

BURT LAKE FLEET 254
Michigan District
Sailing on Burt Lake
Cheboygan County, Michigan

Fleet Commodore Bob Garlinghouse
 Fleet Secretary Ann Swayze
 1997 Fleet Champion Gary Street
 Fleet Runner-Up Clark Swayze

Bob Garlinghouse	11078
David Beery	13909
Gary Street	13963
Tom Hanson	14023
* Stuart F. Cheney	14505
* Clark E. Swayze	14770

Fleet 254 sailed through 1997 in generally light winds and a very November-like August. Coming through it all on top was last year's runner-up Gary Street in #13963. Street finished the season with firsts in more than half of the races and though every race was very hard-fought the final standings were most decisive in his favor.

Last year's champion, Clark Swayze, was runner-up in 1997. Commodore Bob Garlinghouse completed his first full season as a Lightning skipper and wound up in third place overall. Congratulations to Bob and his first mate, Diana!

Our annual 4th of July Daggerboard Regatta was sadly cancelled due to cold weather! Honestly, it was 57 degrees at race time! Yet by end of season Fleet 254 sailors seemed to be a bit heartier—the awards picnic went on without hesitation despite pouring rain! Needless to say we are all looking forward to a new season in 1998.

Ann Swayze

CLARKS HILL LIGHTNING FLEET 257
Southeastern District
Sailing on Strom Thurmond Lake
Augusta, Georgia

Fleet Captain Robert E. Harkrider Jr.
 Fleet Secretary Richard F. Mayne

* Gilbert L. Klemann, M.D.	2381
* Howard David Estroff	9398
* Nancy Klemann Sproul	9468
* Jeff Brault	10810
* Sharon Harkrider	12489
* Gilbert L. Klemann, M.D.	13190
* Richard Mayne	14127
* Robert E. Harkrider Jr. (Life)	14532
* Robert E. Harkrider Jr. (Life)	14693
* Robert E. Harkrider Jr. (Life)	14889
* James A. Harris, M.D.	14701
* Thomas L. Schroeder	0

The Clark's Hill Fleet had little change in the number of fleet boats, and no fleet sailing. We did have participation on the circuit, with Bob Harkrider, and Jim and Connie Harris making most of the circuit races and finishing second and third respectively.

Augusta also held the second scheduled Regatta on the circuit April 26-27, 1997. Fifteen boats sailed with Jim Harris taking first, Bob Harkrider second and Lenny Krawcheck of Charleston, SC, third. A new boat in the fleet is Howard Davie Estroff in Lightning 9398; he and Dick Mayne traveled to district circuit races but did compete in enough races to qualify this year. Jim and Bob went to the NA's and qualified to race in the Blue Fleet.

Richard Mayne

HARBOR ISLAND YACHT CLUB FLEET 262
Mississippi Valley District
Sailing on Old Hickory Lake
Nashville, Tennessee

Fleet Captain Brian Smokler
 Fleet Co-Captain Mary Ann Smokler
 Fleet Secretary Joseph Cunningham

* Chandler Owen	9055
* Joseph Cunningham	9211
* Robert G. Hempel	10537
* Harry K. Whitver	10691
* Bill Killebrew	11480
* Chandler Owen	11609
* Chandler Owen	11737
* David Ausbrooks	12511
* Joseph F. Hunt	13212
* Brian Smokler	13666
* Mike Osborne	13769
* Bill Killebrew	13875
* Chandler Owen	13917
* Bruce Richards	13957
* Bradford Currie	14000
* Cully Ward	
* & Kat Ward	14116
* Anne Beesley	14533
* Fred W. Beesley, Jr.	14533
* Robert G. Hempel	14571
* Jerry Fertig	14588
* Dr. Robert Cotton	14645
* Bill Killebrew	14680
* William Hofmeister	14706
* Frank L. Kelly, Jr.	14748

What a year it's been. We're silver fleet! The high point of this year was Mandy Hofmeister, Jan Thompson, and Cathy Osborne winning the Women's North American Championship. We are so proud of them.

The Lightning season started with the Tennessean Regatta in April. Cully Ward with crew Jan Thompson and daughter Kat Ward took the first place Silliman Evans trophy. Our weekly Sunday fleet races started after the Tennessean and had a consistent turnout of 5 or 6 boats despite an unusually rainy spring followed by a dismally windless mid-summer. Let's blame it on El Niño.

The Mississippi Valley District Championships were held at HIYC this year. Gerry Paoli from Lake Carlyle took top honors. Way to go guys and we can't wait until 1999 when you host the North Americans.

Fleet 262 made a great showing at the Lightning North American Championships in August. Junior sailor Kat Ward and crew Jim Ward and Paul Killebrew did well in the very competitive Junior fleet. This was Kat's last chance to compete before heading off to Duke University (where she has earned a place on their sailing team) and Paul's last regatta before heading to the University of Georgia. Bob Cotton and former Master's Champion Don Sherburne competed in the Masters division. In the competition at Crescent Yacht Club, HIYC was represented by four boats: Bill Killebrew and Bob Cotton competed in the Green Fleet, and Bill Hofmeister and Chan Owen sailed in the Blue Fleet. Check out the Boat Formerly Known as Doc Gilbert Express, colorfully painted by Lightning sailors in dedication to Audrey Matteson.

Five HIYC Lightnings made an appearance at the always-fun Cotton Pickin' Regatta in Hernando, Mississippi, in September. Cully Ward took top honors in a very close competition with Bill Hofmeister. Nothing like that Arkabutla flat water planing to get your attention. Thanks for holding off on the crop dusting this year, guys.

HIYC was well represented in Atlanta at the Atlanta Cup at Lake Lanier. Bill Hofmeister took a bullet in the only race in the very light (as in nonexistent) wind series. Remember sailing without wind is like dividing by zero, alternate realities usually don't impinge

on ours, and would have won isn't the same as actually winning . . . unless you do win.

The annual McDougall Regatta was another light air race. No matter how many times you try it, dividing by zero cannot be defined, and sailing without wind isn't sailing. By the numbers, Bill Hofmeister won the regatta, but offered up his trophy to Bob Cotton who won the races in which the presence of wind made sailing (and not drifting) possible. Our fleet is strong not only because of the skills of talented sailors like Bill Hofmeister and Bob Cotton, but because the Corinthian spirit in which they compete.

