

WASHINGTON DC FLEET 50

Dixie District

Sailing on the Potomac River

Washington, DC

Fleet Captain	Stuart White
Fleet Secretary	Amy Devine
Fleet Treasurer	Nancy Fehrle
Fleet Champion	Bob Astrove
Fleet Runner-Up	Frank Gallagher

* Allan Rogers	Little Bit	3343
* Mladen Karcic		6351
* Timothy W. Rinaman	Windhawk	7294
* Joe Warren	Flamboyant	9383
* Don Behrens	Team Sparkle	10096
* James E. Connerton	Hawkeye	10215
* William Timothy Elam	Speculation	10643
* George Saroch	War Horse	10800
* James Dillard		10817
* David E. Menotti	Bon Joy	11288
* James Dillard		
* & Justin Morris	Many Excuses	11369
* Harry H. Keith, III	Thunder	11767
* Edgar D. (Ted) Hunting	Swill Dog	12081
* David A. Pyle	Ms. Caroline	12126
* Roger M. Theis	Fast Forward	12470
* Mladen Karcic	Rakija	12962
* William Armstrong	Shamrock	13306
* Robert Astrove		14019
* Red Fehrle	Moon Shadow	14100
* Joseph G. Anderson	Puff The Magic Dragon	14207
* Frank Gallagher	Malicious Intent	14266
* Stuart White		14479
* Terrence R. Lamb		14521
* John R. Butler		14592
* James Dillard	No More Excuses	14627
* R.J. Pelasara		0
* Fred Marl		0

1997 was another busy year for Fleet 50. We started the season with the Potomac Cup Regatta, and when we flipped the "how much wind this year" coin, it came up windy... real windy. Being good hosts, we let the out-of-towners win again... Hallagan/Wardwell/Grotheer got 1/2/3.

As usual, several new faces joined us this year... Guy Mossman... John Butler's back out of retirement... Terry Lamb left the Hobies to join us... Carl Muska travels from Harve-de-Grace to sail with us quite often... Dave Menotti was there some... and Roger Theis joined us and did a lot of fleet work right off the bat.

Nancy and Red Fehrle had a baby Thomas delivered by Mr. Stork... Amy got busy at work... Stuart slam-dunked anybody whenever he got the chance... John Butler was real fast as was Harry Keith and Tim Elam and Ron Kiss... Rick Pelasara was working in Africa a lot... Ben Bates got married to Nadine... and Christie Dillard tells us she's getting married, too.

With some 42 races making up the Fleet Championship, a team of accountants (Bobby) is still working on the scores, but it looks like Bob Astrove has prevailed to become Fleet Champion again.

A highlight of the season was the one-day Homecoming Regatta we had on September 28. Some of our "retired" drivers came back to take the helm in borrowed boats with the regular drivers now crewing. It was great to have John Richardson, John Ogle, Bill Buckley and Art Gatenby back in the saddle again. Several of our other retirees couldn't make it that Sunday but we hope to see them next year... Mike Arnold, Jim Capron, Frank Gentile, Dave Racine... and a bunch of others. It was windy, cold and nasty for three races, but the guests did a great job... some of the regular skippers didn't do so well as crew. We all had a great time and look forward to a bigger event next year.

See you next year. Frank Gallagher

CRESCENT SAIL YACHT CLUB FLEET 51

Michigan District

Sailing on Lake St. Clair

Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

Fleet Captain	Tom Vickers
Fleet Secretary	Robert E. Lee
Fleet Treasurer	Mike Williams

* Paul J. Nagel		835
* Robert E. Lee	Bolt Walker	12178
* Robert G. Brower		13388
* Paul J. Nagel		13571
* Jeffrey L. Patton		13998
* Tom Vickers	Ticket	14038
* Joe Romer	Traf	14434
* Michael D. Williams	Assisted Suicide	14436
* Robert G. Brower	Michigan Rude	14652
* Michael D. Williams		14856
* John J. Covert-Sisung		0
* H.J. Cawthra (Life)	XI	0

Fleet 51 welcomed three new members this season. Joe Romer got an additional (albeit short term) asset with the boat he purchased from long time fleet member, Mike Williams. Mike Williams! Mike's new boat wasn't to be delivered 'till mid to late August, so Mike put Joe and his brother Rick on a steep learning curve on his old boat. This trio proved to be quite formidable finishing second in the Wednesday and Spring Sunday Series.

The second new member of the fleet is Paul-banana boat-Nagel. Paul's contagious enthusiasm was evident by being the virtual anchor of the fleet races by participating in over 85% of the fleet races. Paul and his teammate-brother Mark's tenacity earned the banana boat a third place overall.

Our third new member of the fleet is Peter Wenzler, an accomplished sailor of numerous classes and keelboats. The Lightning's simple yet sophisticated rig, and the class' depth, has caught Peter's interest and in his first year in the class, Peter has already participated in several regattas including the NA's.

When Bob Brower is not on a fishing trip, he and his crew Craig Hupp and Lisa McCabe sailed to a pair of seconds in the two Sunday Series and a third in the Wednesday Series, earning a second overall. Bob Lee and his crew got a shot in the arm with a new set of sails. John Covert-Sisung sold his boat in mid season and his steady hand on the helm will be missed.

The Fleet Championship team 14038 experienced a new skipper. On a Sunday morning in August, with a little coaxing from her dad, Lindsey Vickers skippered her first race.

The Fleet Wednesday Night Post Race Party was a great success, with Jeff Patton supplying the Coney dogs and the remainder of the fleet supplying the buns, chili sauce and martini "condiments".



Crowded start at the 1997 North American Championships at CSYC

1997 was the year of the Crescent North Americans. Our fleet was quite busy all season long planning and orchestrating the Lightning North American Championships. The efforts of the fleet, the entire North American committee (and Mother Nature) paid off in a very memorable regatta. The Race Committee was impressed with the fleet's sailing talent and depth. For those of you that decided not to go to the 97 NA's, you missed out on some fantastic sailing, competition and social activities. For those of you that made the trip to Crescent we want to thank you and the entire club membership enjoyed your company. Hope to see you at the Crescent Regatta next year.

LAKE FENTON SAILING CLUB FLEET 53

Michigan District Sailing on Lake Fenton Fenton, Michigan

Fleet Captain	Carl Pohly
Fleet Secretary	James Reach
Fleet Champion	George Nickels
Runner-Up	David Nickels

* Ronald J. Soyka	5254
* Ronald J. Soyka	6499
* Bob Ruffli	11854
* James Reach	13808
* Carl Pohly	14242
* George H. Nickels	14448
* David Nickels	14741
* George H. Nickels	14743
* Kevin Nickels	14756

1997 saw an increase in Lightning membership and racing at the Lake Fenton Sailing Club. Mike Farney (8590) and Elizabeth Herman (8675) joined Bob Ruffli (11854) in becoming new members of LFSC. Ronald Soyka has also expressed an interest in racing at Lake Fenton with one of his two boats (5254 and 6499). Hopefully, the increased membership will translate into increased racing enthusiasm during the Wednesday and Sunday series.

