

## Fleet 164 Willow Bank Yacht Club Sailing on Cazenovia Lake, Cazenovia, New York Central New York District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
11010		RAY CUDNEY
11010		JOE HOMOLA
11853		JEFFREY A. BASSIN, DMD
12004	ANDIAMO	CHARLES I. WOODS
12004	GENTRY	SAM WOODS
12929		MARK S. JENNER
13052	FULL DECK	STEVE BURRELL
13083		STEVE RICHARDS
13172	WILD GOOSE	JONATHON FELLOWS
13369	CEANN SAILE	GEOFFREY ROTH
13933	TRIVIAL PURSUIT	RICHARD H. RYCZEK
14212	STEAM DRIVEN	JEFF SHAW
14212		ALIXANDRA S. SHAW
14369	HASTALAVISTA	FEDERICO MEIRA
14465	MOTION	RICHARD P. TUTTLE
14527		PETER KING
14849		CLAY MURPHY
14849	REDDY TOO	PAMELA MURPHY

Fleet Captain.....Pete King  
Fleet Secretary.....Sam Woods  
Fleet Treasurer.....Dick Ryczek  
Fleet Champion.....Clay Murphy  
Runner-Up.....Federico Meira

We had great fleet racing season from Memorial Day through Labor Day with two races each Sunday afternoon. Our fleet Champion was Clay Murphy, runner-up Federico Meira followed by Dick Tuttle in third.

It is important to note that Federico achieved runner-up status despite "jumping" out of his boat for a mid race swim at least once (maybe twice) during the season. He also turtled twice in order to do some deeper water swimming to dislodge his mast in the soils of the lake bottom. "I've only done that three times in my 25+ year racing career...twice this year" he was heard saying.

The rule changes made two years ago held Dick Tuttle to third place. However, points were close between the top three finishers.

Congratulations Clay, Federico and Dick!!!

We welcomed back last year Jeff and Alix Shaw and family in Steam Driven #14212. They have moved back to the area after several years in Florida.

We hosted our regular June regatta, the Caz Flash Bash, over Father's Day weekend. 18 boats participated and we had plenty of our usual unpredictable Cazenovia Lake shifty wind. Saturday morning started with back-to-back races and winds 15 to 20. Dick Hallagan managed two bullets in the tough conditions. During lunch break the wind built to over 20 with gust into the low 30s. The racing for Saturday was abandoned, but two intrepid skippers and crew (Jed Dodge and Mark Fleckenstein) headed out for a leisurely afternoon sail. Both made it

back alive with smiles on their faces and maybe some streaks on their backsides.

Sunday brought a little less wind, but with gusts over 15 not uncommon. Jed Dodge managed to edge out Dick Hallagan followed by Clay Murphy. Great racing by all including the boats in the middle and the back of the pack!!

The Caz 1 Day Regatta in September was sailed in light and shifty (read typical) conditions on Cazenovia Lake. The first 4 races were sailed with the wind out of the South, a few big shifts and both sides being favored at certain times. Lunch was the standard great home-cooked Chili Feast. After lunch the wind had shifted to the west making approaching the weather mark a real challenge. When all was done, young Billy Healy showed us how it was done using a boat kindly loaned by Bob Wardwell. He was followed by Clay Murphy and Jack Jones.

Thanks to Dave Bull for so capably running the both of the Regattas.

See [cnylightns.org](http://cnylightns.org) for more great photos of both regattas. Thanks to Alix Shaw and Pam Murphy.



Clay, A.J. & John heading up wind in Race 1 Caz One Day



The fleet at Caz Flash Bash 2004

## Fleet 166 Helsinki Sailing on the Gulf of Finland, Helsinki, Finland Finland District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
9441	KESAHEILA	RAIMO AROMAA
13435		PERTTI RASILAINEN
14018		JUKKA SALMI
14534		KARI KANERVA
14534	MASI V	KIMMO AROMAA
14534	MASI V	TERHO AROMAA
14559	RED SNAPPER	KARI KOSKINEN
14761		LAURI HEMMING
15002		MATTI HUUSKA

Fleet Captain.....Jari Aromaa



*District Champions Kimmo, Tea and Mika Aromaa.*

During the sailing season 2003 the Helsinki Fleet 166 continued to work in close co-operation with the Tuusulanjärvi fleet 456. Kimmo Aromaa with Masi V and Lauri Hemming with Red Snapper were our most active sailors. The season began in Miami when Lauri and Kimmo with Antti Varheenmaa sailed the Midwinter regatta. The sailing was fun, but results were not so fine.

At home the season began with the On the Rocks regatta. Warm weather and tricky winds. Masi V won five races out of six, a good start for the season. The next ranking regatta was sailed in Turku. This time the wind varied in strength. Both in the heavy winds and light winds Masi showed good boatspeed. Second regatta victory for the season.

In the middle of the summer Finnish sailors packed their gear and drove to Switzerland to sail the European Championships. Total 18 boats sailed in the 51st Europeans, of which five were from Finland. In the light winds the many-time champion Urs Wyler was not to be beaten. The second place was taken by Masi V. Before the last race Wyler had already secured his victory. Kimmo's tactic was so to keep his nearest threat, the Greek Orologas, behind. In the last race Kimmo was better. The middle crew of Masi V, Tea Aromaa, got a nice present for her 15th birthday, that is second place in the Europeans.