The 1997 Bluenose offered rain the first day and plenty of wind the second day. Greg Fisher and Brian Hayes of North Sails with help from champion Colin Park presented their second annual sailing seminar the Friday afternoon before the races. After video taping starting drills, tacking practice, and mini-races in the harbor they critiqued our performance on tape during the cocktail party. With 45 boats competing, the races on Saturday offered moderate winds and rain. The hot food that evening was well appreciated after the soggy day. Sunday it was very windy. The 2 races run on Sunday were Lightning sailing at its best: high speed beats to windward and spinnaker planing on the runs. The real excitement happened after the races when 10 boats capsized running back into the harbor. As always the regatta was exceptionally well run by former Senior Fleet something or another Rob Hempel and PRO William Hofmeister and able crew. We really appreciate Bill giving up racing in this competitive fleet and lending his talents to the organizational side of this regatta. Mark you calendars now, the Bluenose is the first weekend in November.

Thanks for all who participated in our fleet activities and all the Harbor Island people who helped make it possible. If you find yourself in Middle Tennessee, please stop by and see us.

Brian Smokler-Fleet 262 Captain (#13666 "Feather")

CARLYLE SAILING ASSOCIATION FLEET 266

Mississippi Valley District

Sailing on Carlyle Lake

Carlyle, Illinois

Fleet Captain: Terry Burke
Fleet Treasurer: Carolyn Burke
Fleet Champion: Dan Moriarty
Fleet Runner Up: Terry Burke

* Frank Hruby		11580
* Steven G. Bailey	Frances	12029
* Rob Zerban	Gumby	13273
* Greg Florian	D.F.	13308
* Barring Coughlin	Swallow	13836
* Linus J. Portman	Misty Lee	13892
* L. Michael Braig		14013
* Arthur Merdinian		14089
* Eric Bernstein	Yellowhammer	14114
* Dr. John G'Sell	Dirty Old Dagwood	14118
* Daniel Moriarty		14165
* Glenn Grummon		14204
* Matt G.S. Burrige	Liquid Diet	14229
* Denny Heisler	Snakewake	14636
* Gerry Paoli	Mama	14654
* Terry Burke	Top Flash	14766
* Dr. Tom Aquino, M.D.		14828
* Robert G. Burrige		
* Jim Sears		

This year was frustrating . . . the weather gods were not cooperating. Forty two percent of the scheduled races were abandoned . . . mainly for lack of wind, several for too much wind. The year was successful nonetheless both on and off the water.

The year started out with the Mid-Continent Regatta on the first weekend of May. Steve Hayden steered his boat to a first place finish in a fleet of 19 boats. On Saturday, it was cold and winds were



Photos from the Mid-Continent Regatta in May at Carlyle.
Above, downwind under threatening skies.
Lower, the winner finishing, Steve Hayden.
Photos courtesy Terry Burke.

blasting. On Sunday, the sun was out and the winds moderated to 15 to 18. Jim Sears guest skippered Rick Bernstein's boat to a second place. Bill Hofmeister from Nashville, David Stix from Chicago and our own Gerry Paoli rounded out the top five.

On the regatta Circuit, Dan Moriarty, Matt Burrige, and Byrnadett Frerker teamed up to sail at the Winter Championship. Gerry Paoli won the Mississippi Valley Districts with Jim Sears finishing in 5th. Also going to the Districts were Dan Moriarty, Terry Burke and Mark Paoli. Dan, Matt and Rick teamed up for the North Americans and finished a very respectable 5th place. Arthur went back to his home port and finished 2nd at the Fall Classic at Cedar Point. Rick, Dan and Jim teamed up and went to the Red Flannels in Chicago and tuned in a 5th place finish.



The big news in the fleet was the acceptance of Fleet 266 bid for the 1999 North American Championship Regatta. Our regatta chairman, Matt Burridge, and his regatta team are already hard at work putting the event together. Carlyle Sailing Association has handled numerous championship regattas including the national championships for the Flying Scots, E-Scows, Snipes, and others. We have held the USSA events including the One of a Kind, Champion of Champions, and the 1994 Olympic Festival. This year CSA will hold the Flying Scot National Championship for the third time. Carlyle Sailing Association is one of the finest inland sailing facilities in the country. This year we will get a work out in preparation by handling both our Mid-Continent and the MVD championships in the first part of the season.

The fleet series ended with Dan, Matt, and Jennifer Aljets teamed together and winning the season long fleet championship. This team is breaking up at least for fleet racing because Dan bought John G'Sell's (14118) boat. Terry Burke with his steady crew of Nora Kelly and Ron Frerker finished in 2nd. Matt and crew did a clean sweep Spring, Summer and Fall Series. Terry was 2nd in the Spring and Fall Series and Gerry was 2nd in the Summer Series.

This year we had to say goodbye to long time fleet members and good friends Mark and Theresa Kniepmann. Mark went down to Florida to work with his brother Ken. We will miss him and his family. The boat was sold within the fleet to Arthur Merdian who has been crewing for a long time with Rick Bernstein and Rick's dad, Stew before that. Next year is going to be tough on the race course with all the talent. Keep up with the goings on in our fleet at our web site: www.ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/topflash

Terry Burke

INDIANAPOLIS SAILING CLUB FLEET 270

Indiana District

Sailing on Geist Reservoir

Indianapolis, Indiana

Fleet CaptainElizabeth Foster
Fleet SecretaryMichael Franceschini
Fleet TreasurerKenneth McGinity

* Charles Watt		7275
Andrew Harmon	Weirdly Manor	8679
* John B. Leath	No Excuse	9050
* Kenneth D. Woods		11203
Steven J. Jay		12393
Norman Cubellis		12896
Lamar Michael		12963
* Bill Higgins	Christopher-Alex	13278
* Steven Hayes	Sundance	13489
* Michael R. Franceschini		13657
* John B. Leath	L'eclair Rouge	13954
* Dr. Edwin Fineberg	Make It So	14349
Joseph Lassaux	Sundance II	14359
* Dr. Walter B. Tinsley, Jr.		
* & Paul Vos	Winsome	14537

The 1997 sailing season at Indianapolis came in like a lion but went out like a lamb - with a good mixture of wind in between.

The 35th Annual Indiana Open, held the first weekend in May brought slightly fewer boats than previous years as some of our friends from Chicago competed at a conflicting venue. After a brief postponement due to an electrical storm, the first race found a nice breeze - 25-30 knots with a few down puffs! The first day, five of the eighteen competitors, flying downwind under spinnaker, found the water inviting and decided to go for a swim. Day 2 showed the same fierce competitiveness as the first day with several general recalls. The wind was a more gentle 15-20. In testimony to good sportsmanship, 720's were graciously done rather than taking infractions to the protest room. The winning skipper was George Sipel of Western Lake Erie Fleet 42, followed by Sean Fidler of Saginaw Bay Fleet 216, Dan Norton of Devils Lake Yacht Club Fleet 31, Jeff Hagman also of Western Lake Erie Fleet 42 and Colin Park of Saginaw Bay Fleet 216.

