

DOUGLAS LAKE FLEET 374
Michigan District
Sailing on Douglas Lake
Cheboygan County, Michigan

Fleet Captain/Secretary David O. Peters

John G. Young	Mer Sea	10198
* David O. Peters	Shrub	12754

No Report.

LANSING SAILING CLUB FLEET 387
Michigan District
Sailing on Lake Lansing
Haslett, Michigan

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

Dave Vietti	Baka	10366
* George Siegel	A1A	11205
* John LeFevre		11520
Ron Seely	Orange Crate	12561
Dennis Dudley	Do-Rite	12888
* Mike Moody	Omits	13254
* Neil Harrison	Sukevay	13279
* Blaine Severin	Pi-Rat	13344
John Fishbeck	Evergreen	13730
Bob Chronister	Bananas	13903
* Terrell L. Kleiman		13736
* Matt Dahline	Fastidiots	14133
* Fred Hull	Hull Speed	14147
* Larry Koster	FUBAR	14267
* William S. Davidson	Shibumi	14294
* Ron Marshall	Ohm	14447
* Terrell L. Kleiman	Bliksemstraal	14468
* Patrick Dolan	Imagine	14511

The 1998 sailing season began with Matt Dahline and his *Fastidiots* winning the first two races of the Spring-Fall Series. George and Ann Siegle, with Gil Chesbro, aboard *A1A*, won the next-to-last race on Sunday, October 11th. After the lunch break,



Rounding the leeward mark, Lansing Sailing Club Fleet 387, October 1998. Photo Bob Crawford.



Fleet 387 Lightning crews, October 1998
Photo Bob Crawford

the *Pi-Rat* crew of skipper Blaine Severin, Julie Pierce and the fuzzy faced old guy won Lansing Sailing Club's last race of the year.

The Spring-Fall Series amounted to 10 races in each session for a total of 20 races. Matt Dahline, sailing 15 of these races, took 9 first place finishes and 4 second place finishes. Ron and Jane Marshall, with Bob Hill, won 2nd place for the series. The Siegles, with *A1A*, placed 3rd. *FUBAR* with its various crews placed 4th. A newcomer to the Lightning fleet, Pat Dolan with his *Imagine* (14511) took 5th place for the series.

The Summer Series, with a possible 28 races, was won by Matt Dahline, many of which were crewed by Andrea Schmidt and Frank Northrup. Of 16 races sailed, the *Fastidiots* won 12 of the races and one 2nd place finish. The Marshalls with Bob Hill, aboard *OHM*, also sailed 16 races with 5 firsts and 8 second places. And by sailing 24 of the 28 races, counting only the 11 best races after throwouts, this year's newcomer Pat Dolan moved into 3rd place for the Summer Series. The 1997 newcomer, Mike Moody, sailing 18 races, claimed 4th place. The fuzzy faced old guy, gone most of the summer, vacationing for 3 weeks, attending 3 regattas and the Masters at Buffalo Canoe Club, sailed only 10 of the 28 races, but hung onto 5th place.

Fleet 387 is pleased to report that 5 of our skippers traveled to Michigan regattas and two participated at the District Championships in 1998. Dahline's *Fastidiots* sailed in 4 regattas and the Districts. Koster's *FUBAR* sailed in 4 regattas and the Masters at the Buffalo Canoe Club. LSC was represented by two boats and crews at Fenton, the Michigan Districts, Saginaw Bay, Higgins Lake, Pontiac's Whitecap and Devils Lake. North Cape Yacht Club and Crescent Sail Yacht Club regattas were visited by Matt Dahline. Pat Dolan sailed at Pontiac's Whitecap and closed out the season with his *Imaginr*, with Mike Moody and Jolene Johnson, at Nashville's Bluenose regatta.

Lansing Sailing Club, celebrating their 35th Anniversary, held its annual Lightning regatta June 6th and 7th. Tom Klaban of Pontiac Yacht Club, with son Eric and LSC's Tom Rasmussen, won 4 of the 6 races to win the regatta. Diana Fernando, also of Pontiac Yacht Club, with brother Eric Fernando and Jennifer Day, placed 2nd. Matt Dahline with Rachel Mills and Frank Northrup took 3rd place honors and won the "Ye Olde Silver Platter" award which goes to the highest placing LSC skipper.

Do join us June 5 & 6, 1999 for Fleet 387's 33rd Annual Lightning Regatta. On Saturday noon we start with first of two short races. We come in for a delicious chicken barbecue lunch break following the second race. Then we sail two more races. At 10:00 AM on Sunday we start the first of the final two races. If 6 races are sailed, we throw out your lowest score. Awards are presented to the top 5 skippers and crews.

Larry Koster

SALINAS YACHT CLUB FLEET 405

Ecuador District
Sailing on the Pacific Ocean
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Fleet Secretary Miquel Plaza, Jr.

* Roberto Campoverde	El Abuelo	8513
* Miguel E. Plaza, Jr.	La Ratona	11928
* Miguel Plaza Merino	Desencuentro	14099
* Juan Carlos Plaza P.	Culilla	14145
* Francisco Solá Medina	Samuel	14150
* Carlos Andres Plaza	Gato	14150
* Sebastian Meira T.	Saudades	14379
* Paco Solá Tanca	Zorro Loco	14541
* Santiago Romero Barst	Pepto Bismol	14673
* Jaime Santa Cruz Vial	Marraqueta	14674
* Carlos Lecaro	Garufa	14676

Como todo niño malcriado, EL NIÑO dañó los planes que teníamos preparados para los primeros meses de 1998, desde Diciembre, todo fué llover y llover, así que parte de la flota se refugió bajo los paraguas, destapó sus cervezas y se puso a navegar Santa Barbara.

Pese al niño, programamos todo un calendario de eventos bajo el auspicio de Diners, con Campeonatos de Sábados y Domingos cada 15 días, lastimosamente solo se pudieron realizar dos.

Finalmente el sol salió, las aguas descendieron y para el 6 y 7 de Junio corrimos el primer Campeonato del Verano 98. Los resultados fueron en el siguiente orden: Lecaro, Parker, Meira Jr, Santos, Solá, Meira Sr.

Mantuvimos la actividad en Salinas con torneos mensuales, siendo uno de los mas importantes, el organizado por la Armada del Ecuador, en Julio, en las ya famosas regatas "Glorias Navales". Las posiciones fueron: Lecaro, Parker, Santos, Santacruz, Meira Jr., Tito Plaza Jr.

En el mes de Agosto, nuestro Distrito estuvo representado en el Campeonato Norteamericano en Búfalo por Carlos Luis Lecaro, Jimmy Pazmiño y Sebastián Meira quienes terminaron 8 en President's Cup.

A nuestro Distrito le correspondió la organización en conjunto con la Federación Ecuatoriana de Yachting de los Juegos ODESUR, los mismos se realizaron en Salinas con la participación de tripulaciones de Chile, Colombia, Perú y Ecuador, el ganador fue Tito Gonzalez, los nuestros Santos y Lecaro, terminaron 4 y 6 respectivamente.

En el mes de Octubre se realizó el Campeonato Nacional FEY, los resultados fueron: Santos, Lecaro, Tito Plaza Jr., Santacruz, Meira Jr., Parker Los Juniors, Sebastián Meira y Tito Plaza, tuvieron un entrenamiento muy fuerte en los meses Septiembre y Octubre, al final se les unió Juan Carlos Vidal y así nuestro distrito estuvo representado por tres botes en el Mundial Juvenil de Salinas, al final luego de un gran Campeonato, con mucho viento y sol, el ganador fué Sean Carroll de EEUU, los nuestros se ubicaron: Meira 6, Plaza 10, Vidal 16.

