



Barnes' took Lightning #1 to the New York City boat show, and were rewarded with numerous orders. It looked like the Barnes' had a successful design on their hands.

Realizing the need for a strong organization to establish the class as a racing class, the John and George Barnes launched the formation of the Lightning Class Association. The first annual meeting of the class was held at the New York City boat show the following winter. C. Lindsey Nicholson of Skaneateles (also with the company) was elected the first president of the class. The Skaneateles Country Club was granted the charter for Lightning Fleet #1.

Olin Stephens and the Barnes' recognized the unique contribution that the boat could offer to one-design sailing and decided to treat the Lightning with unprecedented generosity. Rather than retaining exclusive rights to the design, they donated the rights to the then brand new Lightning Class



Association. This contribution ensured that anyone who wanted to could build a Lightning, and all design royalties would contribute to the strength of the class association.

The metropolitan New York area became an early hot bed of Lightning sailing, evidenced by the area's fleet numbers, and the fact that many of the early national and international championships were sailed in the area. A review of early championship regatta results shows that John and George Barnes dominated the class early in its history. John Barnes became the first national champion in 1939.

The Skaneateles Boats Company built most of the first 300 Lightnings. Other early builders were The

Photos this page by Stephen Shaner

Lippincott Boat Company of Riverton, NY and Emmons Boat Works of Central Square, NY. By the time of the 1946 International Lightning Regatta, which was held in Skaneateles, about 2000 Lightnings had been built, in spite of the fact that the boat companies were doing war work nearly full-time between 1941 and 1945.

The Lightning steadily gained popularity in the post-war years. By the late 1950's, the class was the largest one-design class over 16 feet in length, with over 8000 boats registered worldwide. With the advent of fiberglass construction, growth of the class persisted. By the time of the 30th Anniversary Regatta in 1968, 11,000 boats had been built. The Lightning has survived against the proliferation



of inexpensive, modern competitors by adopting technological advances at a pace reasonable enough to advance the design without making obsolete the thousands of boats still enjoyed all over North America and the world. Today, with some 15,000 boats built, the Lightning class is still one of the largest, most active sailboat classes in the world.

In 1968, and every ten years since, Skaneateles has welcomed the Lightning class home for the 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th Anniversary regattas. This year, the Skaneateles Country Club hosted the 60th anniversary regatta. Each event has been a celebration of one of the most enduring one-design classes in the world. Each anniversary regatta has presented an opportunity for all aspects of the Lightning family, as originally envisioned by the Barnes' and Stephens' firms, to be realized. Experienced racers, sailing families, and casual cruisers all come out to enjoy their boats and one another's company.