Fleet races throughout the season had varying winds, to test us in all conditions. We were pleased to see and increase in "boats on the line" for the Sunday afternoon series. Our Fleet Championship was won by Joseph Lassaux, followed by Michael Franceschini second and Paul Vos/Walter Tinsley third.

As the 1998 season inches closer, we look forward to more fun and greater competitiveness with back-to-back Sunday afternoon races, the 36th Annual Indy Open on the first weekend in May and the Indiana Districts, which we will again host. We invite all Lightning sailors to join us on Geist Lake.

Michael Franceschini

LAKE MASSABESIC YACHT CLUB FLEET 273

New England District

Sailing on Massabesic Lake

Manchester, New Hampshire

Fleet SecretaryGordon Geick

* Gordon Geick	Mongoose II	9390
* Kenneth Deyett		9829
* George Deyett		11400
* Michael Adams	Sunday Punch	11401
* Walter Colantuono	River Blues	11740
* Nick Mercier	Annie Oakley	11885
* John Dika	Glory	12723
* Joe Ray	Bloody	13602
* Maurice L'Heureux, Jr.	Quick Silver	13828
* Samuel J Fitzpatrick	Shannanigans	14060
* Joseph P. Celia		14180
* Norman G. Deyett		14273
* William Berry	Amarcord	14442
* Kenneth A. Carlson		14553

The MYC Fleet again had an enjoyable and competitive season with our fleet racing and at outside regattas. The season began on the Southern Circuit with red, white, yellow and metallic gray boats making the trip south. Our finishes weren't overly impressive, but we provided color both on and off the water.

The MYC Iceberg Regatta was sailed in mid-May in blustery and shifty conditions which overpowered many boats. Collisions, swimming, broken rigging and a boat with "flotation tanks" almost sinking highlighted a challenging day won by George Deyett.

Our Sunday racing had a strong fleet at the line with good competition at all levels. This was helped by Ken and George Deyett hosting a series of racing clinics for club members.

The team race day was a fun event that allowed cooperation and coaching between sailors who are normally competitors. I encourage each fleet to try this.

Ken Deyett had a strong 3rd place at the New England Districts and Nick Mercier won the Junior Championship. George Deyett attended most every District regatta and won the New England District Lightning Circuit Championship.

Lake Massabesic YC will celebrate our 60 Year Anniversary in 1998 and will host the New England District Championship. Hope to see you there.

Gordon Geick

DELTA SAILING ASSOCIATION FLEET 274

Mississippi Valley District

Sailing on Beautiful Arkabutla Reservoir

Hernando, Mississippi

Fleet CaptainFrank Bermel
Fleet SecretaryMary Jane Robbins

* Ken Davis	Garfield	9791
* William N. Baxter, III	Turbo Dog	11999
* Richard R. Ranta	Metrognome	12082
* Herbert Cochrane	Wet Paint	13258
* Clay Jones	Wild Cherry	13703
* Colie L. Jenkins, Jr.	3 Sheets To The Wind	13805
* Frank Bermel	Blew By You	13966
* Joseph A. Kelly	Jill E.	14171
* Roy W. Robbins	Sho Boat	14270
* Lynn A. Jones	Leap Frog	14338
* W.N. Baxter		14357
* Crit Currie	Rebel Devel	14666

No report.

TEMPLE REEF SAILING CLUB 279

Central Canada District

Sailing on Thunder Bay, Lake Superior

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

Fleet Captain	Mark Sandberg
Fleet Secretary	Donna Sutherland
Fleet Treasurer	Brian Cox

* James W. Colquhoun		7270
* Jim Mikulinski	Speculator	9871
* Don Willson		10321
* Brent Bottomley	Rootin' Tootin'	10917
* J.V. Bailey	Zamboanga Too	11009
* Mark Sandberg		11387
* Vic Miller		12597
* Tim Maenpaa		12863
* Malcolm Crooks		13048
* Bob Maki	Natural Gas	13115
* Kurt Broll	Frenzy Free	13180
* William Evans	Blue Max	13267
* W. Porter Bailey	Wild Blue	13515
* Innes Martin	Zugzwang	13589
* Bob Walsh	The Bonbo	13591
* Malcolm Crooks	Bluenose IV	14451
* Jim Cameron	TBA	14507
* Ross Bailey	Nellie	14612
* Richard Walsh		0
* Russell Gordon		0

No report.

CHEQUESSET FLEET 280

New England District

Sailing on Wellfleet Harbor

Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Fleet Captain/Secretary	Christy Sorensen
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* Judith Dalmas	Firefly	6899
* Eric H. Cutting		
* & Robert Cutting	Cutting Wind	9714
* Anne Tredick	Yasu	10765
* Robert Dickens Smith		10795
* Stafford Frazier	Nike II	11096
* Christine Jones Sorensen	Muma Works	11249
* W. Stuart Nickerson		11379
* Albert Preston Moore	Scruples	11751
* Frederick Gentner		13239
* Eric H. Cutting		
* & Robert Cutting	Winds Will	14310

No report.

COLUMBIA FLEET 283

Pacific Northwest District

Sailing on Vancouver Lake, Washington and on the Columbia River, Portland, Oregon

Fleet Secretary	Sandra Neuburger
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* Lee B. Winner	Loki	2426
* Gerald M. Champney	Lillia May	7111
* John A. Sanford	An' Son	8497
* James Mcallister	Thunder	9690
* Gary Kokstis		10731
* Arthur La France		11433
* Cathy Miles		12219
* Philip F. Parshley		12990
* Dave Mountford	Orangutan	13476
* Dave Webber	Brain Donkey	13680
* Gerald L. Neuburger	Whelp A	13788
* John DeBenedetti (Life)	Foam Heads	13896
* Terry Busby	Sly	13961
* Roger Hicks	Roaring 40's	14040
* Douglas S. Hickman	Hippo Thunder	14079
* Philip F. Parshley	Humahumanukunukuapua'a	14288

Fleet 283 continues to enjoy the aftermath of 1996's rush to join in the fun of racing Lightnings on Vancouver Lake, Vancouver, WA.

That meant:

(1) Good participation in the VLSC race series with 8 to 10 boats on the line, enthusiastic crew, and crew wanna-bes begging to join in the fun. The strong showing of VLSC juniors—David (he bought a Lightning this year) and Nick Mountford and Kevin and Matt Stravers.

(2) More enthusiasm to travel and race other Fleets. John DeBenedetti and crew (Roger Orteg and Tim Nearing) took in the California Circuit in San Diego sponsored by Fleet 194 and finished 4th overall.