The next regatta was District Championships in Oulu. This year we had only 14 boats, the schedule was three days and nine races with upwind-downwind courses. On the first day Masi V was fast scoring 1-1-1, followed by Niko Lappalainen from Tuusula and Markku Paloma from Oulu. On the second day Masi V was not so overwhelming. Kimmo sailed 2-3-6 while Samppa Salminen sailed good and moved to second place. The last day became a thriller. After the first six races Kimmo had 14 points and Samppa 21 points. Samppa sailed good races and Kimmo's lead was shrinking. In the last race Samppa won, but Kimmo managed to rise to fifth place. This gave Masi V their second District championship.

The next race in Tampere was sailed again with strong winds on Saturday and light winds on Sunday. Kimmo was still hungry for victories and won. In Lohja the winds were rather heavy, and a new winner was found, Matti Leppänen from Tuusula. Kimmo was second. The last ranking regatta was sailed in Jyväskylä. The winner was Samppa Salminen, Kimmo took a break. The season finished traditionally with the Syysregatta in Tuusula in the end of September. Masi V was fastest again, even with a capsized and DNF.

This season was great success for Kimmo Aromaa and his crew Mika and Tea. Kimmo won the District Championship and the District Ranking series, second in the Europeans. They sailed seven regattas winning five of them. We have now a Lightning family of four generations. The late Voitto Aromaa started to build boat with his sons in the 1950's. His sons Raimo, Terho, Jorma and Markku, daughter Pirkko with spouses (and a lot of other relatives) sailed in 1950's to 1980's. Third generation, sons of Raimo and Terho, started in 1970's. The fourth generation, Mika's daughter Tea, won her first championship 47 years after her grandparents won their first championship.

## Fleet 167 Lake Davenport Sailing on the Mississippi River, Davenport IA Midwest District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
6033	KASARA	WESLEY L. JOHNSON
7391		MICHAEL G. DAWSON
8520		CHRIS ENSEY
11456		BRANDON HOLTON
12843	OFF LIKE A PROM DRESS	MIKE BLASER
12843		PERRY HANSEN
13202		BILL PAULSEN
13286		REED H. DOUGHTY
13611	WEBEJAMMIN WARP DRIVE	WILLIAM GANOE
14831		CHUCK WHITE
14857	IRRATIONAL EXUBERANCE MERMAID	MICHAEL STEFFENSON
14859		WILLIAM LOVEWELL

Fleet Secretary.....Jean Steffenson

Fleet 167 had a very inactive year with no formal races scheduled this past summer or fall. Members day-sail during the season but find it difficult enough to get boats together for organized racing.

## Fleet 169 Lac de Neuchatel Sailing on Lac de Neuchatel, Neuchatel, Switzerland Switzerland District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
11859	PINOCCHIO	HANS MUHLBACH
12572	GAROUA	ANNE-LISE PAUL
12860		CLAUDE LAMBELET
12860		JEAN-MICHEL LUTHI
12860		BERNARD COMTESSE
13840	CHIOLO LA BANDERITA	GILBERT DESPLAND
14910		KARL RAMSAUER

\*See Switzerland District report

## Fleet 173 Brant Beach Yacht Club Sailing on Little Egg Harbor at Brant Beach, New Jersey Central Atlantic District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
9628	DISCOVERY	PAUL L. ALBERTI
11575	OLD AGE AND TREACHERY	JAMES W. TITUS
13809		JEFFREY L. CARSON
13809		PETER D. PIERCE
14059		DAVID W. LONG
14325	SKAL VERBAL ABUSE	CARL REITINGER
14325		GLENN REITINGER
14660	911	J. EDWARD SERRILL
14660		BOB SEYBOLD

Fleet Captain.....Glenn Reitingner  
Fleet Champion.....Team Reitingner

Lightning fleet 173 had another successful year of sailing on Little Egg Harbor Bay. Fleet members participated in several events along the Jersey coast. Eric Reitingner sailed his family's boat at the ACCs Regatta held at TRYC in August finishing in the middle of the fleet and also crewed for Jim Carson during the Southern Circuit. Glenn, Beth, and Eric traveled to BLYC for the LBIYRA championships where they finished 2nd. Fleet members were also key in the successful running of the Laser District 10 Championships with 34 boats as well as the C420 Atlantic Coasts with 90 boats. The Club Championship was won by the Reitingers (Beth, Carl, and Glenn) with the Serrills (Barb and Ed) second and Carsons third. With Josh taking classes in Russian all summer, Eric Reitingner sailed with Jeff several times. Fleet 173 is looking forward to next year. Josh will be back to skipper the Carson boat and Eric will be spending time in Serrill's boat. Note the 2005 CADs will be held at BBYC June 25-26. Dave Coward has promised a high tide weekend.

## Fleet 175 Shreveport Sailing on Cross Lake at Shreveport, Louisiana Southern District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
9281	WHITE LIGHTNIN'	JIM WASNER
9281		TED HOPKINS
10987		GAY GRIFFITH MEANS
13220		
	JUST'N TIME	

## Fleet 178 Great South Bay Sailing on Great South Bay at Amityville, New York Long Island District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
5132	SURPRISE	MICHELLE YACOB
8780		GARY SORTINO
9670		ANGELO DI MARTINO
9697		C. THOMAS POWELL
10243	DOLPHIN III	WILLIAM I. ORCHARD
10243		ELIZABETH BREWER
10260	WINDBLOWN	WILLIAM P. WEISS
10260		JOSEPH J. TURECAMO
10690	BullsHit	ALAN PEARLMAN
11774		OTTO KRIZEK
11852	MARDI GRAS	THOMAS E. McDONALD
13544		
	ALEVAI	

Fleet Captain.....Bill Weiss

We had a down year, owing to health issues and other commitments. The mast on the fleet boat was rebuilt, but the aft lift point still has to be redone before it goes back in the water. The none of us made the districts, as it conflicted with the local invitational regatta. We're looking forward to a stronger season next year.

