleet/club racers to travel. Improvements will include offering day care at the regatta sites as well as trying to get more families involved.

Finally, this is the 50th anniversary of the P&T Regatta in Milwaukee, WI. Few regattas reach this stature, and we hope to have a gala event the weekend of July 6 & 7. All are invited! - -Dan Reichelsdorfer



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team



**DON'T FORGET
TO BUY CREW MEMBERSHIPS**

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DISTRICT

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

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

No Report and no new information.



Mississippi Valley District sailors at the NA's.



Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	Toni Harrington
District Secretary.....	Christopher Dwinal
District Measurer.....	Bruce Atkinson
District Champion.....	Stuart Nickerson
District Runner-Up.....	Brian Hayes
District Women's Champion.....	Christy Jones
District Master's Champion.....	John Hughes
District Junior Champion.....	Sean Carroll

Fleets: Centerboard YC (14); 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).

While pondering about how best to write the opening paragraph of this year's District article, I wondered how many sailors outside of New England will read what has been recorded here

Although I have not made a practice of reading articles about other Districts, I hope that more Lightning sailors will attempt to skim other District articles and, in that way, keep current with the "State of Lightning Sailing." Please read on.

Ironically, the first regatta held in New England this sailing season was at the fleet located the farthest north, Champlain Fleet #301 sailing on Lake Champlain near Burlington, Vermont. The five races were sailed on June 3 and 4 and attracted 22 boats from New England, New York and Canada. Jean François Simard of Canada had a banner Sunday with two bullets to keep Stuart Nickerson of Chequesset Fleet #280 from reclaiming his 1994 title. Don Brush (Champlain Fleet #301) was third, Peter Hall fourth and Ray Harrington (Bomoseen Fleet #227) rounded out the top five.

The former Iceberg Regatta held at Massabesic Lake in Manchester, New Hampshire was moved to June 10 and 11 so Iceberg is sort of a misnomer. Good local fleet participation was the story at this regatta with 9 of the 12 competing boats holding berths at the Massabesic Yacht Club. And their prowess in sailing on small New England lakes with light and shifty wins was evident as local boats captured four of the top five spots. Ken Deyett won the regatta, George Deyett was second, Norm Deyett was third, Ray Harrington was fourth and Moe L'Heureux was fifth. Low participation at this regatta from other fleets has led to the cancellation of this regatta for 1996 in favor of a date in September when Lightnings will be racing as part of the One Design Regatta that includes starts for other one designs including Day Sailors and Windmills.

I'm not certain of the origin of name Maple Leaf Classic Regatta on Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, however, it may be somehow related to the prizes which consist of varying quantities of maple syrup, and hand-carved plaques by fleet member Karl Fjeld. It soon became apparent that George Deyett sailing with his wife Sharon and Wellfleetian Flip Felix was the one to catch. They finished no lower than third in any race in the 16-boat fleet and went on to win impressively. Don and Ann Brush and Dick Spurlock finished second followed by Eric Cutting, Robert Cutting and Noah Cutting in third place. Ray Harrington, who sailed with wife Toni, and Ellen Atkinson, finished fourth. Stefan Sargent, local sailor and newcomer to the Lightning Class, finished fifth sailing with Heidi Wilk and Bruce Atkinson. My most fond and humorous memories of the weekend were smoking cigars and drinking beers outside Ray and Toni's on Saturday night, the Cuttings near broach in the smallest but most awkwardly directed puff about 200 feet from the dock, and my brother's suggestion that our lack of sailing consistency could possibly be because we've had more crew members on our boat in the past four years than most have in a lifetime.

This year's District Championship was held in the middle of July in Wellfleet, Massachusetts on Cape Cod. On Friday, the Women's, Junior's and Master's races were held in normal conditions for this area - an abundance of breeze. Two races were held for the combined nine boat fleet. John Hughes (Merrimac Fleet #121) defended his title with two firsts in the Master's division Sean Carroll (Champlain Fleet #301) won his first Junior Districts, and Christy Jones (Chequesset Fleet #280) prevailed in the Women's Championship.