(3) The Pacific NW Districts were here at home at VLSC. Jerry Neuburger and Crew took the win, making it a three-peat for District Championship. John DeBenedetti, Roger Hicks, and Doug Hickman did the midnight run to San Francisco for the Pacific Coast Championship, DeBenedetti taking a third and Doug Hickman a 5th. The Memorial Day Regatta in Eugene, OR saw Phil Parshley and juniors, Matt and Kevin Stravers, take a first. The Kitsilano Invitational in July had John DeBenedetti take a first, Jerry Neuburger a second. The Harvest Day Regatta in Eugene, OR, had John DeBenedetti get a 1st, Phil Parsley a second, and Doug Hickman a third. Doug Hickman took a first in the Cascade Locks Regatta with Roger Hicks and Jerry Neuburger second and third. Team Races were held at VLSC with teams looking for ways to give those green flags. The third team found themselves stranded in Salem. Too far away from the water to make an impact.

(4) Fleet 283's outstanding moves. The 1996 (prestigious) "Broken Rudder" Award held by Roger Hicks presented the 1997 "Broken Rudder" Award to John DeBenedetti for "overall excellence." It appears that John has won this award every 10 years since 1910 (check me on that date).

The 1995 and 1996 winners of the Mary Kay DeBenedetti Award for outstanding contributions to the Fleet, John and Marlys Sanford, presented the award to Roger Hicks. There are those people who just can't stop making those outstanding contributions. Thank goodness!

The 1996 Fleet Champion was Jerry Neuburger and the runner-up was John DeBenedetti who in 1997 swapped trophies. Congratulations, John—1997 Fleet Champion. Jerry somehow managed to retain the runner-up status in spite of backs, aunts, a wedding, and various stitches. Brad Klein, the 1996 Crew of the Year, gave up the trophy in 1997 to Matt Stravers who crewed for almost every skipper in the Fleet. Apparently, he did an outstanding job.

We look forward to the sailing parties of the winter and yearn for plenty of extra water courtesy of El Niño for the Frostbite and Spring Series.

PARTHENON FLEET 286

Greece District

Sailing on Phaleron Bay

The Yacht Club of Greece, Pireaus, Greece

Fleet Secretary Andrew Sinopoulos

* Andrew Sinopoulos (Life)		7569
* George Andreadis (Life)		11459
* George Tyros		13802
* George Vardaxoglou		13981
* Nikolas Vazakas		14211
* George Andreadis (Life)		14264
* George Andreadis (Life)	Crinis VI	14334
* Akis Tsarouchis		14377
* George Andreadis (Life)		
* Stratis Andreadis		14544
* Nickolaos Krallis	Spray VI	14836
* Nickolaos Krallis		
* & Dimitrios Kosmadopoulos		14837

No report.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN LIGHTNING FLEET 301

New England District

Sailing on Malletts Bay, Lake Champlain

Colchester, Vermont

Fleet Captain Robert Smith

Fleet Secretary Janice Lange

Fleet Champion Bill Fastiggi

Runner-Up Robert Smith

* Peter Tourin	Wind Harp	7829
* David Lansky	Thesis Interruptus	8033
* Edward Guild	Two Boys	10846
Tom Moody		11158
* Donald C. Brush, Jr.		11212
* Patrick Zachary	Challenger	11623
* Sean Carroll	Ant Farm	11754
Todd Cox	Rainbow Rider	12366
* Stanford White	Nightmare II	13156
* Edward J. Ziemer	Zoom	14297
* Robert Smith		
* & Lea Ann Smith	Robert Y Lea	14438
* Richard N. Fastiggi	Ciao	14480
* Janice Lange	White Rushin'	14486
* Donald C. Brush, Jr.	Wild Goose	14640
* Michael L. Huffman (Life)	Creature Of Habit	14644
* Kurt Kling	Apple	14658
* David P. Gorman	Blind Faith	14758
* Bill Fastiggi	Dog At Large	14798
* Andrew Horton		14799
* Janice Lange		14876

The summer started with a bang at the annual Spring Regatta, May 31-June 1. Twenty eight boats participated in the most competitive regatta seen in Malletts Bay in years, maybe ever. Andy Horton, Fleet 301, won the regatta in which 8 of the top ten boats were going to the World Championships in Montreal the next week. Top visiting skippers included Tito Gonzales (Chile), Peter Hall (Canada), and Ray Harrington, Brian Taboada, Ched Proctor and Tim Healy (USA). Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and the three great races on Saturday were followed by rain and no wind on Sunday.

The next few weeks were quiet due to 2 members, Bill Fastiggi and Andy Horton, sailing in the World Championships and 4 other members chartering their boats for the Worlds. Our usual Summer

Series took a back seat to the two major regattas and the Worlds as Fleet 301 ended up sailing only 5 days of fleet races. However, the close competition in our fleet, due to excellent skippers sailing top notch boats, contributed to exciting enjoyable racing.

Our second major event was the New England District Championship, July 11 - 13. On Friday, former Fleet 301 member John Hughes, with crew Lisa Brauer and Sean Campbell, won the Masters Division with Ed Ziemer from 301 the Runner-Up. The Junior Division saw Nick Mercier from Massabesic in 1st followed by Sean Carroll, with crew Katie Dutton and Jeff Templeton, from Fleet 301. The District Championship had 29 boats entered including two from Canada and 12 from Fleet 301. Ten different fleets were represented. On Saturday evening everyone enjoyed the traditional Bove's Lasagne Dinner at the Malletts Bay Boat Club.

In August at the Chiot Regatta, a local one design regatta, the Lightning Class sailed for the silver cup, which was won by Bill Fastiggi with Kurt Kling in 2nd place. The 1997 Fleet Champion was Bill Fastiggi, followed by Robert Smith, Kurt Kling, Don Brush, and Andy Horton. At the November Awards Dinner, Bill Fastiggi was presented with the Bob Sidle Trophy for Fleet Champion. Our other fleet trophy, the Emerson Award, for dedicated service to the fleet was presented to Ann Brush, long time crew, sometime skipper, and fleet officer who is always available to assist with events. Congratulations Ann and Bill!

We look forward to an exciting season in 1998.

