

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

A CHARMED LIFE AT THE NAs

Matt Burridge

Since failing miserably at the 1976 Sheboygan NAs, I was privileged to sail for skippers who taught me a lot about how to make a Lightning perform well in many difficult conditions. I owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Shore, Bill Buckles, Mark Bryant, Cully Ward, Phil Grotheer and Ric Larson for inviting me onto their boats and teaching me over the years. My team of Dan and Tobi Moriarty and I used all of this knowledge to win the NAs in wide ranging conditions in 2005.

We warmed up by sailing one regatta together, the 2004 Red Flannels, and the team dynamic was just so good we had to come to Sheboygan. We stayed relaxed, felt like we were really dark horses and just let it roll. Although we were confident, our results surprised even us.

The challenge for us on 14834 was to start well and let our speed do its damage. I've sailed in Sheboygan eleven times over 31 years and felt very comfortable with what "curve balls" the lake could toss at us. We needed to be "curve ball hitters" to have a prayer in this regatta.

I was really paranoid about not being good enough to live up to the level of my teammates in this regatta. Since I could not sail much this year, I had to do something different to get ready. I

focused on physical training and mental visualization techniques to be ready to go sailing. When it came time to sail, I was "frothing at the mouth" ready to go and, in reality, this team did not really have a weak link.

I like to sail crew weight light and work harder upwind so the light weight can pay a speed dividend downwind. Most of the time I race in under 12 knots of breeze, so 450–460 pounds of crew weight is what I seem to do the best with. With Dan and Tobi on board we were right in this range and everything felt just fine.

Race #1—Dan coached us to a clean start with workable speed in the front row, but we looked for a good lane and tacked to port in a traversing wave condition with about 12 knots of breeze. Somehow we snuck around the windward mark with a small lead and extended the lead downwind. The port jibe felt especially fast as the wave and wind angles allowed for some moderate surfing by our team. The next 2 legs were a blur but we were starting to realize that the local ace, Todd Wake and his team of his wife, Christine, and Ben Spiller were very fast and smart in probing the right side of the beats and then bouncing out at the proper time.

The race ended:

- 1) Burridge
- 2) Stix
- 3) Wake
- 4) Fastiggi



Tobi Moriarty, Dan Moriarty & Matt Burridge

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Race #2—We were lucky enough to have another good start but saw some transoms early as the left paid on the first beat. In fact, we had been hung out to dry on the right but hit the top 1/3 of the beat with a big lane to leeward. I set the sails up to be a bit more forgiving so I could focus on steering the waves. During this time the main was never cleated; I played it on every wave for the rest of the beat while full hiking to see the waves (so I could steer) while Dan was holding the boat was rock solid in terms of heel, with absolutely no arcing with the mast. My training was definitely paying off as fatigue was not a factor despite the activity level. Tobj just said, "I don't know what you guys are doing but don't stop it, we are flying." As a result we were able to pull within 5-6 boat lengths of Dave Starck's team from Buffalo as they rounded the first mark.

Dave was flying downwind and I was afraid they were pulling away but after exiting the left gate (looking downwind) we worked on climbing in altitude and started to gain. Dave tacked to consolidate and went back to the left where his gains had been made the last time upwind. We bounced right and in five minutes had been lifted over Dave. We rounded and covered to the finish for the second win. As intoxicating as this was the conditions were changing and we had to re-tune the mast blocks, etc to be ready for race #3.

For the third race of the day the wind died, lumpy water stayed and fog closed in. We found a good lane after the start and started slogging to "right-land" just trying to avoid tacking until the breeze freshened. Finally we had to tack anyway and arrived at the first windward mark behind Larry MacDonald and right behind Dave Starck. We were getting pretty good at finding Dave on the race course, but he and Larry motored away and we hung on for third at the leeward gate. The course was shortened making it a three legger.



Jim Carson, Hans Graf & Tara Schon

Upwind in the fog I noticed Starck falling off and reaching across our bow to the finishing line which I suddenly saw was only about 100 yards away. Dave put us away and finished at the pin, with us 2nd and Bill Fastiggi 3rd. Larry was sailing away in the fog having missed the finish line due to little visibility. We were definitely lucky to have escaped disaster.