1998

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTNING CLASS ASSOCIATION

60th ANNIVERSARY REGATTA

Skaneateles Country Club, Skaneateles, NY, July 3-5, 1998

Blue Fleet 72 Boats

Boat #	Skipper, Crew, Crew	Fleet/Yacht Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total
Position						
1	14825 Robert C. Wardwell, Ron Buchanan, Regan Edwards	509 Fishing Bay	2	1	2	5
2	14298 Mark C. Sertl, Robert Bryant, Linda Bryant	77 Newport	4	5	5	14
3	14873 Larry MacDonald, Julie-Marie MacDonald, Mike Healy	12 Buffalo	3	25	1	29
4	14655 Richard Hallagan, Alister Thomsen, Nancy Barger	77 Newport	6	11	13	30
5	14642 Jody Lutz, Michael Schon, Wade Schon, Mathew Schon	126 New York	5	7	19	31
6	14881 Philip Grotheer, Jeff Riedle, Lesley Frymier	329 Severn Sailing Assoc.	1	21	16	38
7	14814 Jack Huntsman, John Huntsman, Dan Vought	70 Monmouth Boat Club	11	2	26	39
8	14739 Jack Elfman, Cindy Lister, Greg Fisher	196 Surf City	16	8	20	44
9	14787 Sean Fidler, Bill Thomas, Shane O'Neill	216 Bay City	20	24	3	47
10	14904 Scott Finkboner, David Briggs, Frank Davies	194 Mission Bay	14	3	33	50
11	14878 Bill Fastiggi, Heather Rowe, Tim Ambrose	301 Malletts Bay Boat Club	21	9	24	54
12	14249 George Sipel, Kathy Keene, Surge Vanderhorst	42 North Cape	15	40	4	59
13	14807 Jim Allen, Jane Allen, Brian Milne	54 Pontiac	39	14	6	59
14	14752 Steve Hayden, Barr Batzer, David Hood	461 Eustis Sailing Club	8	16	36	60
15	14821 Ched Proctor, Al Boucher, Tom Proctor	126 Cedar Point	41	10	10	61
16	14786 Jon Schwartz, John Fiest, Randy Dickerson	70 Monmouth Boat Club	29	15	17	61
17	10801 R. Neil Hayes, Brian Hayes	6 Housatonic Boat Club	38	6	18	62
18	14882 Ralph F. Wilson, Eric Wilson, Timothy Wilson	70 Monmouth Boat Club	13	28	22	63
19	14174 David Sprague, Megan Sprague, Daniel Sprague	146 Boulevard Club	18	26	21	65
20	14589 Brian Taboada, Stuart Challoner, Derek Frickey	34 Metedeconk River	50	4	12	66
21	11873 Chandler Owen, Amy Wilder, Andrew Monahan	262 Harbor Island	9	12	47	68
22	11894 David Ruiter, Stephanie M. Ruiter, David Thompson	34 Metedeconk River	17	31	25	73
23	14418 Fisk Hayden, John Steiner, Clay Murphy	461 North Florida	26	38	9	73
24	14580 Cal Schmiege, Larissa Higgins, Don Evert, Bob Starck	59 Niagara Sailing Club	10	56	8	74
25	14740 Peter Isler, Bill Faude, Susan Daly	69 Milwaukee	32	36	7	75
26	13927 Jean-Francois Simard, Joanne Jones, Chantal Leger	215 Royal St. Lawrence	27	37	11	75
27	10355 Kirk Reynolds, Ryan O'Grady,	1 Skaneateles	19	17	41	77
28	14654 Robert Bush, Sterling Bush, Mike Holly	228 Riverton	25	13	42	80
29	14746 Thomas Allen, Jr., Lisa Brauer, Jared Drake	12 Buffalo Canoe Club	33	18	29	80
30	14355 Jean Palm/Peter Hallagan, Sandy Schraeder	Crescent	42	27	15	84
31	14713 Ed Seyerlein, Tom Carson, Jeannette Little	484 Ithaca	7	29	59	95
32	14520 Jed Dodge, Bob King, Jay Moreno	Sodus Point	43	19	35	97
33	14644 Mike Huffman, Meg Huffman, Kip Hamblet	301 Malletts Bay Boat Club	12	42	43	97
34	6983 William E. Neal, Larry MacDonald, David Copperfield	47 Silver Lake	23	50	34	107
35	14397 Chad Atkins, John Atkins, Matt Atkins	77 Newport	28	35	45	108
36	14056 Raymond Harrington, Toni Harrington, Alan Keyes	227 Bomoseen	34	20	55	109
37	14476 John Rogers, Cam MacDonald, Stan Chambers	118 Flying Beaver	66	23	23	112
38	14848 Daniel Hertzter, Donald Schregardus, Martha Hertzter	27 Leatherlips	24	58	32	114
39	11754 Sean Carroll	301 Malletts Bay Boat Club	31	32	52	115
40	14634 Caroline Hoedemaker, Bob Hoedemaker, Mary Grace Folwell	228 Riverton	44	39	40	123
41	14766 Terrence R. Burke, Ron Frerker, Nora Kelly	266 Carlyle Sailing Assoc.	22	30	73	125
42	14758 David P. Gorman, Rick Villamil, Rebecca Sidway	301 Malletts Bay Boat Club	36	33	58	127
43	14321 Jack Jones, Eric Schnettler, Michelle Wolpe	225 Henderson Harbor	37	44	49	130
44	14824 Jeffery A. Hagman, Nicole Russo, Derek Gauger	42 North Cape	65	52	14	131
45	14366 Carl Muska, Karen Phelan, Pat Phelan	50 Potomac River Sailing Assoc.	51	53	28	132
46	14028 Jamie Brickell, Kimberly Brickell, Sue Brickell	329 Severn Sailing Assoc.	59	22	53	134
47	14811 Tom Allen, Sr., Sam Septembre, Becky Newrider	12 Buffalo Canoe Club	63	46	27	136
48	14590 Peter J. Wenzler, Mathew Wenzler, Melissa Wenzler	51 Crescent Sail	30	55	54	139
49	14371 Brian Starck, Larissa Higgins, Ellen Starck	12 Buffalo Canoe Club	61	49	30	140
50	14275 John Hughes,	121 American	48	48	46	142
51	14508 Steve Cushman, Martha Cushman, Cheree Dillon	5 Chicago Corinthian	40	57	48	145
52	14073 Gary Hurban, John Hurban, Len Hurban	75 Nyack	56	47	44	147
53	14672 Mark Grinder, Matt Grinder, Alyssa Grinder	47 Silver Lake	55	43	51	149
54	13911 Michael Kane, Greg Buckley, Patti Pohl	115 Cuba Lake	62	51	37	150
55	14901 Gerry Paoli, Kay Ward, Sue Albert	266 Carlyle Sailing Assoc.	47	34	73	154
56	14719 John Humphrey, Mark Humphrey, Jackie Humphrey	47 Silver Lake	53	72	31	156
57	14110 Jeff Pugh, Tracy Pugh, Mark Thompson	303 Cowan Lake Sailing Assoc.	45	72	39	156
58	14216 Kenneth J. Irwin, Sherrie Desmond, Tammi Jamison	303 Cowan Lake Sailing Assoc.	46	54	56	156
59	14482 Joan Hurban, Dawn Sager, Yoli Taylor	75 Nyack	58	41	60	159
60	14897 Kurt Andrews, Zach Austin, Mike Mirarchi	27 Leatherlips	54	72	38	164
61	12480 Malcom B. Hendry, Bruce Hendry, Teresa Bouchard	178 Great South Bay	64	45	62	171
62	13900 Chris Kuhns, Ted Lavery, Chris Gelston	1 Skaneateles	57	61	57	175
63	11767 Harry H. Keith, III, Steve Putsher, Tony Vernon	329 Severn Sailing Assoc.	52	62	61	175
64	13979 Thomas Varley, Kay Varley, Jon Varley	150 Mansfield Sailing Club	35	72	73	180
65	14411 Dave Stephens, Ryan Webb, Clint Webb	12 Buffalo Canoe Club	71	63	50	184
66	13740 Jonathan Guth/Peter Lauria, Julie Blessing,	50 Potomac River Sailing Assoc.	68	59	64	191
67	14369 Frederico Meira, Mark Lesinski, Aislinn Cook	164 Willow Bank	49	72	73	194
68	14266 David A. Pyle, Carl Wilson, John Hart	50 Potomac River	69	64	63	196
69	14350 John A. Faus, Brad Faus, David Faus	335 Barnegat Light	70	60	73	203
70	14852 Sandy Huntsman, Patrick Corr, Kristin Laughrey	11 Monmouth	60	73	73	206
71	14445 David Gall, Dan Gall, Julie Moore	212 Atwood	67	72	73	212
72	14485 Charles C. Wardwell	509 Fishing Bay	73	73	73	219

