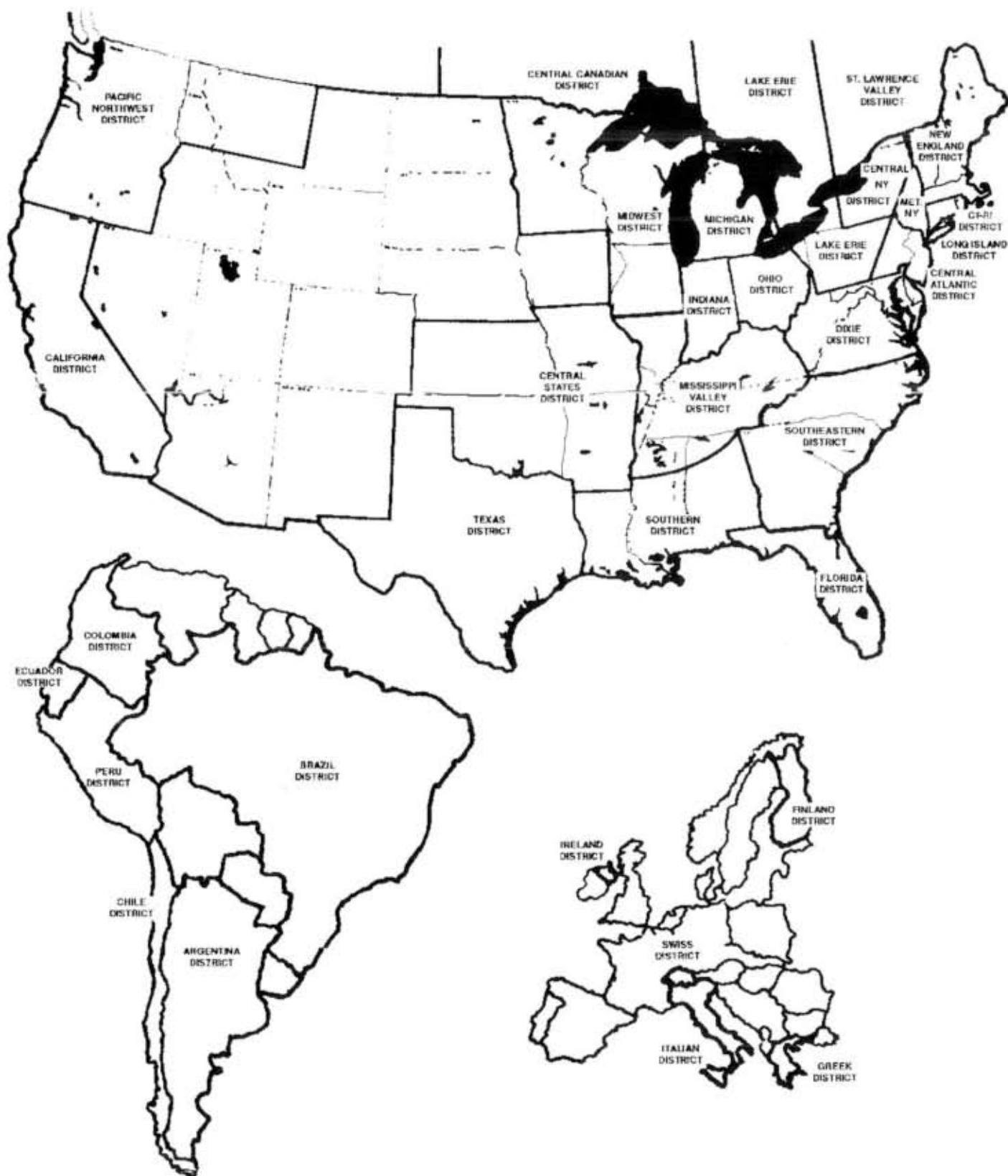


INTERNATIONAL LIGHTNING CLASS ASSOCIATION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



ARGENTINA DISTRICT

Argentina Vice President
& District CommodoreOsvaldo Bordino

Fleets: Club Nautico Olivos 206; Buenos Aires 446

No report.

BRAZIL DISTRICT

Brazil Vice PresidentMichael Anthony Norris
District CommodoreClaudio Biekarck
District SecretaryMichael Anthony Norris
District TreasurerJohn Julio Jansen
District MeasurerClaus Bromberg

Fleets: Sao Paulo 147; Guanabara 401; Guarapiranga 462

No report.

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

District CommodoreElissa Hall
District SecretaryMark Zimmer
District MeasurerBruce Arnold
District ChampionScott Finkboner
District Runner-UpMike Brewer

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

Mission Bay Yacht Club in San Diego hosted the California Circuit in March. Fourteen boats, most of whom were from the West Coast, sailed in fourteen action-packed races. Scott Finkboner was the overall champion by winning the Marathon and finishing second in each of the other series. Mike Poltorak was second. He won both the Bay and Ocean Series and was third in Coronado and the Marathon. Mike actually tied in points with Scott but Scott had more first places allowing him to clinch the Circuit Trophy. John Lyon managed to salvage third overall and I don't use the word salvage lightly. John "blew" the rig out on the Marathon leg giving him a DNF. His crew Paul Miller skippered the boat in the Coronado Series to first place, while John took the helm again for the Bay and Ocean Series to finish third and seventh. Fourth place overall was Scott McBurney. Scott sailed consistently well with his best finish in the Marathon hot on Scott Finkboner's stern. John DeBenedetti from Portland was fifth with consistent finishes in each



Mike Poltorak, Ken Miller and Colleen Labadie on their way to winning the Bay Series in the California Circuit.
Photo Bob Goddard.

of the series. Once again it was an outstanding regatta and despite the numerous mishaps - John Faus knows what I'm talking about - a great time was had by all. And one of these years I will sail in this regatta. (Also see Circuit Article in the May *Flashes*.)

The Districts were held very early in May in San Francisco. Scott Finkboner and Mike Brewer from San Diego made the trip and were first and second, respectively. Mike Molina from San Francisco was third. The sailing conditions were perfect and five races were sailed.

Only Mike Brewer made it to the North Americans. And a good trip it was. Mike came home with a brand spanking new Allen. That's the last time we let him go to the North Americans. HA! Mike has become extremely difficult to beat. Mike sailed away with the Pacific Coast Championship Trophy in September.

The PCC's were at the Richmond Yacht Club on the San Francisco Bay. Ten boats from up and down the West Coast sailed in the regatta. The conditions were typical for the Bay with five races sailed over the two days. Scott Finkboner was second behind Mike and his new boat. John DeBenedetti was third losing the tie breaker to Scott. Everyone who sailed promised to come back again in two years. The PCC's will be in Eugene, OR in 1998. (Also see PCC Article in the December *Flashes*.)

The California Circuit will be the week of April 5 and is a must. Contact the Mission Bay Fleet or Edna Johnson for details and watch for the announcement in upcoming *Flashes*.

Mark Zimmer is taking over as Commodore. (This puppy is retiring after a three-year gig.) Scott McBurney will be the secretary. All in favor say aye. All opposed? The aye's have it. See you out there. - Elissa Hall

CENTRAL ATLANTIC DISTRICT

District CommodoreJohn Williams
District SecretaryRobert Bush
District TreasurerJack Elfman
District MeasurerJames Carson
District ChampionKeith Taboada
District Runner-upPaul Gelenitis

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

Keith Taboada sailed an excellent regatta to win the District championship series this year. Paul Gelenitis was a close second. The regatta was well attended with 27 boats and well run by Lavallette Yacht Club. Next year's championship will be sailed from Brant Beach Yacht Club.

The New Jersey State Junior Championships were held at Metedeconk River Yacht Club with Ryan Bradley from MRYC winning. This regatta includes the CAD yacht clubs plus the Jersey YC's in the Metropolitan District.

In June, Brian Taboada represented our district at the World's with a respectable 12th place finish out of 58 boats. In August the district was represented by 5 boats at the NA's with Jack Elfman and Bob Bush in the Blue Fleet. Jarrett Lynn won some hardware with a 4th place finish in the Green Fleet with Jim Carson 6th. Stuart Feldman, sailing in his first NA's, finished the regatta with a great race and ended up midfleet.

The yearly district regattas were down ever so slightly in overall attendance. This is the second year of a combined CAD-MET regatta series. This year only a few boats attended enough events to qualify. This is a great way to get people to come to your regatta and we, as a district, need to better support these local regattas.

