WINNING THE NORTH AMERICAN'S IN THE FIFTIETH YEAR

by Karen Park

I can remember when I was a child of five and my father, Paul Militzer brought home our first Lightning. I remember that it looked quite a bit more inviting than the canoe with outriggers! Dad had shared his dream to sail with us for as long as I could remember. Now we finally had our own boat. At the time (23 years ago) his three kids were, Laura-10, Kyle-7 and Karen at 5. Not only the built-in crew, we lived on a small lake in Michigan, Lake Fenton, that was home to some of the best. Over the years the Nickels and the Holmans were to teach us all a lot. What more could a new Lightning owner want?

Being the youngest child, it took me the longest to get involved in the racing part of the Lightning ownership. When I was old enough to start racing, Laura and Kyle were sailing with Dad so I did a lot of my early racing with George Nickels. George and my father played the biggest part in my sailing education and kept my interest alive. I sailed for several years as George's regular middle crew and spent a season sailing with Dave Nickels when George couldn't make the regattas.

I started sailing with Colin Park along with Glenn Hallett in the fall of 1985. Colin made me change from the middle of the boat to the front. I resisted at first but, he was right! We couldn't really put the biggest guy up on deck during a jibe! To ensure our lifetime sailing union, Colin and I got married this past March.

The three of us have spent the last three seasons becoming a well-oiled, fine tuned, fighting machine. We work very well together and want to do well. We sail with a standard crew weight of 425 pounds. This is a limiting factor at many North American sites. We agreed that we were just too light to sail at Kingston or Buffalo. When we found out that San Diego had been chosen as the site for the 1988 North Americans, we all got a gleam in our eyes. Not only was it one of the few places we could go and actually keep the boat down, we felt we had a shot at being competitive. Sometime in the season of 1987 we decided San Diego was our goal. We got very serious about our boat speed and our team work. This summer, we became convinced that our boat was fast. Now the question was if the skipper and crew could rise to the occasion. Neither Glenn nor I had ever sailed a Lightning on an ocean — and we did not know what to expect with the waves. We knew if the wind blew, all our hopes could be crushed.

Before we left for San Diego, we made sure the boat was in perfect shape. We had a suit of brand new sails. Colin changed lines that were showing wear. The week before we left for California, my brother-in-law Matt gave me a new boom for my birthday to match the new mast we had gotten in the spring. So, the boat was ready and I don't think three people could have been more ready.

Upon our arrival in southern California we were greeted with two things, great weather and great friends. We got the boat through measuring as early as possible and were able to spend several relaxing hours catching up with old and new

N.A. Champion and No. 1 Crew, Karen.

friends. We decided to go out sailing Friday afternoon to see what ocean sailing was all about. We were very pleased to see that the wind conditions were what we had hoped for. We went out again on Saturday, a little late for the start of the practice race but we got in some good sailing.

Sunday was going to give us an indication of the week to come. I was so nervous Sunday morning I couldn't beleive it! It seemed like I had waited my whole life to be in a competition like this and now it was finally here. We headed out for the qualifiers quite anxiously. We finished the day with a 2 and a 6 to put us in 8th place. The three of us had hoped to finish top half of the top flight in San Diego. After that day, I know Glenn and I raised our ambitions and expectations to "top ten" in the top flight.

Monday morning looked like it was going to be like Sunday. I wasn't nervous this morning though, just ready to go. Monday we got a 7 and a 1 in the qualifiers and it felt great. We ended up qualifying in fourth position. Colin had really gotten some super starts in the first two days. All three of us were very aware that good starts were extremely important and also very hard to attain start after start. With four in a row, we were beginning to feel we couldn't really have that many more in front of us. We also knew that we were not the fastest boat out there. It seemed to us that Tom Allen Jr., Mark Bryant, Matt Fisher and Ric Larson were all going quite a bit faster than us.

Tuesday morning was the start of the real thing and I had butterflies in my stomach again! We got out to the race course with a little bit of time to check out the wind conditions. It looked like the other days. We made our plan, go left in the morning and probably right in the afternoon. One of my primary responsibilities as forward crew was to crack the jib not only in the lulls but on every bad roller. We spent some time before the race practicing this and just generally getting psyched. We managed to get another fine start, but there below and ahead of us was Ric Larson. We thought we were headed to the left but he was really headed left! Ric stuck it out longer and was first to the weather mark by a lot.

Jack Huntsman made a race of it and almost got Ric on the last leg for a very close second. Matt Fisher showed his speed for a third; we were fourth and Michigan's Garry Demarest was fifth.

The afternoon race was sailed the way we had expected. Colin was six for six on his starts. The first weather leg, you needed to go left but you had better not do it the next two weather legs. Jack Huntsman was sure the "Top Gun" that race and was making believers out of us. Eddie Martin was second, Tom Allen, Jr. third, Colin Park fourth, and Jody Lutz fifth. We came in for the day feeling great! We were in second place with 8 points. It was like a dream coming true, and we were not ready to believe it could last. There were too many things we were sure were going to happen. If the wind picked up we were in trouble. Glenn and I were yet to have a bad jibe and we knew that was too good to last! Although we were sure it was not to last, we did think it was fun.

We were ready for more the next morning. With the cloudy conditions came a new wind. We still got a good start and headed left. This was okay once but on the second beat, it was the wrong thing to do. We got back in the pack a bit but luckily, nothing fatal. Larry MacDonald won followed by two other ex-champions; Mark Bryant second, Matt Fisher third. Rob Ruhlman sailed for a fourth with Dick Hallagan in fifth.

We undersood going into the fourth race that we were so far the most consistent. We had a 4-4-6, Matt Fisher had a 3-10-3, Jack Huntsman 2-1-23, Ric Larson 1-20-7 and Mark Bryant a 9-19-2. This fourth race was very important. Colin got an excellent start (again). We made our choice to worry about the fleet that was headed right. A few boats went left, and one of them, Mark Sertl showed it paid. Sertl was around first and very far ahead of the rest of us. Johnny Mac was second and planned on staying there. We were able to eventually roll Johnny on a reach the second time around and maintain the position. Sertl won, we were second, McIntosh was third, Larson was fourth and Bryant fifth.

Wednesday night I was really feeling good. I decided that since we were in first for the day and we may not be there Thursday night I had better enjoy it while I could. Colin agreed with me so we danced our little feet off at the Beach Party (Thanks Garry D., Rob R., and Doug B. — the blisters are off my feet now!). Glenn has always been one for not counting on things before they happen, I think he believes in jinxes. So Glenn was kind of taking this in stride but I could tell he was loving it too!

I experienced something new Thursday morning; butterflies in my stomach! I really was nervous. The wind took a long time to come in and I felt that maybe we wouldn't know what to do with it when it did come in. Again, Colin was right in there with his start, but Matt Fisher really won that start.

We were third around the weather mark behind Matt and Bruce Goldsmith. We maintained our positions until the last leg. The wind went light and spotty. I knew there had been a reason to be nervous. We dropped as low as 15 that leg but got ourselves back into it by the finish line. Matt Fisher won, Huntsman second, Jim Crane third, Allen, Jr., fourth, and Greg Fisher fifth. We recovered to sixth with Goldsmith seventh.