Esperamos en el 99 retomar la Copa American Airlines, la misma que fue suspendida este año por el niño.

Nos vemos en Salinas en el Mundial 99.

Paco Solá

HIGH ROCK FLEET 415 **Southeastern District** **Sailing on High Rock Lake** **Lexington, North Carolina**

Fleet Secretary Cindy Booke

* Buddy Hedrick	Carpe Diem	10152
* Aldred K. Warren, III		10386
* Nathan Varner		10728
* William W. Pleasants		12336
* Jonathan Smith		
* & Thomas R. Smith	White Lightning	12730

* Nicholas Reid	S'nick'r	13154
* Pell Kennedy		13931
* 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 Secretary Sergio Levaggi Tocci

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

No Report.

GREATER CHARLESTON FLEET 429 **Southeastern District** **Sailing on Charleston Harbor** **Charleston, South Carolina**

Fleet Contact Leonard Krawcheck

* Milt Rhodes		10039
* William R. Sloger, Sr.	Wasabi	11771
* Leonard Krawcheck	Got It	14519
* Kenneth C. Krawcheck		

No Report.

OCEAN CITY YACHT CLUB FLEET 430 **Central Atlantic District** **Sailing on Great Egg Harbor Bay** **Ocean City, New Jersey**

Fleet Secretary John Parker

* John J. Parker	Flower Child	13380
* Howard M. Solomon		13649
* Erik T. Hostvedt	Blue Streak	14014

No Report.

SOUTHAMPTON YACHT CLUB FLEET 431 **Long Island District** **Sailing on Shinnecock Bay** **Southampton, Long Island, New York**

Fleet Captain Richard Warren
Fleet Secretary Peter Robinson

* John V.H. Halsey	Windy Too	11071
* James G. Hull	Bonny Blue	14032
* Tim Rumph	Fulmen	14157
* Tim Rumph	Seahorse	14339
* John Lewandowski	Outrageous	14551
* Richard E. Warren		14560
* Bruce Hendry		14679

No Report.

RUSH CREEK YACHT CLUB FLEET 435

Texas District

Sailing on Lake Ray Hubbard

Dallas, Texas

Fleet Captain Scott Anderson
Fleet Secretary Jennifer Eldredge

* Richard C. Guinan, Jr. (Life)
* George R. Hatfield (Life)
* John S. Schneider (Life)
Sylvan Newman 10397
Vernon R. Goldberg Andros 3 13228
Vernon R. Goldberg 13266
Robert Thomas Pandora 13311
Sylvan Newman 13622
Patrick Moseley & Jeff Herron 13806
* Jennifer Gandy Eldredge Some Girls 13870
* Scott Anderson 13953
* James Alman Vertical Smile 14428
* Scott Anderson 14817

No Report.

FOND DU LAC FLEET 442

Midwest District

Sailing on Lake Winnebago

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Fleet Captain/Secretary Mike Elmergreen

Tom Drews Fan-T-Sea 13280
* Sue Dorscheid
* & Michael Elmergreen Escape 13617

No Report.

CLUB UNIVERSITARIO DE BUENOS AIRES 446

Argentina District

Sailing on the Waters of Rio De La Plata

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Fleet Secretary Roberto Ricoveri

Roberto Ricoveri 11037
* Hector Longarela Gaucho Negro 11649
Diego Perroto

No Report.

SAN PABLO FLEET 447

Ecuador District

Sailing on Lago San Pablo

Quito, Ecuador

Fleet Captain Jaime Martinez

* Olaf Dyck & * Lars Dyck Samuel 11365
* Jose M. Perez 12221
* Jose M. Perez Speedy 12338
Jaime Martinez Nirvana 14389
Ernesto Martinez E. Buscapleitos 14558

No Report.

MARSALA FLEET 449

Italy District

Sailing on the Mediterranean Sea

Marsala, Sicily, Italy

Fleet Captain Giovanni Pellegrino
Fleet Secretary Giuseppe Valenti
Fleet Champion Reina Stefano
Fleet Runner-Up Marino Antonio

* Giovanni Pellegrino	Wanted I	12027
Vito Bonanno		12061
* Giuseppe Valenti	Trepepe	13345
Vito Pernice	Ho Hell	13349
* Antonio Marino	Raimbow	13402
Giuseppe Giacalone	Dove Vai?	13478
* Giuseppe Alagna	Wanted III	13481
* Vito Tripoli	Lily Bay Tan	13706
Giuseppe Rallo		14045
Roberto Crucitti		14102
Stefano Reina	Maranna	14197
* Gaspare Buffa		14361
* Mario Noto		
* & Marsala Societa' Canottieri		14731

During the season our fleet carried out an intense schedule. The most important success was the Italian Championship in Fermo on the Adriatic Sea, organized by the Club "Iga Navale Italiana." Our Fleet Captain Reina Stefano and crew Tripoli Giuseppe and Tripoli Pietro, of Club "Circolo Velico Marsala", and 2 other teams were right at the top. Unfortunately we were unable to participate in the European Championships in Finland.

The Clubs that help us carry out our activities are the Circolo Velico Marsala and the Societa' Canottieri Marsala. It is important to remember the help of our builders Pellegrino Giovanni e Antonio De Vita, who allow our fleet to win with their wonderful, beautiful wood boat.

Giuseppe Valenti

FLOTTE DEL TRASIMENO 453

Italy District

Sailing on Trasimeno Lake

Perugia, Italy

Fleet Secretary Sergio Rustichelli

Sauro Scarpocchi	Wind III	13348
Sauro Scarpocchi		13455
Giovanni Rosi		13462
Matteo Balestrero		13462
* Franco DeRegis		14316
* Sergio Rustichelli		14228
Sauro Scarpocchi		14239

No Report.

TUUSULVANJÄRVI FLEET 456

Finland District

Sailing on Lake Tuusulanjärvi

Tuusula, Finland

Fleet Captain Waltteri Karhusaari
Fleet Secretary Maija Pyy
Fleet Champion Martti Lähtinen
Fleet Runner-up Niko Lappalainen

* Lauri Hamalainen		0
* Pentti Laitinen		0
* Juha Siilin		12482
* Juha Savela		13130
* Matti Leppänen		13348
* Pertti Pyy		13413
* Matti Leppanen		13438
* Niko Lappalainen	Poiiju	14018
* Rainer Korhonen	Porkkana	14179
* Leo Korhonen		14274
* Olli Lahtinen	Shark	14331
* Juha Siilin	Sini	14352
* Pertti Pyy	Amarillo	14406
* Heikki Hamalainen		14491
* Juha Hamalainen		14494
* Antero Punttila	Snow White	14535

Greetings from Lake Tuusula Fleet to all Lightning sailors! Year 1998 was a very busy season for Fleet 456. The European Districts, the first-ever European Masters and the Finnish Districts were all hosted by our home club, Tuusulanjärven Purjehtijat, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Lightnings in Finland. Needless to say we had our hands full right from January.

With the 50th Anniversary Regatta being the top event for us, and for Finnish Lightning sailors, I shall concentrate on the week's events in this report.