## Fleet 179 Pass Christian Yacht Club Sailing on the Gulf Coast at Pass Christian, Mississippi Southern District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
9696	SMOOTH	BUDDYCLARKE
10812	SPIRIT	ANDREW "BO" CLARKE
11311	OGO POGO	EUGENE H. WALET, III
12335		WHITNER CHURCH
12335		WALTER BECKER
13170	NIKE V	TED PRECHTER
13931		JEFFREY REISCH
14129	REBEL YELL	ERIC ASCHAFFENBURG
10812	SPIRIT	GUY BRIERRE
		EUGENE H. WALET, III

Fleet Captain.....Buddy Clarke  
Fleet Secretary.....Patsy S. Walet

In October two years ago Eugene H. Walet III skippered Lightning 10812 in the Hospitality Regatta in Jackson, MS and bought the boat from Dr. Larry Frost III of Fleet 62 after the regatta. With Gene's purchase of a Lightning came renewed interest in the class. Bo and Buddy Clarke bought Buck Ballatin's famous SB 9696, an Allen mid 1960's boat which they have completely restored and is now known as SMOOTH. At that time Fleet 179 was reinstated for the first time in 35 years. Then the fleet kept growing with the addition of Whitner Church 11311, Eric Aschaffenburg 13931, Guy Brierre 14129, Jeff Reisch 13170, Walter Becker and Ted Prechter 13335. Gene Walet bought 14620 from Ron Wright in October and is wanting to keep 10812 in Fleet 179.

We held denaming ceremonies for all of the Lightnings which were brought to Pass Christian Yacht Club to form Fleet 179. At that ceremony we asked Mighty Neptune and Mighty Aeolus that they strike and remove from their records the names of the Lightnings being presented to them. It was quite a sight to see these colorful hulls side by side in the hoist area. There were 2 whites, 1 black, 1 green, 1 red and 1 aqua. Of course there is a certain amount of libation which goes along with the ceremony. It was a fun event.

Our fleet was represented in the Southern District Lightning Championship sailed on Mobile Bay June 5 & 6. Buccaneer Yacht Club hosted this 5 race series. Eric Aschaffenburg came in 3rd.

Pass Christian Yacht Club hosted the Legg Mason Funds Summer in the Pass Regatta the weekend of July 24 & 25. 8 boats competed in a 4 race series with light southerly winds prevailing. 1st place went to Eric Aschaffenburg, 2nd Robert Bernhardt, Jr. and 3rd Eugene H. Walet III.

The following weekend July 31 & August 1 Pass Christian Yacht Club hosted the annual Birthday Regatta sponsored by Legg Mason Funds and the Gulf Yachting Association Lightning Championship. We had a record fleet of 12 for a 4 race series with light winds out of the southeast at 4-8 kts. all weekend. Team Brierre (Guy & Pam, Catherine 7 and Claire 5) were the winners of the Commodore Eugene Taylor trophy as G.Y.A. Lightning Champions. Guy says he has a 4 person crew with only 4 hands doing the work. They are quite a family. Robert Bernhardt was awarded the John G. Curren Trophy as the high point skipper combining the District Championship



Team Brierre (Guy, Pam, Catherine & Claire)  
who won the GYA Championship

and G.Y.A. Lightning Championship.

We are looking forward to a busy schedule for 2005 starting with the Nokia Sugar Bowl Regatta December 18 & 19 for a 5 race series. Other regattas scheduled for Pass Christian Yacht Club are:  
Southern District Championship June 3, 4 & 5  
Summer in the Pass Regatta July 23 & 24  
Birthday Regatta July 30 & 31  
G. Y. A. Race Week September 17 & 18

## Fleet 180 Conneaut Lake Yacht Club Sailing on Conneaut Lake, Conneaut, Pennsylvania Lake Erie District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
10273		MARK OKEL
10941		CORY H. ALTABET
11063		JONATHAN S. DeARMENT
13506		LAWRENCE LEVINE
13899		ROBERT C. ASMUS
14422		GEOFFREY M. TAYLOR
14444	BUD LIGHTNING	KENNETH POTE
14711		JOHN ANDREWS
14750		EDWARD J. BENEVENT
14763		CHAD WALDSCHMIDT
14763		JODY BUNTING
15184		MICHAEL MERCATORIS

Fleet Captain.....John Andrews  
Secretary Treasurer.....Mary Andrews  
Fleet Champion.....Ed Benevent  
Runner-Up.....Chad Waldschmidt

2004 was a year of milestones for the Conneaut Lake Yacht Club. The 56th year of the club started out with the Spring Banquet at the historic Hotel Conneaut. Several races were scheduled, however the forces of nature did not cooperate. There was either no wind or severe storms.



The first major event was the 'round the lake race. In a nice 10 - 12 knot breeze John Andrews prevailed followed by Ed Benevent and Chad Waldschmidt. It was at this point in the middle of summer that the July picnic was held. The milestone recognized there was the 90th birthday of Dr. Duane Good. He is one of the major pillars of the club, having introduced many of the current and past members to the joys of sailing in a Lightning.