Thursday afternoon some realities started to hit home. Our worst race was a sixth. Our closest competition had each used up their throw-outs!. We could not finish worse than third. This far out-did our wildest dreams! We were three very happy people. We were in first place counting all five races, by one point. If you counted four of the five races, we were in third, four points behind Matt and Jack. We decided what we needed Thursday night was a great meal and a chance to relax and enjoy ourselves. We ended up with a great group of dining companions for the evening, Greg and Charlotte Fisher, Greg's crew, Matt Fisher and Matt's crew. We had a wonderful meal. I don't think Matt appreciated our teasing him that there was to be no wind and therefore no race on Friday!

Friday morning I was not nervous but very excited. When Colin told Glenn and me, "we'll leave dock in half an hour", we thought those thirty minutes would never pass! Imagine Matt's frustration Friday morning when there was no wind and the race had to be delayed for several hours. The way things stood Friday morning were straightforward. We needed both Matt and Jack to not finish in the top ten or we had to finish at least four boats in front of them. We still had not had a bad race as of yet so we had some options. We knew if we got in bad trouble we could still afford to take a wild flier. We definitely had the enviable position. The wind finally filled in and the race was started. Unfortunately the wind wasn't completely settled. Jack got a bad start so we just looked for Matt. We got our worst start, but Matt was just a bit behind us! We made our decision to sit on him in a hurry! We were pretty even up the weather leg and Matt out-manuevered us near the mark. Matt rounded 15 and we were 19. Again, nothing changed on the spinnaker legs. We started to watch the boats as they rounded the leeward mark. Out of the first ten boats, eight went right and two went left. Out of the next five boats, four went right and one

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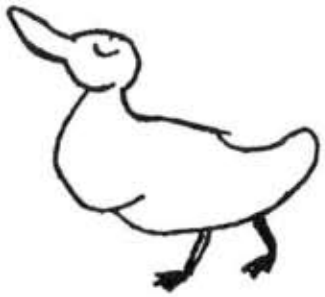

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went left. What's this? Upon closer inspection, one of those boats going right is Matt!!! Matt made our decision for us, we went left. As we got closer to the finish line it was becoming apparent the Matt was not gaining boats but we were. We started counting the finisheres, when we got to 9 and did not see Matt in the vicinity, our boat became dead silent! The feeling we had at that time was indescribable. We finished with a 14 and Matt was 19. Claude Biekarck won the race, Greg Fisher second, Jody Lutz third, Ched Proctor fourth and Larry MacDonald fifth. We asked Glenn why he changed from being pessimistic to sure we could do it. His response was that on Thursday night, when he realized that when we had what we felt was a terrible race and it was a sixth, we were unbeatable.

The celebration to follow was an experience of a lifetime. I've certainly never had such a great time at a banquet! We are very proud to be the ones to bring a championship back to Michigan for the first time in 29 years! Colin was not exactly thrilled to discover he is the oldest person to every win the championship (He beats Hermie Nickels by half a year.) but he'll take it. We'd like to thank Anne Allen, the ILCA and Mission Bay Yacht Club for giving us an experience of a lifetime. None of us will ever forget.

Colin, Dave Nickels and I had made plans last fall to go to Greece. We are looking forward to another wonderful experience with David in the middle of the boat.

Bill the Boat

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At this year's Southern Circuit, the top of the score sheet looked like a Who's Who of sailmakers. Except for one.

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1988
SOUTHERN CIRCUIT
RESULTS

3rd, 5th	Savannah
5th	St. Pete
	(1st non-sailmaker)
3rd, 8th	Overall
	(1st non-sailmaker)

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North American Championship — 1988

Fin. Pos.	Sail #	Skipper & Crew Skipper's Hometown & Fleet	Race Finishes 1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.
1	14084	Colin Park, Karen Park, Glenn Hallett Midland, MI/Bay City Yacht Club	4	4	6	2	6	(14)	22
2	14045	Matt Fisher, Jeff Irvine, Lisa Griffith Westerville, OH/Buckeye Lake Yacht Club	3	10	3	6	1	(17)	23
3	14182	Jack Huntsman, Henry O'Hern, Kevin Corr Red Bank, NJ/Monmouth Boat Club	2	1	23	8	2	(27)	36
4	14252	Greg Fisher, John Riddle, Joyce Ferguson Columbus, OH/Hoover	6	12	11	(27)	5	2	36
5	11663	Mark Bryant, John Humphrey, Joe Donovan Cheektowaga, NY/Buffalo Canoe Club	9	(19)	2	5	8	19	43
6	13862	Ric Larson, Mike Elmergreen, Sue Dorcheid Sheboygan, WI/Sheboygan Yacht Club	1	(20)	7	4	14	20	46
7	14305	Tom Allen, Jr., Jill Swanson, Ned Roseberry Buffalo, NY/Buffalo Canoe Club	15	3	(22)	17	4	12	51
8	14198	Brad Read, William Jeffers, Bill Fastiggi Newport, RI/Annisquam Yacht Club	8	8	(27)	11	19	8	54
9	14176	Ched Proctor, Kathryn Ritchie, Douglas Barlow Southport, CT/Cedar Point Yacht Club	10	(30)	10	19	13	4	56
10	14255	Dick Hallagan, Jean Hallagan, Sandy Schrader Newark, NY/Newport Yacht Club	(25)	7	5	9	21	16	58
11	13154	John McIntosh, Anne Allen, Eric Oetgen Hilton Head Island, SC/Savannah Yacht Club	13	9	28	3	(35)	6	59
12	11138	Jim Crane, Edson White, Maria White Norwalk, CT/Cedar Point Yacht Club	7	18	13	20	3	(21)	61
13	14286	Larry MacDonald, Ian Jones, Trevor Born Toronto, Ontario/Buffalo Canoe Club	20	(27)	1	24	11	5	61
14	14298	Mark Sertl, Bob Bryant, Linda Taboada Rochester, NY/Newport Yacht Club	28	11	(30)	1	17	9	66
15	13968	Peter Hall, Betsy Alison, Scott Collins Westmount, Quebec/Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club	12	(DSQ)	14	10	20	11	67
16	11739	Jody Lutz, Chris Krautheim, Sean McFarlane Milford, CT/Metedeconk River Yacht Club	(27)	5	19	18	23	3	68
17	13927	Eddy Martin, Jean Francois Simard, Kay Bjorn Montreal, Quebec/Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club	23	2	24	7	(31)	13	69
18	14285	Rob Ruhlman, Abby Ruhlman, Greg Maras Cleveland, OH/Pymatuning Yacht Club	24	6	4	13	(26)	24	71
19	11703	Paul Wurtzebach, Karen Johnson, Steve Diaz Woodridge, IL/Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club	22	21	8	14	(29)	7	72
20	13955	Garry Demarest, Diana Fernando, Josh Kerst Traverse City, MI/Grand Traverse Yacht Club	5	24	9	(26)	16	23	77
21	14296	Claudio Biekarck, Gunnar Ficker, Eduardo Mielehchat Sao Paulo, Brazil/Santo Amaro Yacht Club	17	23	16	21	(34)	1	78
22	14194	Jody Swanson, Mike Montani, David Starck Buffalo, NY/Buffalo Canoe Club	(29)	28	12	25	15	10	90
23	14023	John McCree, Greg Bull, Craig Gobel Saginaw, MI/Bay City Yacht Club	19	13	18	28	12	(33)	90
24	14222	Bruce Goldsmith, Sherry Goldsmith, George Sipel, Jr. Manitou Beach, MI/Devils Lake	26	25	20	16	7	(31)	94
25	14211	Tom Allen, Chandler Owen, Arlene Molina Buffalo, NY/Buffalo Canoe Club	11	26	(31)	12	24	22	95
26	14205	Bob Wardwell, Robby Wardwell, Dan Moriarty Richmond, VA/Greater Richmond Sailing Assoc.	18	29	17	15	22	(32)	101
27	14111	Jim Allen, Matt Sanders, Tom Starck Amherst, NY/Buffalo Canoe Club	21	17	21	23	(28)	26	108
28	12990	Philip P. Parshley, Philip F. Parshley, Lisa Parshley Portland, OR/Vancouver Lake Sailing Club	(30)	22	26	29	9	28	114
29	13911	John Lyon, Lynette Lyon, Philippe Hartl San Diego, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	14	16	(DSQ)	(DSQ)	30	18	115
30	14190	Philip Lotz, Wendy Lotz, Brad Smith Riverside, CT/Cedar Point Yacht Club	(34)	31	28	33	10	15	117
31	14280	Bob Fidler, Sean Fidler, Mark Isabel Troy, MI/Pontiac Yacht Club	16	15	(34)	31	33	34	129
32	13084	Paul Gelenitis, James Gelenitis, Sheila Carolan Brick, NJ/Metedeconk River Yacht Club	32	14	32	34	18	(35)	130
33	13953	Warren Lewis, Kurt Schuler, Brian Lewis Dallas, TX/Rush Creek	(33)	33	15	32	27	29	136
34	13686	William Faude, Victoria Matthews, John Lehotsky Chicago, IL/Milwaukee	(35)	34	33	22	25	25	139
35	14288	David Nickels, Kevin Nickels, Michelle Secore Holly, MI/Lake Fenton Sailing Club	31	(32)	25	30	32	30	148