Green Fleet 87 Boats

Boat #	Skipper, Crew	Fleet/Yacht Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total
Position						
1	14703 Joe Dissette, John McCree, Jim Schofield	216 Bay City	1	5	5	11
2	14760 Robert W. Shaw, Joyce Von Drehle, Andre Guillemain	54 Pontiac	2	18	1	21
3	13815 Logan McReynolds, Erin McReynolds, Alan McReynolds	77 Newport	7	9	7	23
4	14450 Jarrett A. Lynn, Jeremy Lynn, Bonnie Altizo	34 Metedeconk River	9	6	8	23
5	14221 Peter Cunningham, David Cunningham, Elise Cunningham	252 Keuka	6	4	15	25
6	11650 David Grogono, Pam Tuttle Murphy, Leslie Tuttle DiTrani	164 Willow Bank	5	7	21	33
7	14465 Dick Tuttle, Brian Grills	164 Willow Bank	12	1	26	39
8	14774 Tom Vickers, Beth Grosbeck, Lias McCabe	51 Crescent Sail	29	3	10	42
9	10555 Dwight Gertz, Virginia Welles, Dr. Jeanine Carlson	332 Squam Lake	11	29	3	43
10	14870 Bob Mathers, Bob Kranich, John Mathers	54 Pontiac	23	21	2	46
11	10956 Gary Swangler, Kathy Swangler, Donald Rea	228 Riverton	19	16	12	47
12	13888 Patrick Zachary, Alex Trass, Kika Bronger	301 Malletts Bay Boat Club	16	27	6	49
13	14502 Tom Ward, Matt Ward, Alan Sherer	12 Buffalo Canoe Club	20	19	13	52
14	14854 Richard Bukowsky, Mike Thompson, Traci Thompson	54 Pontiac	10	13	32	55
15	14019 Robert Astrove, Rick Pelesara, Craig Auzeny	50 Potomac River Sailing Assoc.	8	30	18	56
16	14628 William C. Anderson, Maggie Anderson, Ben Anderson	484 Ithaca	13	28	16	57
17	14030 Christopher Miller, Christopher Howard, Adam Lewis	126 Cedar Point	32	2	24	58
18	13948 Mark H. Dadd, Mike Humphrey, Peter Tomanovich	47 Silver Lake	15	10	35	60
19	14627 Jim Dillard/Justin Morris, Elizabeth Morris	50 Potomac	3	35	25	63
20	14012 Robert W. Ohlsen, Matt Bery, Marc Hieschman	74 Decatur	25	15	27	67
21	14778 Edward A. Dziuba, Pegi Eddy, Ginny Wilking, Glen Gary	54 Pontiac	42	20	14	76
22	14256 Jim Staunton, Deb Komp, Bob Wilder	252 Keuka	22	12	43	77
23	13897 Ron Kiss, Tom Kiss, Tom Keady	104 Lavallette	52	37	4	93
24	14712 Thomas Peter Hudson, Paul Karl, Babara Kay Gillespie	137 Gull Lake	31	17	49	97
25	14604 Salo J. Korn, Adam Korn	54 Pontiac	47	32	20	99
26	13934 Jesse W. Miller, Virginia Miller	484 Ithaca	51	8	40	99
27	13640 Bob Richel, Ray Matuszak, Jamie Matuszak	42 North Cape	36	25	39	100
28	11456 Brandon Holton, Gerald Holton, Jeff Holton	167 Lake Davenport Sailing	26	22	56	104
29	11951 Peter C. Paullin, Tracie Paullin, Richard Paullin	31 Devil's Lake	43	24	37	104
30	14154 David Sestini, Stacey Johnson, Donald Sestini	121 American	41	42	23	106
31	14342 Timothy Millhiser, Les Hathaway	129 Madison Beach Club	4	88	17	109
32	14185 Leland G. Atkinson, Deborah Wight, Ryan Atkinson	77 Newport	14	88	9	111
33	13677 Hendrix TenEyck, Jr., Bill Bourke, Dianna TenEyck	1 Skaneateles CC	38	33	41	112
34	13697 Daniel Koretz, Mitchell Koretz, Phil Goldberg	77 Newport	57	11	51	119
35	13375 Dave Birchenough, Sammy Birchenough, David Guchess		62	40	22	124
36	14431 Leon A. Fontier, Eileen Loh-Fontier, Gil Harrop	252 Keuka	24	52	50	126
37	9845 David C. Nasca, Craig Nobbs, Paul Malone	47 Silver Lake	46	47	36	129
38	14434 Joe Romer, Rick Romer, Renee Romer	51 Crescent Sailing Club	40	34	57	131
39	14240 John B. Rudd, David Harris, Beverly Chin	484 Ithaca	54	46	34	134
40	11960 Glenn Wilcox, Anca Trandasiurescu	484 Ithaca	63	23	48	134
41	14720 Don Johnson, Chris Hedrick, Jolene G. Johnson	167 Lake Davenport Sailing	70	36	28	134
42	14856 Mike Williams, Robert Werenshi, Sally Werenshi	51 Crescent Sailing Club	17	31	88	136
43	12941 Starling H. Mikell, III, David Hershey, Gene Shoe	253 Susquehanna	50	44	44	138