Before starting the first race on Saturday, a severe thunderstorm with wind gusts to 70 mph passed just east of Wellfleet

This played a major role in the non-traditional wind direction and velocity experienced most of the day. Stuart Nickerson let everyone know early that he had come to defend his title with firsts in two races on Saturday. Brian Hayes was close behind, however, with two seconds, and Don Brush was in third with just seven points. After launching 24 boats from the beach on Sunday morning, two more races were squeezed into the weekend with the series coming down to a tie between Stuart and Brian, sailing with his steady crew of Lisa Brauer and Brian Hughes, won the tie break. Chris Vann from Connecticut claimed third prize, Curt Felix (Chequesset Fleet #280) was fourth and Bill Fastiggi rounded out the top five. Many thanks go out the Chequesset Fleet #280 for hosting a top shelf event in a great sailing venue.

Champlain Fleet #301 sailing on Lake Champlain hosted this year's Women's, Junior's and Master's North American Championships. The event was well attended with 27 boats competing in the Master's Division and 16 boats in the Junior Division. Notable performers were John Hughes, Brian Hughes and Sean Campbell who finished 7th in the Master's and Sean Carroll, Katie Dutton, and Joe Dayton who finished 4th in the Juniors. The District would like to recognize Champlain Fleet #301 for doing a superb job in organizing and holding such as monumental event.

Eight boats from New England competed in the NA's held in Henderson Harbor. Five of the eight sailed in the Blue fleet, two in the Green fleet and one in the Yellow fleet. Stuart Nickerson finished 6th, Andy Horton improved on last year's performance by capturing 10th, and Brian Hayes and Bill Fastiggi chalked up 19th and 14th, respectively. Christian Whatley also competed in the Blue fleet, managing to capture a 9th in the last race of the series in the Green fleet. Ray Harrington had a five point lead over Tom Niles of Michigan and a six point lead over Jack Elfman of New Jersey going into the last day of racing. However, as all of you who sailed in the NA's this year know, no lead off or on the water was safe. Jack Elfman pulled into first place on the last day while Ray finished second followed by Don Brush who moved up to third.

I managed to pull off a top ten finish in the Yellow fleet which my crew informed me was a good showing for our first NA's together. I'd like to thank my brother Dan and Shelly Hughes for sailing in the often frustrating and always sweltering conditions during that week. I'll always remember our week together and hope we can sail together in future NA's.

The next event of the summer schedule was a trip to Squam Lake in New Hampshire to sail with John and Brian Hughes on the "The Big Ifs." Dick Hallagan made the trip over from Rochester, New York to visit his son's family and beat up on us. Following the first day of racing, Dick had three firsts and we were just trying to hang onto second place with challenges from Christian Whatley and Tor Brunvard. After an evening playing pool with Dick and hanging out at the local Chinese restaurant and bar, I learned that our sleeping arrangements for that evening consisted of a leaky, smelly, cramped tent pitched in the middle of a parking lot. Of course it rained and of course there was a bass tournament on the lake which resulted in several headlights lighting up the tent at 5 am. Despite all this, we managed to hang on to second place. Dick faltered slightly with a second and another first to win the regatta. Local sailors Christian Whatley, Tor Brunvard and Dwight Hertz rounded out the top five.

Every year the Massabesic Yacht Club invites Lightning sailors to participate in it's Open Regatta. This year's Lightning regatta was won by Ray Harrington, Patrick McCormack (Merrimac Fleet #121) was second, and George Deyett was third.

Bow Lake in New Hampshire has begun to revitalize its fleet and hosted a one-day regatta this year on September 16. Ten boats from Bow Lake Fleet #499, Massabesic Fleet #227 and Merrimac Fleet #121 sailed in the four races on a beautiful Saturday. Ken Deyett won the regatta, Ned Hines from Bow Lake was second and Nick Mercier took the bronze. Bow Lake has decided to host another one day regatta in 1996 on September 26.