( ) Throw-out DSQ = 37

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1988 North Americans

by Runner-Up Matt Fisher

Mission Bay Yacht Club hosted the 1988 Lightning North American's this year. Colin Park and his crew of his wife Karen and Glen Hallett sailed an impressive series with no finish less than sixth until the last race. MBYC ran an excellent regatta both on and off the water with good racing and fun parties.

During the week prior to the North American's the wind on the Pacific was stronger than usual with 12-15 knots out of the southwest. The Class crowned three new champions with Ned Roseberry winning the Junior's, Joni Palmer the Women's and Fisk Hayden the Master's.

Eighty-five boats turned out for the North American's. The winds of the previous week slowly died throughout the Championship with 10-15 for the Qualifier and 5-12 for the Championship. We were fortunate enough to win the Qualifying Series with Tom Allen, Jr. second and Jack Huntsman 3rd.

The first race of the Championship started in 5 knots building to about 8-10 by the end of the race. On the first beat we were on the left side along with my brother, Greg, Colin Park, Garry Demarest, Jack Huntsman, and Rick Larson. Two thirds of the way up the beat it looked like the six of us were going to be in the mid-twenties. The wind then went 15 degrees left with more velocity and Rick Larson rounded with a big lead with the rest of us battling for the next spots. Rick went on to win with Jack Huntsman finishing 2nd, our boat 3rd, and Colin 4th.

The next race started later that day around 3:30. Some of the same people were on the left again only this time the right came in big. It was interesting though, because you almost had to be on the right hand lay line to take advantage of the wind on the right. Jack Huntsman passed several boats throughout the race to win by a good margin. We were able to hit the right very hard to pass about 15 boats on the last beat to finish 10th (we were thrilled). Jack had an excellent day and Colin was consistent: Jack Huntsman 2-1 = 3; Colin Park 4-4 = 8; Matt Fisher 3-10 = 13; Brad Read 8-8 = 16; Greg Fisher 6-12 = 18.

The next day was similar to the first with 6-10 knots out of the southwest. Larry MacDonald, Mark Bryant, Rob Ruhlman, and Dick Hallagan led most of the way around with Jack caught on the wrong side of the first beat. Larry and Mark had 1-2 in a close finish. We avoided the weeds to finish 3rd with Rob 4th, Dick 5th and Colin 6th.

On the first beat of the fourth race several of the lead boats at the start went right since it was getting late in the day and the right seemed to be favored at the end of each day. Mark Sertl was in the middle of the fleet and broke off to the left halfway up the beat and lead by two minutes at the first mark. Colin Park sailed an excellent race to finish second behind Mark. John McIntosh, who showed impressive consistence the entire series, finished third in the race. After four races the standings were as follows:

					After 4	Best 3
Colin Park	4	4	6	2	16	10
Matt Fisher	3	10	3	6	22	12
Jack Huntsman	2	1	23	8	34	11
Rick Larson	1	20	7	4	32	12
Mark Bryant	9	19	2	5	35	16

The series was beginning to take shape. In the fifth race, we were fortunate enough to port tack the fleet at the start and had a good jump on the fleet. Through the first half of the beat there were no shifts and with Jack and Colin on the far left we decided to tack to the left. Luckily the left came in just as we got there. We had a good lead with Bruce Goldsjust as we got there. We had a good lead with Bruce Goldsmith, Colin, and a host of others battling it out for the top ten. As we approached the leeward mark, the wind began to back to the left and die drastically. We were able to work out to a nice lead but noticed that the next seven boats were quite alone. Colin picked up one very crucial boat the last leg and Jack Huntsman picked up five boats in the last half of the leg. With a throw-out Jack and we were tied for first with 13 points. Colin was amazingly consistent with a 16. Neither Colin or we could finish worse than third in the regatta but Jack had a 23rd which made him vulnerable:

						After 5	Best 4
Colin Park	4	4	6	2	6	22	16
Matt Fisher	3	10	3	6	1	23	13
Jack Huntsman	2	1	23	8	2	36	13
Mark Bryant	9	19	2	5	8	43	24
Rick Larson	1	20	7	4	14	46	26
Greg Fisher	6	12	11	27	5	61	34

For Jack and us it was who beat who. If either of us finished worse than ninth, Colin would win.

On the final day the wind died totally as we got to the starting area. We sat for two hours and for a while it looked like Colin would win without a race. But the wind came up and we started within twenty minutes of the first breeze. We

had a bad start as did Jack and Colin. The wind went right which put Jack deep quick. Colin dipped us by about two boat lengths to go further to the right. We were in about 10th halfway up and as the wind went further right, Colin picked us up by going further right. The two of us went all the way to the port layline, and Colin did a great job of stuffing us back to about 16th. We were able to get by Colin at the weather mark but he had done his damage on us. Claudio Biekarck and my brother Greg were 1-2 across the finish line. Colin ended up 14th to win the North Americans with us 17th and Jack 27th. My brother Greg came on strong in the last two races to finish fourth. Mark Bryant sailed four good races but had a bad second race. After a good Qualifying Series, Rick Larson was going strong for the Championship — he likes those conditions. Colin and his crew of his wife Karen and Glen Hallett put together an impressive series. Colin sailed very patiently, spending a lot of time in the middle of the weather legs. Mission Bay put on a fun regatta — we hope we go back soon!