Race #4—The next morning Lake Michigan looked like Carlyle: flat water, puffy with big shifts. We did the "Carlyle Shimmy" between the two seams of the wind to cut the risk of making a big, painful mistake and get caught on the wrong side of a big shift. We knew this approach would not likely win the race but we needed a safe keeper, not a bullet, at this point in the regatta.

This strategy worked well and we rounded in the top group of five boats behind Ched Proctor's team of Doug Barlow and Katherine Josenhans who had a healthy lead. We worked the run, aggressively jibing for puffs and shifts and chose the proper gate to round 3rd. Up the beat we stretched a bit from the closing group and rounded a secure 2nd.



Bill Fastiggi, Jeff Linton & Suzy Coburn

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Tito Gonzalez and Jody Swanson had been right behind us, but Dave Starck had slipped to 11th, getting caught on the left of beat two while the right enjoyed more wind. There was a major dog fight setting up for overall places 2nd-6th.

After 4 races we looked pretty good with finishes of 1-1-2-2 for 6 points; Dave Starck had 25 points with an 11th looking like a throw out; Todd Wake with no bad races and 25 points (3-8-9-5), Bill Fastiggi with 28 points and a 14th looming as a throw out.

Defending Champion Jody Swanson and her team of Skip Dieball and Matt Schon were looking very good (after she was overcoming a case of bronchitis) and were sailing as fast and smart as always.

Race #5 was the "run for the roses" for us. We did not have time to get nervous as while re-tuning the blocks, etc. I noticed our vang wire was breaking. We jury-rigged a replacement and by the time that task was completed, I had just enough time to be OCS for the start of the biggest race of the series. Way to be conservative, NOT! We restarted and starting looking for a ray of hope on the right.

Tobi saw a puff moving in from the right (where the shoreline is lower on the horizon and the Sheboygan River empties into Lake Michigan), we met it and tacked to starboard. We were not quite on the layline when the lift started, strengthened and took us from despair to redemption. Although Darrell Peck and Tom Allen Jr were long gone, we rounded 8th. During the run we worked to 7th and realized that boats close to us in the standings were not having good races. Bill Fastiggi, Todd Wake and Dave Starck were all having races that could be their throw outs. We did the math and figured that if we held position we'd be the winners



David Stix, Amy Simonsen & Mark Wessel

with a race to spare. Trying to race hard and stay focused was a bit difficult given this realization, but I felt as though an enormous weight had been lifted just before we crossed the finish line.

The euphoria—besides the welling pandemonium on our boat the Fisher, Swanson, Hayes, Probst and Tom Allen, Jr teams, who had finished ahead of us, ragged their sails, stood in their boats and clapped for our comeback and result. This recognition coming from our peers, friends and fellow competitors was overwhelming. It was also the most touching display of sportsmanship that I've ever experienced in sailing. I still get wobbly and goose bumps when I think of it.

My personal journey from having to be rescued during qualifier #1 in Sheboygan '76 to winning the '05 event with a race to spare is truly amazing to me, even now. I owe it all to Dan and Tobi Moriarty's expertise, raw talent and patience with me along with our collective preparation. When good luck smiled on us we did not waste it.

A special Thank You goes to Larry MacDonald for filling the trophy with champagne at the banquet. I hope everyone that wanted one got a sip to help us celebrate. Also thanks to the ladies who donated their undergarments to adorn our rigging in the wee hours of Friday morning, clearly this is a good luck gesture. And we say "See you at Mission Bay Yacht Club for the 2006 NAs."