The final regatta in New England was hosted by Merrimac River Fleet #121. The ten local crews were joined by six crews from away to make up the healthy 16 boat fleet. The racing instructions included a description of five different race courses, all of which were sailed in this well-run regatta. Top honors went to Bill Shore who, as a child, sailed down this tidal river several miles every weekend in a small dinghy to race at the American Yacht Club. Sailing with Randy Shore and friend Heidi, they recorded four firsts and a second. Robert, Eric and Noah Cutting finished second, John Hughes, Brian Hughes and Elizabeth Petty finished third, George, Sharon and Mike Deyett fourth and Bill Berry, Moe L'Heureux and Marcel Mercier from Massabesic Fleet #279 were fifth.

At the annual winter meeting, Christy Jones was awarded the Pratt Trophy for her outstanding dedication to the New England District. In 1995 Christy was responsible for organizing

the 1995 District Championships at her home fleet and has also been very active in fighting to keep Lightning sailing active in a yacht and country club which favors golfing.

New England Lightning District sailors participated in many regattas outside of New England in 1995 including, but not limited to, the Southern Circuit, Early Bird and Fall Classic Regattas at Westport, CT, Long John Regatta, World and European Championships in Finland, Central New York District Championships, Connecticut Governor's Cup, Connecticut/RI Districts, Atlantic Coast Championships and Magnus Peterson Regatta, Canadian Open Championships, Fall Regatta at Southampton, NY, and the Last Blast Regatta at Nyack, NY. Notable finishes included Brian Hayes' 2nd place in the Deep South Regatta, Brian Hughes' (sailing with Dick Hallagan) 7th place in the Worlds and 5th place in the Europeans. Bill Fastiggi's (sailing with Joanne Jones) 2nd place finish in the Central New York Districts, Stuart Nickerson's 9th place finish in both the Connecticut Governor's Cup and CT/RI Districts, Don Brush's 2nd place finish in the Canadian Open, and Brian Hughes' (sailing with Dick Hallagan) 1st place, Ray Harrington's 9th place and Bill Fastiggi's 4th place at the Last Blast Regatta. New England District sailors fared well in the Atlantic Coast Championships with a 1st place finish by Stuart Nickerson, a 9th place by Bill Fastiggi, a 4th place finish by Don Brush and a 6th by Ray Harrington in the 40+ boat fleet. My apologies for any regattas and finishes I may have missed and I look forward to seeing you all in 1996. - - - Chris Dwinal

NEW ENGLAND LIGHTNING DISTRICT- 1996 REGATTA SCHEDULE

DATE	REGATTA	HOST FLEET & LOCATION
JUNE 1,2	SPRING REGATTA	CHAMPLAIN #301, BURLINGTON, VT
JUNE 8,9	MAPLE LEAF CLASSIC	LAKE BOMOSEEN #227, BOMOSEEN, VT
JUNE 15,16	WELLFLEET REGATTA	CHEQUESSET #280, WELLFLEET, MA
JULY 12-14	DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP	MERRIMAC #121. NEWBURYPORT, MA
AUGUST 9-16	MASTER'S, WOMEN'S, JUNIOR'S NA's	SOUTHERN YC #62, NEW ORLEANS, LA
AUGUST 11-18	NORTH AMERICAN'S	SOUTHERN YC #62, NEW ORLEANS, LA
AUGUST 24,25	SQUAM LAKE	SQUAM LAKE #332, HOLDERNESS, NH
SEPT 7,8	ONE DESIGN REGATTA	MASSABESIC #273, MANCHESTER, NH
SEPT 14,15	NEWBURYPORT REGATTA	MERRIMAC #121. NEWBURYPORT, MA
SEPT 21,22	SPOFFORD LAKE REGATTA	SPOFFORD LAKE #145, KEENE, NH
SEPT 28	BOW LAKE ONE-DAY	BOW LAKE #493, BOW LAKE, NH

OHIO DISTRICT

1994-95

District Commodore..... Dick Pugh
District Secretary..... Steve Weeber
District Treasurer..... Dean Caley
District Champion..... George Fisher (tie)
Matt Fisher (tie)

1995-96

District Commodore..... Steve Weeber
District Secretary..... Dave Gall
District Treasurer..... Dean Caley

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).