44	14443 John Sauter, James Sauter, Rod Hayes	499 Pointe Claire	21	88	30	139
45	14363 Mark Keane, Sharon DeVries, Malinda Keith	75 Nyack Boat Club	72	26	45	143
46	12764 Dave White, Carter White, Tyler White, Steve White		18	88	38	144
47	14548 Chris Bone, Bob Bone, Larry Bone	12 Buffalo Canoe Club	39	88	19	146
48	11010 Joe Hamola, Tom Gahagan, Vince Demperio	164 Cazenovia	59	38	52	149
49	12400 Andy Smith, Pat Zacharias	77 Newport	34	88	29	151
50	10620 Lawrence Decker, Jim Crittenden, Bill Munn	75 Nyack Boat Club	56	43	53	152
51	13218 Kenneth Kuzdro, Thomas Brown, Kevin Smith	253 Susquehanna	45	51	58	154
52	14100 Red Fehrle, Mike Beaver, Susan Barry	50 Potomac River Sailing Assoc.	37	88	31	156
53	13081 Richard J. Doherty, Gary Snyder, James R. Doherty	77 Newport	27	88	42	157
54	14367 Philip Lange, Alexandra Lange, Julia Lange, Bill Cawley	77 Newport	58	14	88	160
55	10444 Alexander P. Vucelic, Dan Cropper, Katherine Vucelic	150 Mansfield Sailing Club	60	41	59	160
56	14291 Charles Noble, Rick Doherty, Karen Hurd	253 Susquehanna	67	45	54	166
57	10679 Bent L. Thomsen, Kim Peet Thomsen, Carl Thomsen	1 Skaneateles	65	39	63	167
58	14096 Nabeel Alsalam, Charles Masten, Jameel Alsalam	50 Potomac River Sailing Assoc.	68	88	11	167
59	13651 Dick Leonardo, Cathy Leonardo, Jonathan Leonardo	77 Newport	48	88	33	169
60	12210 Walter Rogers, Walt Rogers, Charles Tracy, Charlotte Rogers	1 Skaneateles Sailing Club	33	88	55	176
61	13571 Paul J. Nagel, Mark Nagel, Sue D. Nagel	51 Crescent Sail	66	49	61	176
62	14514 Bernie Beegle, Jeff Lucas, Victor Roth	34 Ocean Gate	44	88	46	178
63	11154 Frank Hass, John E. Hass, Holly H. Bagdonas	1 Skaneateles	76	35	67	178
64	14303 David Loftus, Jr., Michael Wahlrab, John Hazard	1 Skaneateles	64	54	64	182
65	14182 Jay H. Anderson, Eric H. Anderson	39 Chelsea	61	53	69	183
66	14457 Joe LaPalme, Jessica M. LaPalme, Joe J. LaPalme	54 Pontiac	55	88	47	190
67	13124 Aage (Lars) Larsen, Colin Warren, Billy O'Brien	484 Ithaca	76	48	66	190
68	13666 Brian Smokler, Mary Ann Smokler, Duane Hatch	262 Harbor Island	53	50	88	191
69	13933 Richard H. Ryczek, Robin J. Ryczek, Carolyn F. Ryczek	164 Willow Bank	76	55	70	201
70	13082 R. Neal Smith, Neal Gray, Kevin Gray, Eva L. Smith	77 Newport	28	88	88	204
71	12549 Russell J. Pringle, Collin S. Pringle, Kathy C. Buckhardt	BVI Yacht Club	49	88	68	205
72	14727 Wolfgang Haugk, Diane Mess, Skip Bugbee	70 Monmouth Boat club	30	88	88	206
73	13856 Jonthan Lange, Loree Benziger, Matt Lange	329 Severn Sailing Assoc.	35	88	88	211
74	13684 Gorton C. Cook, Phillip G. Cook		71	56	88	215
75	12004 Sam Woods, Campbell Woods, Anya Woods	164 Cazenovia	69	88	62	219
76	14025 Carl Robinson, Hildi Bachtile, Bob Sherman		73	88	60	221
77	11073 Joe Hagaman, Margy Hagaman		74	88	65	227
78	13321 Ralph Shaver, Thomas Shaver, Jon Shaver, Chris Kalwara		76	88	88	252
79	13945 Thomas West, Sr., Tom West, Jr., Karen Bucholz		76	88	88	252
80	14134 Scott Warrenner, Brad Puskas	12 Buffalo Canoe Club	88	88	88	264
81	13330 D. J. Honold, Paul Torrisi	1 Skaneateles	88	88	88	264
82	11650 Jon C. Brodock, Kate Brodock	164 Willow Bank	88	88	88	264
83	14278 Eric Carlson, Carrie Rissotti, Susan Berry	U of Michigan Sailing Team	88	88	88	264
84	12031 William Collins, Sara Collins, Libbie Wing	1 Skaneateles	88	88	88	264
85	12720 Aaron Dewey, Kyle Dewey, Robin Dewey	4 Lake Delta	88	88	88	264
86	9109 Peter King, Kathleen King	164 Willow Bank	88	88	88	264
87	Stewart Ver Nooy, Andy Ver Nooy, Ursula Ver Nooy		88	88	88	264