Janice Lange

COWAN LAKE SAILING ASSOCIATION FLEET 303

Ohio District

Sailing on Cowan Lake

Cincinnati, Ohio

Fleet Captain Jim Young

Fleet Secretary Ted Hardman

* Robert M. Japikse	Freelance	10272
* Ron Millard	"We're Here"	10687
* Richard H. Niemeyer	Blue Thunder	11368
* James T. Young	Entropy	11507
* James T. Young		11531
* Ted Hardman	2nd Wind	11672
* James T. Young		13275
* Clark Shingledecker	Starlight Express	13502
* Michael Kemp	Shaka	13504
* Bill Young	Coot	13719
* Dick Pugh		
* & Jeff Pugh	Figment	14110
* Kenneth J. Irwin	Adrenalin	14216
* Dr Stephen A. Weeber	Phoenix	14287
* Dan Dressel		0

No report.

OULU FLEET 307

Finland District

Sailing on the Gulf of Bothnia

Oulu, Finland

Fleet Secretary Simo Koski

* Lasse G. Hammar	9436
* Lasse G. Hammar	9436
* Markku Paloma	14269

No report.

SASSAFRAS RIVER FLEET 314

Dixie District

Sailing on the Sassafras River Maryland

Fleet Captain	Howard Edson
Fleet Secretary	Dave Horne
Fleet Champion	Ted Ganley
Fleet Runner-Up	Al Mast

* Robert B. Horne	Doc's Boat	9391
* Robert B. Horne	Great Pumpkin	12381
* Alfred B. Mast	Bald Bullet	12710
* A. John Gregg	Grapevine	13740
* F. Thomas Hopkins, M.D.		13926
* Chuck Harker	Etc	14218
* F. Thomas Hopkins, M.D.	Sassy Canary	14648
* Alfred B. Mast		14651
* Howard S. Edson	Etc.	0

The 1997 season was again one of consistency. Ted Ganley stayed in town all summer and was rewarded with Fleet Champion honors for the third straight year. There was much speculation at the end of the season as to where Ted will be "doctoring" next year. Gee, would we really hate to lose the competition????

The Early series was won by Ted with Al Mast finishing second and Jack Gregg placing third. The two perpetual Lightning trophies awarded to the winners of the first and fifth races of the series are the Walbert Cup and Buss Neff Cup respectively. Both of these races were won by Ted.

The Late series was won by . . . Oh heck, just look at the preceding paragraph. Ted, Al, and Jack finished one-two-three again. Ted also took home the Commodore's Cup for winning the first race of the series. But wait, Al Mast won the fifth race of the series to win the Skipper's Cup.

The two annual Bay races usually result in different members of the fleet to share in the annual awards banquet, and this year was no different. Howard Edson did his annual "Jump in a boat and skipper the Bay race routine" and came away winning both the Summer and Fall Bay races. The rest of us are wondering why we let him become a Lightning owner again. Now we all agree that the boat looked much better sitting on the beach. Bob Horne could only hold off Howard for so long in the Summer Bay race, but finished a close second. Jack Gregg finished . . . you guessed it . . . third. Author's Note: Ted did race, he did finish, and he came in last! (I couldn't resist). Ted came back in the Fall Bay race to finish second, with third place honors going to Tom Hopkins.

Ted was clearly the winner of the James V. Ganley Fleet Champion Award. Of the sixteen series races, he won eleven and finished second four times. Gregg, Mast (twice), Horne, and Hopkins won the five remaining races.

The Butt Award, usually given to the Skipper/Crew/Boat that is involved in the most amazing feat of the year, was not awarded this year as there was nothing of record that met the criteria. People just don't seem to understand the importance of this fine trophy. In years past, you'd be amazed at some of the ridiculous things that our fine sailors have accomplished.

ALGORRABO FLEET 318

Chile District

* Jorge Salgado		11040
* Jorge Ruben Salgado		12654
* Juan A. Arcos	Red Witch	13039
* Eric Velasquez Beltran	Linda Chica	14295
* Jose Manuel Horwitz E.	Pampero	14307
* Ignacio Bazaure	Tifosi	14791
* Enrique Gallego		
* Juan Eduardo Reid		

No report.

REHOBOTH BAY SAILING ASSOCIATION FLEET 325

Dixie District

Sailing on Rehoboth Bay Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

Fleet Captain/SecretaryDavid Racine

* Carl Robinson	Liberty Call	11028
* W. David Racine, III	Pisces	11899

No report.

GRAND TRAVERSE YACHT CLUB FLEET 326

Michigan District

Sailing on Grand Traverse Bay Traverse City, Michigan

Fleet SecretaryPaul Davis

* Michael Fisher		7007
* Jim Weckenbrock		10629
* James K. Lewis		10889
* Mike Dow		13493
* Paul C. Davis	Holey Cow	13932
* R. Garret Demarest, III	Spirit	14460
* Mike Dow	Melba	14516

No report.

JYVASKYLAN FLEET 328

Finland District

Sailing on Lake Paijanne Jyvaskyla, Finland

Fleet SecretarySampaa Salminen

* Timo Lehtinen		6838
* Antero Westerlund	Melanie	12479
* Sampaa J. Salminen	Kristiina	14364

No report.

SEVERN RIVER FLEET 329

Dixie District

Sailing on Chesapeake Bay Annapolis, Maryland

Fleet CaptainPhil Grotheer

* John J. Cullinane	Eugene	6639
* Gregory C. Swartz	Lone Pine	8516
* Dianne Sullivan	Flash Rider	12812
* Doug Heussler	Ant Farm	13312
* Jonathan I. Lange		13856
* Mike Beaver		14156
* Dixon Duffett	Sakajo	14278
* Eric C. Coffin	Yankee Clipper	14433
* Philip Grotheer		14481
* Ronald D. Grotheer		14566
* E. Joseph Friebele		14581
* William H. Buckley (Life)		0



*Havin' fun even when we're not racin'. Phil and crew kicked back.
Photo courtesy Phil Grotheer.*

The 1997 season was one of changes for our Annapolis Fleet. With several years of mediocre participation, the 97 season saw some changes that will continue to increase participation in years to come. The main catalyst is Tuesday night racing, or TESOD as one of our SSA Reps. has named it (Tuesday Evening Summer One Design). The DC area is famous for acronyms if you can't tell. Anyway, this has fired up a bunch of us and we already have 3 new members for 98.

We had five regattas at Severn Sailing Association last season. One spring regatta with about 11 boats which was a blow out due to extreme spring cold fronts, the Dixie Districts with 14 boats, a Summer Regatta and a Fall Regatta, both with average turnouts, and the Frigid Digit which is our biggest invitational with 28 boats. Our regatta attendance was mediocre, but the Tuesday sailing took off. Normally 4 to 7 boats would be on the line every week where 4 to 6 races are sailed right in Annapolis Harbor. The attractions are basic simplicity: No spinnakers, 2 crew can sail, no lunches necessary, no scores are kept, no protests, 2 minute sail to the start, and the list goes on. People really love this kind of "simplified" sailing, so were gonna keep pushing it and I'm sure it will bring new members and improve weekend attendance as well.