Tom Allen Jr., John Humphrey, Bill Proctor

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



North American Championship

Sheboygan Yacht Club

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

August 8–12, 2005

Sailed: 6—Discards: 1

Sail	Bow	Skipper	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
14834	34	Matt Burridge	Dan Moriarty, Tobi Moriarty	1	1	2	2	7	DNS 37*	13
15238	20	Bill Fastiggi	Suzy Coburn, Jeff Linton	4	14	3	7	33*	6	34
15125	41	Jody Swanson	Skip Dieball, Matty Schon	7	17	23*	4	6	1	35
15252	52	David Starck	Scott Ikle, Joe Starck	11	2	1	11	28*	14	39
15234	44	Todd Wake	Kristine Wake, Ben Spiller	3	8	9	5	26*	15	40
14688	33	Brian Hayes	Lesley Cook, Rick Bernstein	22	9	6	6	4	31*	47
15202	42	Neal Fowler	Katie Offerman, Todd Johnson	8	4	20	15	27*	2	49
15208	6	Jim Allen	Jane Allen, John Morley	10	10	7	17	35*	7	51
14740	99	Bill Faude	Jared Drake, Ernie Dieball	5	36*	16	8	22	5	56
11011	35	Tito Gonzalez	Diego Gonzalez, Fernando Gallyas	14	3	DNF 37*	3	25	12	57
15181	19	Greg Fisher	Jo Ann Fisher, Marc Eagan	16	18*	14	14	5	11	60
14453	10	Darrell Peck	Allison Webber, Kara Ganter	21	15	34*	16	3	9	64
15251	51	Debbie Probst	Craig Cobbum, Conor Healy	12	16	19	24*	2	21	70
15119	24	Ric Larson	Eric Larson, Lori Jost	13	11	31	36*	12	3	70
15168	15	Tom Allen, Jr	John Humphrey, Bill Pictor	26	33*	10	12	1	23	72
14994	47	Dan Reichelsdorfer	Michou Reichelsdorfer, Luke Franke	29*	13	8	28	17	8	74
14821	61	Ched Proctor	Kathryn Josenhans, Doug Barlow	18	23*	18	1	18	20	75
14975	39	Paul Wurtzebach	Joe Zechlinski, Monica Trejo	6	31*	26	21	10	13	76
14938	38	David Stix	Amy Simonsen, Mark Wessel	2	6	25	35	36*	10	78
15240	18	Steve Constants	Chloe Constants, David Constants	24	7	12	26*	9	26	78
14957	57	Ryan Ruhlman	Nick Turney, Paul Abdullah	20	26*	5	19	24	16	84
14734	69	Jorge Gonzalez	Tomas Depolo, Claudio Gonzalez	17	32	4	9	29	DNF 37*	91
15257	49	Rob Ruhlman	Abby Ruhlman, Karl Felger	15	29	13	31*	30	4	91
15193	17	Michael Norris	Christine Norris, JP del Solar	30	21	11	13	34*	17	92
14532	37	Bob Harkrider	Dave Johnson, Andy Buckingham	9	24	32*	23	16	22	94
15246	12	Larry MacDonald	Joy MacDonald, Billy Healy	23	19	15	20	19	25*	96
15064	9	Richard Walsh	Tina Walsh, Alec Smith	19	20	30*	18	13	27	97
15206	7	William Hofmeister	Jan Davis, Charlie Clifton	35*	5	35	10	31	29	110
15122	22	Jim Carson	Hans Graf, Tara Schon	28	27	21	34*	8	30	114
14842	3	Charlie Hess	Alex Hess, Beth Groesbeck	25	25	27	29*	20	18	115
14924	27	Jeff Coppens	Ed Petit de Mange, Paul Tarantino	33	34*	29	22	14	19	117
15103	64	Steve Davis	Travis Maier, Mike Ledger	34	35*	28	25	11	24	122
15172	23	James Taylor	Bryan Riddiford, Stan Cummins	36*	22	24	27	21	28	122
15016	16	Jamie Brickell	Susie Brickell, Kimberly Brickell	32	28	17	33*	15	33	125
14665	11	Gregory Hall	Jennifer Hall, Christopher Lagan	27	30	22	30	23	32*	132
15221	8	Dave Vieregg	Justin Proctor, Cortney O'Connor	31	12	33	32	32	34*	140

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



Bill Fastiggi, Jeff Linton & Suzy Coburn



Bill Fause, Jared Drake & Ernie Dieball



Kristine Wake and Todd Wake



Peter Orlebeke, Kimberly Orlebeke & Michael Elmergreen



Neil Fowler, Katie Offerman & Todd Johnson

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

1st



Dan Moriarty, Toby Moriarty & Matt Burrridge

2nd



Suzy Coburn, Jeff Linton & Bill Fastiggi

3rd



Skip Diebal, Matty Schon & Jody Swanson

SPECIAL TROPHIES



McDermott Trophy—Steve Constants

For most improved from 2004 Qualifying Series to 2005 Qualifying Series.