Yellow Fleet 23 Boats

Boat #	Skipper, Crew, Crew	Fleet/Yacht Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total
1	736 Craig Thayer, Dan Pope, Jack Ennis	10 Onondaga	1	1	3	5
2	7949 C. Scott Degolyer III, Jim Berry	47 Silver Lake	7	2	2	11
3	9102 Dr. Peter Morley, Jr., Stan Dent, Dr. Susan Morley	110 Higgins Lake Boat Club	4	3	5	12
4	9424 Karen Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Edna Johnson, Evan Johnson	27 Leatherlips	8	5	1	14
5	9050 John B. Leath, Bradley J. Williams, Joanna K. L. Williams	270 Indianapolis Sailing Club	5	6	4	15
6	10113 Byrne O'Brien, Karen O'Brien, Ann Werstler	484 Ithaca	2	7	6	15
7	10705 John A. Barnes, Kenise Barnes-Lorderfeld, Gabrielle Marie	Derosha 1 Skaneateles	9	8	8	25
8	378 Mike Yates, Grace McNamara, Schyler Barnes	1 Skaneateles	6	10	11	27
9	6378 Jamie Perkins, Liz Perkins, Ben Perkins		11	9	10	30
10	8441 Addis Katterheinrich, Bill & Tom Katterheinrich	400 St. Mary's Boat Club	3	4	24	31
11	2924 Kenneth See, Randy See, Tom Woollett		11	13	12	36
12	8899 Doug Tucker, Daniel Ferguson	1 Skaneateles Sailing Club	11	24	7	42
13	14542 Carl Pickhardt, Barbara Johnson, Erik Pickhardt		11	24	9	44
14	7221 Jim Crandall, Hans Kastens		11	11	24	46
15	8599 George J. Paiva, John Little, Nancy Little, Jennifer A. Paiva		11	12	24	47
16	9991 Lindsay Bach, Jon Bach, Vanessa Kimba Bloodsworth	508 Solomon's Island	11	24	13	48
17	8368 Dario Panfili, Jr., John Bailey, Kate Bailey		11	14	24	49
18	13503 Daniel Henly, Celeste Henly		11	24	16	51
19	13080 James McIntosh, John McIntosh, Heather Lockwood	77 Newport	11	24	24	59
20	1792 Stephen C. Lathrop, Cheryl W. Matheson	491 Nockamixon Sail Club	11	24	24	59
21	392 Dan Gorski, Steve Gorski, Nancy Gorski		24	24	14	62
22	470 Marc H. Schieber, Marsha Schieber, Marsha Schieber	77 Newport	24	24	15	63
23	4661 Gordon Potter, Abby Potter, Gordy Potter		24	24	24	72



Dan Ferguson at the helm of The Fighting Lady #8899
Photo courtesy Dan Ferguson



Mike Yates in the Vintage Fleet, Photo Mary Huntsman



Kirk Johnson unrigs #9424 at the 60th.
Photo credit from the Albany Press

Ohio District at the 60th Anniversary

PHOTOS BY KAY VARLEY



Ohio sightseers at Skaneateles on Friday afternoon.



Mansfield's Alex Vucelic being towed, with his crew for Sunday morning, Karla and Jon Varley.



Dan Hertzner with crew Marti Hertzner & Don Schregardus.



1st race Saturday morning



The Ohio tables at dinner in Our Wet Tent.



Fleet 75 Partied at the 60th



Lightning Fleet 75 members enjoying the post race party while awaiting haul-out at the 60th. Members include: Jan and Larry Decker, Sharon DeVries, Mark Keane and Cathy Chapman.



Sharon DeVries flying the chute aboard Thumbs Up #14363.



Being hauled.



The Tractor Lady, in dress whites, hauling boats through the mud.



Starting sequence.



Beer delivery to boats waiting to haul out.



Joan Hurban showing her spirit for the Lightning Class while training future crew.



*Jackson Chapman showing his form and willingness to party at the 60th.
Photos courtesy Mark Keane*

More Photo-Memories —BY LANDY ATKINSON



60th Anniversary Regatta staff: Dave Penfield, Chairman, Joan Thomsen, Registrar, Bent Thomsen, Registrar, Dick Gillis, 50th Chairman, Pat Blackler, Check-In Chairman



Frank Haas, oldest skipper

How it all Happened

—ANONYMOUS (WITH SOME HELP FROM THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY REGATTA ORGANIZING COMMITTEE)

In The Beginning

Way back in 1995 at St. Pete, there was talk of the looming 60th Anniversary Regatta in 1998. Did anyone think Skaneateles could repeat the 1988 event? Were there still enough Lightning sailors around? Everyone looked fondly back at the 50th in 1988 and recalled they hadn't seen much of Skaneateles Lightning sailors since then. Mike Yates had been campaigning #378 in the Woodies and Masters circuit for the last few years and #39 had recently been brought back to Skaneateles for restoration. There was a spark of enthusiasm for Lightning sailing in Skaneateles and the idea got kicked around for a few months. And a few more months. And a few more.