George Nickels emerged as the winner of both the Wednesday and Sunday series for 1997. His brother David Nickels held down second place in the series. As always, the series were closely contested with Kevin Nickels, Carl Pohly and Herman Nickels all competing strongly. Suresh Gupta and Bob Ruffli added additional competition to the 1997 races. It is anticipated that the competition will be even better in 1998 with the new members and new boats that were added during the past summer. *James Reach*

PONTIAC YACHT CLUB FLEET 54

Michigan District Sailing on Cass Lake Keego Harbor, Michigan

Commodore	Dan House
Vice Commodore	Ed Woods
Rear Commodore	Bill Ziegler
Treasurer	Louie Nickels
Secretary	Joyce von Drehe
Fleet Captain	Bob Meyer

* Joel Thurtell	Plug Nickel	0
* Joel Thurtell		837
* Paul T. Von Oeyen		842
* Joel Thurtell		5885
* Hank Callahan		7959
* Edward A. Diakow		9393
* Joel Thurtell		11520
* David Novak	Girls Rule	11537

* Joel Thurtell		12548
* Gordon Gotberg		12612
* Ronald G. Palmer	Apres Ski	12708
* Eric S. Heller	Blazin' Heat	12852
* Beth Heller	Blazin' Heat	12852
* Ralph G. Hashoian		13121
* William Roberts		13283
* Tom Lewand	Guy Fawkes	13388
* Stephen R. Braski		13468
* Robert W. Shaw		13545
* John Crowther		13606
* James R. Bowers		13789
* Don Rau		13837
* Dennis McCarthy	Lane Lady	13937
* Jack E. Ensroth	Phantasy	13995
* Paul T. Von Oeyen	Phantasy	13995
* Dennis Reger		14031
* Diana Fernando	Chaos	14049
* Trish Szydzik		14054
* Edward G. Woods	No Clue	14097
* Gregory Tarrant	Cutting Edge	14105
* Gerald Engelman	Blitzen	14117
* Bruce J. Finsilver	Quick Silver	14144
* Jim Zwolensky		14215
* Mark Whatley		14220
* Andre R. Dubel		14280
* Bruce Henderson, M.D.	Summer Wind	14282
* James T. Crosby	Neon Glow	14415
* Michael Roualet		14439
* Joe Lapalme		14457
* Thomas Klaban	Allegro	14464
* Buzz Brown	Shenandoah	14477
* William B. Noll		14515
* Michael C. Delano		14534
* Bob Padilla	Tea Bag	14563
* Ted Flack	Major Obsession	14567
* Peter J. Wenzler	Green	14590
* Wallace P. Smith	Gator	14601
* Salo J. Korn	Rosinante	14604
* John Garrison	Stupendous	14637
* William Ziegler	Full Tilt Boogie	14641
* Dr. James McCoy	Dr. "J"	14690
* John Greenstreet		14724
* Bonnie K. Nickels	Double Nickel	14755
* Louie Nickels	Double Nickel	14755
* Robert W. Shaw	Emissions Control	14760
* Richard E. Beaubien	Renaissance!	14767
* Edward Dziuba	Gotcha!	14778
* James R. Bowers	Excelsior!	14789
* Jon Bennett		14800
* Jim Allen		14807
* Dr. Joel Humphrey		14841
* Dr. Joel Humphrey		14851
* Charles C. Hess	Flash3	14842
* Richard Bukowsky		14854
* & Traci Bukowsky	Evergreen	14870
* Robert H. Mathers		0
* Jim Cavicchioli		0
* Thomas M. Heitstuman		0
* Dan House		0
* John H. Ostrander		0

Chances are, if you raced a Lightning at a major North American event in 1997 you bumped into a Fleet 54 member. Just to give you an idea, our Fleet was represented at the Southern Circuit / Midwinters, Worlds, North Americans — Women's, Juniors', Masters' and Open, as well as every event on the Michigan circuit.

At home, Fleet 54 also had a very prosperous year in 1997... new members... new boats — more fun. Our program consisted of over 70 races scheduled from May 4 through October 12!

We ran separate racing series for Wednesday evenings and Sundays. Each of these was further divided into Spring, Summer and Fall series — so we were a little short on creative names.

Participation on Wednesdays was excellent. We had thirty six different skippers sail in at least one Wednesday series race. Twenty

five boats on the line was quite common. Series standings were determined using the Cox-Sprague scoring system to encourage participation and recognize that sometimes there are other things that get in the way of sailing. A boat must sail in one half of all the races sailed in the series to qualify. Nineteen boats qualified for the Spring series while 22 made the cut for the Summer. For the Fall series, we opted to go with a high point scoring system. Thirty six boats sailed at least one of these post-Labor day races. When all was said and done, we recognized the top five finishers from each of the three Wednesday series. Eleven different skippers shared the fifteen trophies. The Overall Wednesday winner was Ted Flack — ably assisted by his three sons Ryan, Bob and Eric.

Sunday racing was also well attended this year. Twenty two boats sailed at least one Spring Sunday race. That number increased to 29 for the Summer. In the end, nine boats qualified for the Spring series, with 10 boats getting in enough for the Summer series. Participation continued strong through the Fall high point series as well, with 25 different boats sailing at least one race. Sunday awards went three deep. Of the 9 trophy spots, eight different skippers were recognized. The Overall Sunday winner was Bob Mathers.

We also ran our second annual Memorial Day Regatta. It was a breezy affair won by Mark Whatley, followed by Bill Ziegler and Ted Flack taking Tom Klaban out in a tie breaker. Past Commodore Charlie Hess took the Club Championship from a fleet of twelve. His two closest challengers were Tom Klaban and that ever pesky Ted Flack.

Over Labor Day weekend we held our Commodore's Challenge regatta. This event is based on the notion that turnabout is fair game. For one regatta, the faithful crew takes the helm and the know-it-all skipper is reduced to nothing more than a disposable object and forced to swab the bilge, clear the board or do any other ridiculous thing the person holding the tiller tells them to do. Eleven boatloads showed up for this year's edition. Bob Flack came out on top with Eric Klaban close behind. Jim Garrison ran off with third. All three boats had Dad trimming the jib and jibing the pole.

On the road, Jim Allen represented Fleet 54 at the Worlds. Jim got back in time to finish in the runner-up spot at the Michigan Districts and then take off for the NAs and a fourth place finish. Diana Fernando and Charlie Hess also sailed in the Blue Fleet at the NAs. Six others sailed for the Presidents Cup at the NAs — Louie Nickels, John Garrison, Joel Humphrey, Peter Wenzler, Jon Bennett and Tom Crosby. Bonnie Nickels sailed to a second place finish in the Women's; Ryan Flack was fifth at the Juniors and Bob Mathers was seventeenth against the other stalwarts of the Class in the Masters.

Our White Cap regatta drew an incredible 45 entries this year. That everything went smoothly is a testimonial to the race management skills of Esther and Hank Callahan and helpers. Saturday conditions were excellent, Sunday a little foggy to start and then 'testy'. John McCree from Bay City took top honors, followed by Dan Norton and Sean Fidler. Put the 1998 White Cap on your calendar — the weekend after Labor Day — and come see for yourself what the World's Largest Lightning Fleet looks like in person.

The only downside to all of this is that as I write this on November 23 (to meet the DECEMBER 1 DO-OR-DIE DEADLINE) our boats have already been put away for about a month now. Spring is a LONG way off, but hope springs eternal — more members ... more boats — more fun in 1998! Come join us.

Bill Ziegler

NIAGARA SAILING CLUB FLEET 59

Lake Erie District

Sailing on the Niagara River

Grand Island, New York

Fleet CaptainCal Schmiede
Fleet SecretaryLarissa Higgins

* Calvin H. Schmiede (Life)	Sea Porsche	13944
* Judith Walker	Vampira II	14291
* Bob Starck		14371
* Calvin H. Schmiede (Life)		14580

The members of Fleet 59 from Niagara Sailing Club spent the sailing season traveling this past year and a lot of water has passed under our hulls. We sailed Pymatuning, the Newport Invitational Regatta, Cuba Lake, the Canadian Open, the Cornball and the Districts at Chautauqua, the North American Masters, and the Harvest Regatta at Silver Lake.