Steve, who last year qualified 97th with 89 points, this year qualified 8th with 11 points

Presented by Bill Clausen to:
David Constants, Steve Constants & Chloe Constants



Fallon Trophy—William Hofmeister

For the last boat to qualify into the Championship Fleet.

Presented by Bill Clausen to:
Charlie Clifton, William Hofmeister & Jan Davis



Kaleigh Wilday Trophy—Luke Franke

For youngest competitor.

Presented by David Starck



Swanson Trophy—Maegan Ruhlman

To promote and encourage women skippers.

Presented by David Starck to:
Patrick Wilson, Marte Foster & Maegan Ruhlman



Thermis Trophy—Darrell Peck

To the highest finisher in the Championship Fleet who has never qualified before.

Presented by Jane Allen to:
Darrell Peck, Allison Webber & Kara Garber



Jack Elfman

Memorial Trophy—Ric Larson

To highest finishing Master who also competed in the Masters Championship.

Presented by Bill Clausen to:
Ric Larson, Eric Larson & Lori Jost

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Jason Werner

Heather Dodd, Jose Monteiro Mariceu

"It was the shirts" said my forward crew Heather Dodd while admiring her embroidered crew shirts while at the banquet. Ok...so the shirts did make us look good, but do they truly help make the boat faster? I think we proved one thing, that a good mental attitude can make the boat go fast...so, yes, I'd say it was the shirts. And if there was an award for shirt coordination...I'd say we won it!

Since this was my first NAs and I expected steep competition, I was a bit nervous when arriving. Thankfully, the Sheboygan Yacht Club and all the ILCA/NAs volunteers made measurement a total breeze. I would actually say too easy...it seems we arrived in a "down time", and everyone was hot to trot to do something! Hard Hat Hank and 20+ folks converged on the boat and in minutes it was stripped, measured, weighed, and back ready to go. I barely had time to park the RV...wow! Nice job everyone!

After Heather made sure to get the correct parking space for the boat (never knew how important that was!), and of course getting the required beverages, we got parked, rigged, measured, and ready to race. So, off to find the lodging location.

A short 300-foot drive from the club was the RV parking lot. Can you say convenient? Upon pulling up we were greeted by a crazy southerner who was already set up. Can you say RV envy? He had the sexiest RV setup...wow! Of course this is Big Daddy (Bob Harkrider), who was incredibly helpful getting us parked, wired to electricity, and comfortable in our new digs. Is everyone in the class this helpful and nice? I hope so.

Of course we did come up to race, and race we did. The RC had some difficult and shifty conditions to deal with, from the wind swinging 30-40 degrees even on the best days, to fog, lack of wind, and even some perfect offshore flat water sailing (with 20-30 degree shifts of course!). But they did awesome, and we were able to focus on sailing fast and know that we had good race courses. Job well done!

The first two days of Qualifying Races were "sea breeze" days, and that means waves. Since I am mainly a flat water sailor, it frankly kicked our butts! It was frustrating, slow, and to be honest there was a point in time where we were debating about continuing in the future. The Lightning is a great class, but sailing in waves is perhaps one of the most frustrating things about these boats!



Jose Monteiro Mariceu, Jason Werner & Heather Dodd

Unfortunately, we did not qualify well, and were a bit frustrated with our results so far.

Day 3 was perhaps our best day—at least mentally! We had gone out in the morning, but postponed for an hour or so. When it looked like the calm was holding, the PRO sent us back in to wait out the calm on land. We were very happy to spend the day on shore, trying hard to forget about the qualifying races. Personally, I think a layday is a good idea! We took the time to look the boat over, found some minor things to check, and washed and waxed the boat. Of course, that was why we were slow...the boat was dirty!

Day 4 (and the first day of Championship Races) started with a new outlook for us because not only did we have great crew shirts, but a clean boat! The first race we finished 17th. We were actually very happy with this considering we started dead last. Starting was definitely not my forte for this week! But this brought some renewed hope that we could be competitive, and perhaps have some fun this week while sailing. Race 2 was quite a bit better with a 9th. Things were looking up for sure.