Waiting to launch at the N.A.'s.

1988 N.A. Qualifying Series

Pos.	Sail #	Skipper & Crew	Races 1	2	3	4	Pts.
1	14045	Matt Fisher, Jeff Irvine, Lisa Griffith	2	1	1	(5)	4
2	14305	Tom Allen, Jr., Jill Swanson, Ned Roseberry	(4)	1	4	1	6
3	13862	Ric Larson, Mike Elmergreen, Sue Dorcheid	(5)	4	2	1	7
3	14255	Dick Hallagan, Jean Hallagan, Sandy Schrader	3	(8)	2	2	7
5	11663	Mark Bryant, John Humphrey, Joe Donovan	4	3	(15)	1	8
5	14182	Jack Huntsman, Henry O'Hern, Kevin Corr	3	2	3	(6)	8
5	14205	Bob Wardwell, Robby Wardwell, Dan Moriarty	1	(22)	3	4	8
8	14084	Colin Park, Karen Park, Glenn Hallett	6	2	1	(7)	9
9	14198	Brad Read, William Jeffers, Bill Fastiggi	(7)	2	4	4	10
9	14211	Tom Allen, Chandler Owen, Arlene Molina	1	6	(8)	3	10
11	13911	John Lyon, Lynette Lyon, Philippe Hartl	2	7	(17)	2	11
11	14296	Claudio Biekarck, Gunnar Ficker, Eduardo Mielchchat	2	3	6	(7)	11
13	11138	Jim Crane, Edson White, Maria White	7	3	(9)	4	14
14	14252	Greg Fisher, John Riddle, Joyce Ferguson	1	5	(9)	9	15
15	14023	John McCree, Greg Bull, Craig Gobel	4	11	1	(13)	16
16	13953	Warren Lewis, Kurt Schuler, Brian Lewis	7	7	(26)	3	17
17	11703	Paul Wurtzebach, Karen Johnson, Steve Diaz	(15)	6	3	9	18
17	13927	Eddy Martin, Jean Francois Simard, Kay Bjorn	(8)	4	6	8	18
19	13968	Peter Hall, Betsy Alison, Scott Collins	3	7	10	(15)	20
19	14111	Jim Allen, Matt Sanders, Tom Starck	10	(21)	5	5	20
19	14176	Ched Proctor, Kathryn Ritchie, Douglas Barlow	5	4	11	(12)	20
19	14194	Jody Swanson, Mike Montani, David Starck	(31)	1	5	14	20
23	11739	Jody Lutz, Chris Krautheim, Sean McFarlane	8	(15)	7	6	21
24	13955	Garry Demarest, Diana Fernando, Josh Kerst	(11)	6	6	10	22
25	13154	John McIntosh, Anne Allen, Eric Oetgen	15	(24)	2	6	23
26	12990	Philip P. Parshley, Philip F. Parshley, Lisa Parshley	10	(13)	12	2	24
27	13686	William Faude, Victoria Matthews, John Lehotsky	6	10	9	(16)	25
28	13084	Paul Gelenitis, James Gelenitis, Sheila Carolan	5	(11)	10	11	26
28	14280	Bob Fidler, Sean Fidler, Mark Isabel	(17)	13	4	9	26
28	14285	Rob Ruhlman, Abby Ruhlman, Greg Maras	(18)	11	7	8	26
28	14288	David Nickels, Kevin Nickels, Michelle Secore	(18)	10	13	3	26
32	14190	Philip Lotz, Wendy Lotz, Brad Smith	(12)	8	7	12	27
32	14222	Bruce Goldsmith, Sherry Goldsmith, George Sipel, Jr.	9	8	10	(18)	27
34	14298	Mark Sertl, Bob Bryant, Linda Taboada	8	9	(12)	11	28
35	14154	Don Barrett, Donna Barrett, Barbara Vann	12	5	12	(19)	29
36	14050	Lenny Krawcheck, Lyn Loring, John Cooke	9	(17)	14	7	30
36	14055	Christopher Vann, Lenn Vann, Gary Davis	6	(16)	11	13	30
36	14095	Kirk Johnson, Edna Johnson, Chris Hoover	11	(30)	5	14	30
39	14126	Bennie Moultrie, William Kerley, Barbara Kerley	10	16	(22)	5	31
40	14303	J. Thomas Doran, Tammi Jamison, Andy Geyer	9	15	(23)	8	32
41	13913	James Gocker, Kristen Gocker, Jessie Gocker	14	5	15	(24)	34
42	14066	Fisk Hayden, Barb White, Steve Hayden	14	9	(19)	13	36
43	13943	Mark Patty, Stan Starkey, Steve DeAngelo	17	(24)	11	10	38
44	13650	Rufino Melero U., Javier Melero U., Juan F. Novion V.	13	18	8	(20)	39
45	13896	John DeBenedetti, Susi DeBenedetti, Kate DeBenedetti	20	12	8	(31)	40
46	14260	David Laidlaw, Amy Hodgson, Wendy Hodgson	13	(18)	13	15	41
47	9237	Larry Swearingen, Leslie Leonard, George Oliver	15	10	17	(22)	42
47	13186	Wendell Harter, Al Coba, George Trever	11	(20)	16	15	42
47	14247	Bob Harkrider, David Sears, Clay Rumble	14	12	(21)	16	42
50	14308	Scott Finkboner, Jim Gray, Scott Gray	13	14	16	(24)	43
51	14033	Tim Rumph, Susan Rumph, Raymond Rumph	(20)	15	18	11	44
51	14180	Jim Carson, Philip Kinzel, Jr., Greg Kinzel	18	14	(19)	12	44
53	13467	Warren Gross, Al Poindexter, Wanda Poindexter	17	14	14	(18)	45
53	14214	Sandy Huntsman, Ron Freund, Pat Corr	(19)	18	17	10	45
55	11505	Carlos Lecaro, Oscar Viteri, Gonzalo Vargas	20	12	15	(21)	47
56	11514	John Harrop, Dan Sullivan, Rusty Sime	(22)	21	13	14	48
57	13242	Eric Lindahl, George Naden, Mike Kipper	16	13	(24)	20	49
58	14148	Hank Hodgson, Karen Hodgson, Lisa Hodgson	12	19	20	(23)	51
59	11636	Alan Hunt, Neil MacGibbon, Cheryl Zettler	23	9	(24)	22	54
59	13477	Bob Bazett, Don Wilson, Mike Gillett	19	17	18	(25)	54
61	9433	Chuck Ellery, Alex Renshaw, Ivar Larson	16	20	(26)	19	55
62	10980	Geoff Carson, Sean Griffin, Mike Molina	(30)	16	22	18	56
63	13411	Fred Grant, Robin Leiper, Mark Thompson	21	19	(27)	17	57
63	13787	Robert Smither, Jennifer Murray, Norbert Roessler	19	19	(24)	19	57
65	14185	Lenny Atkinson, II, Gary Steinberg, Deborah Wight	16	21	(22)	22	59
66	12879	David Hickman, Gail Hickman, Doug Hickman	(30)	22	18	20	60
66	14200	Tony McBride, Andrew Shea, Tom Fisher	25	(27)	14	21	60
68	13684	Roger Evans, Larry Frost, III, Gilbert MacLachlan	22	23	16	(30)	61
68	13707	Jerry Neuburger, Tom Allen, Sandy Neuburger	(23)	17	21	23	61
70	14104	Carl Clipp, Carolyn Evans, Charita Clipp	24	22	(27)	16	62
71	13728	Michael Brewer, Dick Brewer, Peter Wilcox	21	(23)	21	21	63
72	13831	Richard Guinan, Rebecca Guinan, Jennifer Gandy	(30)	23	25	17	65
72	14048	Frank Kelly, Jr., Eileen McDonough, Clark Higgs	23	(26)	25	17	65
74	14229	Robert Burridge, Stacy Heisler, Bernadine Frerker	22	26	20	(27)	68
74	14291	Judy Walker, Eben Sutton, Randy Shore	24	25	19	(26)	68
76	13783	Bruce Arnold, Sue Arnold, Kevin Arnold	21	24	(25)	24	69
77	13889	Carl Muska, William Cohen, John Goughnour	26	20	26	(28)	72
78	13478	Bob Stoller, Jim Milstead, Martin Mulhern	27	(28)	23	23	73
78	13957	Bob Cotton, John Walker, Shirley Walker	24	25	(28)	25	74
80	13421	Timothy Hagen, Craig Kight, Beau Samuelson	25	25	(29)	25	75
80	13977	James Gilbert, Brigid Guinan, Ian Allen	26	29	20	(30)	75
82	13811	Versun Pandian, John Mahoney, Jim McAlister	27	27	23	(31)	77
83	13942	Rick Mallinson, Howard Haines, Bruce McDermott	25	28	(30)	30	83