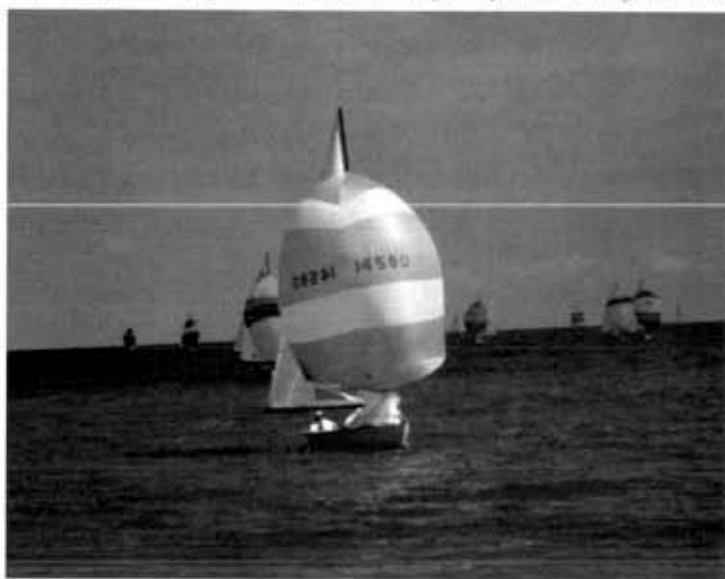
Bob Starck sailed the Lake Erie Old Salts at the Buffalo Canoe Club - and won! Crew members were Marcy Holler and Paul Wheeler.

Larissa Higgins enjoyed skippering the Lightning at the Cuba Lake and Silver Lake Regattas, and hopes that her father gives up the helm to her more often in the future!

Brian Starck was second at the Cuba Lake Regatta, and also sailed well at Silver Lake.

Cal Schmiede was pleased to be first at the first mark in the first race of the North American Masters - and finished second in that race to the eventual overall winner, Bruce Goldsmith. Cal and his crew, Larissa Higgins and Steve Cox, enjoyed taking home third place trophies at both the Cornball and Districts.

Good luck and good sailing to everyone in the ILCA from Fleet 59. We are looking forward to another great year of racing in 1998.



Fleet 59's Cal Schmiede at the Masters North American Championship

SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB FLEET 62

Southern District

Sailing on Lake Pontchartrain

New Orleans, Louisiana

Fleet CaptainChris Wynne
Fleet SecretaryJohn Marion

* George C. Aucoin, Jr.	Zeus	10475
* Douglass Wynne	Capt. Punch	10812
* Chris Wynne		12235
* Larry Frost, Jr.	FF	12335
* Rod Branch	Lay Lady Lay	12340
* John P. Buziak	Seasaw	13621
* John R. Marion	Slick Willy	14344

Fleet 62 sailing on Lake Pontchartrain had a good year in 1997. The Fleet hosted three excellent regattas. The Districts were sailed at Pontchartrain YC in conjunction with the School's Out Regatta. This regatta had 105 boats participating in six one-design classes. Eight Lightnings participated with Robert Bernhardt from Buccaneer YC winning in a tie-breaker over John Marion. The Gulf Yachting Championship was also held at Pontchartrain YC. John Marion won this series by one point. The combined District and GYA Trophy was awarded to John Marion. The fleet has grown by

two boats. Chris Wynne has rebuilt a Lippincott and Larry Frost III has been racing his father's boat. The Sugar Bowl is next week and we expect a modest turn-out due to its being so close to Christmas.

Thank you to all the Fleet skippers and their crews for a good year.

MILWAUKEE YACHT CLUB FLEET 69

Midwest District

Sailing on Lake Michigan

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Fleet Captain John Esser

Vice Fleet Captain Robert Franke

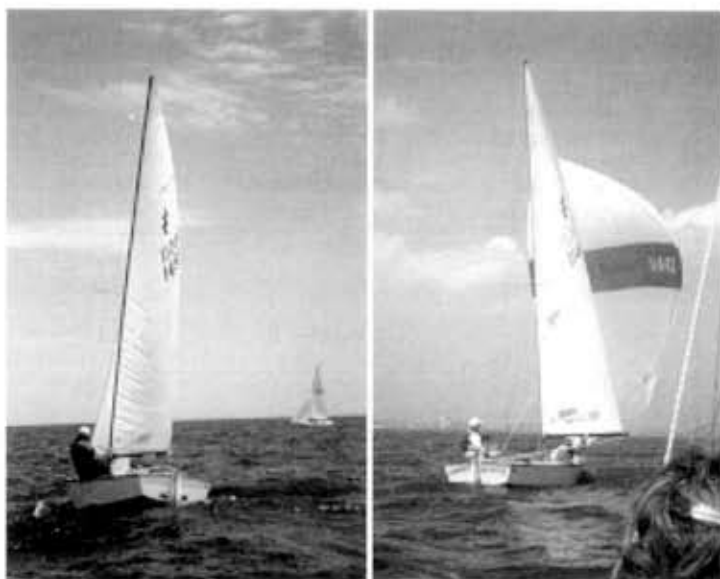
Fleet Secretary/Treasurer Dana Blumberg

* Dean S. Cady		
* & Karen Balistreri	Rampage	11442
* Wayne E. Babler, Jr.	Firebird Suite	11888
* Sue Herzfeld	Second Wind	13430
* Junior Sailing Foundation	Bluette II	13794
* John H. Esser	Sans Souci IV	14400
* Robert A. Franke		
* & Amy Simonsen	Reality Check	14555
* William G. Faude		14740

Again the annual Midwest District meeting was held at the Milwaukee Yacht Club in January 1997. The turnout was not as good as it had been in past years due to a number of factors.

The annual Commissioning Ceremony, again run by our fleet, was held on a beautiful Friday evening in May without any hitches. The cannon went off at the right time and the flags two-blocked at the right time.

May was again a horribly cold month as was the first part of June. The 51st P&T Regatta was held in early July over a wonder-



Left: Irving sailing upwind in the Milwaukee "Edbo" at the 1997 Districts. Right: Team Franke (including Luke) in hot pursuit of Team Blumberg (including Charlie) during the 1997 MYC Little Mackinac Race. Photos: Amy Simonsen & Bob Franke

ful weekend. However, the turnout was the poorest I can remember. Paul Wurtzebach, Chicago, was first followed by Bob Franke/Amy Simonsen, Milwaukee, and Ben Wallace, Chicago.

The Midwest Districts were held at MYC. Again, the turnout was poor, even though this year the District voted to have a two-day regatta instead of a three day regatta. Bill Faude, Milwaukee, was 1st followed by Paul Wurtzebach, Chicago, and Dave Stix, Chicago.

The annual Little Mackinac Race was held on an ideal Sunday in August. The race across Milwaukee Bay to the can buoy took about two hours. A wonderful beat down and a wonderful spinnaker run back to the finish line. Dana Blumberg was 1st followed by Bob Franke/Amy Simonsen and John Esser.