Race 3 was again a weird race. With a diminishing breeze, fog, and plenty of leftover chop, it was a real challenge to even find the marks at times! I remember rounding the top mark in perhaps 20th and hoisted the spinnaker. Between the light breeze and the chop, we could not keep the spinnaker full; not even half-full. We tried sailing HOT but the waves just kept knocking the breeze out of our spinnaker. We watched one boat simply point directly downwind and pull away, even though

their spinnaker was not drawing! We decided to follow suit and pointed our nose downwind, instead of following the 19+ boats reaching in front of us (we could only see 3-4 in the fog soup!). Slowly but surely, we passed boats as they jibed back, and suddenly we were right next to Pierce Barden, who was the leader! Of course, we had no clue where we were in the fog but we were in good company! Now where was that leeward mark? We sailed the compass, and ended up about 50 feet from the marks. A shortened course sent us back through the fog to the finish line. The fog was thick, but not far off the water. At one point, I had Heather stand up and she could see over the fog to one of the RC boats. We had overstood a bit, so we re-adjusted course and finished in a terrific 5th.

Day 5 (and the last day of Championship Races) started with us in contention for top 5! Wow! We were in 7th place with 31 points (and a 17 for a throwout) I thought we had a chance to pull up to perhaps 3rd or 4th with a good day. What did we know?

Race 4 started in conditions that were a lot like home. Thank heavens, that means less waves. On our way out we saw that the "right" side of the course was showing the gusts more than the left, and that the gusts were all rightys. Hmm...let's remember that. After starting poorly, of course, we got bounced to the right. Perhaps they did us a favor. We found that just about everyone sailed on starboard for a bit, and suddenly we were right and in clear air. Only Maegan Ruhlman pushed further right, so we started tacking in shifts and pressure but stayed to the right. We rounded the top mark in 4th. A great downwind run saw us push to 2nd, and another great upwind saw us in 1st by ten lengths or so. We sailed directly to the mark on the last leg to give us our first and only win of the series! We could have quit right then and been happy! Maegan finished in 2nd with Bob Bush in 3rd.

Race 5 brought similar conditions, though some "lefts" were showing. We started at the boat-end of the line during a huge left shift, went right, and as we went the wrong way realized that everyone had a huge port tack lift inside of us, but we didn't have it! "Sail to the header," is the advice in all of the tactical books, so we decided to tack, and took a LOT of transoms. A lot. We passed through the Blue Fleet spinnakers with no problems, and ended up on the left side of the course. Left? Hmm...let's hope for a lefty...and there it was! We ended up rounding the top mark in 4th and held that til the end. Pierce had a great race leading at every mark. The most important thing was that several of our closest competitors finished behind us...we thought that 3rd was a possibility now!

Race 6 was a nervous one. We thought that 3rd place was a possibility, and with some luck we could pull it off. We once again worked to the right, though just about everyone had figured it out by now. But we finally had a start that allowed us to sail in clear air, and with an awesome first downwind run, we pulled away with Stu Nickerson and Bill Mauk. I think the lead changed 3-4 times between all of us on the last 2 legs. Stu was able to hold onto a great mark rounding and moved from 3rd to 1st, with us holding 2nd.

Sailing back to the club, we were trying to figure out the combinations, and I thought we might have got 3rd, but there were simply too many combinations. We had finished 1, 4, and 2 on the last day, but had no idea where that would put us at the end of the tally.

We spent about 2 hours putting the boat away, and lots of people saying "good job," but we still didn't know we had won. At least until Big Daddy and Company came flying out of nowhere with a "What? You didn't know what a 1-4-2 can do for you?" Well, we know now!

I want to thank Heather Dodd for the great job all week, and her company Capital Logo, Inc for providing the really-cool embroidered team shirts, technical shirts, hats, and bags:

(www.CapitalLogoInc.com). [I date her so I have to say this!]. And another big thanks to Jose Monteiro Mariceu, our Brazilian Navy Captain, for the past two years and wish him the best when he goes back home. These two keep the boat going fast. Also, Thank-You to SYC and the folks running the boat ramp ATVs, and to Greg Fisher and the North Sails folks for answering my questions, and all the volunteers for making a great event even better! I couldn't have imagined a better run event. And of course, most of all I want to thank the ILCA community for making the Lightning the best one-design-class out there...and, yes, I'm sticking with it!