One year later at St. Pete, the proposal was introduced at the Winter General Meeting. The ILCA governing board was told that there was a sucker - er, enthusiastic individual - willing to chair the event and a few gullible - uh, equally motivated - people ready to begin the planning for the big event and we wanted the approval of the ILCA. Motion accepted, the "aye's" have it. SOLD, to the woodie sailors from Skaneateles, one major regatta to a club who hadn't hosted anything of this magnitude since 1988.

By the time the Central New York Lightning District meeting was held in November of 1996, the Regatta Organizing Committee had managed to organize a fancy organization chart. They also organized the chairs in the room and the flowers on the table. At that meeting the District Officers began to ask such probing questions as: "How many boats are you planning for?" And, "What areas do you need help with?" The organizing committee began to get the sense that this might be a big job.

By the summer of 1997, the major planning subcommittees had set to work. Publicity had been initiated in the 1997 Yearbook and in early 1997 issues of *Flashes*. A logo had been designed and potential sponsors were being lined up. One major sales job was underway to the officers of a club



Early-On Planning Committee Meeting: Judy Gelston, Dave Bull, Dick Tuttle, Stu Evans



Early-On Planning Meeting: Mick Barnes, Bent Thomsen, Joan Thomsen, Jack Helmer, Dave Penfield, Save Bull, Stu Evans. Photos courtesy Joan Thomsen

whose membership was made up of 90% non-sailors and whose cruising members far outnumbered racing enthusiasts. A committee had to be set up to begin to deal with the inquiries which began to come in from across the country on how to register.

OK, Time to Get Serious-

By the Fall of 1997, there were 12 major subcommittees preparing plans for activities such as powerboat support, sponsorship, food and beverage, race committee, and registration. That job seemed so straightforward to the enthusiastic couple, Bent and Joan Thomsen, who agreed to head it up during the summer. We just take in money and make sure they all have goodie bags, right?

The Registrars turned out to be the most valuable help the Chairman could have ever dreamed for. Bent and Joan managed to keep all the record straight. They set up accounting systems and ledgers for recording all the information we requested of registrants. Being retired, they did not mind staying up late revising, and revising, and revising. Registration forms, race instructions, schedules, ad copy. They had a hand in it all; since, as they reasoned: "every change you make that we don't know about now, will come back to bite us later." How right they were.

And then there was the budget. The costs of everything had skyrocketed in the last ten years. The prices it looked like we were going to have to charge would keep everyone away. And economies of scale. If we had a small turnout we still had all those fixed costs. We had to lower the prices, to attract the sailors, to achieve the economies of scale, to keep the price low. And the ILCA. There was a lot of resistance to the prices when first proposed. But, we were planning a BIG event!

Darkest Days of Winter-

At the Central New York Lightning District meeting in November of 1997, the Committee got a lot of great advice

How it happened continued

from the more experienced clubs in the district. We parted confident that we had a good package of activities, a good price, and a good team. There were a lot of details to work on still, but we had the price, and the package ready to market to the class members. Come on, registrations!

And there was still plenty to attend to:

The Race Committee needs a cannon-
The Banquet Manager needs to know how many,
what kind of seating-
Which material is better for the awards-
The hotels are filling up, can we reserve rooms-
How will we control camping locations, so far
away from the clubhouse-
How are we going to pay the deposit on the porta-
potties-

The CNY District donates rental for the porta-potties, so camping will be free-

We receive our first registration-from Bill Faude-we're rolling now-

The Registration Chairman needs heart surgery-Heart Surgery?!? How could this happen? Is she alright? Was it all the late nights? What's the prognosis? Where will we get a replacement? Will she be OK???

Joan Thomsen had a non-cancerous tumor growing in her heart. Yes, it was serious. No, it wasn't caused by all the hard work. The prognosis was excellent, but she needed surgery soon, followed by several weeks of rest, then rehabilitation. She insisted she did not need a replacement as the Registrar. OK, we won't tell her we're going to replace her, we want to be positive through this-

Joan was, and is, fine. She was back to work in days. She really didn't need to be replaced. And we were all very thankful.

Even Darker, Darkest Days of Winter-

Now, we know there are many months to go, but it's already the end of January, and there have only been half as many registrations at this time as there were in 1988. We're going to have to cut the budget. We're going to have to downsize our plans. We'll never pull this thing off-

News of Tom Allen's on-the-water heart attack has everyone concerned. Do we have enough medical support? Crash boats? What's our liability? The good news was that Tom, like Joan, was determined to come and was getting better.

But the registrations weren't looking good. We now had three budgets. One for a 120 boat showing, one for a 150 boat fleet, and one for 180. Those responsible for the money thought the 180 boat budget was just an exercise in wishful thinking. 120 would be far more likely, based on registrations to date. The trick was, 120 boats was a physical limit for the Skaneateles Country Club facilities. Everyone hoped we would get more than 120 boats. But, with that many people, the clubhouse capacity would be exceeded and we would need a tent, along with cooking facilities, which would all cost more money!

OK, one desperate attempt to get a surge in registrations. We would waive the \$20.00 late registration fee for another month. We could handle the increase in registrations during May and still plan for the most likely crowd size based on the June 1st registration count. That decision had to be made in April, for the May Flashes. It still looked like we would have about 120 to 140 boats, so we began making our final plans for that number.