Sail Expo, in February, in Atlantic City is hosted by Sandy and Mary Huntsman with plenty of help from CAD sailors. It is always lots of fun to talk sailing for a few hours in the Winter and get antsy to go to the Southern Circuit.

Our District meeting, combined with the Metropolitan district will be held in January. John Williams will be stepping down after two years as District Commodore. Don Brennan will be in the hot seat. Look for the regatta schedule in the April *Flashes* and mark your calendars.



Save The Date In '98!
July 4 & 5, 1998

The Skaneateles Country Club is
proud to host the

60th Anniversary Regatta

of the
International Lightning Class Association

Skaneateles, New York, USA

Don't Miss The Happening!

CENTRAL CANADA DISTRICT

District Commodore Ross Bailey
District Secretary Malcolm Crooks
District Measurer Innes Martin

Temple Reef Sailing Club 279

CENTRAL NEW YORK DISTRICT

District Commodore Jean Palm
District Secretary Daniel Koretz
District Measurer Ed Seyerlein
Assistant Measurer Chad Atkins
District Champion Dick Hallagan
District Runner-Up Jack Jones
District Junior Champion Charlie Wardwell
District Masters Champion Dick Hallagan

Fleets: Skaneateles 1; Newport Yacht Club 77;
Willow Bank 164; Henderson Harbor 225;
Keuka Lake 252; Galway Lake 338; Ithaca 484

We have had good sailing in the Central New York Lightning District in 1997. Participation has held its own, with fifty-five different skippers entering the five two-day regattas held this year, the same number as last year. Fleet membership is also improving with 72 boats this year compared to 66 in 1996.

The Newport Invitational Regatta & Pig Roast was held May 31 - June 1, 1997 at the Newport Yacht Club in Rochester, NY. We were delighted to have three guests from Europe who were in town in preparation for the World Championships in Montreal the following week. Peter Graf from Switzerland, and Antero Punttila and Heikki Hamalainen from Finland added a cosmopolitan flair to the event which has traditionally drawn competitors from western New York and the Lake Erie District, as well as from the eastern United States and Canada. Four local sailors, Mark Sertl, Bram Palm, Jack Jones and Dan Pope took four out of the top five places with Heikki Hamalainen sailing Dick Hallagan's boat taking fourth place. The club put on a great pig roast in the evening followed by live music provided by a group of Chad Atkins' friends. They were great.

The Willow Bank Yacht Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary of Lightning sailing on Cazenovia Lake with its Caz-Flash Bash on June 14-15, 1997. We had 18 boats attending, including Dan Gorski in boat 392 from Clifton Park, NY. Saturday's racing was a little difficult with four boats capsizing. Dan Koretz was able to get his boat out of the turtle position without too much damage and only some lost gear, but Jim Staunton had a broken mast. Fortunately, no one was hurt and we were all dried out by dinner time so that we could enjoy the steak and all the extras. This was followed by a raffle and dancing. The top five finishers were Dick Hallagan, Jack Jones, Clay Murphy, Federico Meira, and Ed Seyerlein.

Keuka held its Champagne Regatta on June 28-29, 1997. We had 22 sailors competing for the beautiful handcrafted pewter prizes made by Leon Fontier, but we didn't have to compete for the Bully Hill wine as there was plenty to go around at the cocktail party and wine tasting before dinner on Saturday night. Everyone had a great time and after the award ceremony on Sunday, where Dick Hallagan was awarded 1st place, Dan Pope and Clay Murphy took 2nd and 3rd places respectively, we were treated to a hot dog cook-out.

The Central New York Yacht Racing Association regatta was held at the Ithaca Yacht Club on July 12-13, 1997. There were 13 boats attending the seven race event, and they were really gung-ho sailing six races on Saturday and one on Sunday. Dick Hallagan came in first, Landy Atkinson was second and Ed Seyerlein was third.

The District Junior Championship was held at the Henderson Harbor Yacht Club on July 18, 1997. There were six entries and the top finishers were Charlie Wardwell, John Boxberger, Zac Skinner and Stephanie Matice. The Master's was held on the same day with

8 entries. The top places went to Dick Hallagan, Jack Jones, and John Treadwell. The District Championship regatta was held at Crescent Yacht Club at Chaumont, NY on July 19-20, 1997. We were competing for the Dulles Cup which had been donated to the yacht club by former Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, and while the actual cup stayed at the Crescent Yacht Club, it was a treat to see the original Corning Glass piece. This was an open regatta, and as such, we had three visitors from out of our district: Bob and Charlie Wardwell from Virginia and Bill Fastiggi from Vermont. Our guests took two out of the five top spots. Dick Hallagan was first, Bill Fastiggi took second, Jack Jones was third, Bob Wardwell was fourth, and Landy Atkinson was fifth. The Rookie Trophy went to Bill Anderson, the Commodore Trophy to Jesse Miller, and "Ugh" to Peter Cunningham.

We had two skippers go to the North American Championship this year: Dick Hallagan was 20th in the Championship Fleet and Ed Seyerlein was 23rd in the President's Cup Fleet.

There were two one-day regattas this year. Craig Thayer organized the Onondaga Lightning Regatta at the Onondaga Yacht Club near Syracuse. There were ten boats there with Bram Palm, Dick Hallagan, and Clay Murphy taking the honors. The traditional CAZ One-Day was held at Willow Bank on September 20, 1997. The top finishers were Federico Meira, Chad Atkins, and Jack Jones.

Finally, there were 55 competitors this year for the Blue Jacket Trophy which goes to the skipper with the most points accumulated in the five two-day regattas. The top five skippers were Landy Atkinson, Dan Pope, Clay Murphy, Dick Hallagan, and Ed Seyerlein.

Dave Penfield and his 60th Anniversary Lightning Regatta Committee have been very busy planning for the BIG EVENT next year. The regatta is scheduled for July 3-5, 1998 and promises to be of interest to all types of sailors. There will be three fleets: one will be for competitive sailors, one for club racers and recreational sailors, and one for wood boats. A sailing clinic is planned as well as a "fun" race, children's activities, a Saturday evening dance and a Fourth of July celebration. Camping space will be available. We encourage all Lightning sailors to make plans to attend and to visit the regatta web site at: www.waynes.com/business/regatta or contact Sue Dove at: www.skaneateles.com.



George Barnes sailing Lightning #1 on Skaneateles Lake

CHILE DISTRICT

Chile Vice PresidentAlberto "Tito" Gonzalez Mas
District CommodoreEric Velasquez Beltran
District SecretaryIgnacio Bazaure
District Class SecretaryGuillermo Arriagada

Fleets: Antofagasta 318; Aculeo Lake 490

No report.

COLOMBIA DISTRICT

Colombia Vice PresidentRoberto Laignelet
District CommodoreRichard Deeb

Fleets: Club Nautico el Muna 73;
Club Nautico El Portillo 501

No report.

CONNECTICUT / RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT

District CommodoreChristopher Vann
District SecretaryGianni Cuccio
District ChampionTim Healy
District Runner-UpJim Crane

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

The CT-RI District was solid with great participation and a high level of competition. A few boats made the trip south for the Southern Circuit and placed well in the three regatta event. In Savannah, Ched Proctor was 3rd, Bill Shore - 6th, Tim Healy - 9th and Brian Hayes was 11th. Ched won in Miami, with Tim placing 3rd, Bill - 11th and Brian in 22nd. In St. Pete, Tim was 2nd, Ched - 7th, Bill - 14 and Brian - 13th. For the Circuit overall - Ched was 3rd, Tim - 4th, Bill - 10 and Brian - 15th.

Cedar Point started things off with their popular and well attended Early Bird regatta in which Ched Proctor won. Our district was well represented at the Worlds with Tim Healy placing 3rd and Ched Proctor coming in 9th. The CT-RI Governor's Cup at Niantic Bay Yacht Club always attracts a large and competitive fleet and this year was no exception. Tim Healy won the five race series with Stu Nickerson 2nd, Brian Taboada 3rd and Brian Hayes and Gianni Cuccio coming in 4th and 5th respectively. The Housatonic Boat Club did a fine job hosting our District Championships this year. In the 16 boat fleet, Tim Healy crushed with 5 bullets. Jim Crane was 2nd with Don Barrett, Gianni Cuccio and Franz Edson coming in 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively. Cedar Point hosted The Atlantic Coast Championships and no one was disappointed as there was a terrific turnout of 48 boats. The 1996 AC Champion, Ched Proctor, won the four race series for the second year in a row. Brian Hayes was 2nd, Ryan Dunn - 3rd, Gianni Cuccio - 4th and Tim Healy came in 5th. Though our district didn't have many representatives at the North American Championships, we did have one... Niantic's own Tim Healy. Tim, along with Mike Breault and Adam Walsh won the regatta convincingly. Congratulations guys! Cedar Point held its annual Fall Classic in September. Gianni Cuccio won the five race series. Arthur Meridian, who traveled all the way from St. Louis, came in 2nd. Steve Wexler, Hugh Hutchison, and Bob Martin were 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have been elected the CT-RI District Commodore and I thank you. Also, please remember that our District Championship Regatta (which is usually the 2nd or 3rd week in July) is always an open regatta that anyone can attend, so please come and join us!