1988 Presidents' Cup

by Lenny Krawcheck

The Qualification Series had been interesting. Someone, somewhere, somebody said, had cut the kelp a week earlier, and it was thick until late in the series. And with the kelp, we had chop — a high, powerful, difficult chop. As the week went by, it subsided with the breeze.

There were a number of very good sailors in the Presidents' Cup. This was due in large measure to a very deep Championship Fleet. Fisk Hayden (third in the Blue Fleet at the Kingston North American's) finished fifth overall this year in the Presidents'. While the work of the Race Committee was consistently excellent, the conditions on the race course were inconsistent. The right side would be successful one race and would be disastrous the next. Hank Hodgson sailed the right side to first place finishes in the third and fourth races and rode it to a twenty-fifth place in the fifth race. At times the lead boats at the first mark would be the boats which shot the left and right corners, while the middle would prove best at other times. There were holes and current — and often the breeze was unpredictable. Given the conditions, good boat speed was all important.

Hank Hodgson seemed to have the best speed in the fleet. He won two of the races, finished second and fifth in two others and would have won the series hands down with another decent finish. Along with Harkrider, Barrett, and Hayden, we depended on our speed to finish consistently. The breeze lightened progressively as the week went by, and certain boats emerged in the smoother conditions — Harrop, Laidlaw and Moultrie together with the top five.

The regatta was decided in the last race. We had finished consistently in the first five races (5,1,4,5,8) and went into the last race with a total of 23 points. Hank Hodgson, suffering from his 25th in the fifth race had 34 points. Neither of us could do worse than second in the regatta, even if we didn't sail the last race. Even if we won the last race, and Hank threw out his 25th, he would win the series by finishing 7th, or better. We tried the obvious — and it worked. We covered Hank driving him back in the fleet. As a result he finished the last race 24th while we were 21st — not really a happy ending to the series for either of us. Given the unusual circumstances it was the right tactic competitively — (Curtis and Bryant at Cedar Point); and it was difficult, for him and for us. Hank sailed a very good regatta, and no doubt would have won if we hadn't covered him in the last race.

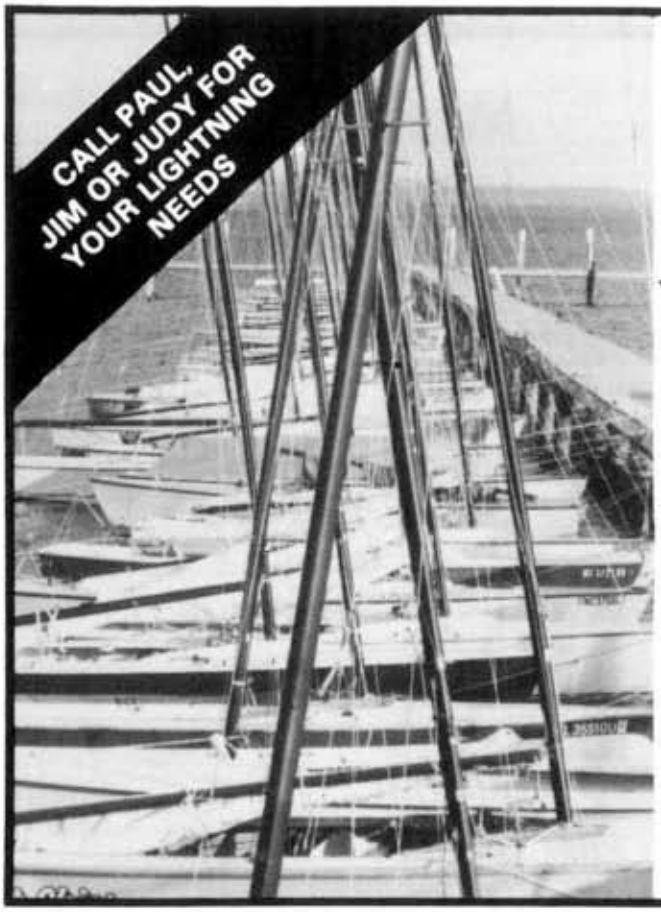
Congratulations are in order to Mission Bay Yacht Club and the Race Committee for a job well done; to my fellow competitors in the Presidents' Cup — it wasn't easy; to my fine young crew of John Cooke and Lyn Loring; and last but most importantly to my friend Hank Hodgson for a fine job out on the race course.

Presidents' Cup — 1988

Fin. Pos.	Sail #	Skipper & Crew Skipper's Hometown & Fleet	Race Finishes 1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.
1	14050	Lenny Krawcheck, Lyn Loring, John Cooke Charleston, SC/Charleston Yacht Club	5	1	4	5	6	(21)	23
2	14148	Hank Hodgson, Karen Hodgson, Lisa Hodgson Manitou Beach, MI/Devils Lake	2	5	1	1	(25)	24	33
3	14247	Bob Harkrider, David Sears, Clay Rumble Augusta, GA/Augusta Sailing Club	1	16	(22)	3	9	4	33
4	14154	Don Barrett, Donna Barrett, Barbara Vann W. Granby, CT/Niantic Bay Yacht Club	(18)	2	14	10	3	6	35
5	14066	Fisk Hayden, Barb White, Steve Hayden Fern Park, FL/Eustis Sailing Club	13	3	8	(17)	6	12	42
6	11514	John Harrop, Dan Sullivan, Meredith Evanco San Diego, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	21	(24)	3	6	1	13	44
7	14260	David Laidlaw, Amy Hodgson, Wendy Hodgson Saline, MI/Devils Lake	7	7	(23)	8	17	5	44
8	14180	Jim Carson, Philip Kinzel, Jr., Greg Kinzel Brick, NJ/Metedeconk River Yacht Club	12	6	17	2	10	(19)	47
9	14126	Bennie Moultrie, William Kerley, Barbara Kerley N. Augusta, SC/Clark's Hill	15	(23)	7	4	20	2	48
10	13242	Eric Lindahl, George Naden, Mike Kipper Seattle, WA/Corinthian Yacht Club	11	10	10	(19)	11	7	49
11	9237	Larry Swearingen, Leslie Leonard, George Oliver Santee, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	4	11	16	(18)	4	15	50
12	13467	Warren Gross, Al Poindexter, Wanda Poindexter San Diego, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	10	(18)	15	7	16	3	51
13	13896	John DeBenedetti, Susi DeBenedetti, Kate DeBenedetti Portland, OR/Vancouver Lake Sailing Club	19	17	6	11	(21)	1	54
14	14033	Tim Rumph, Susan Rumph, Raymond Rumph Hampton Bays, NY/S. Hampton Yacht Club	3	(21)	9	9	18	17	56