Sometime in mid-May, we celebrated the "break-even boat." That was the boat (#130-something) which put our budget in the black. This was now based on 150 boats. The last 10 or 15 registrations would give our budget a little breathing room. By mid-June we exceeded 160 boats and the 180 number began to look realistic. Two weeks to go and we needed to get a bigger tent, more food, lots more beer-

The Eve of the Big Event (aka "Crunch Time")-

By now, the hardy group of 12 planners who had been meeting monthly for almost a year, had swelled to over 30, meeting weekly, and daily over the last week. It seems the separation of responsibilities got a little less strict in those last few days. The launch committee found itself marking camping spaces. The registration and check-in crew found time to purchase additional prizes and awards. Well, there were a lot of things to do and they wouldn't have gotten done if anyone on the organizing committee took an "It's not my job" mentality.

Here are some of the prized memories recalled of planning, preparing for, and conducting the weekend's activities:

Receiving 30 Lightning-shaped bottle openers, donated by the Barnes girls (grand-daughters of the original Lightning builders) to be used as prizes.

Advice: "Why don't we reconsider the courses, maybe you will want to run the races on two separate courses?" (Picture: Dick Tuttle)

Listening intently to progress reports from the subcommittees: "I can't talk with my mouth full." (Picture: Dave Penfield)

Procuring hay bales: "just in case we get a little rain. OK; at that price, double the order. We won't need it all, but it's a good deal."

Launch crew training: "boy, that ONE boat went in and out like clockwork; we're gonna be great!"

9:00 pm Thursday night and they're still streaming in. By Friday morning there will be a long line for registration. Some tireless souls kept check-in open until 10:30 Thursday (probably the same ones who would have to do it Friday morning).

One of the tractor drivers claiming first come first served on Friday for any unused hay bales on Monday morning. "Why'd you go and buy all that hay?"

The oldest skipper: Skaneateles' own Frank Haas. (Picture: Frank Haas)

Reports from the Club Staff: "We have the tent all laid out for Saturday's banquet. We'll just back up the truck and unload the band's equipment right there"

How it happened continued

Nice turnout for the clinic by North Sails on Friday: "Everyone is eager to sail; that is, about twice as many as we expected.) (Picture: clinic)

Friday's weather forecast for Saturday: "Partly cloudy, chance of showers." (Nothing about monsoons.)

Report from the speaker's committee: "Mr. Stephens is in town and looking forward to speaking tomorrow night. He doesn't want to speak long."

We got a nice supply of dry wood for the bonfire Saturday night after dinner.

Some of the crash boat drivers report that they would like to return home for raingear.

Seems the rain and lack of wind on Saturday encouraged everyone to go in for lunch, but the lunches were on their way out to the racecourse.

Following the event, many Skaneateles merchants reported an increase in wet, muddy patrons in their bars and restaurants on Saturday night.

We set up outdoor showers for the sailors to cleanup before dinner on Friday and Saturday. They didn't get much use-

The entertainment committee assures us the tent is sufficiently sized for the whole crowd in the event of light rain.

Olin Stephens gets a round of applause for hanging out all evening Saturday, even though his reserved seat was lost in the crowd.

Despite the improved weather on Sunday, several of the launch crew didn't return after Saturday's exercise. Thanks to all who worked all Sunday afternoon.



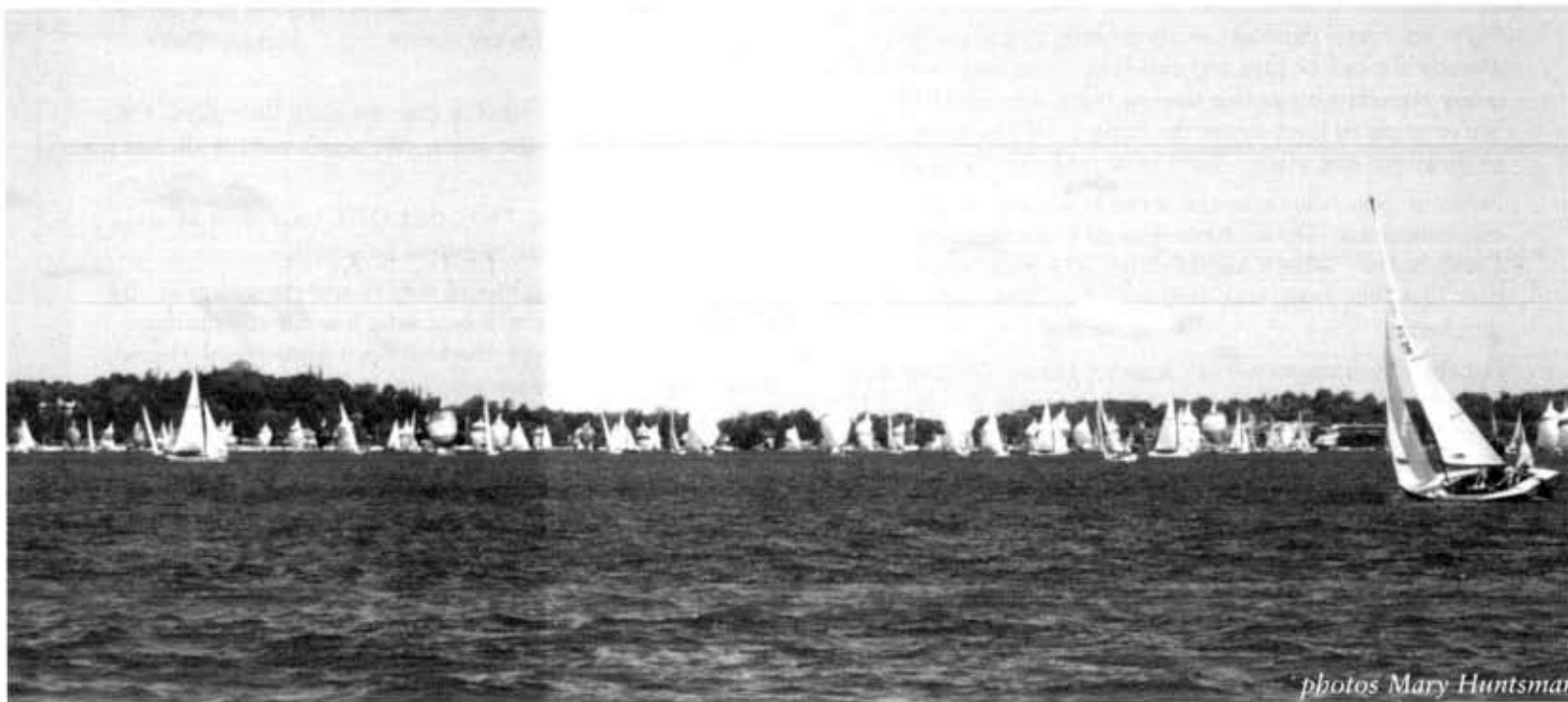
Angels of Mercy (aka "Suds Fairies") prevented the boat retrieval crew at the hoists from drying up and blowing away on Sunday (the sunny day).