The 1995 Ohio District Regatta circuit began with Pymatuning Yacht Club hosting 26 Lightnings at the 11th Spring Classic Regatta on May 13 and 14. Threatening weather held the fleet to three races on Saturday and no races on Sunday. Top three finishes were George Fisher, Dick Hallagan and Britt Wadsworth.

The Windshift Regatta was held at Leatherlips Yacht Club on June 10 and 11 with 13 Lightnings attending. Thunder storms held the fleet to just two races on Saturday with one race on Sunday. Kurt Andrews won the regatta by 1/2 point over Carl Clipp in second place by 1/2 point over Jeff Pugh in third. A special thank you goes out to Audrey Matteson who joined us and gave everyone a chance to preview the 1995 yearbook.

Due to a scheduling conflict with the Ohio District Championship Regatta being held the same weekend, no one attended the annual CYC Regatta usually held at the Cleveland Yachting Club and sailed on Lake Erie.

The 1995 Ohio District Championship Regatta was hosted by the Indian Lake Yacht Club on June 24 and 25 with a total of 17 boats participating. Due to the drifting conditions the first and only race on Saturday was not started until after lunch. When a lightning storm appeared during the last leg of the race, the fleet finished and headed for the clubhouse, hoping for better conditions on Sunday. The annual Ohio District 1995 summer meeting was held Saturday evening following dinner. Those present sang Matt Fisher "Happy Birthday." Steve Weeber was elected District Commodore, David Gall was elected District Secretary and Dean Caley was re-elected District Treasurer. Following the close of the District meeting, a talk was led by Matt and George Fisher discussing the strategy and tactics of Saturday's race, with Matt pointing out some of the advantages of not having a compass on board. Sunday the fleet was blessed with a near dead calm. The second and last race of the regatta was started in about a 3 m.p.h. "wind" which shifted so dramatically on the first leg that the "beat" became a "run." After two races, George and Matt finished tied for first place, John Worley was third, Kurt Andrews and Justin Proctor tied for fourth and Steve Weeber finished sixth. Justin Proctor received the First Time Skipper's Award which was won the year before by Kurt Andrews and given to the highest placing first time skipper in District competition. Jim and Bobbie Stone received the Ohio District Sportsmanship Trophy.

The Independence Day Regatta was held at Pymatuning Yacht Club on July 1 and 2. Skip Dieball won the regatta with three bullets followed by Jim Dressel in second and Rob Rulhman in third. A warm summer evening provided excellent weather for the cocktail party and dance hosted by PYC members. Fireworks were provided by Kurt Andrews and Zack Austin.

The Stumpbuster Regatta was held at Indian Lake Yacht Club on August 26 and 27 with 13 boats participating. The first race on Saturday was abandoned due to light wind when the time limit expired with the lead boats only two-thirds of the way up the first beat. After lunch the race committee tried again. In her first regatta helming adventure, with mother Judy as both forward and middle crew, Bridget Creamer won the first and only race of the day. Two races were sailed on Sunday with Bill Young shooting two bullets, allowing him to win the regatta. Tom Varley was second and Kurt Andrews was third.