Thanks, Gianni

DIXIE DISTRICT

District CommodoreHarry Keith
District Vice CommodoreAmea Devine
District ChampionPhil Grotheer
District Runner-UpDoug Heussler

Fleets: Washington DC 50; Susquehanna 253;
Sassafrass River 314; Rehoboth 325; Severn River 329;
Swift Creek 496

No report.

ECUADOR DISTRICT

Ecuador Vice PresidentFrancisco Sola Tanca
District CommodorePaco Sola T.
District ChampionJuan Santos
District Runner-UpMiguel Plaza, Jr.

Fleets: Salinas Yacht Club 405; San Pablo 447

During 1997 both fleets 405 and 447 had enough Lightning activity. Granted, it's difficult to top 1996 results (Junior Worlds, South American Champ and Runner-up, Junior North American champ, North American 4 and 6 in blue fleet), but we held on.

The highlights of the year were by all means the approval of our bids to host the next Youth World Championship in 1998 and the World Championship in 1999. That task alone kept us busy.

Nonetheless, we managed to be present in Montreal for the worlds with four teams. Didn't do very well, but we were there! We also went to Antofagasta, Chile to defend the South American Championship. Had to make do with a fourth place, but due to difficulties prior to the trip, we were content.

Another first for us was the fact that we obtained individual sponsorships from Diners Club, Banco del Agro, American Airlines, Saeta Airlines, among others, which in a great deal helped us to get to Montreal.

Locally we set up a calendar that was hard to accomplish in full, mostly due to conflicts with international regattas.

Still, our traditional American Airlines Cup of Champions was held in January. Huge success. This year we invited Matt Fisher, a repeat performer in Salinas who always sails well no matter what, and newcomer (to Salinas, not sailing, as we found out!) Tim Healy. It turned out to be a battle of foreigners, which was finally won by Healy by a two-point margin (7-9). Our good friend Tito Gonzalez also came and did very well, placing third overall. Juan Santos came in fourth, winning best local award - tickets to the Worlds!

Districts also had a good showing. They were held in May and this year it was up to Salinas to be host. Three teams from Sister Fleet 447 attended, adding up to 15 entries. After six races the overall winner was Juan Santos and the top four spots stayed home.

Then came the Annual Salinas Tominé Regatta (Ecuador-Colombia) in June which this year was held in Salinas. Four teams from Colombia raced our local fleet, but in the end the top four places went to Ecuadorians. Juan Santos was the overall winner.

Last but definitely not least was the long awaited trip to San Pablo, where the Nationals were held. It is a test of endurance just to get there. 10 hour drive up the mountains, only made worse by the fact that traveling in convoys is even slower. Still, five teams made it "up there". Weather was perfect, although there wasn't much wind (the you-should-have-been-here-yesterday law that Murphy never thought-of because he was not a sailor). Great fun! Or ask Miguel Plaza Jr. if you don't believe me. Not only did he win (by an 8-point margin), but he also finished up a couple of gallons of rum without the help of his crew. No, seriously, Miguel, la Flaca y el Patucho did a great job and had more luck than they needed. Very well deserved win. Honorable mention goes to Johnny Meira, Sebastian Meira and Santiago "amuleto" Romero, sailing in the pink boat (aptly named PEPTO BISMOL!) They were having a ball, not seeming to care much about winning, but always staying at the top. They came in sixth, but deserved at least a third.

So that was 1997 in a nutshell. Of course, in between regattas we had plenty of time to sail Lasers, J-24s and our newest in-between-regattas-hobby: R/C sailing!!

Now we look forward to 1998, which should be a great year for Lightning sailing in Ecuador if "El Niño" hasn't drowned us by the time you read this. So far we have benefited from warmer than usual seas and enough breeze to make this sport fun. We'll keep everyone posted through *Flashes* and, yeah, we will have a website too sometime next year.

See you in Salinas in 1999! *Paco Solá District Commodore*

FINLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore	Martti Lähteinen
District Secretary	Maija Pyy
District Measurer	Jari Aromaa
District Champion	Kari Huusko
District Runner-up	Kimmo Aromaa

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

Sailing season 1997 was generally very good for the Finnish District. For the past two seasons we have been placing more emphasis on getting new sailors to the class, and now we are happy to see it has paid off. We had several new skippers taking part in our ranking series regattas, which was great! We also had several enthusiastic new crew members, who sailed in various boats during the season. Once or twice, we even had the problem of not having enough places for all those who wanted to crew... And at the moment, the demand for used boats greatly exceeds the supply. Once more, a very warm welcome to you all into the "Finnish Lightning family"!

You might be interested in how we made that happen. First of all, we realized the need to get more sailors to the class if we intended to stay active in the future. The general trend in Finland has been towards less people sailing, and small non-Olympic classes dying a slow death. Two years ago we decided to do our best to make Lightnings an exception, and along with the Snipes we seem to have made it.

The key seems to have been taking part in the Helsinki International Boat Show in February. It is a place where all the people who are interested in boating and sailing meet, and if you want to be visible, you have to be there. It is expensive and it took a lot of voluntary work from our members to take the boat there, stand there for ten days, and promote our activities, but it was worth it. For the past two years we have hosted one sailing seminar in April and two on-the-water training sessions for beginners, and the boat show has been the place to promote them. By providing people free and easy access to sailing, it is easy to get them to try the Lightning instead on some other boat. Then providing continuity in the form of crewing possibilities in practice races and such, some have stayed with the class. From the training sessions we actually have gotten many new crew members and even a few skippers. The formula has been quite simple: be visible, teach, provide possibilities to sail, invite even less experienced people to crew in regattas, and have fun! I warmly recommend making the effort, because it does pay off!

Apart from training sessions, our "official" season consisted of five ranking series regattas and our District Championship regatta, which was held in Valkeakoski this year. Both were won by a new, young and extremely competitive crew from Kemi: Kari Huusko, Mika Viide and Tommi Ahonen. Good job! Kimmo Aromaa with his crew were runner ups in the districts. Kari had some good battles with Olli Lähteinen's and Pentti Järvinen's crews in the ranking series regattas. The districts were a small disappointment, as there were only 13 boats participating. We still have some work to do in order to get the new crews to come to the district's as well.

This year we also had crews taking part in international events. Kari Huusko, Olli Lähteinen and Matti Bruun with crews took part in the European Championships in Athens, Greece. Antero Punttila with his crew, Erkki Punttila and Maija Pyy, as well as Heikki Hämäläinen with Dick Hallagan and Lori Foster as crew took part in the World's in Montreal.

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of Lightnings in Finland, and it is going to show! We are planning a wide variety of activities to celebrate "the grand old lady" as well as to promote the class. The most important event will be hosting the Open European Championships, and the first-ever Open European Masters Championships. The planning for these events, to be held in July, has already started and we're planning on holding a sailing week that will be long remembered. A wooden Lightning event is also being planned as a part of these activities to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Lightnings in Finland. On behalf of the Finnish District, I would like to extend a warm invitation to all Lightning sailors to come and join us for a week in July to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Finland District. Welcome!

Yours, *Maija Pyy, District Secretary*

FLORIDA DISTRICT

District Commodore	Eamonn deLisser
District Secretary/Treasurer	Alix Shaw
District Junior Commodore	Sam Septembre
District Measurer	Steve Hayden
District Champion	Steve Hayden
District Runner-Up	Jeff Linton

Fleets: Biscayne Bay (Miami) 226; Cedar (Ft Myers) 478; North Florida (Orlando) 461; Suncoast (Tampa) 502

No report.

GREECE DISTRICT

Greek Vice President	George Andreadis
District Commodore	Costas Liberakis
District Secretary	Andrew Sinopoulos

Fleets: Salamis 251; The Yacht Club of Greece 286

No report.