Fleet Champion was your truly this year (Phil Grotheer). People to watch out for next year are Joe Friebele who just bought a newer boat, Doug Heussler who'll be getting a newer boat and newcomer Steve Palmer who bought Joe's boat and has a Snipe background. Jonathan Lange, Harry Keith and Dixon Duffett were also regulars on the water, so watch out for them all next year. Anyone that sails a Lightning is invited to sail with us next season. Tuesday races cost \$10 for non-members and weekend regattas have varying but very reasonable entry fees. Anyone who's sailed in Annapolis will tell you it's worth it to come down. It's always an honor to be a part of such a winning combination of "Best Class" and "Best Yacht Club" again this year and I'm looking forward to my next race start already.

Phil

SQUAM LAKE FLEET 332

New England District

Sailing on Big Squam Lake

Holderness, New Hampshire

Fleet Captain	Kay & Bob Hanson
Fleet Treasurer	Bob Sengstaken
Fleet Secretary	Teresa Sengstaken
Fleet Champion	Alan Whatley

* Bob Hanson	Junge	7944
* Brad Eaton		8268
* Tor Brunvand	Snowy Owl	10212
* Robert W. Sengstaken	Mountain Thyme	10320
* Dwight Gertz	Jumbo	10555
* Martin Richs	Loonasea	10724

* David D. Closson	Go-Mo-Shun II	10732
* Jack Russell		12859
* Wallace E. Ackley	Tashidelek	12509
* Jack Russell		12859
* Wallace E. Ackley		13382
* Ed Michaels	Banana Boat	13620
* Allan Whatley	DC	14033

Fleet 332 had a very successful season with a 10 race series. The Fleet was welcomed to the home of Betty and Jack Russell on August 8th for our July Awards. The Blair cup for the July series was awarded to Alan Whatley. Second place skipper for July was Tor Brunvand, and third was awarded to Bob Sengstaken.

Besides the Sunday race series, the fleet also hosted two regattas, the Around The Lake Race and the Squam Lake Regatta. The Around the Lake Race is open to all boats using the Portsmouth Handicap. The interesting challenge of this race is to decide which is the fastest course through various islands to the mark. Although a couple of catamarans were entered, they didn't have enough wind to make up for their handicap to win.

The August Squam Lake regatta was a great success this year with 18 boats entered. Eight boats, mostly from Massabesic Yacht Club (273) joined us for two days of great sailing, and great food, thanks to Teresa Sengstaken. A tough fight for first place was won by one point to George Deyett — with crew Sharon Deyett and Adam Deyett. The first place skipper was awarded a silver plate, with Lightning sailplan. Congratulations also Stu Nickerson who took second with crew — Lisa Brauer, Mark/Ross Nickerson. We hope that we will see everyone back next year!

The August 31st meeting was held at the newly renovated home of Allan and Jean Whatley. Our annual Labor Day Weekend — traditional year-end party, was a wonderful success. A great pot-luck supper and the presentation of the awards. The Fleet thanks Jean and Allan for their wonderful hospitality!

After two great years, Bob and Kay Hanson step down as Commodore. They will try to get two more wooden boats to join our fleet so that we can have a "Wooden Mast Award".

Congratulations again to Alan Whatley for winning the August series and the Custance cup for fleet champion. Second for August was Ed Michaels and third was Dwight Gertz. This year the Closson Cup was awarded to Ed Michaels. The Closson Cup is awarded to the skipper with the best last three races of the year.

This was the first year of our Fleet Spirit Skipper Award. A double old fashion glass is given to the skipper who attends the most races of the season, and does not receive any of the place awards. It is after all, the dedication of all skippers that makes Fleet 332 so wonderful. It is fitting that Jack Russell, who has been an officer many times (Commodore, Treasurer, Secretary, Regatta Chair, etc....), and his continued competitive spirit, along with his generous nature be presented this award. Congratulations Jack!

Fleet 332 would like to remember the passing of two past members. Dick Blair (The Blair Cup), and Ted Burr (*Intrepid* #14111), passed away during the month of August. They were both great friends of Fleet #332.

We look forward to seeing you at Squam Lakes Regatta in August.
Bob and Teresa Sengstaken.

BARNEGAT LIGHT YACHT CLUB FLEET 335

Central Atlantic District

Sailing on Barnegat Bay, Barnegat Light Yacht Club

Harvey Cedars, New Jersey

Fleet Captain	Justin Monnig
Fleet Secretary/Treasurer	William Clarke

* Paul B. Wood	Talisman	10526
* David P. Kunz		11221
* David P. Kunz		11550
* David P. Kunz		12556
* John Faus		13007
* Hal Pote	Rastamohican	13876
* Justin Monnig		14080

* John Faus	Conch Fritter	14350
* William S. Clarke	Hot Pepper	14489
* David P. Kunz		14650
* Matt Reiser		0

With eight boats participating and more than 23 races in the Summer Series, Lightning Fleet 335 had another successful season. The outcome was not in doubt with John Faus again taking first place in the Series. Second place went to Bill Clarke and third place went to John Demming. Providing strong competition throughout the season were Fleet Captain Justin Monnig, Paul Wood, Hal Pote and Nick Iwaskow.

The Annual Regatta held on the deepwater north course on August 23 was won by Bill Clarke with Paul Wood 2nd and Justin Monnig 3rd.

Available crew is the heart of a successful Lightning fleet and BLYC has great depth in this department. Without these participants, both seasoned and beginners, the efforts to have a successful sailing program would be futile. Joe McGinnis, Jeff Alvino, Alex Klein, Bill Brown, Max Achtan, Mac DeTuro, Stephanie Demming, John and Kathy Wright, Al Andril, Andy Demming, William Brown, Steve Wright, David Essig, Clay Shaner, Holly and Dave Faus, Mark Alvino, Alex Cano, Pat and Charlotte O'Connell are but a few of the many participants. It is from this group that we hope to realize several additional boats to our fleet over the next several years.