Again, this year our fleet did not race for a season series. Hope there is more interest next year. John Esser

MONMOUTH BOAT CLUB FLEET 70

Metropolitan District

Sailing on the Navesink River

Red Bank, New Jersey

1997 Fleet Captain: Michael Plosica

1998 Fleet Captain: Ted Duffy

Fleet Secretary / Treasurer: Mary Huntsman

Fleet Champion (Best 24 races) ... Sandy Huntsman

Fleet Runner-Up Ralph Wilson

* Michael Plosica		9539
* Cary Scott Zackman, Sr.	C. Nimbus	9984
Wolfgang Haugk		10249
Ed & Judy Landis		10458
* William Jaeger	Blesk	10626
* Monmouth Boat Club	Club Boat	10787
Kevin & Nicola Kelly		10869
Bill Paladeau		11007
* Carl Broadbent		12060
Bob Hutchinson		12499
Keith Bobrowski		12783
Ardwin Libman		12868
Ross Nowak		13333
* Patrick E. Corr		
* & Patrick E. Corr	Silver Spoon	13386
Rob Atkinson		13673
Dale Barney		13743
* Edward Landis		14043



Top: Faude & Franke to leeward (and outside) on one of the many "Wined ups" during the 1997 Districts. Faude, Phelan, Long, Larson, Irving, Wallace, Phelan & Franke preparing for a leeward mark rounding at the 1997 Districts. Photos Amy Simonsen.

* Ted Duffy		14175
Dave Minton		14276
* Jack Huntsman		14342
* Jon Schwartz		14450
* Henry O'Hern, III	Joker	14482
Dave Watts		14492
* David Clausen	Almost Perfect	14495
* Alfred C. Morton	Blue Haven	14539
* Paul Jeka		
* & Don Jeka		14624
* Frank Mergenthaler		14634
* Henry O'Hern		14692
* Ralph F. Wilson	Thunder P	14727
* Paul A. (Sandy) Huntsman, Jr. (Life)		
* & Jack Huntsman	Premiere Cru	14814
* Paul A. (Sandy) Huntsman, Jr. (Life)		
* & Mary W. Huntsman		14852
* Jim Schwartz		0
* Ross Nowak		0

What a wonderful year to sail a Lightning on the Navesink. Fleet #70 started its sailing season with a closely contested Spring Series won by Jack Huntsman in the last race of the series. The always fun and competitive Annual Long John Regatta followed as 39 boats from all over the East Coast and Canada came to Red Bank for some of the best early season competition on the ILCA schedule. As always, the dinner and 50-50 were a blast. Congratulations go to top club finishers: 4th Jack Huntsman; 7th Jon Schwartz; 9th Ted Duffy and 12th Sandy Huntsman. A special thank you to all who volunteered to make the Long John a success!

Among the titles captured by Fleet #70 members while on the road were the NJYRA and Metropolitan District championships. Ted Duffy with crew Michael Plosica and Wolf Haugk won the competitive District Championships at Lake Wallenpaupack, PA. Sandy Huntsman and crew were second. Jon Schwartz claimed the NJYRA Lightning Championship. Congratulations also go out to Jon and Jack for their strong showing at the 1997 Worlds in Montreal and to Jack for making it to the 1997 Mallory Cup Finals, in New Orleans.

Fleet members did indeed have a great time in 1997 with active participation and success in M.B.C.'s Spring, Summer, Bridge and Holiday regattas and numerous social activities as well.

Thanks again to all who volunteered their time to ensure that this was a wonderful year to sail a Lightning on the Navesink!

Fleet 70 en masse



ROCKY RIVER FLEET 71

Ohio District

Sailing on Lake Erie

Cleveland Yacht Club, Rocky River, Ohio

Fleet Captain Walter Sellars
Fleet Secretary James Cunningham

* Mrs. Janis Stevens Mueller (Life)	G.A.M.E.	9653
* Walter Sellars, M.D.	Newfie	14191
* Bill L. Buckles (Life)		0

No report.

CLUB NAUTICO DEL MUÑA FLOTA 73

Colombia District

Sailing on Lake Tomine

Bogota, Colombia

Fleet Secretary Philippe Jacob

Juan Ponce		7451
Juan Martinez		8133
Andres Hernandez		11750
* Rudi Salmang		
* & Richi Salmang	The Flying Mustard	12829
Oscar Rodriguez		13410
Jose Isaza		13431
* Dominique Rodriguez		13432
* Jorge Uzategui		13447
Andres Lisocki		13604
Vicente Hernandez		13607
Hans Streubel		13971
Rafael Esguerra		13990
Mauricio Valenzuela		14085
Rafael Concha		14181
German Mejia		14219
Manuel Isaza		14241
* Jaime Restrepo		14322
* Philippe Jacob	Jubilee	14536
* Jorge Uzategui		14700
* Jochen Raute		14704
Jaime Castillo		14805

No report.

DECATUR FLEET 74

Mississippi Valley District

Sailing on Lake Decatur

Decatur, Illinois

Fleet Captain Doug Floyd

* David Griffith		7701
* David Griffith		12441
* William Stringer		12974
* Roger L. Grohne	Enterprise	13078
* Gary Peck		13726
* Robert W. Ohlsen	Bobs Last Boat III	14012
* Doug Floyd		14205
* Mark Paoli		0

No report.

NYACK LIGHTNING FLEET 75

Metropolitan District

Sailing on the Hudson River

Nyack, New York

Fleet Captain Joan Hurban
Fleet Treasurer Stephanie Mayo
Fleet Recording Secretary Howie Rinehart
Fleet Corresponding Secretary Jim Morris
Fleet Champion Chris Spole
Runner-Up Mike Shasho

Martin Altis	5172
* Ceaser Lipert	7248
Geary Ahern	8182
* Daniel Parietti	8252

Ronald McCormack		10207
Arthur Stahl		10220
* James P. Wolfe	My Three Esses	10224
Elliott Carman	North River	10380
* Lawrence Decker		10620
Peter Steckler		10737
* David Surman		10784
* Daniel Parietti	Shamrock	11143
Irwin Kwartler		11416
* Okke Postma	Kitty Hawk	11544
* William Donelan	Grease	11583
* R. Robert Sengstacken		
* & Richards Jarden	No Frills	12045
* James E. Morris, Jr.		
* & J.P. Mann		12166
* Randall Mirque		12642
* Howard B. Rinehart	Corvette	13625
* Ceaser Lipert		13810
* Chris Kelly	Suntag	13832
* Gary S. Hurban	His	14073
* William G. Cook	Fat Chance	14140
* Mark Keane	Thumbs Up!	14363
* Michael Shasho	Little Crunch	14384
* Joan A. Hurban	Hers	14482
* Stephanie Mayo	Special Effects	14484
* George McDonnell		
* & Arthur Spielvogel	White Lightning	14565
* Chris Sprole		14631
* Kathryn Connell		
* & Paul Connell	Ruffian	14714
* Judy Hanlon	Thistle	14781

Fleet Captain	Al McReynolds
Fleet Secretary	Howard Strickney
Fleet Champion	Dan Pope
Fleet Runner-Up	Al McReynolds

* Dale E. Hamilton	Quest	11050
* Larry C. Stephens		11051
* Howard P. Strickney	Cookie Boat	11074
* Wilmer R. Wright		12215
* David N. Eckler	Droopy Sloop V	12313
* Richard W. Hallagan		12355
* Andy Smith	Windswept	12400
* William W. Farmer, Jr.		12423
* James I. McIntosh	Misty	13080
* Richard Doherty	Irish	13081
* R. Neal Smith	Stealth	13082
* Howard P. Strickney		13313
* Richard Leonardo	One Track Mind	13651
* Daniel J. Koretz, M.D.	Honky	13697
* Alan R. McReynolds	Obsession	13815
* Lisa Stephens	Endurance	14108
* Leland G. Atkinson III	Comfortably Numb	14185
* Todd Schumacher		14210
* Peter Hallagan		14255
* George Sereno	Spar Trek III	14277
* Mark C. Sertl	Lucky Too	14298
* Richard Leonardo		14328
* Lori Foster		
* & Philip Lange	Mambo Wa	14367
* John H. Atkins		
* & Chad H. Atkins	Plan B	14397
* Daniel Pope	Madame X	14520
* Robert Crum	Holy Cow	14522
* Dr. Robert L. Jamison	White Cap II	14605
* Richard W. Hallagan		14655
* Richard W. Hallagan		14855
* Brad Poulos		0
* Dave Walsh		0

1997 found Fleet 75 at Nyack the largest it has been in years. The fleet is now 35 members strong. Joining us this year from the Greenwood Lake fleet are Ceaser Lipert, Okke Poktma, Bob Sengstacken, Mark Keane. Also joining the fleet are Richards Jarden, Judy Hanlon, Randall Mirque and Dave Surman. This increase in membership and the increases in participation in all club functions make the Lightning fleet at Nyack the most active fleet in the club.