The 50th Anniversary of Lightnings in Finland was celebrated on July 17-26, with the 1998 European Championships, the Finland District Championships and the first-ever European Masters Championships. The regatta was sailed on Lake Tuusula and hosted by Tuusulanjärven Purjehtijat sailing club. A chronicle on the 50 year history of Lightnings in Finland was made public at the 50th Anniversary Gala that was held after the prize-giving ceremonies of the Europeans and the Districts (won by Kari Huusko of Kemi, with Pentti Järvinen from Valkeakoski coming second, and our fleet's Olli Lahtinen coming in third). For those of you who want to improve your skills in Finnish, copies of the 100-page chronicle can be obtained by contacting the Finland District board members :-)

The racing format for the Europeans and the Districts was something new for most Lightning sailors: new courses and a lot of them! 10 races were held (out of the planned 12) mostly on windward-leeward courses with gates at both ends. More "traditional" Hellerup-courses were used in only a couple of races. The new course-type and the race format - many starts, close to the shore - received a lot of positive feedback from the sailors. The race committee also did an excellent job by setting-up good, square courses and by following the set schedule closely.

Lake Tuusula showed its best sides during the regatta: enough wind (at times even a little too much wind), plenty of sun (ie. not too much rain) and the ability to follow the races from the club. The racing itself was quite tight, with several crews competing for the sought-after yellow race-winner T-shirts. Switzerland's Urs Wyler, with crew Gilbert and Walther Dürr, took home the race-winner shirts by winning the last race, bringing their total to 6 wins out of the 10 races. Needless to say that Urs also took home the Europeans title, but despite what the results may show, the title came after a tough battle with Finland's Kari Huusko, Pentti Järvinen and USA's Richard Hallagan.

The Open European Masters was started after a picnic trip to Suomenlinna Fortress in Helsinki on the lay-day, with 13 boats on the starting line. Richard Hallagan had gathered more and more speed as the Europeans progressed and continued his good form in the Masters. Switzerland's Jacques Perret and Finland's Leo Korhonen and Kaarlo Jaskari challenged hard for the title, but in the end Richard, with crew Craig Thayer and Lori Foster, took home the Open European Masters title and the yellow race-winner T-shirts by winning the last race.

The European Championships will be sailed next year in Switzerland with several Finnish crews already making plans to take part in the regatta. The Masters will also be continued next year in Switzerland, so it would seem that a new tradition has been started in European Lightning sailing. A tradition which will hopefully attract Lightning sailors not only from Europe, but also from the Americas, to meet old Lightning friends, share memories, and - not to forget - enjoy competitive racing on the water in the future.

At the time of writing this report (needless to say on December 1st :-)) there is a couple of inches of snow on the ground and Lake Tuusula has started to freeze over. Our boats are safely locked away for the winter and waiting for the coming 1999 season. Now we can concentrate on Christmas, but come February and the 1999 Boat Show, the fever will start rising again...

Wishing you all a great 1999 sailing season,
Waltteri Karhusaari, Fleet 456 Captain

NORTH FLORIDA FLEET 461

Florida District

Sailing on Lake Eustis

North of Orlando, Florida

Fleet Secretary Steve Hayden

* Fisk Hayden		2
* Christopher (Kip) Hamblet	FOB	11346
* Christopher (Kip) Hamblet	FNB	14446
* Hans Birkholz	Like A Monkey	14698
* Steve Hayden		
* & Fisk Hayden (Life)	Calvin	14752

Fleet 461's home club sailing on Lake Eustis has finally taken over residence of its new sailing facility. The larger property, with new docks and boatramps, will be fully operational in time for the February Washington's Birthday Regatta.

The Hayden family's newest addition made his arrival just in time for the Southern Circuit. Jeffrey Fisk was born on March 11. Steve's team of Barr Batzer and David Hood managed to finish 5th at St. Pete. The same team also three-peated the Districts held in Tampa in April. Fisk won the District Masters Regatta and finished 3rd at the Masters NAs in Buffalo. Steve's team finished 7th in the top fleet at Buffalo.

Kip Hamblet continues to threaten to bring his boat out racing on a regular basis and Fisk has added another boat to the fleet - Number 2 is being restored, hopefully before anyone needs fireword. Hope to see everyone on the Southern Circuit. Sail fast.

Steve Hayden

GUARAPIRANGA LAKE FLEET 462

Brazil District

Sailing on Lake Guarapiranga

São Paulo, Brazil

Fleet Secretary Per Olov Hornell

* John Julio Jansen		11693
* Heloisa Barro Uelze	Goiabada	11721
* Nelson Freire De Carvalho		12524
* Thomas Buckup	Viking Ii	13008
* Claus Bromberg	Waikiki	13405
* Eduardo Magalhaes	Meia Noite Vi	13406
* Renato Michado De Almeida		13657
* Nelson Small Schmitt		14071
* Manfred Kaufmann Jr	Just'n Time	14101
* Jens Cristiano Ruschmann	Flying Cloud	14168
* James Sumner	Viso	14330
* Nelson Small Schmitt		14353
* Nelson Small Schmitt		14504
* Michael Anthony Norris	Flash Rider	14602
* Nelson Small Schmitt	Xamego V	14633
* Per Olov Hornell	Clone Rider	14845
* Michael Anthony Norris		14845
* Caio Seabra		14894

Fleets 147 and 462 had a rather busy season this year. Three major regattas were organized (see results) and the attendance was above expectations. A new record was set for our Nationals with a participation of 25 boats.

Claudio Biekarck, Gunnar Ficker and Marcelo B. da Silva (YCSA, Sao Paulo - SP) showed a superb performance winning both the Nationals and the State Championship and finishing very well at the NAs with a fifth place. Enrico Francavilla with crew Fabio Bodra (YCSA, Sao Paulo - SP), newcomers to the class, are starting to show what they came for.

Several juniors are gathering the class which is very good for renovation. A qualifying series was run to select two teams for the Youth Worlds. We all hope they stick to the class.

The fleet will grow due to four new boats that are being built. This is good news; the last acquisitions (3 boats) from abroad happened in 1993 during the Ilhabela Worlds. Wooden boats are still being raced, some competitively.

'99 Nationals are scheduled for mid February (Carnival holidays) in Sao Paulo - SP and Pan-Am qualifiers for mid April in Porto Alegre - RS.

Manfred Kaufmann, Jr., Secretary / District Brazil

LAKE WACCAMAW FLEET 463 Southeastern District Sailing on Lake Waccamaw Waccamaw, North Carolina

Fleet Captain Vivian Hollinshed
Fleet Secretary Paul R. Jueschke
Fleet Champion J.M. "Dick" Coburn
Runner-Up Paul Jueschke

Neal Turner		11898
* Paul R. Jueschke	Celebrate!	12125
* Vivian E. Hollinshed, Jr.		14247
* J.M. "Dick" Coburn	Strings Attached	14252
James Taylor		
Allen Smith		
* H.B. Toby Wells, Jr.		

The 1998 season was a year of contrasts, with either bright sunny days or hurricane weather with Bonnie paying us a visit the end of August. Fortunately with very hard work by all the club members we were only off the water for one weekend and no lightnings were damaged other than due to leaves and light debris working under covers. Several cruisers on kegs didn't fair as well after breaking lines.

Our September district regatta was attended by 14 entrants and won by Bob Harkrider in his *BooNooNoos*, or was that *Son of Boo*, defending the title for the Clark's Hill Fleet 257, Augusta, Ga. The Sunday morning race was started in a lifting pea soup fog after an extended delay. Almost had to use the Braille method to find the line.

Dick Coburn finished strong 1st for the season fleet championship with Paul Jueschke keeping the pressure on by winning several of the season ending races. We should have two additional boats next year as Steve Dawson is rebuilding an older Lippencott and Jay and Joan Cotton are looking for a competitive boat to skipper, changing from a Flyer. We are all looking towards next year with an early April start of racing activities and the great camaraderie of Lightning sailors and more boats on the water.