It is still unresolved whether the mud trail was deeper leaving the trailer parking area or the camping area-

Unofficial count: way more smiles on Sunday afternoon than any day of the weekend (except maybe on the organizing committee's collective faces on Monday.)

More than 120 souvenir tee-shirts were needed for all the walk-in volunteer help over the weekend (originally planned 40 volunteers.)

Best volunteer worker: Charlie Noble from Susquehanna Yacht Club, after he lost his boat off the hitch on the way here, he went to work on traffic control.



photos Mary Huntsman

How it happened continued

Best savior: Judy Walker, for contributing her boat to Charlie Noble and crew so they could sail and get off traffic control detail.

Best souvenir picture: Scott Finkboner, for the photographic mural from the 50th Anniversary Regatta now gracing our clubhouse wall.

Best all-around committee member: Genie Barnes, for recruiting so many volunteers, for proving her family to be a model of helpfulness and courteousness, and for providing antique furniture valet service, among other, innumerable chores. (Note: shortly after the Regatta wrapped up, Genie underwent abdominal surgery, which left her hospital-bound until September. She is recovering steadily and retains her ever-present good humor.)

Post-Mortem-

The Skaneateles Country Club has been overwhelmed with compliments and kind comments from Lightning sailors. Many of us may have failed to notice it at the time, but apparently, everyone was having FUN, despite the rain and mud.

The Organizing Committee is ready and willing to advise any club on the wisdom of running a large-scale regatta (anybody want to run a 61st or 62nd Anniversary Regatta? We definitely will NOT be running one for the next year or two). We can provide:

Two years of e-mail, official correspondence and documents on CD

Hundreds of perfectly good, new posters needing only minor alterations in date, place, event, etc.

Many slightly dirty, but lightly used table linens

An unused bandstand and speaker's podium

A barely-used, custom-designed, semi-portable, outdoor shower

Hundreds of reasons why you want to do this when you see the smiles leaving your club on Sunday afternoon!

Thank you to the ILCA for letting Skaneateles Lightning Fleet #1 host this special event. Thanks to Bill Faude, for his unwavering support. Best of luck, Bill in your future challenges. And thanks to Karen Johnson for being the glue that kept us all together.

Skaneateles Country Club, Lightning Fleet #1

60th Regatta Wrap-Up

Total Lightnings Attending	180
Skippers and Crew	540
Total Regatta Guests	800 est
Average Skipper Age	48
Oldest Skipper	86
Youngest Skipper	12
Oldest Crew	96
Youngest Crew	3 1/2
States Represented (plus DC and Canada)	22
Furthest Boat Travel	San Diego
Furthest Crew Travel	Denmark
Number of Woodie & Vintage Boats	23
Number of Skaneateles Built Boats	6
Boats from Out-Of-State	105
Regatta Organizers and Workers	160

The International Lightning Class Association 60th Anniversary Regatta was an undisputed success and numerous favorable comments have been received from sailors and guests alike. Many ILCA officials came to celebrate the anniversary, as did Olin Stephens II, the designer of the Lightning, now 90 years of age. Despite rainy weather on Saturday, all 3 races went off as scheduled. The sight of 180 Lightnings on the lake was an unforgettable experience!

In addition to the top 6 finishers in each fleet, awards were presented to the following:

Oldest Boat	Mike Yates, #378
Oldest Skipper	Frank Haas
Youngest Skipper	Logan McReynolds
Oldest Crew	Dr. John McIntosh
Youngest Crew	Evan Johnson
Boat From Furthest Distance	Scott Finkboner, San Diego
Best Finishing Skaneateles-Built Boat	Craig Thayer, #736