Congratulations to Chris Sprole who is once again Fleet Champion. Mike Shasho had a great season finishing second and became the first skipper to move from the "B" fleet to the "A" fleet. Gary Hurban finished the season in third place after taking the fleet championship for three years in a row. Stephanie Mayo took the honors in the very competitive fleet. Congratulations to these skippers who did an outstanding job.

Once again the Last Blast Regatta was very successful. This final regatta of the season was held on Saturday, October 12th when 26 boats enjoyed a perfect day. Paul Connell was the top finisher from Nyack in a very competitive fleet. Many thanks go to Fred Dexter, Lon Murchison and Wally Bartel for serving on race committee and Al Klingler, Bill Michell, Henry Ridder and Mike Dempsey for serving as patrol. Following the races a fine dinner was enjoyed by all. This regatta has become one of the more popular regattas on the East Coast because of the hard work of many members.

We had a very active season averaging 11 boats on the line every race. This year we got 10 new members with 9 boats giving us a total membership of 37 with 28 boats in the fleet. We had boats participate in 17 away regattas ranging from the Mid Winters in Florida to the Lightning World Championships in Montreal. Gary Hurban took first place in the Cad/Met Circuit. This circuit consists of a series of 10 regattas over the course of the season. We instituted the Winners Circle which was very informative. Here the winning skipper each Sunday gave the rest of the fleet an idea of their strategy and tactics.

NEWPORT YACHT CLUB FLEET 77

Central New York District

Sailing on Irondequoit Bay, Lake Ontario

Rochester, New York

It is important to thank the people who make things happen either in the "bright lights" or behind the scenes. I would like to thank our Fleet Captain Dale Hamilton and our Secretary/Treasurer Howard Strickney. Dale was unable to race much this year but contributed much behind the scenes when the important stuff needed to get done. Howard is always there, God bless him, as an important anchor in our fleet; he keeps the books, manages the scores, and dutifully collects the dues. John Atkins will be our new Fleet Captain and wants to bring added attention to the area juniors, which is very important. Eva Smith provided much needed support for our regatta, she organized and managed much of the off-the-water activities. What a great dinner! I, Alan McReynolds, the regatta chairman, wish to again thank her for covering for me while I went out to play in those wonderful boats called Lightnings. There are many of whom will go unnamed, but the contributions of all no matter how small or how large really does make a difference, much thanks to all of you.

The Celebration of Spring regatta has been held in the beginning of June for most of the last 17 or 18 years. This year we had 30 boats participate in the fun. The weekend provided plenty of rain, but much to our surprise the rain stopped when it came time to race. We had fog and we had the bay all to ourselves. The race committee did a wonderful job of getting in three races on Saturday. Following was the PIG ROAST and the band, good food and great fun. Sunday was a pretty good repeat of Saturday with 2 starts and some very tight racing. Mark Sertl won the regatta again this year. Nice job Mark. We plan to go with the same format for next year so be sure to join the fun and put us on your schedule. Think PIG!

As with most one-design racing across the country, our numbers were down somewhat from past years. There is a strong core at the club though, and I think that with effort in the right places we will attract more sailors back to the water. In total we sailed 52 Lightning races in several different series at our club this year. That is a lot of sailing. Dan Pope sailed very consistently getting 1st in the Spring Series, 1st in Summer Series, 1st in Fall Series, and 1st in

the Champion Series. Alan McReynolds got 2nd in Spring Series, 2nd in Fall Series, and 2nd in the Champion Series. Dick Doherty got 3rd in the fall series, 1st in the Summer Bay Series, and 3rd in the Champion Series. Bob Jamison got 2nd in the Summer Series, and 2nd in the Summer Bay Series. Dick Hallagan, the travelin' man, placed 3rd in the Spring Series. Dick Leonardo place 3rd in the Summer Series. Landy Atkinson, our very busy Commodore, placed 3rd in the Summer Bay Series. Other notable sailors include youngest crew persons Alexandria, 8, and Julia Lange, 10, two lovely young ladies sailing with father Phillip. Also, Logan McReynolds, 11, co-skipper most of the year, became full time helmsman for the last four races of the year with his father and 15 year old sister Erin for crew. After the final race of the year he was treated to the Newport tradition of a swim in Irondequoit Bay for winning his first club race. It is rumored he may be the youngest winning Lightning skipper in Newport history. All in all, it was a good year. Hope the same for you and good luck to you next year.

NIANTIC BAY YACHT CLUB FLEET 85

Connecticut/Rhode Island District

Sailing on Niantic Bay, Long Island Sound

Niantic, Connecticut

Fleet Captain	Tom Emch
Fleet Secretary	Franz Edson
Fleet Treasurer	Lori Davis
Fleet Champion	Franz Edson
Runner-Up	Chris Vann

* Martin J. O'Meara, Jr. (Life)	Baby "Makes" III	7170
* David M. Peterson (Life)	Woody	10801
* Lester J. O'Brien	Luff Song	11474
* Barry Buehler	Ugly Fuzzy	11784
* William A. Sebestyen		12069
* Gary Davis	Somewhat Cavalier	12786
* David G. Dickerson	Second Wind	13940
* Christopher J. Vann		14055
* Ward Woodruff		14189
* Gary Woodruff		14189
* Tom Emch	Chao	14289
* Anthony Kotoun		14411
* Donald R. Barrett	Imp Baby	14417
* Franz R. Edson	Hazardous Duty	14419
* Tim Healy		14763
* Bill Shore		14765

Once again the Lightning fleet hosted the season opening Memorial Day pancake breakfast on Saturday morning. The Memorial Day series followed with racing over the three-day weekend. Don Barrett won, Franz Edson was second, and Chris Vann finished in third.

Traveling to beautiful Montreal, Canada, over the week of June 8th, Tim Healy and Don Barrett represented Niantic Bay at the World Championship Regatta. Tim with crew Bill Healy and Maria White finished third, only three points out of first. Don with his wife Donna and George Wiederman finished 44th. Tom Emch also made the trip sailing as crew with George Fisher from Columbus, Ohio.

The Connecticut Governor's Cup was sailed with a small but very competitive fleet. Tim Healy won the event, with Stu Nickerson, Brian Taboada, Brian Hayes, and Gianni Cuccio finishing in the top five. From Niantic Bay, Franz Edson, Chris Vann and Don Barrett finished in the top ten.

The Independence Day series was sailed over the three-day Fourth of July weekend. Tom Emch won the series with Franz Edson in second and Chris Vann in third.