The Harvest Moon Regatta was held at the Atwood Yacht Club on September 9 and 10 with 12 boats participating. The forces of nature lined up to provide the participants with an actual Harvest Moon from which the regatta takes its name and fresh albeit bizarrely shifting winds for all three races. In marked contrast to Harvest Moon Regattas of the recent past, this year the weather was appropriately described by local fleet member, Jim Stone, as "Atwood on steroids". In addition to the open bar Saturday night, free Main Sail Ale from the new AYC micro-brew pub flowed all weekend. Bernie Dillon from the Mansfield Fleet treated everyone to sing-along tunes played on his plectrum banjo Saturday night. Kurt Andrews finished first, David Gall was second and Tom Varley third.

Due to scheduling difficulties the Snow Ball Regatta usually hosted by the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club was not held.

The final regatta of the season, the Fall-In Regatta, was held at Cowan Lake on October 14 and 15 with 22 boats participating. Saturday racing began with the wind out of the west at about 10 knots. The wind continued to build throughout the afternoon causing the race committee to abandon the third race when Steve Weeber, David Gall and Tom Varley all flipped their boats and one end of the finish line broke loose creating a moving and extremely pin end favored line. Following two races on Sunday, the top finishers were George Nickels in first, Bill Thomas second and Dick Pugh third. Don Schregardus won the traditional Cowan Lake Mid-fleet Award.

Last year three questions were raised about how certain things might turn out in 1995. The first question was whether David Gall could three-peat the Ohio Governor's Cup. The second question was whether someone with a last name other than Fisher would win the Ohio Districts. And the third question was whether Tom Varley would ever have his new boat. The answers to the first two questions are the same. Kurt Andrews is the 1995 winner of the Ohio Governor's Cup and George and Matt Fisher both won the Ohio Districts. As far as the question regarding a new boat for the Varleys...well...it remains an enigma. Does a Bass Boat count?





Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore.....Bruce Deitz?
 District Champion.....Jerry Neuberger
 District Circuit Champion.....Jerry Neuberger
 Runner-Up.....John DeBenedetti

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

The Pacific Northwest District season started again with those that went to the California Circuit in March at San Diego. John DeBenedetti with crew Roger Artigues drove to San Diego, and met Audrey Matteson, who flew in from Illinois. They had a good time, winning one race, and finished 5th for the entire circuit. While they were there, they managed to get in a day as observers on the windward mark stake boat for an America's Cup Defender Series race.

Back home, the season continued with our traveling regatta season in the usual places, except Seattle. We hope to be back there next year. Our District Circuit Championship winner was Jerry Neuberger of Portland, who was tied with John DeBenedetti in points, but won the breaker.

Our District Championships were held in Eugene, under light conditions the first day that were handled well by the race committee. The next day a nice southern came in, resulting in some spirited racing in one of the races. Going up the final weather leg, there were ten to twelve lead changes. You would be in sixth, then a few moments later be in first; then back down to sixth again! All the boats were that close! Jerry Neuberger won the championship then, with good shift selection. Many thanks to John Mahoney and the Eugene fleet for organizing a fine event. We were pleased to have a crew from Calgary, Alberta compete. We hope they'll be able to get a fleet started there. (They also drove down to San Diego for the California Circuit.) At any rate, we'll see them next year in Kelowna. - - - John DeBenedetti

PERU DISTRICT

Contact.....Francisco Ayula
 No Report and no new information.

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).

No Report and no new information.

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).

Editor's note: Last year, in spite of conscientious organizational efforts, three reports were mislaid. I apologize to the districts and fleet. I am including those reports this year because I feel recognition for efforts and achievements are valid any time.

Eleven regattas were held in the Southeastern District in 1994, with forty six Lightning skippers sailing in at least one

event, down from an all time high for the region of sixty-five in 1992. Twelve skippers sailed in at least six events to qualify for the district traveling championship. This is up from the eleven in 1993. Those qualifying in order of finish were: Lenny Krawcheck, Bob Harkrider, James Taylor, Bill Sloger, Pell Kennedy, Sam Booke, Karl Suiter, John Pelosi, Richard Mayne, Carter Utzig, Ned/James Nutt, and Douglas King. All twelve competing skippers and crews received very nice hand crafted trophies made by Nancy Sproul, with their finishing place embossed on them.