In spite of the rainy weekends and flooding we were able to race 16 races for the summer series. After all was said and done, Ed Benevent with Randy Hollister and Greg Benevent were the Fleet Champions. They had found enough boat speed to stay ahead of Chad Waldschmidt, second, John Andrews, third and Mike Mercatoris. There was a lot of good competition on the days we were able to race. The rain and subsequent flooding of the lake was a bit of a damper, but next summer will be better.

At the Labor Day picnic the club thanked John Andrews for taking on the duties of Fleet Captain and Commodore. The slate of officers for next year is looking forward to following in John's footsteps. Commodore Kathy Rentz, Vice-Commodore Jean Pote, Lightning Fleet Captain Chad Waldschmidt and Sunfish Fleet Captain Mike Mercatoris are already working on the plans. Please visit our website, [www.clycsailing.com](http://www.clycsailing.com).



## Fleet 187 Sheboygan Yacht Club Sailing on Lake Michigan at Sheboygan, Wisconsin Midwest District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
7879	PUFF	ROBERT T. MELZER
10034		REV TOM SCHROEDER
10363		NEIL JENSEN
11188	ABOUT TIME	KC SCHMIDT
11589	D-TOXXX	BRAD GRUNEBOG
11622		TIMOTHY J. LORENZ
12389		SHEBOYGAN YOUTH
13193		DR. JOHN KASTENDIEK
13224	SECOND CHANCE	LINDSAY VOGEL
13818	WARRIOR	JOEL M LeMAHIEU
13824		MARK WIERZBACH
13930	BLACK MAGIC WOMAN	ERIC R. LARSON
13994	SILENT MOVIE	MICHO J. REICHELSDORFER
14007	I SAW ELVIS	HANS C. GRAF
14142		JASON BEMIS
14142		KARLA ZAHN
14234		TOM WRIGHT
14380	CHRISTIANA	TRYG JACOBSON
14653		STU BROTZ
14921		JAY HOGFELDT
14958		BRUCE VAN DOMMELEN
14994		DENISE STRAND-CORNELL
15158		DANIEL REICHELSDORFER
15189	LAMANAI	BEN SPILLER
15234	PTERODACTYL	PAUL REAK
		TODD WAKE

Fleet Captain.....Hans Graf  
Fleet Secretary.....Urge Overkill  
Fleet Champion.....Todd Wake  
Runner-Up.....Ric Larson

4 years ago we were lucky to get 5 people racing on a Tuesday Night. Now, you've got to be plenty good to place in the top 5 in a fleet where 12 boats routinely put to sea on a Tuesday Night. Our fleet has blossomed. There's no big thing that we've done right, just a whole bunch of little things. We began with good race management. Chris Graf, Fred Tyska, and Gail Tyska were on the water with an on time start to a fair race every Tuesday Night. We continued with a few fleet functions to give sailors the chance to get together for a few laughs, to share some stories. At our spring meeting we put together a panel of some of our more experienced sailors, and asked them to share some of their approaches to pre-race, starts, upwind, downwind to try and take some of the mystery away from how to make a boat go fast. Finally, having the North Americans return to Sheboygan has generated real excitement within the community, and Lightning Sailing has become something people want to get involved in. We've relied on great, reliable people to build this program. Dave Bronson has served as PRO for our last 3 Brotz regattas, and has helped build SYC's reputation as one of the best race management clubs in the region. Numerous volunteers have shown up with willing hands and a great attitude when it's time for a



**2004 Brotz Regatta Winners.**  
From Left, Hans Graf, Kim and Peley Orlebeke, Elmo, Christine and Todd Wake, Mark Wessel, Dino, Willie G, Tryg Jacobson, Christiana Jacobson, Jason Bemis, Ric Larson, credit Lois Cady for our groovy picture.

project. There's no secret to building a great fleet. It's just got to be something you really want to do.

In case you'd lost track of them, or meet them at a regatta, here's what Fleet 187's intrepid sailors did with their square boats last summer.

#### Report on Fleet 187 Members.

Robert Melzer, PUFF, 7879: Bob sailed his beautifully restored spruce plank boat more than ever before this summer. Although Bob does not compete, it's always a thrill to see PUFF's natural wood topsides sailing in the waters off Sheboygan.

Brad Grunneberg, D-TOXX, 11589, Crew Scott Jelinek and Dan Kerpe: Brad did a fabulous job of re-rigging his newly acquired Allen Boat. Although he didn't travel with his Lightning, D-TOXX missed very few Tuesday Night Starts and showed steady improvement all summer long.

Lindsay Vogel, SECOND CHANCE, 13224, Crew Edward Wagner and Jason Diener: Lindsay traveled more, sailed faster, and has been a vital asset to this fleet. Now that winter's here we won't see much of Lindsay as he and the family spend every available weekend skiing in Marinette, MI. See you in the spring Lindsay.

Eric Larson, Black Magic Woman, 13930, Crew Eric Larson Jr. and Lori Jost: He missed fleet champion by a tell tail this year, but I'm sure he'll be quicker than ever next year with his only slightly used Tom Allen Lightning.

Matt Wierzbach, 13842: In the year since he bought the boat, Matt's put together a good crew and some fine races. Still the youngest owner in the fleet, Matt will certainly improve next year, and plans on sailing both the Junior and the open North Americans next year.