INDIANA DISTRICT

District Commodore	Bill Allen
District Secretary	Brad Wagnon
District Champion	Craig Cobbum
District Runner-up	Bill Allen

Fleets: Wawasee Yacht Club 154; Indianapolis Sailing Club 270

The Indiana District Lightning Regatta was hosted by the Wawasee Yacht Club the weekend of June 14th and 15th. Only six boats participated and they were all locals. Craig Cobbum with crew Jim Wellington Jr. and Ben Rieff took first. Bill Allen and crew Dave Wisler and Christie Cobbum finished second.

No one attended the North Americans this year; however, Bill Allen took *Golden Harvest* to the Master's. Brad Wagnon, skipper of *Wolf Cookies* and Bill's regular crew, Dave Wisler, respectively did forward and center position. Bill now knows why they call it the Masters. It doesn't have anything to do with age — It's the outstanding skill of the skippers. His finish can be located elsewhere in this book if anyone is interested.

The Indianapolis Sailing Club hosted the first major regatta of the year for this area, the Indy Open. The weather was horrible with cold, wind and wet conditions being the norm on Saturday. This forecast and the conflict with Carlyle unfortunately was the cause for a low turn out. In the first race Jeff Hagman and Jacobsen went over while Cobbum and the Thomas family crashed and burned in the second. With Karen physically under the weather Colin Park headed for shore after taking a second in the first race. After the two races Saturday, Sean Fidler and Dan Norton were tied for first and George Sipel was two points behind. Sunday, with the weather

improving, Hagman took first with Park closing for a second. George Sipel took first in the last race tying him with Sean for first place overall. George won the tie breaker.

The Hoosier was a weekend earlier this year due to Gull Lake not scheduling. It was outstanding weather with great steady breezes, which provided for five excellent races. John McCree had a four and one-quarter point lead over Sean Fidler at end of the first day. They were closely followed by Colin Park and Jim Allen. The traditional hot rum cider and lasagna dinner was enjoyed by all Saturday evening. Colin came back with a second and first on Sunday to edge out Sean Fidler by a half of a point for first place. Jim Allen moved up to third with McCree slipping to fourth. The "Bruce" held on to his Saturday's fifth. Jeff Schmahl, who did an outstanding job as the regatta chairman for two years in a row, won the tie breaker for seventh. This was the best finish for the locals.

ITALY DISTRICT

Italy Vice President . . . Franco De Regis
District Commodore . . . Antonio Marino
District Secretary . . . Carlo Jommi
District Champion . . . Mario Noto
District Runner-Up . . . Stefano Reina

Fleets: Garda 249, Lega Navale Anzio 312, Marsala 449, Trasimeno 453, Cornero 466, Savio 476, Roma 479

During 1997 the Italian District put a big effort in trying to increase the class in Italy. Due to the increasing interest for the Lightning in some clubs of Adriatic sea, it was possible to organize an Italian Championship with 26 boats - resulting in a great success to the event and enthusiasm to competitors. The Italian Championship was held in Rimini, the first week of May, at the "Club Nautico Rimini" which hosted the race. The weather was good and the wind very light especially in the first day of racing. The final result was in competition till the last race, and Mario Noto, with good covering tactics, beat the competitors winning the Championship. Reina, winner of the last race, was 2nd; Antonio Marino 3rd (tied with Reina); and Balestrero 4th. A special thanks to Swiss Crews (and our friends) Wyler, Perret, Graf, Lambelet, who with their presence contributed greater interest and competitiveness to our Championship.

Unfortunately, the Italian participation in the European Championship was not great: only Marino went to the Europeans held in Athens last July and he was 5th.

At the Class meeting, held in October, it was widely discussed how to continue our effort to increase the class and its members in Italy. Special attention was focused on the possibility of finding an Italian builder for fiberglass boats at the lowest cost possible.

In 1998, we hope to increase competitors joining the Class at the next Italian Championship which will be held in Porto S. Giorgio, near Ancona, from the 2nd to the 5th of July 1998 at the club of the District Secretary Jommi.



This is the calendar of 1998 major events:

Italian District Championship, 02-05 July, Porto S. Giorgio

European Championship, 18-21 July, Finland

Master European Championship, 21-26 July, Finland

Antonio Marino

Photos previous page courtesy Antonio Marino. From the Italian Championship at Club Nautico Rimini: Top: winners Mario Noto and his crew the Alagna brothers with perpetuals and keepers.

Row 2: one of the beautiful De Vita wooden Lightnings; At the Awards banquet. Row 3: Runner Up Stefano Reina and crew with perpetuals and keepers. Row 4: Urs Wyler with Walter and Gilbert Durr with their prizes; a close-up of one of the Championship trophies.

LAKE ERIE DISTRICT

District Commodore	.....Skip Wilday
District Recording Secretary	.....Judith Walker
District Secretary/Treasurer	.....Brian Starck
District Measurer	.....Cal Schmiede
District Champion	.....David Sprague
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 Club 118; Toronto Bay 146;
Conneaut Bay 180

'97 was an exciting season for the LED. We'll remember it for some great sailing at our clubs and for the outstanding performances of our members in class championships.

The new World Champs come to mind first. Larry MacDonald, Jody Swanson and Ian Jones won that event in Montreal. David Starck, Jim Allen, Tom Allen Sr., David Sprague, David Wood, and Scott Warrenner also skippered boats at the regatta. Many more of our members crewed for these and other skippers.

The MacDonald crew also won the Southern Circuit, with victories at Savannah and St. Pete. Again, a number of LED sailors made the trip, including Dave Starck, Tom Allen Jr., Tom Allen Sr., Joe Starck, David Sprague, and Brian Starck. Ned Roseberry, crewing for Ched Proctor, won at Miami.

Our district hosted its own major class championship in August: the Canadian Open at the BCC. Tom Allen Jr. came up big in the last race to narrowly win the regatta. Dave Starck placed second.

Past ILCA President Dave Sprague won his first Districts this year at Chautauqua! He had a couple of young Spragues on board to show him the way. It can't be long now before one of his star crew get the urge to slide back to the stern. Skip Wilday is this year's runner-up.

Skip also won regattas at Silver Lake, Chautauqua and his home club, Cuba Lake. Other race winners were Dave Wood at the Eby series, and John Schimert at the BCC Fall Regatta. Both the Districts and the NA's will be held at the Buffalo Canoe Club in '98.

Brian Starck

See Photos on following page. Photos courtesy David Sprague

LONG ISLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore	.....Bruce Hendry
District Secretary	.....Thomas Hering

Fleets: Little Neck Bay 55; Hewlett Bay 58;
Great South Bay 178; Southampton Yacht Club 431;
Orient Yacht Club 506

No report.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

District Commodore	.....Mary Huntsman
District Secretary/Treasurer	.....George McDonnell
District Champion	.....Ted Duffy
District Runner-Up	.....Sandy Huntsman

Fleets: North Shrewsbury 11, Paupack 16;
Lake Mohawk 25, Red Bank 70; Nyack 75; Awosting 95

No report.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

District Commodore	.....Larry Koster
District Secretary	.....Chris Jacobson
District Treasurer	.....Kevin Nickels
District Champion	.....Colin Park
District Runner-Up	.....Jim Allen
Traveling Champion	.....Dan Norton
Fall Series Champion	.....Sean Fidler
Doc Gilbert Spirit Award	.....Jack Tibbs

Fleets: Devils Lake 31; Western Lake Erie 42;
Crescent Sail Yacht Club 51; Lake Fenton Sailing Club 53;
Pontiac Yacht Club 54; Higgins Lake 110;
Gull Lake Yacht Club 137; Macatawa Bay 204;
Saginaw Bay 216; Burt Lake 254;
Grand Traverse Yacht Club 326; Douglas Lake 374;
Lansing Sailing Club 387

The Michigan District season starts with the Western Lake Erie Fleet #42 hosting the Great Lakes Lightning Championship at North Cape Yacht Club in Monroe, MI. Out of the 22 competitors, Matt Fisher took first place honors. North Cape is known for great open water sailing conditions and a fleet that has experienced a recent rejuvenation.

In early June the Lansing Sailing Club hosts its annual regatta. This fleet is known for its famous chicken dinner and exceptional hospitality. This year's regatta featured strong winds, capsizes and broken vangs, etc. Finishing first out of 13 boats was Tom Klaban of the Pontiac Yacht Club ending Diana Fernando's two-year reign. The Lansing Sailing Club contains a group of committed sailors and their regatta is one of the best-kept secrets in the District.