The season opener was held with seven boats at Columbia Sailing Club on Lake Murray, April 16-17. It started out to be a heavy weather day, and after the morning races, we pulled into the shelter of a bay for lunch. The afternoon race started out heavy, and built until most of us pulled out at the weather mark where I believe the gusts were reaching 30 MPH. Sunday the weather had moderated, and a total of four races made up the regatta. Joe Waters took the prize with Clay Rumble second and Lenny Krawcheck and Bill Sloger tied for third.

The second regatta was held at Augusta Sailing Club by the Clark's Hill Lightning Fleet April 23-24. The weather was fluky Saturday, and a little better Sunday. The winner of the nineteen boat fleet was Bob Harkrider, with Lenny Krawcheck close behind, followed by Will Sloger.

The third series, May 7-8, was at Highrock, with honors going to Clay Rumble, Bob Harkrider was second, followed by John Pelosi. 14 boats.

Two weeks later, May 20-22, we traveled to Lake Waccamaw for the Districts. It was apparent from the "get-go" that the wind was going to blow all weekend, and it did - 14-20MPH with higher gusts. But it was a great series with 21 boats fighting hard for honors. District Champion for 1994 was Patrick Hogan, sailing with Bunky Wichmann, and Scott Lane; second was Lenny Krawcheck sailing with Dave Archer and Bud Abbott; third was Bob Harkrider with Sharon Harkrider and Pete Marriott; descending places were Ross Griffith, Will Sloger, James Taylor, and Richard Mayne.

Nearly a month later, June 11-12, we were at Lake Murray YC where we had a light air series with eleven boats. Lenny Krawcheck took first, with Bob Harkrider second, and Pell Kennedy go hot for third.

Two weeks later on June 25-26 was the Beaufort YC regatta with tide. Lenny showed he understood tide, but some inlanders, James Taylor and Bill Sloger, took second and third. All enjoyed the Frogmore stew Saturday night.

In July (16-17), we went to Charleston and the SARA (small boat) Regatta. After the "dust" settled, Bob Harkrider was in first, and Will Sloger was second with James Taylor and Jeff Linton tied for third.

Back to tidal water at Savannah SC for the Neff MacIntosh sprints where we had a great time with seven quick windward-leeward starts up the river and back. Again the "tides man" Lenny Krawcheck took first with Bob Harkrider close behind for second, and again a tie for third: James Taylor and Joe Waters.

The weekend of August 27-28 we went to a new venue, the Atlantic off Wilmington, NC. Saturday was a light wind day, which ended with a race to the harbor not beating a squall that made life interesting (wet for some). Sunday was a delightful morning and we got in two nice races, for a four race series. First went to Lenny Krawcheck, second to James Taylor, and third to Sam Booke, who has been "coming on" all season.

To start the fall, we traveled to Lake Jordan on Sept. 17-18. First went to Lenny Krawcheck, second to James Taylor, and third to Bob Harkrider.

To finish up the circuit, we went to Lake Lanier, north of Atlanta where all seasonal grudges are settled. Saturday would have been a drifter, if the wind had been higher, and Sunday was great sailing in the rain which kept the poser boats off the lake. Sometimes you have to pay for favors. First, by one point, went to a Florida visitor, Steve Hayden, second to Bob Harkrider, and third to Bill Sloger.

Six district crews and one junior crew, traveled to the North Americans in Toronto, Ontario. Finishes: Lenny Krawcheck C21, Bob Harkrider P6, Joe Waters P9, John Pelosi P21, James Taylor G4, Carter Utzig G21. (The worthy crews were listed in the regatta listings.) John Pelosi was tenth in the Masters

Southeastern District sailors at the NA's.





Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team

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); Southern YC (62)

This year has been a rebuilding period for our district. There is a tremendous amount of activity with our district hosting the 1996 North Americans at Southern Yacht Club, in New Orleans, LA. Activity is great with the rebirth of Robert Jeffcott's "Old Woody" boat #8365 purchased by Mobile Bay's fleet Dennis Hermecz. Once crew Doug Wynne, purchased #10812 and is sailing at the reactivated Fleet 62 at Southern Yacht Club. The district has benefited greatly by the persistence of John Marion. John has pushed all of us to increase participation and the district is showing the results from his efforts. Good job, John!

Our districts were sailed at Southern Yacht Club during the Juby Wynne regatta with Larry Frost III taking all firsts. Robert Bernhardt from Mobile placed second.

The annual Gulf Yachting Association championships were sailed at Ponchartrain Yacht Club. This was the first time for the Lightnings to sail at this club. An excellent regatta was hosted by PYC with local John Marion winning the regatta and Robert Bernhardt sailing his new boat for the first time, getting a second.

Our big finale of every year is always the Sugar Bowl Regatta which had excellent attendance with twenty-four boats. This regatta was handily won by Steve Hayden from Orlando, Florida and Tom Niles from Auburn, Michigan second.

All of our fleets are looking towards the 96 North Americans and look forward to all of you coming to the Big Easy for good sailing and good times. - - Robert Bernhardt

SWISS DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	Jacques Perret
District Secretary.....	Kathy Cairns-Herzog
District Treasurer.....	Margrit Graf
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).

After the exceptional year 1994 this sailing season has been quieter from an organizing standpoint, but not from the sailing activity standpoint.

International activity:

-Three crews at the Italian Championship in Castiglione al Lago (Trasimeno) first Memorial Nando de Amicis, 27 April-1 Mai.

-Three crews at the European Championship in Helsinki. The European title went back to the Italian crew of the skipper Noto, and the Meltemi crew have had to be satisfied with the Runner-Up place once again with the same total points in the final results. Hard luck, Urs!

-Three crews at the World Championship in Kuopio (Finland). Wonderful organized, windy, wet and cold Championship. Congratulations to our Swiss crew Wyler-/Dürr/Dürr for their exceptional 6th place, the only European crew in the top ten.

-Four crews at the XIX CRITERIUM INVERNALE Marsala (Sicily) 28 - 31 December. We have spent a very pleasant time between Christmas and the New Year in Marsala. Thanks for the hospitality of the hosting club "Circolo Velico Marsala". District Commodore with crew Audrey Matteson and Thierry Monnier finished third after hard fight (second after every race until the last mark of the last race) with his new boat #14530.

To note: the participation of the "Race Ready Crew" Audrey Matteson at the Europeans (second time) and World Championship and at the Criterium in Marsala for the second time. We have had very good times with you on board Santa-Fiamma, Audrey. Next time, Montreal!!! Good luck.

Activity in Switzerland:

We have sailed our three traditional regattas. Unfortunately the regatta in Sempach was scheduled at the same time as the Italian Championship.

In Murten just three boats!!

Exceptional participation of nine crews at our District Championship in Neuchâtel during the "Fondue" Regatta in October.

We are looking forward to '96. - - Jacques Perret



Two Swiss crews and families camp right at the harbor in Kuopio.



Swiss crews become more acquainted with Sicily-at a fishing harbor.



The coastline of "ancient" Sicily on the Mediterranean Sea.



In Sicily Audrey, Jacques (s) and Thierry placed third in the new boat.

Photos: Jacques and Yvonne Perret and Audrey Matteson

TEXAS DISTRICT

District Commodore.....	Steve Harris
District Secretary.....	Jenny Eldredge
District Measurer.....	Dr. Sylvan Newman
District Champion.....	Steve Harris
District Runner-Up.....	Jim Alman

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

Steve Harris and Jim Alman dominated the district this year. Steve needed a little competition, so Jim's bright and cheery face on the starting line kept the Harris team on their toes.