We are in the midst of planning our mid-winter meeting which will probably be held in late January. There we will elect our officers for 1998 and plan our next season. *William Clarke*

GALWAY LAKE FLEET 338 Central New York District Sailing on Galway Lake Galway, New York

Fleet Champion	.....	Jim Millard
Fleet Runner-Up	.....	Dale Brown

* Harold B. Hansen	Rocky	7123
* James Dickson		12115
* Dale H. Brown		12636
* Willard Kohler	Eng_neer	13251
* R. James Millard	Huggie	13655
Ken Buhrmaster		0
Maury Gardner		0
Lynn McConchie		0

We had a good summer with a variety of winds and as many as eight boats on the line in a few races. Jim Millard retained first place as spinnaker crew Becky Gaudreau really perfected her technique. Dale Brown finished with a slid second after a couple of seasons without much time in the water. Lynn McConchie persisted for third despite having both crew not only new to sailing, but non-swimmers. Hasna Kirchner showed real talent flying Lynn's spinnaker. Front man, Steve Huber, had an adventurous time trying to unclear the jib as water poured in over the side while heeling in heavy weather. Everyone on the lake could HEAR where Lynn's boat was. Lynn is a man of GREAT patience. *Jim Millard*

LAKE LANIER FLEET 348 Southeastern District Sailing on Lake Lanier Flowery Branch, Georgia

Fleet Secretary	David Smith
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* Edward Heller	Live Luff Laugh	12849
* Thomas W. Wynn	Razorback	13729
* David S. Smith	Nemesis	14067
* Terry E. Tyner		14622

No report.

HOOVER YACHT CLUB FLEET 353 Ohio District Sailing on Hoover Reservoir Columbus, Ohio

Fleet Captain	.....	Ehmann Miller
Fleet Secretary/Treasurer	.....	Goldie Miller

Gary Babin	Endeavor	9338
* Greg Fisher	Still Crazy	10860
* Ehmann Miller	The Goldie Marie	12015

No report.

FLOTTE MURTENSEE 358 Switzerland District Sailing on Lake of Murten Switzerland

Fleet Captain	.....	Urs Wyler
Fleet Secretary	.....	Walter Dürr

* Benjamin Pia-Richter	Old Man	8767
* Daniel Fischlin	Damafimo	10899
Kurt Gloor		12951
Hans Spinnler		13257
* Hans-Peter Schmid	Milan	13692
* Urs Wyler	Meltemi	13790
* Jacques Perret	Santa Fiamma	14530
* Peter Graf	Karhu	14664

Terminprobleme und mangelnde Beteiligung führten im vergangenen Jahr dazu, dass unsere Flotte keine Flottenmeisterschaft durchführen konnte. Dafür beteiligten sich unsere Boote recht zahlreich an internationalen Regatten. SANTA FIAMMA, KARHU, und MELTEMI nahmen im Frühling mit gutem Erfolg an den italienischen Meisterschaften in Rimini teil. Die selben 3 Boote wagten sich auch über den Atlantik an die Weltmeisterschaften in Montreal. Dort mussten wir jedoch deutlich erfahren, wie hoch die Trauben an solchen Anlässen hängen. Probleme mit Revier, Material (Charterboote) liessen den Erfolg ausbleiben. Trotzdem war das Abenteuer Kanada eine Reise wert. MELTEMI beteiligte sich als einziges Schweizerboot an der Europameisterschaft in Athen. Dort mussten wir erfahren, dass der Stellenwert einer EM in Griechenland nicht mehr sehr hoch ist. Probleme im Vorfeld zu dieser Meisterschaft, kleine Beteiligung, knappe Bootsvermessung, Regatterevier in der Bucht liessen keine grosse Stimmung aufkommen. Wenn das so weitergeht...

Walter Dürr

CATAWBA YACHT CLUB FLEET 365 Southeastern District Sailing on Lake Wylie Charlotte, North Carolina

Fleet Captain	Tom Martin
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* Richard Lake Johnson	Sarah	9087
* Ronald K. Wright	Sleuth	11241
* William C. Campbell, III	Sassy	11897

Fleet 365 of the Catawba Yacht Club on Lake Wylie enjoyed a surge of activity in Lightning racing during 1997. In March, the fleet hosted a Southeastern District regatta for the second year in a row. Lake Wylie provided ample wind for the three race, no throwout, event. Len Krawcheck won the regatta.

The fall club series brought a buzz of excitement as Chase Saunders joined the fleet and Chip Arnett traded up to a newer Lightning to bring participation in the series to seven active boats - the most in fleet history. Competition was keen and on the final race day, three boats sailed with a shot at first. Beck Small won the series with Bill Campbell placing second.

1998 goals include continued participation in the Southeastern District series and expansion of the Lightning fleet.

Active racers during the 1997 season included Beck Small, Bill Campbell, Chip Arnett, Chase Saunders, Richard Johnson, Larry Jordan, and Ron Wright.

OKANAGAN FLEET 368

Pacific Northwest District

Sailing on Okanagan Lake

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

Fleet Captain/Secretary Bob Bazett

* Bill McIlroy	It's About Time	12376
* Robert Bazett	White Shadow	13477

This past year was a rather uneventful one for our fleet with no out of town travel to other Lightning Regattas, and no out of town participation in our own Springtime Regatta which was held in May. This is not to say that our fleet is not active, however, as our weekly club racing managed to attract an average of four Lightnings to the starting line, and we still receive enquiries from prospective buyers - if only we could find some good used boats!

Our weekly fleet racing began in early May this year, and due to the high water levels of Okanagan Lake, extended to the end of October - about one month longer than normal. Unfortunately, poor wind and weather conditions plagued much of our summer, which reduced the level of sailing enthusiasm and resulted in sporadic participation by many of the boats within our fleet. Hopefully, next season we see a return to more normal conditions and a corresponding boost in participation. *Robert Bazett*

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA FLEET 372

California District

Sailing on San Francisco Bay

Point Richmond, California

Fleet Captain Elissa Hall
 Fleet Secretary/Treasurer Michael Molina
 Fleet Champion Scott McBurney
 Fleet Runner-Up Michael Molina

* Michael A. Molina		9169
* Elissa Hall	Elusive	12337
* R. Scott McBurney	Ain't She Heavy	13179
* Dave Larz Anderson	Crusader Rabbit	13526
* Bruce B. Arnold	Peppermint Patty Too	13783
* Elissa Hall	Too Elusive	13869
* Mark D. Patty	Raggedy Ann 4	13943
* Michael A. Molina	Double Happiness	14305
* R. Scott McBurney	Jamaican Bobsled	14481

Despite our illustrious list of members, only three of us were able to get out and sail religiously this year. Obviously Scott was the most religious of us all.

We start with our midwinters in December. They are sailed the first Saturday of each month through March, with as many as five races in one day. Bruce, Elissa, Scott and Mike all sailed, but not at the same time, so we only had three of us competing on anyone day. Only Scott and Bruce sailed all four weekends so Scott took home the honors and Bruce was second.

In April Scott and Mike headed down to San Diego for the Circuit. Scott finished fourth overall and Mike was seventh in a very competitive fourteen boat fleet.