Fleet #204 of the Macatawa Bay Yacht Club held their annual regatta on June 14th and 15th giving Michigan sailors a chance to sail on the big waters of Lake Michigan. This year's participation was down slightly with 8 boats taking on the choppy conditions. The crews who were diligent enough to maintain the right amount of heel and boat balance benefited the most. Diana Fernando of the Pontiac Yacht Club edged out Tom Vickers to take top honors. The Macatawa YC always puts on a well-organized regatta with great food, facilities and competition.

This year's Michigan District Championship was held at the Higgins Lake Boat Club in Roscommon, MI. Higgins Lake is truly one of northern Michigan's jewels with a beautiful venue, great sailing conditions and unique facilities. The club sits on an island in the middle of the lake providing rustic yet very functional facilities. Out of the 33 boats that participated the top ten were:

1.	Colin Park/Fleet #216	14780
2.	Jim Allen/Fleet #54	14632
3.	Mark Whatley/Fleet #54	14220
4.	Sean Fidler/Fleet	14787
5.	Dan Norton/Fleet #31	14774
6.	John McCree/Fleet #216	14323
7.	Tom Niles/Fleet #216	14819
8.	Jim Davis/Fleet #42	14779
9.	John Garrison/Fleet #54	14637
10.	Louie Nickels/Fleet #54	14755

On June 28th and 29th the Lake Fenton Sailing Club held their annual Team Races. This year a different format was utilized allowing for "seeding" of the teams. In spite of the light turn-out this proved to be very successful and kept the competition close.

LAKE ERIE DISTRICTS - PHOTOS BY DAVID SPRAGUE



MICHIGAN DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP AT HIGGINS LAKE YACHT CLUB



Fleet #216 and the Bay City Yacht Club hosted their 43rd annual Lightning Regatta on July 19th and 20th. Saginaw Bay provides good open water sailing conditions and a fairly predictable thermal out of the northeast. Saturday's conditions were choppy with a 12-knot thermal but on Sunday, light air prevailed. Dan Norton from Devil's Lake Yacht Club took home the first place trophy.

This year's Women's, Juniors' and Masters' North American Championships were held at North Cape Yacht Club. Conditions were fairly light, but the competition was intense in all three fleets. Our own Bruin, Bruce Goldsmith, won the Masters, with Joe Dissette from Saginaw Bay taking home a Ye Olde Salt trophy for being the oldest Master, and Larry Koster and crew taking home a Ye Olde Salts trophy for having the greatest total crew age. Mandy Hofmeister from Nashville won the Women's with Bonnie Nickels of Pontiac second. Charlie Wardwell won the Juniors.

The North American Championships were hosted by our own Crescent Sail Yacht Club in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. In spite of the light turn-out, Tom Vickers and crew put on a great show with

racing conditions that were better than expected. Of the 64 boats competing, Tim Healy took first place honors.

On Saturday 6th and 7th, Pontiac Yacht Club hosted their annual White Cap Regatta on Cass Lake in Keego Harbor, MI. The folks at PYC were anxious to show off their newly renovated clubhouse to the skippers and crews of the 45 boats competing. Although Cass Lake is known for being shallow and weedy, this year's regatta provided good winds, and in the end, John McCree from the Bay City Yacht Club finished on top. PYC is known for its hospitality and great food.

Fleet 31 at Devils Lake Yacht Club hosted their annual regatta the very next week. Saturday's race turned in to a drifter, but Sunday brought a little more wind. After the 2 race series, Sean Fidler finished on top of the 24 boat fleet.

On September 27 and 28th a number of boats traveled to Lake Wawasee to compete in the Hoosier Regatta. Michigan sailors seem to love this regatta as 8 of the top 10 boats were from Michigan with Colin Park taking first place.

The last regatta of the season was the one-day Fall Blow-Out at North Cape Yacht Club. 15 boats competed with Bruce Goldsmith winning the regatta.

At the end of the year the Michigan District Traveling Champion Trophy was awarded to Dan Norton, the Fall Series Champion was Sean Fidler and the Doc Gilbert Spirit Award was presented in the memory of our friend Jack Tibbs.

1997 was a great season to sail in Michigan, with the variety of open water and inland lake sailing venues, there is something for everyone. Join us in 1998 for exceptional hospitality and competition.

Chris Jacobson

MIDWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore: Dan Reichelsdorfer
District Treasurer/Secretary Michou Braun
District Champion: Bill Faude
District Runner-Up Paul Wurtzebach

Fleets: Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club 5;
Milwaukee Yacht Club 69; Green Bay Sailing Club 112;
Lake Davenport 167; Sheboygan 187; Fond du Lac 442

With Green Bay entering its 50th year, the District had an air of excitement about it. Green Bay saw one of its best years from a membership and participation standpoint. Green Bay sailors were everywhere! It's always exciting to have this kind of milestone happen in a District!

Our pre-race season was capped by a seminar on the New Racing Rules hosted by the Midwest District's very own Dean Cady and the Milwaukee Yacht Club. There were numerous new points to remember, and getting a head start on those differences made a difference for all of us.

We started our year off right with the Lighthouse Regatta in Fond Du Lac, which has become our get-the-rust-out Regatta over the past few years. This year, the Regatta was graced by the presence of Greg Fisher of North Sails One-Design, and with 20 boats to work with, he was a busy guy! We did the tune clinic and the on-the-water and post race debriefing, getting everyone geared up for another great year of Lightning sailing. Greg's easygoing manner and knowledge helped us all raise our game! We even had boats from Thunder Bay come down to play in advance of the North Americans. The regatta was won by David Stix, who also worked hard along with the Fond Du Lac folks to organize this event.

Next on the schedule was the Evans Regatta, celebrating the 50th year of the Green Bay Lightning Fleet. Eighteen boats came out to help celebrate. This fleet always puts on a great regatta, and this year was no disappointment! The fleet had been planning the event since our District Meeting in January. The breeze cooperated, with a real screamer on Sunday. The usual hospitality was made more spectacular by a great party on Saturday night at Bill Dean's beautiful home on "the Bay" complete with fireworks! The event was won by Paul Wurtzebach. The fleet did a great job of celebrating their 50th!

Milwaukee held their annual P&T over 4th of July Weekend. The festive atmosphere of Milwaukee over the Holiday weekend was met with the great Lightning racing on Lake Michigan for nine boats. Great breeze on Saturday and challenging shifty breezes on Sunday lead to an exciting finish with Paul Wurtzebach finally clinching the Regatta. With Milwaukee hosting the Districts, they worked hard to produce two excellent regattas with some faithful volunteers. The Districts were held the weekend of July 19 and 20th, experimenting with a 2 day District to try and increase participation. With the NAs so close to home, 15 boats and crews showed up to race. Bill Faude was crowned District Champion, with Paul Wurtzebach 2nd and David Stix in 3rd. As usual, the Milwaukee Fleet produced a well run regatta for both events!

On to the Brotz in Sheboygan, where contrary to her gifts in the prior regattas, Mother Nature failed to come through. There was a fog out on Saturday, and only 2 races were sailed on Sunday. We still had fun "sailing the bar" at the Sheboygan Yacht Club, and we did NOT give Loafers away for trophies!! Dan Reichelsdorfer prevailed in a close event.

Our district was represented at the Worlds in Montreal by El Presidente Bill Faude and crew Jared Drake and Susan Daly who finished 7th overall. We also had a number of boats who attended the North Americans, at nearby Crescent Sail Yacht Club. Ric Larson of Sheboygan finished 11th and Ben Wallace finished 30th in the Blue Fleet. Paul Wurtzebach won the President's Cup, with Adrian Irving 13th in the President's Cup fleet.

The season finale at the Red Flannels is always an event NOT to be missed. As usual, the Chicago fleet not only furnishes exciting racing, but excellent off-the-water events. Paul Wurtzebach with Elmo and Magic Bob topped a 32-boat fleet.

With the Great Lakes Champion determined by the best finishes in the Evans, P&T, Districts and Brotz Regatta, with the Districts a "must count" event, our Champion is Paul Wurtzebach with a first at Evans, first at P&T and a second at the Districts. Congratulations to Paul!

Finally, on a somber note, the Midwest District and the Lightning Class lost a driving force this year in Audrey Matteson. Her physical presence was missed greatly at our events this year, but you know that Audrey was there, every leg of every race...

Michou Braun

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DISTRICT

District Commodore Rob Hempel
District Secretary Rick Bernstein
District Champion Gerry Paoli
District Runner-Up William Hofmeister

Fleets: Decatur 74; Harbor Island Yacht Club 262;
Carlyle Sailing Association 266;
Delta Sailing Association (Memphis) 274;
Valley Sailing Association (Alton) 486

In case you have not heard, our District received some great news in 1997. Carlyle Sailing Association outside of St. Louis has been awarded the '99 North American Championship and the Women's, Master's and Junior's North American Championships. With a world class facility like CSA, try to make plans to attend that event as plans are well underway to throw an unforgettable regatta.