Y'all come on down for some good 'ol Southern Hospitality!!

See Ya next year!!

Paul R Jueschke

FLOTTA DEL CONERO 466

Italy District

Sailing on the Adriatic Sea Ancona, Falconara and Senigallia, Italy

Fleet Secretary Renao Bozzi

Ivano Brolli		13037
* Bruno Roccheggiani	Bibir	13346
* Giovanni Sorci		13445
Giorgio Curzi		14239
* Paolo Poletti		14243
Fabio Giuliani		
* & Carlo Jommi		14245

No Report.

VALKEAKOSKI FLEET 468

Finland District

Sailing on Lake Mallevesi and Vanajavesi Valkeakoski, Finland

Fleet Secretary Perti Jalonen

* Aimo Jokiniemi		12992
* Aimo Jokiniemi		14403
* Pentti Jarvinen		14352
* Pentti Jarvinen		14761

No Report.

CEDAR FLEET 478

Florida District

Sailing on the Caloosahatchee River Fort Myers, Florida

Fleet Secretary Liz Lombardo

* Elizabeth Lombardo		0
* James T. Bush		1949
* Ralph Suhm	Mysti Blue	8822

No Report.

WAKE FLEET 481

Southeastern District

Sailing on Kerr Lake Raleigh, North Carolina

Fleet Captain Ed Michels

Fleet Secretary James Nutt

Douglas King	Plummer	11900
* Worth A. Lutz, III		12773
* Michael S. Rees	Adrenalin	13877
* Pierce P. Barden		14190
* David L. Francis	Too Fast	14332
* James E. Nutt	Hallucination	14376
* John W. Pelosi	Anubis Leisure Society	14396

No Report.

ITHACA FLEET 484
Central New York District
Sailing on Cayuga Lake
Ithaca, New York

Fleet Captain Steve Little
 Assistant Fleet Captain Maggie Anderson
 Fleet Treasurer Jesse Miller
 Fleet Champion Jesse Miller
 Runner-Up The Anderson Family

* Byrne O'Brien	Whisper	10113
* John B. Rudd	Allegro	10705
* Terrill Moore	Anna T.	11347
* Glenn S. Wilcox	Das Boot	11960
* Aage Larsen	Skudder	13124
* Stephen Little		13372
* Carlo Montemagno	Photon	13787
* Jesse W. Miller	Hot Flash	13934
* John B. Rudd		14240
* Bill Anderson		14628
* Edward Seyerlein		14713

The masts have come down. Windexes hang in a safe spot. We've already had a few flurries and the days are growing shorter. Fall colors have quickly passed to the grays and browns of early winter and



Fleet 484's Frostbite Regatta
Photos courtesy Glenn Wilcox



Fleet 484 at rest

our beloved flat bottom boats have found their way to garages, barns and other dry places of winter rest. Time to warm up the sail simulator, crack open Stuart Walker, study those new rules, reflect on the past season and dream about the spring.

Lightning Fleet 484 is alive and well. The past two years could not have been a better time for the Ithaca fleet. We have grown from three boats to nine and hope to carry this momentum throughout the coming year. Are there any converts? I think we've shown the keel boaters how competitive, fun and challenging lightning sailing can be. And with the competition only getting better I would say that it's a matter of time before we see a few more of us on the blue waters of Cayuga. The only problem is, where will they fit?

We capped off a splendid season with our one-day regatta – the Frostbite. With a late season regatta you can sometimes count on rain, sometimes sun, sometimes even snow. And sometimes we get all three in a matter of minutes. One thing you can always count on is wind. This year's Frostbite was no exception. Under mostly overcast skies with a backdrop of dazzling fall colors 12 boats raced in a steady 15-20 knot breeze. By the end of it all Dick Hallagan had taken first from Kirk Reynolds with a stellar tacking dual in the final leg of the final race. So the myth goes that it was 18 tacks before Kirk and his exhausted crew could tack no more and eventually broke off to give Dick the win. I might add that we were graced by the presence of 6 away boats. This is the most we have had since the Cruising fleet asked us to join them in their frostbite tradition 3 years ago. See you next year!

I'm sure if you ask an Ithaca lightning sailor what they look forward to all week it would have to be our Thursday night race series. The series runs from early June to early September and is the series that determines our fleet champion. This season we were able to run 14 races with low-point scoring determined by a boat's best finish in 9 out of those 14. For the top two spots the competition was very

close. So close that it was a tie between last year's champion the Anderson Family (Bill, Maggie and CJ) and Jesse Miller (Ginny Miller, Frost Travis, Nicole Epp, the beautiful Anca Trandafirescu and others). After the final race they were tied at 10.5 points each. According to fleet rules the best finish in the last race determined the champion. Congratulations Jesse and crew for a great series. Look out you guys – there are some new boats in town! Series Final: 1) Miller 10.5, 2) Anderson 10.5, 3) Seyerlein 21.75, 4) Rudd 22.0, 5) Wilcox 33.75, 6) Larson 42, 7) Little 46. I'm sure we would all agree that the best thing about Thursday night racing, besides the racing of course, is the beer and the food afterwards. With challenging competition on the lake and the genuine camaraderie off it's not difficult to see why our fleet is growing.

It is not just an old block of wood and it is not just a beer can that someone found in the dusty corner of a garage. It's not what you think. Or maybe it is? Was it divine intervention? Was it an act of genius? Or was it a couple of beers and a mild case of mid-winter boredom. For whatever reasons an individual among us, who shall remain nameless, (for protection) was inspired. And in an impassioned gesture, well he did have to plug the glue gun in and wait for it to heat up, bonded the two detritus into what is now

know as the coveted BUSCH trophy. The BUSCH trophy is awarded to that sailor who in their own moment of glory makes us all look good. Makes us say, for once, I'm from Ithaca Lightning Fleet 484 and dammit I'm proud of it. The BUSCH trophy is awarded to the fleet sailor with the best finish in an away race. And this year is a fine example of the genius of that award and the recognition that one deserves through its acceptance. I'm getting vachlept here. Woow. Envelop please. And the winner is Ed Seyerlein for his 7th place finish in the first race of the blue fleet at the 60th anniversary regatta. This was a 72 boat fleet mind you. Ed beat the likes of Dick Hallagan and Mark Sertl and a whole hell of a lot of other boats. Well done Ed and we all know it had nothing to do with that shift.

It's been a fine time sailing with y'all. And darn it I wish spring would hurry up and get here or it could at least snow a little so we can break out the skis. Now lets see... there is that rigging I have to do - got to move that back stay control - put that wire on deck... then theirs the cover...would somebody get me some decent crew! Hmm... maybe another trophy...

Glenn Wilcox

VALLEY FLEET 486 Mississippi Valley District Sailing on Alton Lake Machens, Missouri

<http://www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Marina/9604/>

Fleet CaptainGerald Wnorowski

Fleet SecretaryMark Nash

Fleet ChampionRick Conaway

Runner-UpJerry Wnorowski

C. Graeme Wilson	Chaos	8664
Sea Scouts		10291
* Mark Nash	Woodstock	11125
John Voelker	Ziggy II	11598
Jerry Chapman		
& Brian Roberts		11637
Sea Scouts		12033
Rich Nieman		12891
Jack Selbert	Mud Runner	12892
Don McNabb		13232
* Stephen Wyers	Top Secret	13379
Boeing Employees' Sailing Club		
	Summer Lightning	13627
Rick Conaway	Fascination	14088
* Gerald L. Wnorowski	Can't Believe It!	14233

Fleet 486 started off slowly again this year with a flood, but finished with a bang! Our two regattas had the best combined wind since 1984, and offered excitement aplenty.