Dan and Michou Reichelsdorfer, SILENT MOVIE, 13994, and New Movie, 14994: The New Movies was back this year. Michou, Molly, and Dan sailed most Tuesdays, and will sail even more next year.

Hans Graf, I SAW ELVIS, 14007: The first race Hans sailed I SAW ELVIS landed him on the front page of the local paper, rounding the harbor mouth in first. It was a grand highlight to the rest of the season that found ELVIS struggling to make the top 5.

Todd Wake, Pterodactyl, 15234, Crew Kristine Wake and Tony Orlebeke: Todd had a heck of a season. Midwest Districts, 1st place, Fleet 187 Champion, a North Americans campaign that convinced him he needed a new boat. Bluenose regatta with his new boat, 1st Place. Nuff said!!!

Tryg Jacobson, CHRISTIANA, 14380, Crew Christiana Jacobson and Jason Bemis: Tryg and Lightnings go back a long way. It was great to see Team Jacobson out with daughter Christiana both during most Tuesday Nights and the 43rd Brotz Regatta.

Jay Hogfeld and Bruce Van Dommelen, THE FLYING DUTCHMEN, 14921: A new boat, new sails, third place in the Last Chance Series, and a new name.

Ben Spiller, 15158, Crew Jon Ribich and Jake Den Boer: Ben sailed campaigned his new Nickels all summer long including both a Junior's and North Americans campaign. Ben is a freshman at Boston University this summer sailing on the Charles River, and alas has sold his Lightning. Fortunately, the boat didn't go far, and I'm sure will be back for all the Lightning High Holidays.

Paul Reak, 15189, Crew Jason Allard: Paul made strides this year. The North Americans, the Hoosier Regatta, the Wandering Moose, the Bluenose, Tuesday Nights.

Tom Wright and Mary Sneider 14234, Crew Dallas and Bronson: Tom just moved to Sheboygan, and the first thing he did was join the Yacht Club. The second thing he did was to start sailing Lightnings. By the end of the season he owned Todd Wake's Nickel's hull #14234. Welcome to Tom, his wife Mary, and their son Dallas.



## Fleet 189 Marblehead Sailing on the Atlantic Ocean at Marblehead, Massachusetts New England District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
9241 12706	DORJE FOG HORN LEG HORN	JEFF GRAHAM RICK HUMPHREY, JR.

## Fleet 192 Lower Susquehanna/ Northern Chesapeake Sailing on the Susquehanna River at Havre de Grace, Maryland Dixie District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
0 9544 10302 11278 12613 13047 13184 14165 14366 15024 15131	SOGGY BREAKDOWN BLUEBERRIES FOR SAL MENACE TO UPRIGHTNESS  SHAMOO I DUNNO  T2 KILLER BISCUITS NO NAME JUST CALL ME NAMES	MYRL STONE GARRETT PENSELL MARK HERGAN MARK SANFORD MIKE McCUSKER MATTHEW JAY VINCENT TOWNROW ROBERT McANALLY PATRICK PHELAN JASON WERNER CARL MUSKA

Fleet Captain.....Jason Werner  
Fleet Secretary.....Patrick Phelan  
Fleet Treasurer.....Karen L'Empereur  
Fleet Champ.....

The 3rd year of the resurrected fleet 192 was a busy one for members. Although the total number of boats was static this year, the season was notable for greater numbers of boats on the starting line for both the Thursday night Yacht Club races and the less formal Tuesday night Lightning outings. A greater number of regattas were attended both within and outside of the District with new owner Matt Jay and his lively crew seemingly attempting to set a record for consecutive weekends at a regatta!

Mike McCusker and Faith were a consistent presence on the course on Tuesdays and Thursdays and were always at or near the front. Both Vince Townrow, Carl Muska and their crews were challenging the lead when schedules allowed. Jason Werner was the boat to beat for most of the season until work relocated him to Oklahoma. With some boat dropping exercises out of the way, new boat owner Patrick Phelan and wife Karen tried to fill Jason's void. Also in the mix was our local Captain Mark Sanford who honed his skills sailing Lightnings on Lake Carlyle in earlier years. Mark seemed confused as to what event he was in, often heard to mutter "a swim breaking out" followed by a splash! Bob McAnally gets the award for greatest attendance and enthusiasm with a willingness to give up the filler to his crew, any crew! Matt Jay is co-owner of the attendance award. He would

often show up sunburned after sailing his Lightning on the bay all day.

The Pink Flamingo waited on the boat of Garrett Pensell all summer hoping to sail but alas the Stork outmaneuvered him when it landed yet another Pensell in the world. One would be remiss by attempting to recall all the hard working crew (Jen, Rich, Andrew, Mark, Kristen, Adam, Heather, Jose, Garrett, John, Mike, Nanette, Myrl) so forgiveness is asked for any not mentioned. Special thanks go out to the Marleys, Heffners, mom Werner, Myrl and Bonnie Morris for help with regatta management both on and off shore. Thanks also go to new boat owner Mark Hergan who took some excellent pictures at our regatta.

The first regatta of the year was the Southern Circuit which Werner attended with his faithful crew Patrick Phelan and Brian Debrincat. Having bailed him out of Savannah, they proceeded through the remainder of the circuit managing to occasionally best boats from the Dixie district all the while using - gasp - Quantum sails. Highlights included renewing old acquaintances, developing a new flame, and "getting Dali" after visiting the Salvador Dali gallery in St. Pete (a must for those attending the Circuit).