The Tennessee Regatta in mid-April in Nashville began the district's season with 13 boats. Cully Ward won this event followed by Bill Hofmeister, Paul Wurtzebach, Bill Baxter Jr. and Don Sherburne.

Twenty-one boats attended the Mid-Continent Regatta at CSA in early May. The wind blew all weekend as return champion Jim Sears made a gallant effort at repeating. The 6 race regatta came down to a 2 boat event going into the last race with Florida guest Steve Hayden leading Sears by two points. With a larger throwout, Hayden simply had to beat Sears; in the end Hayden won the last race with Sears finishing third. Hayden won his first Mid-Continent with 7 points followed by Sears, Bill Hofmeister, Dave Stix from Chicago and Gerry Paoli from CSA.

In June our Districts were held at Nashville's Harbor Island Yacht Club. Here we saw cool weather, light to medium wind, drizzle, 26 boats, 3 races and no races on Sunday due to a lack of air. The event started with countless general recalls in the first race, as everyone was anxious to get out in front in the shifty, ever changing conditions. This regatta belongs to Gerry Paoli with Sue Albert and local talent Kat Ward as they sailed fast and consistent. Paoli was followed by Hofmeister, Bruce Richards and Chandler Owen of Nashville, and Sears. The '98 Districts will be held at Carlyle Sailing Association in mid-June.

The North American's outside of Detroit saw CSA'er Dan Moriarty participate in his first NA's as a driver. With his experience-laden crew of Matt Burrridge and Rick Bernstein, Moriarty finished a very respectable 5th in the Championship flight and was the highest scoring rookie. This marks the 3rd time in three tries that this team finished in the top 10 of the NA's. Other District participants included Bill Hofmeister 13th and Chandler Owen 32nd in the Blue Fleet, Jim Sears 10th in the President's fleet in his first NA's, Bill Killebrew 15th and Bob Cotton 21st, both in the President Fleet and both from Nashville.

In September the Muddy Rudder Regatta on Alton Lake saw 9 boats sail the Mississippi River conditions at Valley Sailing Association with 4 races and no throw-outs. Rick Conaway won followed by Linus Portman, Steve Wyers, Gerry Chapman and Gerry Wnorowski.

Finally, the historic Bluenose Regatta in Nashville ended the District events with 45 boats in attendance. Greg Fisher won followed by Colin Park, Sean Fidler, Dennis Dieball, and Wurtzebach. Our district was represented by Bruce Richards, 13th and Mandy Hofmeister, 15th.

Scores were unavailable for the Intercity Regatta in Decatur, Illinois; the Cotton Pickin' and the Hernando Desoto Regattas in Memphis, Tennessee.

On a somber note, the District lost an Icon this past year. Roger Grohne of Decatur passed away on September 4th after battling Leukemia. Roger was an active Lightning racer since 1950 and will always be remembered for his candor, humor and red and green socks. The ILCA has truly lost a great one.

Again, don't forget the great news; Carlyle Sailing Association will hold the 1999 North American Championships as well as the Women's, Masters and Juniors. A great way to check out the club before hand is to attend their spring classic, the Mid-Continent Regatta the first weekend in May. Watch your Flashes for information. Happy Sailing everyone!!

Rick Bernstein

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

District Commodore	Chris Dwinal
District Secretary	Lisa Brauer
District Measure	Bruce Atkinson
District Champion	Bill Fastiggi
District Runner-Up	Ray Harrington
District Women's Champion	No contestants
District Master's Champion	John Hughes
District Junior Champion	Nick Mercier

Fleets: Centerboard Yacht Club 14; Merrimac River 121; Spofford Lake 145; Annisquam Yacht Club 151; Marblehead 189; Bomoseen Yacht Club 227; Massabesic Yacht Club 273; Chequesset 280; Champlain 301; Squam Lake 332; Bow Lake 493

In February of this year, the New England Lightning District lost a great friend and a great sailor - Brian Hughes. Although I've met many special people in the New England District and ILCA, the image that most often comes to my mind when I think about sailing, particularly Lightning sailing, was Brian's face. Although always special events to me, Lightning sailing was not the same in 1997 without Brian around. Brian could make friends with anyone, from junior sailors to elder sailors to a person on the street corner. Brian did not distinguish people by age, sex, color or status - he was friendly to everyone. I'd like to dedicate this 1998 yearbook article to Brian by sharing some of my memories of times spent with Brian. Perhaps some of you remember these moments.

My first Lightning regatta was in August 1992 at Squam Lake in New Hampshire. Many people made my brother and me feel very welcome at that regatta, something I'd never experienced at regattas in other sailboat classes. I remembered being invited by Brian to go get pizza with other sailors after Saturday's races. He helped us rig the boat and gave us sailing pointers which we sorely needed. When I left for home on Sunday afternoon, I felt like I'd been invited into a large family and that I'd known Brian for a hundred years. The 1997 Squam Lakes Regatta was held on August 23 and 24 and saw a great turnout in 18 boats. George Deyett and his crew of Sharon Deyett and Adam Deyett won, followed closely by Stuart Nickerson and his crew of Lisa Brauer, Mark Nickerson and Ross Nickerson. Third place honors went to Ken Deyett, Julie Deyett and Dave Adams.

After such a great experience at my first Lightning regatta, my thoughts of day sailing were gone and all I wanted to do was race. The next regatta was the Newburyport Regatta where the wind really blew. For me and my crew, it was a matter of keeping the boat

upright and trying not to get hurt. I'll always remember marveling at how easy the Hughes and Harrington's made sailing in these conditions look. I broke many fittings on my Nickels & Holman that weekend and remember the Harrington's and Hughes being there to help. I also remembered being invited by the Hughes family to join them on their 40 foot yacht for some drinks and conversation after the races. George Deyett won this years Newburyport Regatta in similar conditions to those in 1992. Robert Cutting was second followed by Patrick McCormack third in the 12 boat fleet.

This year, the Massabesic Yacht Club and Fleet #273 hosted both a one-day regatta in mid-May and a two-day regatta on September 6 & 7, with an average of 15 boats participating. I distinctly remember during one of the May Massabesic regattas (the air was pretty warm but the water was still quite cold) when John, Brian and their young crew (who I doubt had ever sailed on a Lightning), broached at the weather mark. This seemed strange to all that were present as the Hughes were not typically in this situation. Brian's humorous explanation for the broach was that the boat needed a good cleaning out after a long winter of storage. I'll also never forget the 1996 September regatta when Brian crewed for me, even though his energy level was low due to all his treatments. Despite the fact that he wasn't feeling 100%, he found a way to trim the chute, give advice, and laugh. The 1997 May Iceberg regatta was won by George Deyett, second place went to Nick Mercier and third place to Eric Cutting. The 1997 Fall Massabesic Regatta was won by Ray Harrington, Ken Deyett finished second and Nick Mercier third.

The regatta which attracted the most boats (28) and rock stars this year was the Spring Regatta held on May 31 and June 1 at the Mallett's Bay Boat Club on Lake Champlain. Local sailor Andy Horton came away with the gold, followed by Tito Gonzalez and Peter Hall. Notable finishers for the New England District were Ray Harrington (4), Don Brush (8), and Bill Fastiggi (9). Aside of the time many of us spent with Brian at some of the watering holes and dance clubs in Burlington, I remember Brian telling Stuart Nickerson one Sunday morning that he was going to sail out to the racing area with me and crew so that he could help me adjust the rig. I remember that Stuart wasn't thrilled, but Brian had already made a promise to me and knew that I needed more assistance than Stuart.

The Maple Leaf Regatta on Lake Bomoseen had a huge turnout this year with 21 boats. Bill Fastiggi (or Billy Fast as Brian called him) took home the Vermont Gold, with Don Brush and George Deyett rounding out the top three. I remember during one regatta at Lake Bomoseen when I felt like a high school student attempting to sneak a bottle out my parent's liquor cabinet. You see, Brian's mom Eve had a bottle of Crown Royal tucked away in a hotel room, unbeknownst that Brian had located it. Every once and a while, Brian and I would sneak away from the table to go fix drinks for ourselves and others.