Governor's Cup, Oct 3-4, 1998, 41 Boats, All Classes:

by Steve Wyers

The weather for the Governor's Cup was much better than forecasted. We had a few showers and 5 to 12 mph E winds on Saturday, and nothing on Sunday but wind, and lots of it at 12 to 20 mph NE! The classes entered were Mutineers, Misc. Monohulls, Comets, Lightnings, Misc. Catamarans, Hobie 16's, Cruising Class Big Boats, and Racing Class Big Boats, sailing on the same course, with seven starts. It really was a great sight to see so many sails at once. There were no major collisions, no capsizes, and only one protest, in the Cabin Boats, of course! The courses set were a triangle for everyone on Saturday and a W-L for the cabin boats and triangle for the rest on Sunday. The wind direction allowed a windward leg down and across, with upstream reaches.

Jerry Wnorowski (14233) pretty well dominated the action in races 1&2. In the first race, Jerry ran away from the fleet to finish 1st by almost a full leg, not doing as well the second race and finishing 2nd. Rick Conaway (14088) had a time getting his speed sorted out but held on for 2nd in the first race, then swapping with Jerry for a 1st. We (13379) got 3rd and 4th, trading places with Graeme Wilson (8664) and Brian Uhlmanseik (12891) taking 5th.



Fast sailing at the 1998 Muddy Rudder, from left: Steve Wyers, Diana Kinder, Becky Williams, Jerry Wnorowski, Norma Wnorowski, Jeff Portman, Jerry Chapman, Eric Waldschmidt, Brian Roberts.

Brian wasn't up to his usual form, not having sailed a square boat for 3 years. Graeme was sailing with crew Wayne Watson, a Lightning skipper whom we've haven't seen in the last four years.

Race 3 was my most memorable race of the year. We had good speed and pointing off the line, managing to gain enough lead on port to tack and cross Jerry, who was higher but astern, then tack again to cover placing us between him and the pin. Tacking at the layline, we rounded to see that all the boats from the two previous starts had sailed into a hole at the jibe mark, and were sitting there, perhaps 12 boats in all! We headed left out into the wind and found a shaft of air just above the mark, reaching back and rounding in what had now become a mass of boats, only to find John Mullen (Comet) square in our sights as a puff accelerated us! How we missed spearing him I don't know, but apparently the roll tack drills for the crew paid off because our bow was about 5 ft. from him when we crash-tacked! Tacking back to starboard we set the chute with Jerry in hot pursuit. The wind appeared to be off the quarter, so I elected to jibe the chute at the leeward mark, not realizing that a course change had moved the line! Imagine my surprise when I saw the finish line 75 yds. to port! Fortunately a fast leeward drop by daughter Becky and quick trimming of the jib by Diana allowed us to tack soon enough to barely hold Jerry off giving us a 1st. Jerry, of course was 2nd, Brian 3rd, Rick 4th, and Graeme 5th.

Muddy Rudder Lightning Regatta Oct. 17-18, 1998:

by Steve Wyers

The only losers at the Muddy Rudder Oct. 17-18 were the ones who stayed home! The weather report wasn't good, but a check on the Internet showed that the Jet Stream was between us and a storm front in central Missouri and was likely to take all the storm activity North. We arrived at the harbor with high hopes and higher wind, 15 to 20 mph SE.

After swilling coffee and scarfing doughnuts for a jump-start, boatloads of hardy souls headed for the starting line across the Mississippi. Alton Lake Sailing Association (ALSA) was doing race duty for us, and had set a big course from the Illinois side across and downstream, then back and up for a big two-lap triangle. We knew this was going to be special when we jumped onto a plane several times on the way out.

We got buried when the flag dropped and tacked to port to clear our air. Off again, we rounded in 3rd with nobody setting a chute. Jerry Chapman, in 5th, got the nerve up and rolled us to move into 2nd, but couldn't catch Jerry Wnorowski who had it all the way. Jerry C. was 2nd, Rick 3rd.

In race two, Graeme Wilson took a DNS while he fixed his backstay. We were over early, along with Wnorowski and wound up trailing. Jerry W. was fast upwind, and had regained the lead when at the second drop disaster struck. As they dropped the chute a sudden big shift filled it and took him over. Jeff Portman was on the board like a shot and popped it up, but a puff knocked it down the other way, trapping Norma W. under the sail. Needless to say, she panicked, particularly since she doesn't swim. We, watching as we

approached, were concerned because we didn't see any heads! We bore off to check them out and by then they came out and the safety boat was on the way. I was pleased because I wasn't relishing the thought of anchoring for a swim in those winds! We headed up to take a 3rd with Jerry C. 1st and Rick Conaway 2nd. Jerry W. finally got the boat up and finished.

At lunch the winds were 24 to 31, but on the weather radio there was talk of 10 to 40 somewhere. Rick was fixing a block on his bridle system. After a conference it was decided to give it a try and display a red flag if we thought it was too much. Jerry W. wisely decided to pass altogether in the interests of family harmony.

In the higher winds we had trouble holding the boat down, as Jerry C. dominated with Rick 2nd and Graeme 3rd for the two afternoon races. Jerry had two skippers for crew, Eric Waldschmidt, and Brian Roberts, and their experience showed! Linda Coleman, with crew Jim Zehr and Jeff Susanj hung on gamely, finishing every race. We spent half the afternoon planing offwind and upwind, bearing off in the hopes of regaining some distance on the leaders. On one big puff, we jumped up so fast it almost knocked us flat! We planed almost the entire reach on one leg. We were thankful to have only two afternoon races because I was beat! Daughter Becky, trimming the jib was sprayed, and middle crew Diana Kinder was beat but in good spirits.

After the races many beverages were consumed and many tall tales told. We had to head home for a function, but the rest of the fleet headed to the Longshot Saloon in portage for dinner. Hated to miss that!

Sunday dawned gray but dry and fairly calm. The wind built while we were in Church, and was about 15 mph WNW when we arrived at the harbor. The first race Jerry W. was back in form with Jerry C. 2nd and Rick 3rd. We held onto 4th with Graeme 5th and Linda 6th. In race 2 the Wind had backed, and we tacked to port at the boat end, to lee of the fleet, and were able to get our bow out early, increasing our lead to the mark. Rounding first, we held on to the jibe, setting the chute for the second reach, and keeping it full during the gibe as the wind veered. A clean drop and we led all the way to the finish, with Jerry W. 2nd and Jerry C. 3rd. Rick, Graeme, and Linda followed.

It wasn't until we were on the way that Becky asked what that gave us, and I realized we might have a 3rd! The scores confirmed this; we had edged Jerry W. for 3rd by a half-point! Rick Conaway, with crew Greg Polanik and Randy Maier were 2nd, and Jerry Chapman, having sailed a strong, consistent series, got a well-deserved First Place. A few technical notes:

I modified my bridle this season to the new approved system with height adjustment. In heavy air it's great, allowing me to dial in the sheeting and keep my head out of the boat.

Jerry Wnorowski's crew, Jeff Portman, used a trick I discovered some years ago. (I'm the VSA capsizing king.) After removing the bow line you attach it to the center hiking strap. This allows you to throw it over the side for a hiking line while you're out on the board to right the boat. Using this system, enough moment is generated that a person of average weight can right a Lightning unassisted, and even roll the crew up inside as they do it. It sure beats trying to stand three people on that tiny board!