Six boats from Niantic Bay traveled to the Connecticut/Rhode Island District Championship Regatta over the third weekend in July. Brian Hayes and the Housatonic Boat Club hosted a great regatta with five races sailed. Tim Healy, sailing with Matt Reynolds and Maria White as crew, dominated the regatta. Demonstrating

superior boat speed and excellent tactics, this crew won all five races. Also from Niantic Bay, Don Barrett finished third, Franz Edson, Chris Vann and Tom Emch finished fifth, sixth and seventh and Bill Sebestyen finished eleventh.

Making the trek to Michigan for the North American Championship, Tim Healy with crew Mike Breault and Adam Walsh won the last three races and the North American Championship. Also representing Niantic Bay, Tom Emch crewed for George Fisher in the Masters and the NAs.

The three day Labor Day Regatta was won by Don Barrett with his wife Donna and super crew daughter Adrienne sailing with him. Franz Edson finished second and Chris Vann finished third.

The overall series winner for the 1997 season was Franz Edson, with Chris Vann second and Don Barrett third.

Though not large, our fleet at Niantic Bay is active and very competitive. We are extremely fortunate to have the Healy brothers as members of our fleet. All of our performances are enhanced by racing with and against these two great sailors. Hopefully over the next couple of years we can attract some new sailors to our fleet, and we certainly look forward to a great season in 1998. If you are in the neighborhood, come join us for some great sailing on Niantic Bay.

KITSILANO YACHT CLUB FLEET 90

Pacific Northwest

Sailing on English Bay

Vancouver, British Colombia, Canada

Fleet Captain	Matthew Henley
Fleet Secretary	R.H. Pearce

* Clifford K. Harris	Panique	7606
* Matthew Henley	Rocket	11645
* R.H. Pearce	Liisa	13289

No report.

AWOSTING YACHT SQUADRON 95

Metropolitan District

Sailing on Greenwood Lake

Awosting, Hewitt, New Jersey

Fleet Captain	Dan Murphy
Fleet Secretary	Jim Cosmas

* David Surman	Flashpoint	10784
* James C. Cosmas	Duct Tape	11983
* Dan Murphy	Dr. Pepper	12923

No report.

SANTA MONICA BAY FLEET 102

California District

Sailing on Santa Monica Bay at King Harbor

Redondo Beach, California

Fleet Captain	Wendell Harter
Fleet Secretary	Mike Boswell

* Peter McCutchen	Elizabeth	3229
* Mike Boswell		11373
* Bert Winther	Well Greased	13117
* Wendell W. Harter	Paddlin' Madelyn III	13186
* Bruce Yaeger		14206

Our racing season began with the California Lightning Circuit, which was hosted by the Mission Bay Lightning Fleet in San Diego waters during Easter week. Wendell Harter represented Fleet 102 at the event.

Lightning participation in races at King Harbor Yacht Club, the home club for Fleet 102, was very light for a variety of reasons, one being that the club's two hoists were down for two and a half months while being replaced with new ones. Now that Bert Winther has completed repairs on his boat and the club hoists are in good working order, we expect to have a more active racing season for Lightnings 1998.

Mike and Dick Brewer of MBYC, who regularly compete in our fleet races, sailed in the North American Lightning Championship and returned home with a new boat. They then used it in the Pacific Coast Lightning Championship, held at Richmond YC in the northern part of San Francisco Bay, and won with four firsts and a fifth. Obviously they are going to be tough to deal with in the coming racing season.

The Fleet's Christmas part was held at the Manhattan Beach home of Madelyn and Wendell Harter.

LAVALLETTE FLEET 104 Central Atlantic District Sailing on Barnegat Bay Barnegat Bay, New Jersey

Fleet CaptainChris Larsen
Fleet SecretaryBill Dacosta
Fleet ChampionPeter Scott
Runner-UpJohn (Curt) Morton

* Anthony M. Ventimiglia		
* & Eugene Ventimiglia		9539
* G. Wm. (Bill) Gerold	At Last	10988
* William E. Dacosta	Elusive	12957
* Robert F. Hoffman	Fuzzy Blues	13710
* Dr. Robert T. Morrow	Men-At-Work	13782
* Ronald K. Kiss	No Excuses	13897
* Anthony M. Ventimiglia		
* & Eugene Ventimiglia	Spirit	13955
* Christian J. Larsen	Peggy	13965
* John C. Morton	Gunsmoke Too!	14539
* William A. Scott	4-Carat Diamond	14635
* Dr. Donald A. Cooper		0

1997 must go down in the books as a somewhat disappointing year for Fleet 104. By the early part of June, we had fifteen Lightnings on trailers at the Yacht Club, ready to sail for the start of a banner season. A series of unfortunate events and illness took its toll and forced some of our skippers to forego sailing as much as



they hated to do so. Our usual participation on any given race day has been averaging twelve boats, but this season it was closer to eight. What makes it worse is the fact that we had perfect sailing weather each week during the summer series, not one race canceled or delayed.

On the brighter side, each race was well contested with several lead changes and our race committee, headed by Vice Commodore George Schreyer (a Lightning sailor himself), gave us good courses each week. There was plenty of spinnaker action and windward legs that created good competition among those who were on the water.

Of six qualifiers for the season's series, Peter and Bill Scott (son and father) with James Miller as third did not place below third and yet barely won out over Curt Morton, Dennis McKenna and Kim Schwarz (the 1996 Champs). Ron Kiss, Ed Bitzer and Bob Brandes took over the third place; Charles Heuschkel, wife Lauren and various crews placed fourth. Chris Larsen, Tom Livelli and Roberta Schreyer placed fifth; and Bill Dacosta, Walter Krueger and Joan Young were the final qualifiers. Previous champs, Dr. Anthony Ventimiglia, Bob Morrow and Bob Hoffman were among those who were unable to sail regularly and thus did not qualify for the series.

No less than three skippers earned the right to win the prestigious Bottoms Up trophy in 1997: Chris Larsen, Dr. Don Cooper and Walter Krueger. Each made a short speech recognizing the efforts of their skillful sailing.

There were two bright spots during the summer. Our fleet had the honor of hosting the 1997 CAD Championship Regatta on July 12-13. A twenty-seven boat fleet participated in four races. We had a wonderful banquet for all and those who attended reported having a good time. Past Commodore of the LYC Anne Attridge served as head of the Race Committee which included Kathryn Plosica, Trudy DiFrancesco, Del Kusma and Andy Johnson.

The second highlight was our annual final sail race and picnic held in September. We hosted five Sunfish and two Flying Scots in a combined race that became a paddling event when the wind died completely in order to satisfy a time limit prior to our enjoyment of all the goodies that were served.

In closing, we offer our thanks to those behind the scenes for a wonderful racing season. Vice Commodore George Schreyer, Race Committee, Bob Viera, Trudy DiFrancesco, Joyce Johnson and Peggy Larsen; Patrols, Andy Johnson, Jack Henderson and Bill Chadwick; and last but not least the communications team, Mary Ann Ziegler, Joan Sauvigne, Vivian Fertakos and Barbara Jost.

We are looking forward to a much improved season in 1998.
Bill Dacosta



HIGGINS LAKE FLEET 110

Michigan District

Sailing on Higgins Lake

Roscommon, Michigan

Fleet Captain/Secretary John N. Dent

* Scott D. Carman		2138
* & Steven E. Randall		
* Dr. Peter B. Morley, Jr.	Bohica	9102
* Dr. Peter B. Morley, Jr.	Go Dog Go	11185
* John N. Dent		12784
* Scott D. Carman		
* & Steven E. Randall		13999
* John N. Dent	Deck-A-Dent	14021

1997 was a truly memorable sailing season at Higgins Lake as we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Higgins Lake Boat Club and Lightning Fleet #110. Activity began earlier than usual as we prepared to host the District Championship. No small task for us, due in part to our unique island location.