This years District Championship was held on July 11, 12 and 13 at Mallett's Bay Boat Club on Lake Champlain. On Friday, 3 races were held for the 8 boat Junior and Masters fleet (no women crews were present). The winner of both divisions was decided only by a point with John Hughes (Merrimac Fleet #121) defending his long-held title by edging out Ed Ziemer in the Masters division. Nick Mercier (Massabesic Fleet #273) won his first Junior Districts by narrowly defeating defending champion Sean Carroll.

For the past few years, the New England District has invited sailors from outside the District to participate in our District regatta. This year, two of three boats from outside the District finished 1-2 in the regatta. Despite a 13th place finish in one race, Al Boucher managed no lower than 5th in the other four races and amassed two bullets on his way to winning the regatta. Tony Staples, in first place after Saturday with three 2nd places, hung on Sunday for second place in the regatta. The top three New England District finishes were Bill Fastiggi (3), Ray Harrington (4) and Andy Horton (5).

The Wellfleet Regatta was held on August 2 and 3 with 7 boats participating. Robert Cutting finished first, followed by C.B. Currier and John Hughes. I've enjoyed some great times sailing in Wellfleet, either at the annual regatta, recent District Championship, or the three-day Cutting Cup Regatta held over the Labor Day weekend. Ted Lavery and I sailed with Brian Hughes in the Cutting Cup Regatta in 1994 and won.

This year, Centerboard Yacht Club Fleet #14, sailing on the waters of Casco Bay in Portland, Maine, held two one-day regattas on August 16 and 17. On Saturday, four Lightnings were sponsored by local businesses to participate in the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Regatta which attracted over 100 boats from numerous classes. Trophies were awarded to the sponsors and winning boats from numerous divisions, with the Lightning honors going to Chris Dwinal (1), Pete Merrill (2) and Bill Purdy (3). On Sunday, Centerboard Yacht Club held its own regatta in light, shifty breezes. Five boats participated with the top three finishers in this regatta being the same as the MS Regatta.

The final regatta in New England during 1997 was hosted by Spofford Lake Fleet #145 on September 20 and 21. Eight boats participated with Ned Hinds coming away with gold, Bruce Atkinson with silver and Dave Fitch with bronze.

At the annual winter meeting, Bill Fastiggi was awarded the Pratt Trophy for his on-going dedication and contributions to the District and Class. George Deyett won the 1997 Circuit Championship for the third time since 1989 (1990, 1992). Congratulations to both of you!

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT

District ContactRaymond Killops

Killyleagh 427

No report.

OHIO DISTRICT

1996-1997

District CommodoreDavid Gall

District SecretaryBridget Frymier

District ChampionGreg Fisher

District Runner-UpGeorge Fisher

1997-1998

District CommodoreBridget Frymier

District SecretaryBobbie Stone

Fleets: Indian Lake 23; Leatherlips 27; Turkeyfoot 33;
Pymatuning 36; Buckeye Lake 43;
Cleveland (Rocky River) 71; Mansfield 150;
Atwood Lake 212; Cowan Lake 303

A winter luncheon meeting at the Elephant Club in Columbus began the 1997 season with George Fisher discussing the New Racing Rules in effect this year and Matt Fisher telling of his experiences associated with winning the 1996 Lightning North American Championship. The Mansfield Sailing Club fall regatta was sanctioned to be included in competition for the Governor's Cup Trophy.

The first regatta of the season began with the Spring Classic on May 10 and 11 at Pymatuning Yacht Club, which hosted a record number of 38 boats. Saturday's first race was held in strong and gusty northeasterly winds, occasional heavy rain, and temperatures in the 40's in which 5 boats capsized and one was de-masted. The second race was canceled when winds increased to 25 knots gusting to 32. The weather improved on Sunday and two races were sailed in a light to moderate northwesterly breeze. Larry McDonald won the regatta with Bill Faude coming in second and Matt Fisher taking third.

The Windshift Regatta at Leatherlips Yacht Club on June 13 and 14 brought out 13 boats to compete in excellent conditions on O'Shaughnessy Reservoir. Tom Varley came in first with David Gall second and Eric Brandt third.

For the first time in history the 1997 Ohio District Championship Regatta was hosted by Fleet 27 at Leatherlips Yacht Club on June 28 and 29. A steady breeze on Saturday morning with 5-10 mph winds out of the south to southeast set the stage for a long two lap windward/leeward course between the narrow banks of the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir for the first race and the breeze picking up slightly and continuing out of a more easterly direction with

stronger windshifts for the second race. Racing on Sunday resumed with a 10 mph breeze building to 15 mph out of the south to southeast with a few light windshifts which made ideal conditions for a windward/leeward course. The regatta was won by Greg Fisher sailing with his brother Matt, and Matt's 8 year old daughter, Amanda. George Fisher came in second and Aaron Stange was third.

A brief meeting was held with Bridget Frymier elected as Commodore and Bobbie Stone as Secretary. The 50th Ohio District Championship will be held at Pymatuning Yacht Club in 1998. Dan Hertzner received the Ohio District Sportsmanship Trophy.

The Independence Day Regatta was held at Pymatuning Yacht Club on July 5 and 6 with 13 Lightnings participating in light, shifty, puffy conditions. Lesley Frymier, sailing with Bill Fastiggi and Matt Frymier won the regatta with Garry Condon second and David Gall third.

The Stumpbuster Regatta at Indian Lake on August 16 and 17 consisted of three races on Saturday held in nearly ideal conditions of a steady 15-18 knots wind all day. After the strong electrical front came through, bringing a brilliant lightning display on Saturday night, light winds of 5 mph held just long enough to finish Sunday's race. The regatta was won by Steve Weeber with Bill Young coming in second and Dick Pugh third. The Mr. Stumpbuster Trophy, promoting continuing involvement in sailing and good sportsmanship, went to longtime sailor Paul Howald from Leatherlips.

The Harvest Moon Regatta at Atwood Yacht Club on September 6 and 7 continued its streak of good air for the second year in a row. Ten Lightnings participated with Mansfield Sailing Club having the majority of boats. David Gall kept his boat upright and showed them the way, winning his club's regatta. Tom Varley from Mansfield was second and Kurt Andrews from Leatherlips was third.

The Mansfield Sailing Club held its Bare Bones Regatta this year on September 20 and 21. The members continued their tradition with gracious hospitality and the regatta was again covered by the local news media. Fifteen boats showed up to support their efforts. Tom Varley invited everyone to spend the weekend camping in "Varley Valley", where a bonfire party was held on Friday night. Saturday's races were held in 20-28 mph winds blowing out of the north and Sunday's races were in more comfortable 10-14 mph winds from the northeast. Again the winning was a family affair won by John Werley with his wife Bertie and young son Tim. Second place went to Tom Varley sailing with his wife Kay and son Jon and third place went to Kurt Andrews.

Buckeye Lake's Regatta, the Snow Ball, was held October 4 and 5 in near perfect weather with clear skies and temperatures in the 70's with a good southwest wind which held all through Saturday becoming very light on Sunday. The regatta was won by George Fisher with Steve Weeber coming in second and Mike Hein third.

The Fall-In Regatta at Cowan Lake was held on October 18 and 19. Jim Stone provided the Friday night entertainment. He enlisted the help of about ten sailors to put his boat back on the trailer about five miles from the club. It went airborne when the trailer, which became unhitched from the van, came to an abrupt stop after hitting a fence. Luckily it landed in a soft ditch with nary a scratch and only minor damage was done to the trailer and fence. Three races were sailed on Saturday in good air. Due to the drifter conditions on Sunday there was only one race which resulted in the regatta having a tie for first and another one for second place. After the tie breakers, Eric Brandt came in first with Dick Pugh second, Steve Weeber third, Tom Varley fourth and Mike Thomas fifth. Eric Brandt from Leatherlips experienced the traditional first time regatta winner dunking. The Governor's Trophy was won again by Tom Varley, sailing with his wife Kay and son, Jon. Nipping at his heels (or rudder) were Steve Weeber and David Gall who were both one point away. There were more skippers in contention this year thus making the competition more interesting. Mansfield Sailing Club sailors were more active in the Ohio regatta circuit. It is a pleasure to see a reactivated club becoming so involved in Ohio sailing.

I again encourage you to travel and participate in another club's regatta. I always thought you had to be "good" before you started going to regattas. Dean Caley, when he sailed with us at Atwood Lake, encouraged us to go to other regattas. He said, "A regatta is just a big party with a few races thrown in on a weekend." Participating in regattas improves your sailing because you learn from the more experienced sailors as you try to keep up with the

OHIO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP AT LEATHERLIPS YACHT CLUB



competition, which is usually better than that of your home club. I have also made many friends that I look forward to seeing again each sailing season.