Governor's Cup			Muddy Rudder		
Place	Sail No	Skipper	Sail No	Skipper	
1	14233	Jerry Wnorowski	11637	Jerry Chapman	
2	14088	Rick Conaway	14088	Rick Conaway	
3	13379	Steve Wyers	13379	Steve Wyers	
4	8664	Graeme Wilson	14233	Jerry Wnorowski	
5	12891	Brian Uhlmanseik	8664	Graeme Wilson	
6			13627	Linda Coleman	

Stephen Wyers

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLEET 488

US @ Large District

Sailing the American West in the Waters of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming

Fleet Captain Bill Cabrall



Fleet 488 at the Dillon Open in August 1998: Larissa Stoller, Bob Stoller, Monique Van Rbyn, Georgia Simpson, Bill Cabrall, and Joelynn Barclay. Photo courtesy Bill Cabrall.

* Barry P. Olson		
Tim McKenzie		
Dean Lausten		5945
* Bob Stoller	For Sale!	9957
* William F. Cabrall	Blue Moon	11457
* Nancy Simmons	Prosit	11815
* Fred Denny	Heron	13478
* Martin R. Mulhern		13857
* Bob Stoller	North Star	14769

The Rocky Mountain Lightning Fleet continues to experience slow and (hopefully) steady growth. This year our ranks grew by 2 when Nancy Simmons bought Prosit (#11815) from the Muellers, and Tim McKenzie began repairing his boat, which is still upside down in the back yard at this writing. Bill Cabrall and Nancy Simmons also have boats in the garage in pieces for the winter (an annual ritual with Lightnings this old) and things are looking stronger for 1999.

In June Bob Stoller spied a familiar shape languishing in a storage yard off the Boulder Turnpike. \$250 later he was the owner of 2 Lightnings! This boat is a fiberglass, thin plywood sandwich (ie, no foam core) that is currently working its way through everyone's spare parts box. It will be rigged, ready, and for sale/sail next season. We hope to repeat the cycle as a means of providing more boats so the fleet will grow.

On the water this year we participated in 9 regattas in addition to Thursday evening racing at Cherry Creek Lake in Southwest Denver. High points of the season were the Carter Lake Open, where we put 4 boats on the water, and specular weekends in the Rockies at Ruedi Revivor and Lake Dillon.

The Sailing Association of Intermountain Lakes (SAIL) hosts a Dinghy Championship Tour each year, for the best combined scores at 8 regional regattas. This year Bill Cabrall finished 4th and Bob Stoller 5th out of 18 when the scores were totaled in November.

On the organizational side, Bob Stoller is putting in a 2 year stint as the Commodore of the Denver Sailing Association, and we will be supporting the regional Adams Cup qualifier next year (Lightnings have been selected by US Sailing).

We continue to grow slowly, with our greatest challenge being the wide open spaces and spectacular mountain scenery of the American west. Fleet members are widely spread out, and our traveling regattas often involve 3-5 hour drives and camping equipment. If you live here, it's not a big deal (In fact, that's probably why you came in the first place). We are working to establish a solid presence on several bodies of water, and are proud of the fact that we sail on the highest navigable water and claim the most square miles of territory in the United States and perhaps the world.

Bob Stoller

ACULEO LAKE FLEET 490
Chile District
Sailing on Aculeo Lake
Champa, Paine, Chile

Fleet SecretaryManuel Gonzalez Mas

* Alberto Gonzalez Mas	Ojo De Lince	11011
Luis Herman		11023
Angel Fantuzzi	Kings Brooks	11450
Pablo Amunategui E.	Pocas Lucas	13650
* Rodrigo Zuazola		14255
Francisco Perez Spencer		14294
* Rodrigo Zuazola	Cabello Del Algal	14307
* Alberto Gonzalez Mas		14454
* Manuel Gonzalez Mas	Coballo Del Alguacil	14709
Angel Fantuzzi		14791
Francisco Perez Spencer		14794
* Alberto Gonzalez Mas		14838
* Alberto Gonzalez Mas		14843

No Report.

LAKE NOCKAMIXON FLEET 491
Central Atlantic District
Sailing on Lake Nockamixon
Quakertown, Pennsylvania

Fleet CaptainGary Bonner
 Fleet SecretaryBarbara Benson
 Fleet ChampionBrent Benson

* James C. Lenahan, III	Black Flash	5083
* James Perkins	The Bolt	6378
* Charles S. Shoemaker	Esprit	9928
* Merritt Willits		10841
* Brent W. Benson		11444
* Alan Schragger		
& Louis Schragger	Gybe Ho!	12277
* James C. Lenahan, III	White Flash	12727
* Clifford H. Matson, Jr.		13399
* Gary Bonner		13720

Sailing conditions were particularly good this year at Lake Nockamixon. Our visitors regularly comment on how nice it is to sail in fresh water with no current or motor boat chop, and this year we had more wind than usual in the hot months. There were Lightnings on the line at all race days, though it was usually hard to get many at any one time.

The Cap-it-Off regatta in October had fierce light wind competition (previous years we had gales), with local Brent Benson edging out visitors Bob Bush and Gary Swangler.
Brent Benson

BOW LAKE FLEET 493
New England District
Sailing on Bow Lake
New Hampshire

Fleet SecretaryNed Hinds

* Edward E. Hinds, III	!	11440
* Michael S. Aversa		11579
* Robert D. Shapiro		14111
* Edward E. Hinds, III	Naut!	14296

This was a lean year for Bow Lake lightnings but the competition was keener than ever. Ned, Bob and Mike mixed it up in close racing over our eight week season. Bob got a new boat and newer sails for the season and was really going good all season. It wasn't until the Bluenose in Nashville that he decided to actually try to tune his rig so we all have to look out for Bob next year. Mike Aversa and daughter Jillian were most improved for the 98 season. Mikes competitive spirit and determination combined with Jillians no fear, lets get 'em approach found them doing very well during the season. A great showing guys! Keep it up.

The winners were 1. Ned Hinds 2. "Rocket" Bob Shapiro and 3. "Mighty" Mike Aversa

The three of us traveled a bit this year too. We traveled to Lake Bomoseen and got drenched by the rains for 2 days. We showed up at the Districts and got our socks blown off in 30 knot winds. Bob said "the spinnaker runs were the most fun I've ever had with my pants on." Even more fun when he found out that he beat Ned by one point. Great sailing Bob. We went to Spofford for the annual fall regatta and drifted one day and had good breezes the next. The Massabesic Fall Regatta was lots of fun as usual. Lots of good people and shifty breezes. All in all it was a great season on the road for the fleet. We all wanted to go see Pat McCormick at Newburyport but it seems he must have looked at the wrong tide chart at the winter meeting.

Then there was the Bow Lake "Lightning Flash" one day regatta. It was postponed from last year because our launching ramp was dead. This year we had a brand new ramp, good breezes, a nice day and a fabulous dinner put on by Debbie Shapiro, Karen Hilton, Stacy and Pam Daigneault. Great job ladies. Thanks for making the regatta a success. Ten boats showed up, a great showing.

The winners were; 1. Bill Berry 2. Ned Hinds and 3. Norm "Pappy" Deyette.

If you are intereste in see in pictures, stories and race results for Bow Lake go to:

<http://www.clubnedusa.com/bowlake98.htm#Bow Lake on the web>.

The New England district web page is hosted by the Bow Lake fleet and can be reached by going to

<http://www.clubnedusa.com/neld/neld.html> on the Web.