Racing got underway Friday, June 20th as 33 boats approached the starting line. A windward-leeward course was set for variable southwest winds of 10 to 15 miles per hour. Pre-race jitters affected both sailors and Race Committee as eager racers forced a general recall, and then abandonment and restart of the starting sequence. The race did finally get started and eventually saw Sean Fidler edge Dan Norton in a very close finish. The course was lengthened for the second race of the day as wind speed picked up somewhat. Jim Allen got out to an early lead after a clean start, but was eventually overtaken by Colin Park, Sean, and Tom Niles in another very close finish to end the day.

Saturday morning brought light rain and a southwest wind of 15 to 20 miles per hour. Racing was postponed until the rain let up a little bit. After a clean start Jim Allen led Jim Davis and Sean around the windward-leeward course. This time he held on to win, but Mark Whatley and Colin took the next two places. After lunch the wind died, the rain picked up, and races were postponed for the day.

After a calm beginning to Sunday morning, a northwest breeze filled in nicely. Recognizing that there would be no throw out, sailors aggressively approached the starting line forcing two general recalls. Finally, with the Z-flag flying, the fourth race of the Regatta was started. Dan Norton led Sean Fidler and Jim Allen from start to finish to get his first win. Just before the time limit was met, the final race of the series was started cleanly. Jim Allen and Mark Whatley jumped into the early lead, but were eventually overtaken by Colin Park who won the race and secured his overall victory in the 1997 Michigan District Lightning Championship.

After the trophies were presented, and raffle prizes given away, boats sailed back to the mainland to begin their return trip home. I think all left having experienced a very competitive regatta with a variety of conditions. We certainly enjoyed hosting it and would like to thank all of you who journeyed to Higgins Lake for helping us to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. I would also like to thank the Commodore of the Higgins Lake Boat Club; Peter Morley, Jr., and Race Committee Chairman Stan Dent without whose help, this would have been impossible. Also, thank you to my wife Judi, and the rest of our Club members who helped make this event a success.



Michigan District Championship action at Higgins Lake

Our sailing season continued with the Firecracker Regatta held on the Fourth of July. This was followed by a potluck dinner party. Our 50th Anniversary Regatta was held on July 26th as a handicapped event, open to all classes. The eventual winner based on adjusted time was John Dent in a Lightning. Our 50th Anniversary party took place the following Saturday hosted by Susan and Peter Morley, Jr. whose grandfather was the original Commodore of the Higgins Lake Boat Club. This was a splendid affair with entertainment provided by a nationally renowned dixieland jazz band. Many former members and friends whom we haven't seen for some time came out for this one. It was a fitting celebration for the 50th Anniversary of our Club. The season concluded as usual on Labor Day with the competition for the Higgins Lake Property Owner's Association Cup. John Dent was the lone Lightning battling several Hobie Cats for the class honor. Confidence was high as John and Judi raised the spinnaker, chasing those high flying Hobie Cats in brisk conditions. The jibe was fine, but when the reach tightened up and the decision was made to douse the chute, the value of that middle crew became apparent. Before they knew what hit them, John on the low side of the boat, and Judi catapulting from the deck, were over. This was something neither had experienced before and therefore, a bit of a shock. The ensuing clean up effort, while entertaining to many spectators, made continuing the campaign impossible. The awards banquet at the DNR MacMullen Center formally ended the racing season at Higgins Lake.

We would like to invite our old friends, as well as our new found friends back to Higgins Lake next year. We will be back in our usual time slot and look forward to seeing many of you August 1st and 2nd. *John Dent*

GREEN BAY SAILING CLUB FLEET 112

Midwest District

Sailing on Green Bay

Green Bay, Wisconsin

President Terry Phelan
 Vice-President/Secretary Brian Grahovac
 Treasurer John Evans
 Fleet Champion Terry Phelan
 Runner-up Brian Grahovac

* James L. Hopkins	Puzzle	9634
* Doug Olson		10439
* Kevin Hart	Truth	11307
* Heyrman		13235
* John Evans		13376
* Masse		13565
* Frank A. Wood	Confusion 3	13568
* Peggy Himmel		13695
* Terrence Phelan		
* & Mari Martin	Surprise	13817
* Brian Phelan		
* & Steve Adamski	Just Friends	13818
* David Poquette		13818
* Grahovac/Havil/Hiskes		13901
* Michael B. Kulkoski		
* & Bruce Heida	Birken Bot	14106
* Michael J. Merkatoris		14130
* Jim Merkatoris	Jim	14193
* Bill Dean	Rock N' Roll	14568

Thanks to the continuing efforts of the members of Fleet 112 we proudly celebrated our 50th anniversary in grand style at a special Spring banquet. Special thanks go to the founding members who registered our charter with the International Lightning Class Association in 1947. Without them Lightnings might never have graced the emerald waters of Green Bay. Although our location has changed through the years our dedication to racing and family fun hasn't. Races are conducted twice weekly on Monday and Thursday nights from late May until late September.

Our season began with much enthusiasm as evidenced by the large inventory of sails purchased by members of the fleet. A seminar on tuning presented by Greg Fisher of North Sails helped move us into the fast lane. Many sailors listened attentively and took notes. The following day Greg provided on the water coaching at the Fond du Lac regatta.

Our fleet was well represented at this regatta with six boats making the hour and a half trip. We also had at least 5 boats that traveled to Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Chicago. At our annual Evans Regatta 18 boats competed for the coveted Evans trophy. The honors went to Paul Wurtzebach of Chicago who garnered 7.25 points from 5 races!

The sailing this summer was interrupted by an unprecedented streak of five consecutive cancelled races. In all, eleven races were not sailed either because of calm or storm. The effects of El Nino!? The Fleet Championship was won this year by the team of Mary Martin, Rick Evans, and Terry Phelan. The Grahovac team was second, Phelan/Adamski -third, Dean -fourth, Hopkins - Fifth. The winner of the Phelan Trophy was Brian Grahovac. Mike Merkatoris won the Hayes Handicap Trophy. The race management team of Tom Phelan and Jane Stannard deserve kudos for their professional approach to running the race committee.

Terry Phelan, GBSC President

CUBA LAKE YACHT CLUB FLEET 115

Lake Erie District
Sailing on Cuba Lake
Cuba, New York

Fleet CaptainSkip Wilday
Fleet SecretaryValerie Kane

* Greg Buckley		9150
* Mark Mueller	Black Magic	10008
* John B. Rudd	Allegro	10705
* Michael D. Kane	Austerity	11175
* Lawrence Older	Red Baron	11766
* Mike Lamb	Mad Dogs	13764
* Greg Buckley	Ole Blue	13890
* Skip Wilday		14725

No report.

FLYING BEAVER
Lake Erie District
Sailing on Hamilton Bay
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Fleet CaptainKeith MacDonald
Fleet SecretaryPaul Eichenberg

* Keith MacDonald		11289
* J. Paul Eichenberg		12443
* Scott Warrenner	Fun II	14134
* J. Paul Eichenberg	Cha Geill	14476
* David Wood	Bunch Of Weenies	14599
* Larry MacDonald, Jr.		14834
* Larry MacDonald, Sr. (Life)		

No report.