We hosted the Districts in May. Mike was able to keep some of the hardware home, finishing third, while yours truly decided to bathe in the Bay for the first time in her sailing career out here. And my brand new crew still came back for more abuse the next day. Boy, is ignorance bliss!

The fleet helped the local Adam Cup semifinalists practice for and conduct the semifinals. For some reason, someone thought the Lightning was similar to a Flying Scot. Maybe in length, but that's it. The team we sent, non-Lightning sailors, didn't fair well in the finals, but it forced our fleet to get out there and practice. Man, those women are mean.

Our next big event was the Pacific Coast Championships. We managed to get ten boats on the line, in near perfect conditions. Mike's MO last year was destruction of spinnaker poles while this year it seemed to be the spinnaker itself. Not a pretty sight for a new spinnaker. Scott was the highest home team finisher in fourth and Elissa finished sixth. Next year the PCC's will be in Eugene and we intend to send all of us.

I jumped ship to sail in the Thistle's Women's Nationals in San Diego. These are structured much differently than the Lightning Women's N.A.'s. There are only three races and they are on the Saturday before the regular Nationals. They had an incredible turnout though of 18 boats in a very competitive fleet. I finished fifth overall, with a seventh, a second and a fifth. Unfortunately, the second race was thrown out, so I was bumped out of trophy contention.

We're out here sailing in shorts for the winter if you care to join us. The temperature is hovering between 55 and 60. Life's rough. See you at the anniversary regatta.

Elissa Hall

LANSING SAILING CLUB FLEET 387

Michigan District

Sailing on Lake Lansing

Haslett, Michigan

Fleet Captain Larry Koster
 Fleet Secretary Terry Kleiman
 Fleet Champion Matt Dahline

Dave Vietti	Baka	10366
* George Siegel	A1A	11205
Jim & Page Graves	Deadahead	11394
John LeFevre		11520
Ron Seely	Orange Crate	12561
Dennis Dudley	Do-Rite	12888
Mike Moody		13254
* Neil Harrison		13279
Blaine Severin	Evergreen	13344
John Fishbeck	Bananas	13730
Bob Chronister	Miwahsin	13903
John Biernbaum	Fastidiots	14024
* Matt Dahline	Hull Speed	14133
* Fred Hull	Fubar	14147
* Larry Koster	Shabumi	14267
* Bill Davidson	Ohm	14294
* Ron Marshall		14447
Terry Kleiman		14468

The Lightning continues to be the most active fleet for Sunday racing at the Lansing Sailing Club. Matt Dahline, skipper of *Fastidiots*, with Rachel Mills, is the Fleet Champion after winning both series for 1997, the Spring-Fall and the Summer series. Matt and his crew traveled to the Saginaw Bay and Pontiac Yacht Club regattas. Matt also crewed at the Devils Lake and the Bluenose regattas with Chris Jacobson of the Saginaw Bay fleet.

Ron and Jane Marshall, with Bob Hill, placed 2nd in the Summer series and 3rd in the Spring-Fall series. A newcomer to the fleet, Mike Moody with son Michael and Pat Dolan placed 2nd in

the Spring-Fall series and tied for 3rd in the Summer series. Mike and Pat sailed at Pontiac's "White Cap" Regatta aboard 13254.

Larry Koster and his various crews tied for 3rd in the Summer series. Jolene Johnson, now of Clarkston, crewed aboard FUBAR with Larry at the Saginaw Bay, the Pontiac and the Wawasee Yacht Club regattas. Our other crew person was John LeFevre (became a Lightning owner in October) at Saginaw Bay, Gil Chesbro at Pontiac and Tom Hudson of Kalamazoo met us at Wawasee.

For the first time, Fleet #387 participated in the North American Masters' Championship. FUBAR's crew of Larry Koster, Walt DeGruyter and Tom Rasmussen sailed in the Masters' event on Lake Erie out of North Cape Yacht Club. We were the OLD SALTS, our combined age was 199 years.

Our fleet continues to grow. George and Ann Siegel came back Michigan with their Lightning AJA late this summer after having sailed in Florida the last few years. Neil Harrison, a Laser sailor 15 years ago, rejoins LSC with a Lightning. Dave and Sandy Vietti join the fleet after buying *Baka* from the previous owner. Mike Moody, another Laser sailor, buys and skips 13254 summer of 1997. John LeFevre crews aboard various boats, then finds 11520 for himself in October. Lansing Sailing Club's Fleet #387 is looking forward to a very competitive sailing season in 1998. Larry Koster

SALINAS YACHT CLUB FLEET 405

Ecuador District

Sailing on the Pacific Ocean

Guayaquil, Ecuador

Fleet SecretaryMiquel Plaza, Jr.

* Roberto Campoverde	El Abuelo	8513
* Camilo Saman Salem	Sea Breeze	9411
* Miguel E.Plaza, Jr.	La Ratona	11928
* Miguel Plaza Merino	Desencuentro	14099
* Juan Carlos Plaza P.	Culilla	14145
* Francisco Sola Medina	Samuel	14150
* Carlos Andres Plaza	Gato	14150
* Ing. Cesar Baquerizo	Colo	14163
* Sebastian Meira T.	Saudades	14379
* Gaston Vedani	Bess	14370
* Santiago Romero Barst		14389
* "Paco" Sola Tanca	Zorro Loco	14541
* Juan Santos Garces	Magia	14671
* Santiago Romero Barst	Pepto Bismol	14673
* Jaime Santa Cruz Vial	Marrqueta	14674
* Carlos Lecaro	Garufa	14676

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 Tomine 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

HIGH ROCK FLEET 415

Southeastern District

Sailing on High Rock Lake

Lexington, North Carolina

Fleet SecretaryCindy Booke

* Buddy Hedrick	Carpe Diem	10152
* George Howard	Rain Maker	10354
* Aldred K. Warren, III		10386
* Nathan Varner		10728
* William W. Pleasants		12336
* Delbert E. Foster	Dad's Toy III	12603
* Jonathan Smith		
* & Thomas R. Smith	White Lightning	12730
* Nicholas Reid	S'nick'r	13154
* Pell Kennedy		13931
* Gordon P. Kellogg	Special K II	14044
* Frank Mills	Patricia Ann	14248
* Richard Simpson	Blitzen	14432
* Sam L. Booke III		14702
* Carter Utzig	Maybe	14746

No report.

LA PINTA FLEET 424

Peru District

Sailing on Bay of Callao, Lima, Peru

Fleet SecretarySergio Levaggi Tocci

* Sergio Levaggi Tocci	Narkosis	12514
* Francisco Ayulo	No Speaking	12825

No report.