See you on the water after ski season. Regards,

Ned Hinds

SWIFT CREEK FLEET 496
Dixie District
Sailing on Swift Creek Reservoir
Chesterfield County, Virginia

Fleet SecretaryJames Richards

* James E. Richards	Macerator	14292
* Robert C. Wardwell (Life)		14485

No Report.

POINTE CLAIRE YACHT CLUB FLEET 499
St. Lawrence Valley District
Sailing on Lac St. Louis
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Fleet CaptainDavid Browne

* R.A. (Tony) McBride (Life)		
* Andrew Allan		14200
* Rod Hayes		
* & John Sauter	Flip	14443

No Report.

TENNESSEE VALLEY FLEET 500
Southeastern District
Sailing on Loudon Lake
Knoxville, Tennessee

Fleet CaptainThomas Baer

* Thomas S. Baer		2854
* A. Jackson Woodall	Libra II	10442
* Thomas S. Baer		13105

No Report.

CLUB NAUTICO EL PORTILLO FLEET 501
Colombia District
Sailing on Tomine Lake
Bogota, Columbia

Fleet CaptainRoberto Laignelet
 Fleet SecretaryJuan Carlos Recaman

Gonzalo Reyes		1366
* Alvaro Acosta		6097
* Alvaro Sanjines	Cingara	7452
* Fernando Venegas		8911
* Roberto Laignelet		8957
* Alvaro Acosta		11660
Fernando Diaz		11677
Emilio Borrero		12570
Leopoldo Gonzalez		13216
* Vicente Pinzon		13389
* Jaime Lobo-Guerrero		13427
Fernando Plazas		13428
Alberto Prada		13446
Andres Iriarte		13447
Jose Leopoldo Gonzalez		14011
* Hernan Salcedo		14057
* Luis Pardo		14111
* Mauricio Mutis		14181
Jorge Recaman		
& Marcela Recaman		14132
* Miguel Ribon		14135
* Jorge Umana		14155
Jose M. Acosta		
& Manuel Acosta		14538
* Hernando Ramirez		14552
Solmar Bermudez		14722
* Mauricio Mutis	Norfalia	14801
* Rafael Tamayo		
& Gustavo Tamayo		14802
* Richard Deeb		14803
Ricardo Seidner		14862
Alvaro Bustos		14863
Roberto Londono		14864
Santiago Douat		14873

1998 was another good year for fleet 501: we keep growing year by year four brand new boats were added in 98. 29 boats is quite a fleet for such a small lake as ours, and we had a lot of participation in the regattas early in the year when we were holding trials for the upcoming international events. Then we stopped in order to prepare our sailing team for the Central American Games and the Sunfish North Americans and World Championships. With all the big regattas we never got around to sailing our own fleet championship for 98.

The success of the fleet is based on the participation of our youngsters we have 5 international level crews of very young sailors, Juan Camilo Bustos, Nicolás Deeb and Camilo Salcedo are 18 years old ranked 2nd in the country and they placed 3rd in the Junior Worlds in Ecuador, Solmar Bermudez is 23 years old and won a

bronze medal in the South American Games in Ecuador, Alvaro Bustos 19 with sister Ana María and Susana Salcedo both 17 are an up and coming hotshot crew, got their new boat in July and are already closing the gap with the top sailors, Paula Douat 18 is one of our two top female skippers with Felipe Ribon and Joe Abisambra also 18 as crew, Felipe Recaman with Tatiana and Carolina Plazas barely over 20 are a regular feature in every regatta, we miss Juan Carlos and Marcela Recaman now studying in Europe.

They all are top contenders or belong in the upper third of the fleet. Such an array of active young talent makes us look at the future of the fleet and the class with great optimism all of these kids already have international experience and most important of all they are not put together for junior events. They are full time crews who were encouraged to take over the boats of their elders, take responsibility for managing their team and compete on their own, which is definitely the way to go if we want the class to prosper.

We will organize the Lightning South Americans next February which awards 2 places for the Pan Am Games, so we expect another great year in 99.

Fleet Secretary: Hernan Salcedo

SUNCOAST FLEET 502
Florida District
Based at Davis Island Yacht Club
Tampa, Florida

Fleet CaptainJeff Linton
 Fleet SecretarySandy Scheda
 Fleet ChampionJeff Linton
 Fleet RunnerupRod Koch

* Kenneth See	Dream On	2924
* Andrew Hayward	Enchalada Picante	10338
* Diana Demby		11222
* Dave J. Marsicano		12606
* Clark T. Higgs		13285
* Rod Koch		13970
* William H. Meyer, III	Fired-Up	14006
* John V. Ward, Jr.	Bazooka	14098
* Mark T. Taylor		14428
* Donald W. Sherburne	Encore	14588
* Jeff Linton		14730

Suncoast Fleet 502 continues to grow. This year we added John Ward, Sandy Scheda, and Tim Rumin to our ranks. Welcome aboard. We have a solid base of seven competitive lightnings, and during the Thursday Night Day Light Savings 27 race 3 series Races, we have fielded as many as five, and expect our recent new skippers to fill in the ranks.

Recent regatta results indicate that we have added quality as well as quantity to our fleet. Sandy Scheda, former Adams Cup finalist in Lightnings, won her first race in her recently purchased Lightning. In the tough ten boat Thanksgiving Regatta Fleet, Sandy showed Blue Fleeters Jeff Linton and Bill Mauk around the course. John Ward placed 3rd in Sarasota, and 5th in Coral Reef, and was in strong contention to place in Florida's Triple Crown three regatta series. Rod Koch, one of the nations premier sunfish sailors sailed his lightning through the whole 27 race program, placing 2nd in the Spring and Summer, and 1st in the Fall. Rod and Jeff raised their competition to a new level in Lightnings. Both are former North American Sunfish Champions.

The Thanksgiving Regatta had Jeff Linton in first, Rod Koch in Second, Dave Marsicano in Third, Bill Meyer in Fourth and Don Sherburn in Fifth. Dave Marsicano placed third in the Spring Series, but Bill Meyer held him and John Ward off to place 3rd in the Summer and Fall Series. The Fleet enjoys several outstanding crews: Mark Taylor and Amy Linton, Chris Gittens, Gail Meyer, Tim Rumin, and Christine Furgeson; Sara Brown, Tom Marsicano, and Arthur (The Russian); Andy Hayward, Mike Quinn, and Genoa Gilbert; Nate Vilardebo, and Slick (Dan). Many thanks to the outstanding contributions of the crews who make it all possible.

The Triple Crown was won by Jeff Linton/Mark Taylor for the third year in a row. He was followed by Bill Mauk from Coconut Grove, and Bill Meyer and "Ragin" Johnny Ward from the home fleet.

Tampa has a severe tropical storm from time to time, and last March one lightning was destroyed, and another busted and bent. The wind toppled over larger dry sailed yachts onto them. The storm put a damper on Mike Maher's campaign as his mast is bowed with about 10 inches of prebend induced by the storm. Mike built the boat out of wood from scratch. Ouch!

Jeff Linton, Mark Taylor, and Amy Linton placed 12th in the N.A.'s winning the Thermis Trophy for best first time finish. He also competed in the Pan Am Trials. The news keeps getting better as we hear that Jim Alman of Texas, and Colin Park are moving permanently to the area. No wonder we are so optimistic for our future. Hope to see you all at the Midwinters in St. Pete.

Bill Meyer

LAKE CONROE ASSOCIATION FLEET 505

Texas District
Sailing on Lake Conroe
Conroe, Texas

Fleet SecretaryPatty Harris

* Bryce Mowbray		12239
* Chris Shipman	Portugee Jr.	12861
* Billy S. Bennett		13384
* Steven Harris	Kwitchersniveln	13717

No Report.