Mark Sanford with Andrew Winger/Phelan sailed the



Doc Gilbert Regatta to start off the Dixie schedule. They proved planing is a worthwhile Lightning activity even when the race is called. They discovered fast does not include rerouting a line through to the next unbroken cleat every few minutes! Without great finishes they had to rely on the fun which typifies this regatta at Leesylvania Park with host fleet 50.

Our fleet hosted the Dixie Districts for the first time and managed to offer long courses and to the delight of our District Commodore didn't have to tangle with bridges! The event was typified by great winds, great participation (29 boats-up from recent Districts), great competition and good grub on shore with folks cooking their own steak. With one exception, the fleet managed to make it



around the course successfully with a few locals challenging the front runners who as it turned out were usually from Annapolis. One of our unnamed guests (cp), managed to provide on the water entertainment by doing the sailing version of a Chinese fire drill! She found it helps to be in 1st place for maximum crowd viewing (see flashes for article).

The fleet anxiously looked forward to the 2nd annual Susquehanna River Cup, which is a team race against our sailing brethren from Fleet 253. The racing was close, tough and occasionally contentious with the last race needed to decide the outcome. The more southerly fleet 192 prevailed to retain bragging rights until we meet next summer.

The annual Fleet 253's Sweet Corn regatta was its normal bag of tricks. With high winds on Saturday, and none on Sunday! Saturday was ideal Lightning weather, with winds in the 15-18 range, with some higher gusts and all on dead flat water with a good opposite current. Several local boats made the trip up, with McCusker, Werner, Sanford, and Jay all making appearances. The winds made it a shorter regatta, but it was fun for everyone.

In August we hosted our 3rd annual Duck Challenge regatta, named for the beautiful wood decoys which are a local specialty and the centerpiece trophies. The wind gods continue to bless us for this event and we had 2 days of great sailing with the results favoring the locals who earned the first 4 places!

The team of Matt Jay/Adam Adoleza and Kristen Lopez represented the fleet at Fleet 50 President/Leukemia cup in early Sept. only to discover the quirks of local race management and the "thrilla of the Hydrilla" on the Potomac. Good improvement in race outcome was seen at this venue.

In an attempt to capitalize on their successes, several members traveled to Solomons Invitational and promptly took 3rd (Phelan)/4th (Werner) in a close battle at this beautiful location. Team Jay had some promising moments showing that the rigorous regatta schedule is paying dividends. Rich Morris demonstrated his overcoming shyness techniques at the Tiki Bar for us on Saturday, while Adam theorized that slowing your competition in the parking lot of the hotel would pay off on the course. Thanks go to our friends there who provided a great environment for fun and showed us the way to go in a dying breeze and current.

The Borderline regatta (among other regattas unmentioned) was attended by the road warriors (Jay/Lopez/Adoleza). When not wrangling with launches and local customs they discovered their boat loves water. Among other lessons this year, they have discovered the many uses of tape - never leave home without it. They also found their Lightning can pitchpole and they witnessed the drowning of a Lightning (flotation is a good thing).

As we wind down the year with Hamptons "Last Fling" Regatta in our sights we look forward to increasing the number of boats in the fleet for the coming year. We expect to increase the level of skill and participation among crew, who are truly one of the best resources as

friends and future boat owners for our fleet and this great class.

## Fleet 194 Mission Bay Yacht Club Sailing on Mission Bay & Pacific Ocean at San Diego, California California District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
8778		DAN GRAVATT
8966	EXCALIBUR	RICHARD HOFFMAN
11603	DIRECT ACCESS	JOEL F. VANN
13742		RICHARD HOCKADAY
13819	FLIPPER	ERIC SWAYZE
13842		MERLIN GREEN
13860		DAN GRAVATT
14095	PUDDLEGLUM	KIRK & EDNA JOHNSON
14202		GREG LEMBO
14263		PETER BELLIN
14308	MOJO	JEFF COPPENS
14473		SCOTT FINKBONER
14486	JJEB	JOLENE NORTHROP
		JOHN NORTHROP
14572		TIMOTHY JEHLE
14846	WHITE LIGHTNING	MICHAEL & RICHARD BREWER
14904	HANA HOU	SCOTT FINKBONER

Fleet Co-Captains. Pete Bellin and Katie Ham  
Fleet Secretary/Treasurer.....Edna Johnson  
Fleet Champion.....Mike Brewer  
District Champion.....Scott Finkboner

Beginning on January 11th with the Winter Series and ending on December 12th with the Hot Rum Series, our fleet enjoyed a year of sailing in the best weather in the country. Sailing in both the relatively sheltered waters of Mission Bay, and in the ocean just out the channel, the fleet was active all year. There were 21 club regattas and 18 summer TNTs (Thursday Night Things which start at 6:00 p.m.). The Lightning fleet had to serve as race committee for three of the TNTs, but participated in the other 15. Dan Gravatt sailed in almost all of them, thus getting his name on the "Most Dedicated Lightning Sailor" trophy.

Our districts were sailed out of Mission Bay Yacht club in the ocean in June. The first day it was sunny and just breezy enough to keep the crew busy; the second day, however, the wind picked up enough to favor the heavier crews. Scott Finkboner and Pete Bellin tied for first with Scott winning the tie-breaker. Mike Brewer was third. Pete drove all the way to Buffalo Canoe Club to represent the west coast at a very windy North Americans. He brought back a new boat for Jeff Coppens and a new mast for Kirk Johnson. What a great fleet captain!