MERRIMAC RIVER FLEET 121

New England District
Sailing at The American Yacht Club
Newburyport, Massachusetts

Fleet CaptainClif Robinson
Fleet SecretaryPatrick McCormack

* Robert E. Carleton		1320
* Patrick McCormack		9434
* Bob Pepe	Jeremiah	10461
* Alfred J. Martin	Kaboom	10857
* Patrick Gallagher	Shark Byte	11150
* Mark R. Windt	Healing Over	11640
* Winthrop Snow	Swan	13517
* Alan P. Lavender		13576
* David Sestini	O'Mon	14154
* John R. Hughes		14275
* Patrick McCormack		14547
* Leonard C. Pratt (Life)		

No report.

CEDAR POINT YACHT CLUB FLEET 126

Connecticut/Rhode Island District
Sailing on Long Island Sound
Westport, Connecticut

Fleet CaptainChristopher Miller
Fleet SecretaryGiselle Wasner
Fleet TreasurerRichard Thackaberry
Fleet ChampionGianni Cuccio
Fleet Runner-UpDick Thackaberry

* Maria White		7552
* Gavin Watson	Cygnus	11097
* Dick Price		11381
* Richard Thackaberry	Ol' Blue	11385
* Bud Titworth	TNT	11486
* Rod Ratcliffe	Loligo	11570
* Robert H. Martin, Jr.	Flexible Flyer	13056
* James De Cesare	Fester	13708
* Terence D. Frimmet	Adventure Galley	13821
* John Cuccio	G.T.O.	13871
* Christopher Miller	Helter Skelter	14030
* Steven Wexler	Lloyd on Acid	14238
* Jim Crane	Cat	14572
* Tom Glynn		14630
* Charles Proctor	The White Boat	14821
* Jody Lutz		0

Fleet 126 sailing from Cedar Point Yacht Club in Westport, Connecticut had a busy season. The Fleet hosted the 1997 Atlantic Coast Championships as well as its regular Spring and Fall regattas. In addition the fleet sails every Saturday from Memorial Day into mid September. The high point of the season, the Atlantic Coasts, was attended by 50 boats and was a 4-race competitive series. Ched Proctor, a member of Fleet 126, successfully defended his title.

The Fleet welcomed two new members this year, Bob Martin and Terry Frimmet. Bob and Terry were consistent and improving participants, but Gianni Cuccio continued to best the Lightning sailing in and around Cedar Point Yacht Club. The club's season series was won by Gianni with Dick Thackaberry second for the season (yet again) while Terry placed third. The Fleet will be hosting the 1998 Connecticut/RI districts as well as the Spring and Fall Invitationals. See you in 1998!

SAVANNAH FLEET 127
Southeastern District
Sailing on the Wilmington River
Bradley Point, Savannah, Georgia

* R. Eric Oetgen	13911
* John M. McIntosh, Sr. (Life) Red Boat	13911
* J. Wallace Aggett (Life)	0

No report.

MADISON BEACH CLUB FLEET 129
Connecticut/Rhode Island
Sailing on Long Island Sound
Madison, Connecticut

Fleet Captain	James Deephouse
Fleet Secretary	Tim Millhiser
Fleet Champion	Tim Millhiser
Fleet Runner-Up	John Sulzbach

* Thomas H. Davidson	Cod	11113
* James R. Deephouse	Early Times	11207
* John Ronshagen	P.F.D.	11773
* J. Michael Sulzbach	Rosie	11933
* W. Harmon Leete	Moonshine	13230
* Timothy Millhiser	S.S. Oshpoodle	14342
* Leighton Lee	Finelee	14441

The highlight of this year's season was the many juniors skippering and crewing this year. In particular, John Sulzbach, Anne Davidson, Scott Howard and Erin Riley put in a fine performances much improved over the past. Junior crew Ned Goss and Ryan Sakmar were key to Millhiser's win and Ashley Sakmar, Peter Young and several other juniors rounded out many of the crews.

Peter Young, taking a break from his strong Optimists season, won a second in the Fisher Cup Race. Terry and Linda Zanes took first as they got their new boat up to speed. In another year or two, the juniors will be pushing the old guys out of the way.

MOBILE BAY FLEET 135
Southern District
Sailing on Mobile Bay
Mobile, Alabama

Fleet Secretary L.M. Bohnenkamp

Denis Hermecz	Robt. Jeffcott	8365
John Kern		8704
Thomas Perrine	Sunday's Child	10980
Robert Borneman	Sun Kiss II	12956
* Dr. Russell March, Jr. &		
* Barney March III	Bigeminy III	13060
Joe Wacker		13158
Nick Blakeney	Dulcinea	13200
* L.M. Bohnenkamp &		
John M. Bohnenkamp	Bohdacious	14136
* Robert Bernhardt, Jr.	Enigma	14736
Denis Hermecz		14759

After a good season last year, we regressed this year, rather like the recent stock market drop. We can't seem to get Blakeney, Borneman, and Perrine racing again, but we will keep trying. We did have active participation from three of our skippers who sailed at almost every opportunity. Robert Bernhardt was the big winner this season with firsts at the Southern Districts, Buccaneer Spring Regatta, and the Holiday-in-Dixie at Shreveport, culminating in a Blue Fleet slot at Detroit.

John Bohnenkamp sailed to a third at the Districts while Mitch took a third place at the Gulf Yachting Association Championship, and finished the season with a win at the Wadewitz Regatta at Fairhope Yacht Club. Barney March was active this season with place finishes at Mandeville and Fairhope. We hope for better participation next year. Come on out guys - it's still fun! *Mitch Bohnenkamp*

GULL LAKE YACHT CLUB FLEET 137
Michigan District
Sailing on Gull Lake
Richland, Michigan

Fleet Secretary Thomas Peter Hudson

* David J. Decker	We Could Go Faster	14474
* Thomas Hudson	Be Calm	14712

The Lightning activity on Gull Lake was rather quiet during the 1997 season, but you would still periodically see a Lightning slicing through the deep, turquoise waters of this premier, southwestern Michigan lake. Members of the Gull Lake Fleet periodically appear at one of the many Regattas held in the Michigan District and surrounding areas throughout the season.

SPOFFORD LAKE FLEET 145
New England District
Sailing on Lake Spofford
Spofford, New Hampshire

Fleet Captain Alex Gemmell

Fleet Treasurer Patrick McQueen

Alex Gemmell		10254
* Fred H. Hamblet (Life)	Gail	11346
* Frederick Turner, Jr.	Smurfin Along	11210
* Randall Locke		12362
* David H. Fitch	Three Cheers	13835
* Christopher Hamblet		14446
* Raymond Fitzpatrick		0

Spofford Lightning Fleet welcomes Alex Gemmell as the new fleet Captain and recent Lightning new boat owner. Alex represented SYC by skippering in the N. E. District Masters Competition and he crewed with Tom and Caroline Chase in several New England regattas during 1997.

Fred Turner was honored with a perpetual trophy for his years of distinguished service. Dave Fitch with his wife Dorothy won the "Around the Island Race" in their Lightning *Three Cheers*. The Spofford Lightning Regatta, sailed in pleasant but windy September weather, concluded with Dave Fitch in 3rd place, Alex Gemmell in 4th, Randy Locke in 5th, and Fred Turner in 7th. Past Champion and veteran sailor, Len Pratt, was Race Committee Chairman. Due to crewing on Lightnings, some Club members are searching for used Lightnings.

TORONTO BAY FLEET 146
Lake Erie District
Sailing on Lake Ontario
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Fleet Captain David Sprague

P.E. Sulman	Pampero	11177
* David Sprague (Life)	In Lieu	14174
* J.R.G. Bleasby (Life)		0

No report.