ORIENT YACHT CLUB FLEET 506

Long Island District
Sailing on Orient Harbor
Orient, New York

Fleet CaptainGeorge Koch
Fleet SecretaryJohn Holzapfel
Saturday Fleet ChampionGeorge Koch
Thursday Night Fleet Champion ..Rachael Sorenson

Keith Cummings	Thunderstruck	8666
Derrick Cephas		10545
Orient Yacht Club	Janice Mount	10601
Rob Buchanan		11775
Fausto Monacelli		13050
* John Holzapfel	Tursiops	14025
* George W. Koch	Missy	14122
* Rachel Sorenson	Spirit	14455

Along with the traditional Saturday races, the Lightnings participated in the club's Thursday evening races of Lasers and Optimist. Rachel Sorenson and her crew dueled with George Koch and his crew for first place and the championship on both Saturdays and Thursdays. The championship in each category was not decided until the very last day of competition with Rachael Sorenson winning the Thursday series and George Koch winning the Saturday series both by the very smallest of margins.

This past summer was filled with lots of opportunities for our Lightning sailors.

The Atlantic Coast championship was sailed at neighboring Southampton Yacht Club and three of our boats went over to compete and enjoyed a great two days of sailing with over twenty Lightnings in good winds.

Fleet 506 of Orient Yacht Club hosted the Long Island District which were held on the waters of beautiful Orient Harbor in heavy winds and was the districts were won by Bruce Hendrey.

We added two more boats to our fleet and our emphasis for this winter is to find a few more lightning sailors to add to our fleet.

John Holzapfel

THE PRAIRIE FLEET 507

Pacific Northwest District
Sailing on Chestermere Lake and Lake Newell
in Alberta Canada and on Canyon Lake and
Flathead Lake in Montana

Fleet CaptainKarsten Dalberg

* Reggie Good		10891
* Ian R. Taylor	Rhythm & Blues	13509
* Karsten Dalberg		13713

No Report.

SOLOMONS FLEET 508

Dixie District
Sailing on the Patuxent River & Chesapeake
Bay
Solomons, Maryland

Fleet CaptainDavid H. Meiser
Fleet SecretaryDon Behrens

* Vanessa Bloodsworth		
* & Lindsay Bach	Spartina	9991
* Don Behrens	Team Sparkle	10096
* David H. Meiser	Girlfriend	10406
* Michael Bayne	Wicked Wanda	11217
* Jeff Kumke		11983

The newly formed Fleet 508 was conceived in the spring of 1997 when two "not-so-new" Lightnings made their way to Solomons, Maryland. These boats were purchased by Don Behrens and Dave Meiser with the intention of participating in a new small boat program was being formed by the Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA), a group whose emphasis in the past had been primarily big boat racing and cruising. The plan was to start small with a weekly Thursday night race series and two one day and a single two day weekend regattas. Since no one design fleet to speak of existed, the Portsmouth Handicap system was used and all center-board boats under 20 feet were invited to participate.



Fleet 508 at home at Solomons Island

By the end of the year we were averaging 15 different boats on the line for Thursday nights and as many as 50 Portsmouth boats for our weekend regattas. There was obviously an interest in small boats in Solomons.

By the following fall we had 4 Lightnings in the fleet, as we discovered long time Lightning owners Lindsay Bach and Vanessa Bloodsworth in nearby St. George's Is., and another Lightning was purchased by L.G. Raley.

By the spring the number of Lightnings had grown to seven, as we added new/old boats by Mike Bayne, Tony Dole and Steve Cox, soon we had a actual ILCA Charter, plans to host the 1998 Dixie District Championships, and plans to include a Lightning class start in our fall Small Boat Invitational regatta.

The Districts, which were held in late May were a marvelous success with 21 boats participating. The winds were near perfect, the beer was both cold and plentiful and Solomons was finally on the map for the Lightning class. Bob Wardwell (Fishing Bay) won the Districts with Phil Grotheer (SSA) close behind. Many of the Lightning sailors left the Districts promising to return for the fall invitational regatta.

The Invitational regatta proved to be another outstanding success with 46 total boats attending, including 12 Lightnings. Phil Grotheer won this regatta with the help of ILCA coach Kelly Williams and Solomons local Kathy Sharkey.

We also held a single "Sunday Fun-Day" outing in late August where 6 of the 7 local Lightnings (including the most recent new owner Craig Bumgarner) all traveled to the lower Potomoc River and sailed and kinda raced in a "let's have some fun" regatta. It never really was clear who won or lost - but great fun was had by all. The real fun began afterwards as Lindsay and Vanessa had everyone over to their house for some good food, chilly beverages and lots of Lightning speak - an event we hope to see become an annual tradition.

Plans for the future of Fleet 508 include continuing to grow the fleet and encouraging fleet members to participate in some away regattas. In closing we would like to extend a special thanks for all the help and encouragement we received from Karen Johnson and numerous Dixie District fleet members who aided and supported us along the way. Without all your help the startup of Fleet 508 would not have been so successful or even possible.

Don Behrens

FISHING BAY FLEET 509

Dixie District

Sailing on Fishing Bay

Deltaville, Virginia

Fleet Captain Ron Buchanan
Fleet Secretary Debra Cycotte

* Debra L. Cycotte	Thunderstruck	10009
* Ronald R. Buchanan	Toys 'R' Us	10767
* Robert C. Wardwell		14485

No Report.

LAGOS FLEET 510

Africa District

Sailing Lagos Offshore and Inshore

Lagos, Nigeria

Fleet Secretary Kevin O'Farrell

* Helmut Braun	Kiwi Magic	13523
* Kevin O'Farrell	White Star	13759
* Bob Hendry	Nuance	14392
* Brian Mounson	Spellbinder	14549



Above: Lightnings sailing amongst the local sand-digger boats (which use discarded cement bags as sails) on Lagos Bay in Nigeria.

Right: "T-56" is really a Lightning in disguise.

Below: Trophy presentation at the first-ever Lightning Nationals in Nigeria. Photos courtesy Helmut Braun.



Our class started its first year as Fleet #510 in style when we held our first ever Lightning Nationals in Nigeria where we managed to field 30 boats on the water for this two-day event on 9th and 10th May.

Our day's outing was a bit too windy offshore and everyone was rocketing along over very wavy conditions and I am glad to say survived for the booze up and pasta party at the end of racing, a good time was had by all except for a few torn sails and busted masts and booms.

Overall results for our 1998 Nationals were as follows: 1st - Ed Lane, Stew Jones, Bob Hendry; 2nd - Helmut Braun, Jeff Daugherty, Andy McCloud; 3rd - Chris Logan, Mark Fisher, John Seward.

Our club, located at Magazine Point on the tip of Lagos Island by Five Cowrie Creek, offers one of the most attractive settings in the Lagos area. The club was founded in 1932 and provides sporting and social sailing every Saturday and Sunday throughout the year. That provides us with a wide variety of courses which could be either in the large harbour, up the extensive creeks or offshore which provides some of the best sailing to be had in all of Africa. We are a very mixed bunch here mainly from Europe and Stateside and all over. We would welcome any visitors from other Districts for competitions or whatever. We will provide the boats, prizes, accommodations, etc. Our next Nationals are due to be held on 22nd May 2000 and we can arrange competitions anytime of the year since it is nearly always windy. So, we look forward to receiving some response to our invitation/challenge! to the far distance world of Lightning. Kevin O'Farrell