15	14214	Sandy Huntsman, Ron Freund, Pat Corr Rumson, NJ/Monmouth Boat Club	(16)	13	12	14	5	16	60
16	14095	Kirk Johnson, Edna Johnson, Chris Hoover San Diego, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	14	4	5	(25)	24	14	61
17	14308	Scott Finkboner, Ross Nemeroff, Brad Baum San Diego, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	9	12	18	(23)	2	23	64
18	13913	James Gocker, Kristen Gocker, Jessie Gocker Rochester, NY/Newport Yacht Club	8	9	19	(24)	12	18	66
19	14303	J. Thomas Doran, Tammi Jamison, Andy Geyer Oswego, NY/Port of Oswego	6	14	20	(22)	15	11	66
20	11636	Alan Hunt, Neil MacGibbon, Cheryl Zettler Seattle, WA/Seattle Corinthian	24	8	(25)	16	13	9	70
21	13186	Wendell Harter, Al Coha, George Trever Manhattan Beach, CA/King Harbor Yacht Club	(22)	15	2	15	19	22	73
22	13943	Mark Patty, Stan Starkey, Steve DeAngelo Union City, CA	17	19	13	(20)	14	10	73
23	11505	Carlos LeCaro, Oscar Viteri, Gonzalo Vargas Guayaquil, Ecuador/Salinas Yacht Club	20	22	11	21	7	(DNS)	81
24	14055	Christopher Vann, Len Vann, Gary Davis Unionville, CT/Niantic Bay	(DNS)	DNS	24	13	22	8	94
25	13477	Bob Bazett, Don Wilson, Mike Gillett Kelowna, B.C./Central Okanagan Sailing Assoc.	(23)	20	21	12	23	20	96
26	13650	Rufino Melero U., Javier Melero U., Juan F. Novion V Santiago, Chile	(DNS)	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	135

( ) Throw-out DNS = 27



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1988 Governors' Cup

by Chuck Ellery

Many stories have been written about Lightning races that would fall in the category of Stranger than Fiction. This one will knock your socks off as it did me when it actually happened. I'm a second generation Lightning sailor, starting as we all did with our Fathers. I remember those years in the 50's and 60's as a wonderful time to leave on the weekends back in Michigan and travel the summer circuit with the Districts as being the highlight each season. One year, back in '62, ole Dad actually qualified to go to this thing called the Nationals. My brother and I as crew packed up the old station wagon and the family headed out for the Buffalo Canoe Club. Well, we finished 16th overall in the Governors' Cup and resigned ourselves that it was the best we were going to do as a family.

In February of 1965 Dad passed away leaving me the Chesterfield stop watch that I so much admired and that we had used three years earlier in the big event. For many years it has been just sitting in a jewelry box of family memorabilia. Two years ago when I formed the Portola Sail Yacht Club of Santa Cruz, California, in memory of my Father and to fill the needs of the small boat enthusiast in our area, I requested and received a donation of Lightning 9433 to use in our junior racing program. When the 23-year-old Clark was finally weighed, the 680 lbs. shocked and impressed us all. I gave it a shot and brought her up to specifications with weights and some decent used sails. After mustering up a crew, I headed out for San Diego for the Districts and qualified, last, to go to the North American's.

Well this was the livin-end, so we named the boat *My Perfect Moment* from the theme of Spalding Grey's movie, "Swimming to Cambodia". We were registered as the second oldest boat at the August happening. It was a surprise to see some of the old faces from the past like Herm Nickels and Bruce Goldsmith to name a couple.

The old Clark was getting some sympathetic looks and I was wondering just what the heck am I doin here. We get out on the course and all of a sudden it felt like the twenty-plus year lapse never happened. It was like riding a bicycle. The feeling was back, or was it? I can't remember a thing that happened on the course. And the watch, that thirty-year old Chesterfield that my Dad had used and left me. It stopped dead after the last race. It's not under or over wound, it just quit! That was not all. After a closer look at the original papers on the boat, I find that 9433 came out of the mold on Febraury 25, 1965 — the same day my Dad passed away. It really happened and it was indeed "My Perfect Moment" to win the 1988 Governors' Cup. Somehow I feel it was Dad's Perfect Moment though.

Chuck Ellery and "My Perfect Moment".

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Governors' Cup — 1988

Fin. Pos.	Sail #	Skipper & Crew / Skipper's Hometown & Fleet	Race Finishes 1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.
1	9433	Chuck Ellery, Alex Renshaw, Ivar Larson Davenport, CA/San Francisco Fleet 372	5	(14)	1	1	4	3	14
2	14200	Tony McBride, Andrew Shea, Tom Fisher Beaconsfield, Quebec/Pointe Claire Yacht Club	4	1	2	(9)	3	5	15
3	14185	Lenny Atkinson, II, Gary Steinberg, Deborah Wight Rochester, NY/Newport Yacht Club	1	(10)	5	5	9	2	22
4	10980	Geoff Carson, Sean Griffin, Mike Molina Orange, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	8	(12)	6	4	1	10	29
5	14291	Judy Walker, Eben Sutton, Randy Shore Snyder, NY/Niagara Sailing Club	2	3	3	6	(18)	16	30
6	13831	Richard Guinan, Rebecca Guinan, Jennifer Gandy Rockwall, TX/Rush Creek Yacht Club	9	4	9	(10)	7	4	33
7	13728	Michael Brewer, Dick Brewer, Peter Wilcox Coronado, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	(15)	2	12	2	13	13	42
8	13684	Roger Evans, Larry Frost, III, Gilbert MacLachlan New Orleans, LA/New Orleans Yacht Club	6	8	(17)	11	6	11	42
9	13411	Fred Grant, Robin Leiper, Mark Thompson San Diego, CA/Mission Bay Yacht Club	7	5	(18)	8	11	12	43
10	14048	Frank Kelly, Jr., Eileen McDonough, Clark Higgs Brentwood, TN/Harbor Island Yacht Club	12	9	13	12	5	(17)	51
11	14229	Robert Burridge, Bernadine Frerker, Stacy Heisler St. Louis, MO/Carlyle Sailing Assoc.	13	(21)	7	3	16	15	54
12	13783	Bruce Arnold, Sue Arnold, Kevin Arnold Albany, CA/San Francisco Fleet 372	10	23	(DSQ)	13	8	1	55
13	13811	Verson Pandian, John Mahoney, Jim McAlister Corvallis, OR/Eugene Yacht Club	19	11	(DSQ)	7	12	6	55
14	13787	Robert Smither, Jennifer Murray, Norbert Roesster Hinsdale, IL/Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club	11	6	8	17	(DSQ)	14	56
15	14104	Carl Clipp, Carolan Evans, Charita Clipp Dublin, OH/Leatherlips Yacht Club	(18)	13	14	18	2	9	56
16	13707	Jerry Neuburger, Tom Allen, Sandy Neuburger Portland, OR/Vancouver Lake Sailing Assoc.	3	16	16	(19)	15	7	57
17	13957	Bob Cotton, John Walker, Shirley Walker Nashville, TN/Harbor Island Yacht Club	(17)	15	11	14	14	8	62
18	12879	David Hickman, Gail Hickman, Doug Hickman Portland, OR/Vancouver Lake Sailing Club	14	7	4	(DSQ)	(DNS)	(DNS)	73
19	13889	Carl Muska, William Colven, John Goughnour Aiken, SC/Augusta Yacht Club	16	17	15	15	17	(18)	80
20	13478	Bob Stoller, Jim Milstead, Martin Mulhern Boulder, CO/Carter Lake Sailing Club	(21)	19	21	21	10	20	91
21	13421	Timothy Hagen, Craig Kight, Beau Samuelson Charlotte, NC	(22)	18	19	20	20	19	96
22	13942	Rick Mallinson, Howard Haines, Bruce McDermott Norman, OK/Central Oklahoma Sailing Assoc.	20	20	10	(DSQ)	(DNS)	(DNS)	98
23	13977	James Gilbert, Brigid Guinan, Ian Allen Alexandria, VA/Potomac River Sailing Assoc.	23	22	20	16	19	(DNS)	100