Our fleet champion this year was Mike Brewer; this was determined by a series of club races and regattas. He and his crew Dick Brewer and Katie Ham represented the Lightning fleet in the Mission Bay Yacht Club Champion-

ship regatta which was sailed in Solings. Besides having his name engraved on a very old perpetual trophy, the winner gets his own parking space with his name posted on it. While they didn't win the coveted parking spot, they did have the opportunity to compare the Soling and the Lightning. At the end of the year, they're still sailing the Lightning.

For the first time in 34 years, we had to cancel the California Lightning Circuit for lack of boats. At the present time the fleet is considering alternatives for next year. We welcome comments and suggestions. Yes, its a long way to come, but it's really worth the trip!

Our Bowen Memorial Regatta was sailed in the ocean in August over two days in perfect weather. After 5 very long and hotly contested races, Mike Brewer won. Kirk Johnson was second and Jeff Coppens was third. New fleet member Dan Gravatt was the only skipper to travel to the northwest for the PCCs and to Los Angeles for the King Harbor charity race in September. Brewer and Finkboner also went up to San Francisco Bay for the Totally Dinghy Regatta which Finkboner won.

We welcomed two new skippers this year - Greg Lembo and Dan Gravatt, and, in the spring, a new crew - Jolee Ann Northrop. Proud parents are John and Jolene Northrop. She's already been out on their Lightning several times. Now that's starting young.



*Planing in the Pacific with a rare storm-driven south wind*

**Fleet 196 Surf City Yacht Club**  
Sailing on Manahawkin Bay at Surf City, New Jersey  
Central Atlantic District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
12454	STREAK IN	CHARLES N. HOWE
14068	PUNCH TOO	GEORGE SCHMIDT
14300	SCRAP METAL II	RICHARD M. WARREN
14300	SCRAP METAL II	RANDY SWARTLEY
14595	LIBERTY	ROBERT RIZZITELLO
14635		DARRYL WASKOW
15116		BILL MERGENTHALER
15139	FAST HORSES	JACK ELFMAN
		CINDY LISTER-ELFMAN
15175		TIMOTHY G. ROBINSON
		FRANK TEMME
		ANDREW TEMME
15218		STEVE WARREN

Fleet Captain.....Bob Rizzitello  
Fleet Champion.....Rich Warren

The past year had significant highs and lows for our fleet.

We started our year with Bill Mergenthaler joining our fleet and Steve Warren accepting delivery on a new boat. Our first day on the water was May 30, with medium wind that built to heavy. Most of our fleet was on the water and we had three junior sailors with us: Alyssa Rizzitello, Mike Warren, and Harry Waskow. Our fleet racing series started on June 26 and the year of racing included the usual amount of overturned boats and men overboard. Mike Warren, an occasional junior skipper, had his first Lightning victory during the year. Rich Warren won the Fleet Championship and Bill Mergenthaler won the Commodore Series.



**JACK ELFMAN**

Darryl Waskow was our Club's Race Committee Chair and he worked hard for all of our S.C.Y.C. fleets this year in recruiting and training race committee volunteers. Many thanks go to the individuals who participated in the Lightning race committee. They did a great job running the races smoothly and we greatly appreciate their efforts. Thank you also goes to Fleet No. 335 from Barnegat Light Yacht Club who joined us multiple times and added to our racing experiences.

Our Fleet was very active in the away regatta and championship events. During the winter, Jack Elfman tied for first in the Masters Division of the Lightning Winter Championship & Master's Regatta. Bill Mergenthaler finished eleventh in the Southern Circuit. In regional events, Jack Elfman placed fifth in the N.J. State Championship and sixth in the CAD Championships. Bill Mergenthaler finished ninth at the Atlantic Coast Championship, which was a very windy event. Both Steve Warren and Jack Elfman went on the road to the North American Championship.



In regattas closer to home, Bill Mergenthaler finished first in the LBIYRA Championship. Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club's Down Bay Regatta was held on the only hurricane-threatening weekend that had no wind in memory. In two days of racing, we were able to get one race finished and Bill Mergenthaler took first place.

Our Manahawkin Bay Cup Regatta was one we will never forget. The day started out with light winds at the beginning of the first race. The combination of Hurricane Ivan moving past the coast and a cold front coming in from the West caused the winds to kick up well over 25 MPH during the first race. We were able to finish the first race on one of the fastest down winds most of us have seen. With teamwork, we were able to get all the sailors and boats out of the water safely during a period when wind gusts were reported at 45 MPH. Tim Robinson won the regatta. This was the first time Tim has won The Manahawkin Bay Cup that is held in memory of his later grandfather, Frank W. Temme, Sr.



JACK ELFMAN

Unfortunately, later in the evening our fleet captain, Jack Elfman, passed away. Jack was a great leader and mentor for our fleet, other Lightning sailors, and sailing in general. Jack put in effort every day to develop new talent: whether it was a youth sailor, a new member in the fleet, or pushing our experienced members just a little more. Some of Jack's formal support of sailing included serving as a Co-founder and Past Commodore of the LBI Yacht Racing Association, Past Commodore of North Jersey Yacht Racing Association, Past VP of International Lightning Class Association, Past Race Committee and Waterfront Chairman of the Surf City Yacht Club, US Sailing Area C Mallory Cup Chairman, and US Sailing Senior Race Management Officer. Jack has a large legacy of sailors whom he supported and developed.