Congratulations to Greg Fisher, who came in second in the North American Championship and to George Fisher, 5th in the Masters' North American Championship, who are always gracious in giving other Ohio sailors the benefit of their experience and expertise.

Bobbie Stone

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

District Commodore John DeBenedetti
District Champion Jerry Neuburger

Fleets: Maple Bay 64; Vancouver 90; Seattle 132;
Chinook Eugene Yacht Club 229; Portland 283;
Okanagan 368; Prairie Fleet 507

Pacific Northwest District takes in all of Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and now southern Alberta. There are active fleets in Eugene, Portland, Vancouver and Kelowna, BC, Calgary, Alberta, and an inactive fleet in Seattle. Some members do a bit of traveling but we are seeing less interfleet travel in the whole picture. Distance continues to be our biggest problem; most fleets are many hours apart.

Still, we manage to have regattas in each of these places, with good sailing. This year our District Championship were at Vancouver Lake Sailing Club, near Portland, but only the local sailors showed up! They were greeted with strong winds most of the weekend. Jerry Neuburger managed to stay ahead of the fleet to win - his third straight PNW District Championship!

Three members of the District went to Richmond, CA for the Pacific Coast Championships, sailed in typically fresh breezes. Next year we will run this event in Eugene, OR in September.

Team Races were held at VLSC in October a good time was had in light winds.

John DeBenedetti

PERU DISTRICT

Peru Vice President
& District Commodore Francisco Ayulo

Lima Fleet 424

No report

ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY DISTRICT

District Commodore Peter Hall

Fleets: The Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club 215;
Pointe Claire Yacht Club 499

No report.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

District Commodore James Taylor
District Secretary/Treasurer Phil Taylor
District Measurer John Pelosi
District Champion Len Krawcheck

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

No report.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

District Commodore Barney March III
District Secretary John Marion
District Champion Robert Bernhardt
District Runner-Up John Marion
GYA Champion John Marion

Fleets: Southern Yacht Club 62; Mobile Bay 135;
Shreveport Yacht Club 175; New Orleans Yacht Club 209

The Southern District had a great 1997 season. The year started in Shreveport, LA at the Holiday-in-Dixie Regatta. The local fleet is prospering behind the guidance of David Wasner and family.

The next stop was the Spring Regatta in Mobile, AL. As usual the Buccaneer YC did a terrific job with the party on Saturday.

The Districts were held in Mandeville, LA in conjunction with the School's Out Regatta. Pontchartrain YC and all their volunteers ran an excellent series.

One boat from the District traveled to the North American Championship. Robert Bernhardt with Larry Frost III and Scott Kircharr crewing qualified for the Blue Fleet.

The Gulf Yachting Association Trophy was sailed for at Pontchartrain YC in September.

Fairhope YC in Fairhope, AL hosted the Wadewitz Regatta two weeks later.

The season will end this weekend at the Sugar Bowl Regatta in New Orleans.

1998 looks to be an excellent year. There will be four more stops and the Southern District Traveling Series will begin.

SWITZERLAND DISTRICT

Switzerland Vice President Gilbert Despland
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 Neuchatel 169;
Sempacher/Hallwiler/Vierwaldstatter/Greifensee 250;
Murtensee 358

1997 was as anticipated an International Sailing Season for the Swiss Lightning Class. Our activity is still the same. The motivation of our "last battalion" of Lightning crews is lightly decreasing. We are looking now at the possibility of organizing the World Championship 2001 in Switzerland to keep the Class active.

After an exciting preparation for our participation at the World's in Montreal with Audrey Matteson, the sudden announcement of her death broke our project. After reflection I decided to participate in her memory. Goodbye, Audrey, we'll always remember the good times we have had with you sailing and travelling in Europe.



*Audrey in Marsala at 1996 Winter Championship.
Photo courtesy Jacques Perret*



Some of the Swiss at the Worlds: the Grafts, Perrets and Thierry Monnier. Photo courtesy Jacques Perret.

International activity:

-4 crew at the Italian Championship in Rimini. Very good participation for this first try to organize an Italo-Suisse Championship.
-3 Swiss boats at the World Championship in Montreal. The first participation at an overseas championship since 1979!!! Thanks for the participation of the US crews: Jo Ann Jones, Joan and Gary Hurban.

-1 crew at the European Championship in Athens. Poor participation as a result of the exceptional participation at the World's in Montreal.

Activity in Switzerland:

Sempach 26/27 April: Participation of five boats at our spring regatta. Very light air conditions for all the week-end. We just finished one race but we have founded an organizing club for the next European Championship in Switzerland in 1999.

Neuchâtel 18/19 October: Five boats at our District Championship in Neuchâtel held by our traditional "Fondue" regatta. Very light airs during this typical autumnal week-end. Just enough to sail two races.

Next Year the Finland District will organize the European Championship at the occasion of its 50th anniversary. It will be a big event and I'm sure that at least 4 Swiss boats will participate.

Very good season 98, sure with more wind !!!

Jacques Perret

TEXAS DISTRICT

District Commodore Steve Harris
District Secretary Jennifer Eldredge
District Champion Jim Alman
District Runner-Up Jenny Eldredge

Fleets: Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club 35;
Rush Creek Yacht Club 435; Lake Conroe Association 505

Most of the Texas District activity centered around the Rush Creek Yacht Club fleet on Lake Ray Hubbard and on the Lake Conroe fleet close to Houston.

Unlike most years, Spring Dinghyfest was a drifter and it really blew during the Texas Districts. Both regattas were hosted by the Rush Creek Yacht Club fleet on Lake Ray Hubbard. The Toys for Tots regatta, hosted by the Conroe fleet, was also a surprise drifter.

Most active District participants this year were Steve and Patty Harris from Houston who traveled to most of all of the Texas regattas and sailed in the blue fleet in the N.A.S. Scott Anderson has been out on his new Lightning most weekends on Lake Ray Hubbard and has traveled to all of the Texas regattas. Jay Martin and Jenny

Goodacre have been sailing with Scott most of the year. Jim Alman sailed in the Worlds in Canada.

The Spring Dinghyfest was the first big regatta of the year. Scott Anderson and Jay Martin won the regatta. Tom Lamson (sailing Jenny Eldredge's boat) did great in the light air with John Skiles and Melissa Kaufman. They got a second overall, almost beating Scotty but didn't make it to the start on time for the first race on Sunday. Patty and Steve Harris were third overall. Other regatta participants were Doc and Deanna Newman (father and daughter team), Patrick Moseley, Jeff Herron, Vern Goldberg and Chris Murphy.

Jim Alman and Jeff Kerr won the Texas Districts on Lake Ray Hubbard in June. Jenny Eldredge, Tom Lamson and Shaun Williamson were second, Steve and Patty Harris and Chris Shipman were third. Scott Anderson, Jay Martin and Jenny Goodacre were a close 4th. Also sailing were the Newmans, Vern Goldberg, Patrick Moseley, Jeff Herron, Billy Benner from Brenham, among others.



The Shipwreck party was held Saturday night of the Districts at Rush Creek. Gilligan and Ginger (or was it really Tom Lamson and Marlene Vaske?) were there- apparently Gilligan discovered how to make moon shine on the island. We all had fun, but no one was officially Shipmanized.

The Fall Dinghyfest was held once again at Rush Creek the last weekend of August. Jenny Eldredge, Tom Lamson and Craig (Rock Lobster) Bandy won the regatta. Steve and Patty Harris were second and Scott Anderson, Jay Martin and Jenny Goodacre were third.

Commodore's Cup on Lake Conroe in October was a little chilly and windy. Steve and Patty Harris won the regatta. Scott Anderson with Jenny Goodacre and Deanna Newman got second. Chris Shipman and team were third. Other participants included John Waskom from Dallas (White Rock) and Billy Benner from Brenham.

Toys for Tots regatta on Lake Conroe in December was a drifter and Scott Anderson won it. The Harris' got second and Chris Shipman and team got third.

Jennifer Eldredge

US @ LARGE DISTRICT

Rocky Mountain Fleet 488 (See Fleet Report)

URUGUAY DISTRICT

District Secretary Guillermo Rondini Meneses

Es con verdadero entusiasmo que le informo oficialmente que el 44º Campeonato Sudamericano de la Clase Lightning se disputara en Punta Del Este (Abril 12-19, 1998) con caracter de "Abierto". Por correo recibira ud los detalles e ilustraciones del caso. Un cordial saludo de
Guillermo Rondini