( ) Throw-Out DNS = 24 DSQ = 25

Masters' Championship

by Fisk Hayden

This years Masters' Championship Regatta which was sailed in the ocean of San Diego's Mission Bay contained all the ingredients for an "Anyone can win this thing regatta." Conditions were light, lumpy, weedy, shifty, you name it and we had it.

John McIntosh, the old Master from Savannah, Georgia took the first of the three race series followed by Myron Lyon from San Diego and Sandy Huntsman from Red Bank, New Jersey.

We got it together for the second race and were followed by Wendell Harter, who had led all the way 'til the finish and Dick Hallagan, Defending Champ, from Newark, New York. Hallagan won the last race, we were second and Arnie Schwartz third.

It appeared after the last race that John McIntosh was the new Champ., however after arriving at the dock we found that John had been disqualified for an early start in the last race and that moved us into first overall. A tough break for John who had sailed a good series and who went on to a fine finish in the Blue Fleet a few days later.

Thanks to all sixteen skippers and crews who made this a great Regatta. My crew Jack Tibbs from Devils Lake, Michigan and my son Steve, who put up with me in Buffalo, were willing to do it again in San Diego.

A special thanks to the Race Committee and everyone at the Mission Bay Yacht Club.

Masters' Championship — 1988

Fin. Pos.	Sail #	Skipper/Hometown & Crew	Races 1	2	3	Pts.
1	14066	Fisk Hayden, Jack Tibbs, Steve Hayden Fern Park, FL	8	1	2	11
2	13911	Myron Lyon, John Lyon, Charlie Gotschalk San Diego, CA	2	5	4	11
3	14255	Dick Hallagan, Len Tiedemann, Sterling Brown Newark, NY	10	3	1	11
4	14214	Paul Huntsman, Jr., Mary Huntsman, Brad Read Rumson, NJ	3	4	7	14
5	14229	Jim Carson, Robert Burridge, Stacey Heisler Brick, NJ	4	8	5	17
6	13186	Wendell Harter, Al Coha, Scott Finkboner Manhattan Beach, CA	6	2	9	17
7	13675	Arnold Schwartz, Will Jeffers, Al Schroder Fair Haven, NJ	9	7	3	19
8	13154	John McIntosh, Anne Allen, Eric Oetgen Hilton Head Island, SC	1	6	(DSQ)	25
9	13896	John DeBenedetti, Eben Sutton, Tom Allen Portland, OR	7	10	11	28
10	14095	Kirk Johnson, Edna Johnson, Larry Swearingen San Diego, CA	5	(DSQ)	6	29
11	12990	Philip F. Parshley, Philip P. Parshley, Jerry Neuburger San Diego, CA	12	9	8	29
12	13626	Sam Anderson, Betina Experton, Susan Leiper San Diego, CA	11	11	12	34
13	13728	Richard Brewer, Mike Brewer, Jim Brewer Santa Monica, CA	13	12	14	39
14	8966	Richard Devlin, Ken Voss, Bill Hardesty La Jolla, CA	14	(DSQ)	10	42
15	14033	Raymond Rumph, Mark Rumph, Ray Rumph, Jr. Southampton, NY	16	13	15	44
16	14175	James Gilbert, Chuck Ellery Alexandria, VA	15	(DSQ)	13	46

DSQ = PMS

1988 Junior North American Championship

by Ned Roseberry

Throughout the year, I had often thought of going to the Junior North American Championship in San Diego. Originally, our family was going to make this a family adventure trip, but as time went on this became impossible.

Through June and July I sailed with a regular crew, but due to their schedules, neither of them could be part of my crew in San Diego. Two great crews, Tom Starck and Josh Murphy, decided to make the trip with me. Tom rode out in the Allen van, piled high with three boats and gear, while Josh and I "agonized" through a long plane flight.

When we arrived in San Diego, we were greeted by much Mission Bay hospitality, especially by our hosts, the Ehlers. On Tuesday morning, Josh and I met up with Tom Allen, Jr. and Tom Starck at the Yacht Club. We spent the morning getting everything measured in, and eyeing up the competition. Finally, at around three o'clock, we decided to sail, but tuning modifications had to be made and we sailed for a very short time.

I must say the competition looked pretty stiff. Sean Fidler and Phil Kinzel looked to be tough, as they were during the 1987 Junior North Americans. Everyone looked **really** fast.

Wednesday morning we were out on the water at nine forty-five a.m. preparing for the twelve o'clock start. We finally got to work together as a crew. We tuned for awhile, got headings, and practiced crew work, such as jibes, and roll tacks. All of this was quite hectic.

In the first race, the wind was rather light, and all signs pointed left. We got a good start, and we came across on a great heading. We were in first place at the weather mark, with Ross Nemeroff second and George Sipel third. We then just covered the two for the victory, and Sean Fidler moved ahead of George for a third.

In the second race, we had another good start. The pin was slightly favored, so lots of boats fought for position there. Due to the shortness of the line, we started 1/3 down from the pin in clear air. Unfortunately, we let George Sipel get left of us three quarters of the way up the leg, and ended up second at the weather mark. George took his jibe wide and we snuck in to gain the lead, only to get rolled on the next reach by George and Ross. This was how it ended up. On the way in, we were very confident with our upwind speed but downwind we weren't as fast.

That night, the Yacht Club had a great barbeque and beach party which gave us the opportunity to meet up with some very nice people. All the Juniors also learned that none of us could play volleyball.