The District is sad to report the loss of John B. Waskom, III who passed away this year. Mr. Waskom was a member of the Dallas Corinthian fleet and was active in Lightnings for over 40 years, he also served as a national Lightning class officer. He was an active supporter of the class and of the Corinthian fleet well into his 80's. He's is missed by us all.

District activity was officially kicked off with the Holiday In Dixie Regatta in Shreveport in April. Scott Anderson with Tom Lawson and Mark Alholm finished third.

The next stop was Rush Creek Yacht Club for the Spring Dinghyfest in May. On Saturday, the forecast was a southerly breeze from 20-30, it didn't blow that hard, but we did have an interesting capsized. Uncle Doyle Sherman was in the lead on the first reach of an Olympic course when a huge blast came through so quickly that the spinnaker trimmer didn't have time to release the sheet, and down she went. (fortunately, not to the bottom, like the Shields tend to do) Jim Alman won the regatta with Paula Gordon and Melissa Kaughman, Steve Harris from

Conroe placed second with Angie Rosen and Steve Savage, the Newman Clan (Dr. Sylvan, Clarke and Deanna) placed third, and Jenny Eldredge, Tom Lamson, and J.R. Greene finished fourth.

Three boats from the district sailed in the Hernando de Soto Regatta outside of Memphis in May. Scott Anderson had a good regatta with tactician and part owner of the boat Kurt Schuler. David Tshirhart with Paul Harvener and Artis Good also sailed as did Jenny Eldredge with Tom Lawson and J.R. Greene.

Rush Creek Yacht Club hosted the Texas Districts in June - we had conditions for everyone, a drifter on Saturday and a blow on Sunday. Steve and Patty Harris with Billy Bennett from Conroe sailed and John Waskom and Artis Good representing Dallas Corinthian also sailed. Steve and Patty Harris and Billy Bennett won the regatta, Jim Alman was second, Scott Anderson third, and Jenny Eldredge fourth.

Only one boat from the District sailed in the N.A.'s this year. Jim Alman, Deanna Newman, and Patty Harris took 21st in the Blue Fleet. We hope to fill our quota in '96 since the N.A.'s will be in New Orleans.

Rush Creek hosted the Fall Dinghyfest Regatta the last weekend of August. Steve Harris' team and Chris Shipman's team from Conroe participated in the regatta along with boats from Rush Creek. After the first day of light air racing, Jim Alman, with tactician Pete Merrifield, was in the lead. Two races were sailed on Sunday which really mixed things up. Alman still had the regatta wrapped up until he had to do turns at a leeward mark, enabling Steve Harris with his nine year old daughter Michelle and Art Gilber to win the regatta. Alman placed second, Jenny Eldredge was third with the help of her dream team Tom Lamson and J.R. Greene, fourth was Clarke Newman with Deanna Newman and Melissa Fisher, and the Shipmans had a very uncharacteristic fifth (you can't win them all?).

Conroe Yacht Club hosted the Commodore's Cup the last weekend of September. The Harris clan, the Shipman team, and several others participated from the Conroe Yacht Club and John Waskom from Dallas Corinthian and Jim Alman and Scott Anderson from the Rush Creek fleet also sailed. Races were only held on Saturday due to very light conditions, Steve Harris won the regatta.

Dallas Corinthian hosted the State Fair Regatta the first Saturday of October.

In December, Conroe Yacht Club hosted the Toys for Tots Regatta - Steve Harris won the regatta. Also in December, Steve and Patty Harris and Chris Shipman sailed in the Sugar Bowl Regatta in New Orleans as did Jim Alman. Jim placed third and the Harris/Shipman team placed sixth. - - - Jenny Eldredge



Texas District sailors at the NA's.

Photos: Hal Lyness and HHYC Photo Team