We were fortunate as a fleet to be able to send two boats to the 2004 Mallory Cup, which was sailed in Lightnings, and an event that Jack had a large part in organizing. Tim Robinson and Rich Warren both skippered boats and finished sixth and ninth, respectively. All reports indicated it was a great event and very well organized. This was just one of the many contributions that Jack will be remembered for by the Lightning class.

## Fleet 198 Chataouqua

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
13922 14948 14948	BACARAT	JAMES D. NEVILLE CAROLNEVILLE BOB SCANLON

## Fleet 204 Macatawa Bay

Sailing on Lake Michigan at Macatawa Bay, Macatawa, Michigan

### Michigan District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
2494 11078 12604 12830 13597 13805 13805 13958 14447 14531 15193	DAHL-FIN II  RIGHT DESIGN     WALT OH MY! DJEMBE FLASH RIDER	ROBERT E. DAHL BOB GARLINGHOUSE SCOTT VISSER ERIC ASH JAMES L. BATTS MARK ANDREW JOHN DANIEL BRIAN HUCKABEE TROY SCHARLOW JAY WALLACE MICHAEL ANTHONY NORRIS

## Fleet 206 Club Nautico Olivos

Sailing on Lake Olivos at Buenos Aires, Argentina

### Argentina District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
8411 8411 11043 11043 13360 13682 13682 13682	REPUNTE V  MANCARRON GUALICHO    PINGO	LUIS MIGUEL BORDINO JAVIER PASCUCHI OSVALDO BORDINO PABLO GUSTAVO BORDINO FRANCISCO CHAINE ALBERTO ZANETTI MABEL VILA VALERIA VILA

## Fleet 212 Atwood Yacht Club

Sailing on Atwood Lake at Dellroy, Ohio

### Ohio District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
4444 8637 8637 10430 11508 11788 12845 12894 14445	SOPHIE  SKIMMER YELLOW JACKET VAMPIRA THE GRAY FOX	VAL ZALAISKALNS STEVEN SASSA RICHARD HACKETT MICHAELPARTRIDGE STEPHEN JOLLY DR. STEPHEN W. SABO CARL W. HUMMER, JR. LARRY ROBINSON DAVID M. GALL

## Fleet 215 Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club

Sailing on Lake Saint Louis at Montreal, Quebec

### St. Lawrence Valley District

BOAT#	BOAT NAME	OWNER
12568 13667 13822 13855 14114 14354 14398 14591 14768 14768 15082	     NICKELS & DIMES  KRISTA TOO	FRANCOIS CHARBONNEAU JEAN-FRANCOIS CLOUTIER RUSSEL C. SCRIM LOUIS BROUSSEAU ALAIN RANGER JACQUES TROTTIER MARK OSTERMAN ALAIN BOUCHER PETER HALL JEAN-FRANCOIS SIMARD MICHAEL HOLLY



Fleet Captain.....Valérie Tardif-Holly  
Fleet Champion.....Peter Hall

The highlight of the year: our own Chantal Léger qualified Canada and herself for the Olympic games in Athens. She represented our country very well! We are so very proud of her. She received special recognition from the RSLYC for her fantastic performance.

The second highlight of the summer is our new super keen new fleet members Louis Brousseau and Alain Ranger. They have both participated fully in the racing and have had an exponential learning curve. They both sailed with their sons and it is great to lower the age limit and have some great new racers! The more the merrier!

Again this year we had a great social scene. After our Wednesday evening racing, many of us enjoyed recapping the highlights over a few drinks and food. We also had 2 BBQs. One to kick off the season and wish good luck to Chantal, hosted by the Holly's and another one to close off the season and to welcome back Chantal and Jay who were away all summer. The second BBQ was hosted by the Hall's.

We also hosted the Canadian Championships on July 3rd and 4th. The winds were light to medium. The Race committee headed by Patrick Casey did a terrific job in difficult conditions. They were able to run four races. We had travellers coming from Thunder Bay, Toronto, New York and Vermont. It was a very fun regatta. We had a great water polo match in the pool after racing on Saturday, a great BBQ at the club and most of us went to the Jazz festival.

Let's not forget the racing. The fleet was very competitive and the racing was very close. Here are the top 3 positions:

1st: Michael Holly, Valérie Tardif-Holly, Patrick Littée  
2nd: Peter Hall, Christine Wheatley, Frédérique Gagnon  
3rd: Jamie Allan, Andrew Allan, Pieter DeVries  
Thanks to the club and to all who helped make this regatta a success.

Some of us travelled to our neighbors in Burlington, Vermont for the spring regatta and the Leaf Peeper. Michael Holly wins the prize again for the most travelling this year.

Now our only regret is that Big Al Boucher has left us to go to Bali until April 2005. On a good note, Jay Deakin got engaged to his sweetheart Cindy. They will tie the knot on February 5th, 2005.

Our Fleet Champion this year is Peter Hall with Christine Wheatley and Frédérique Gagnon They won the racing this summer!

A great summer it was for all in Montreal and abroad!!!!



Photo of the participants



Patrick Littée, Michael Holly,  
Valérie Tardif-Holly



Peter Hall (not on picture),  
Christine Wheatley,  
Frédérique Gagnon



Andrew Allan, Jamie Allan, Pieter DeVries