Tom, Josh and I left early again on Thursday morning. On the way out our goal was to win the first race to build up our confidence. The wind was light again with the left heavily favored. We played the left side and had a considerable

lead at the weather mark. On the second reach, the wind went ahead...right. We covered and stayed right, winning that race. George was second and Ross was third.

Between races, Tom, Josh and I felt that we would be comfortable with a good fourth race. Our start was mediocre because we were heavily boxed in on both sides. We sailed the shifts, and had a good lead at the weather mark.We won race number four; George was second and Ross, third.

On Friday, the three of us were on the water really early again. At the start of the fifth race, we were apprehensive going out to the race course. We needed to win one of the races to totally insure victory. We had a good clear air start in the fifth race, and loosely covered George and Ross. We continued to work the boat to insure victories in the fifth and sixth races, and a victory at the Junior North Americans!

I really have to thank my crew, Tom Starck and Josh Murphy, for their excellent crew work. They always kept the boat going and I was able to concentrate on steering through the sea/chop. Thanks to their splendid narration of the ongoings on the water. They did an incredible job.

I especially want to thank Tom Allen, Jr. for the use of his boat and for all of his time and help. I'd also like to thank all the people who assisted us during the regatta. This is what helps make the Lightning Class a Family! I appreciate the hospitality of the Mission Bay Yacht Club and the Race Committee, which did an outstanding job in the trying conditions.

To all of the Juniors at the regatta: Thanks for being such a great group of people. The competition was keen and everyone was so much fun to be with. I hope to see many of you at North Cape next year.

I cannot go without saying a special thanks to my parents, especially my Dad, the Buffalo Canoe Club members, and everyone in the Lake Erie District. See you next year!

Junior Championship — 1988

Pos.	Sail #	Skipper/Hometown & Crew	Races 1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.
1	13945	Ned Roseberry, Tom Starck, Josh Murphy Eggertsville, NY	1	(3)	1	1	1	1	5
2	14246	Ross Nemeroff, Mike Christian, Dwayne Depry San Diego, CA	2	2	(3)	3	2	2	11
3	14249	George Sipel, Craig Gabel, Amy Hodgson Manitou Beach, MI	(4)	1	2	2	3	4	12
4	14280	Sean Fidler, Mark Isabell, Andy Greenstreet Troy, MI	3	4	4	(5)	4	5	20
5	13704	John Loendorf, Andy Mack, Steve Frahm Mercer Island, WA	5	(6)	5	4	5	6	25
6	14180	Philip Kinzel, Greg Kinzel, Chris Krautheim Caldwell, NJ	6	5	(7)	6	6	3	26
7	11514	Kate Ward, David Houser, Amy Tillou Buffalo, NY	7	7	6	7	7	(DNF)	34

Junior Champion Ned Roseberry and crew.

1988 LIGHTNING WOMEN'S NORTH AMERICANS

by Joni Palmer
Mission Bay Yacht Club

Eight years ago the Lightning North Americans were held at Mission Bay Yacht Club and I traveled cross-country to crew on the winning boat with Mark Bryant. I now live in San Diego with MBYC as my home club, so this year I wanted to get back into the Lightning after nearly eight years and try to win the Women's Championship (work prevented me from further participation). I enjoyed sailing on the boat tremendously and it was a real thrill to win again after all the years.

Though I had crewed on a Lightning years ago, I had never skippered the boat. I was very lucky to have many great friends still in the class who could help me out! I want to thank Bill Shore who loaned me his boat and Brad Read who drove it cross country, tuned it up and spent some time telling me a few tricks. But the biggest thanks goes to my supercrew of Joyce Ferguson (Canton, OH.) and Suzanne Spangler (Newport Beach, CA.) These two gals made a fabulous team on and off the water and were crucial in every decision and move on the boat!

While the field of contestants was small, the competition looked to be very good. For the first race our main focus was to make sure our speed was okay and then we would set our goal for the regatta. The first race was held on Thursday morning and the wind was about 8 knots. The race committee displayed a wind reading of 265 prior to the start and we decided to play the shifts conservatively on the first leg to keep with the fleet and test our boatspeed. We started in the middle of the line and played middle left. Judy Walker went way left and found a great shift but we ended up beating her to the windward mark. The rest of the fleet rounded and we began the parade down the reaching leg. Our off-wind speed left something to be desired but on the next weather leg we opened up our lead considerably. Upwind we continued to play the shifts on the middle left and we went on to decidely win the race followed by Judy Walker in second and L. Huntley in third.

The second race of the day began around 2:30 and the Race Committee still displayed a wind reading of 265 (get used to that number!) We had noticed that the wind was definitely oscillating right as much as 20 degrees. We were very pleased with our boatspeed so now we were going to be more aggressive on our tactics. We were fast off the start and about a third of the way up the beat started to work to the right. This definitely paid off as we had a good lead at the weather mark. On the first race we had noticed that as we approached the gybe mark there was a current line that pushed us up considerably so we kept low. We went on to win the race followed by L. Huntley and Judy Walker in third.

The next day the wind started out very light but by the time the race started it had picked up to it's usual 8-10 knots. The race committee again displayed the magic number of 265 but we had noticed a five degree push to the right. On the first leg we played middle right and came out great while those looking for the left shift of yesterday morning had a real hard time working back to the right. We again rounded the weather mark in first and worked to increase our boatspeed on the reaches so we would not lose distance. We opened up to the next two weather legs to finish first by a few minutes. Second was L. Huntley followed by L. Parshley.

The fourth race started late in the day at 3:30 and the wind was dying. The magic number had not changed and we worked right looking for the late afternoon California shift. Some of the gals sailed middle left and got some nice shifts and the entire fleet rounded very close. We rounded first and kept the lead on the reaches. On the next weather legs our lead continued and we finished first followed by L. Parshley and L. Huntley.

On the way out to the last race on Friday morning the breeze built up to over 12 knots but unfortunately died down on the first reach. The magic number was still the same by the Race Committee and we noted 5-10 degree oscillations to the right which we played up the beat. Again we rounded the weather mark first but the rest of the fleet was getting more aggressive with boat speed and tactics and made close racing for them. We finished the last race with a first followed by L. Parshley and then L. Huntley.

Joyce, Suzanne and myself really enjoyed sailing the regatta. We started out not knowing anyone and ended up good friends with all the gals. We look forward to defending our title next year at North Cape and hope more gals will attend. It was great to be back in the Lightning again and I hope I have more opportunities to do so.

Women's Championship — 1988

Pos.	Sail #	Skipper/Hometown & Crew	Races 1	2	3	4	5	Pts.
1	14296	Joni Palmer, Joyce Ferguson, Suzanne Spangler San Diego, CA	1	1	1	1	1	5
2	13783	Lynn Huntley, Sue Arnold, Arlene Molina Richmond, CA	3	2	2	3	3	13
3	12376	Lisa Parshley, Sandy Neuburger, Susi DeBenedetti Portland, OR	5	4	3	2	2	16
4	14111	Judith Walker, Bernadine Frerker Snyder, NJ	2	3	4	4	4	17
5	14195	Amy Beisel, Julie Palmer, Tori Langill Edinboro, PA	4	5	5	5	5	24

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