Pierce Barden, Paul Whitesides & Doug Sherwood

PRESIDENT'S CUP



President's Cup Sheboygan Yacht Club Sheboygan, Wisconsin August 8–12, 2005 *Sailed: 6—Discards: 1*

Sail	Bow	Skipper	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
15024	53	Jason Werner	Heather Dodd, Jose Monteiro	17*	9	5	1	4	2	21
15241	40	Pierce Barden	Paul Whitesides, Doug Sherwood	16*	8	6	4	1	6	25
15171	62	Josh Goldman	Eve Burpee, Sean Carroll	5	2	2	12	6	14*	27
14866	14	Bill Mauk	Claudia Aguado, Dan Weidenhoft	6	3	16*	11	12	3	35
15239	21	John Mollicone	Dan Rabin, Rob MacMillan	3	4	9	13*	10	12	38
15075	75	Maegan Ruhlmann	Martha Fisher, Patrick Wilson	8	7	13	2	9	20*	39
14901	1	Ian Schillebeeckx	Beth Ward, Lucas Hofmeister	SCP 19	5	10	10	2	27*	46
11346	28	Stu Nickerson	Hannah Nickerson, Kip Hamblet	4	17	20	6	OCS 32*	1	48
14654	13	Bob Bush	Sterling Bush, Ash Scache	12	22	3	3	25*	8	48
14567	67	Mark Allen	Randy Shore, Beth Foley	OCS 32*	12	12	19	3	4	50
14380	77	Tryg Jacobson	Jason Bemis, Jonathan Ribich	1	1	24*	16	21	16	55
15158	66	Peter Orlebeke	Kimberly Orlebeke, Michael Elmergreen	19	18	1	25*	14	9	61
15005	25	Bob Franke	Bonnie Hawkins, Jen Bogardi	15	23*	8	15	7	23	68
15142	45	Nabeel Alsalam	Lisbet Kugler, Russell Roberts	OCS 32*	19	7	8	19	15	68
15258	5	Ryan Flack	Jennifer Flack, David Spira	22	6	DNF 31*	18	8	18	72
14817	32	Scott Anderson	Brad Winslett, Caroline Sundman	2	28*	22	7	17	25	73
14174	46	David Sprague	Megan Sprague, Violette Kokolus	20	10	DNF 31*	26	13	5	74
15165	55	Al McReynolds	Logan McReynolds, Mike Baccus	18	13	27*	9	26	10	76
13187	30	Brian Phelan	Jim Gagnon, Mari Martin	13	20	17	24*	5	24	79
14548	43	Jon Guth	Mike Constants, Ian Gilliland	27*	27	26	5	16	7	81
13910	4	Bill Allen	Peggy Lehman, Ron Lester	28*	16	19	14	27	11	87
15189	63	Paul Reak	Jason Allard, Jason Diener	11	24*	23	21	15	17	87
14769	36	Bob Stoller	Bill Cabrall, Mary Anne Byrne	23	15	4	28	OCS 32*	19	89
14958	58	Kathy Lundeen	Denise Cornell, Lynelle Reak	21	14	15	22*	20	21	91
14366	48	Patrick Phelan	Matt Jay, Adam Dolezal	9	29*	21	27	22	13	92
15137	26	Steve Adamski	Kendall Kissel-Sloat, Mike Kulkoski/Jim Hadley	25	21	18	20	11	26*	95
14096	50	Drew Hudson	Sousan Arafah, Bridget Barnhart	26	11	11	29*	24	29	101
15259	54	Brad Wagnon	Kevin Keller, Frank Wilder	14	26	25	17	28*	22	104
14811	2	Tom Allen, Sr	Jim Kennedy, Bergan Ackerman	10	25	DNF 31*	23	23	30	111
14045	59	Jim Rollberg	Michael Anderson, Ben Gravel	24	30*	14	30	18	28	114

1st



Jose Monteiro, Heather Dodd & Jason Werner

2nd



Doug Sherwood, Paul Whitesides & Pierce Barden

3rd



Sean Carroll, Eve Burpee & Josh Goldman

4th



Bill Mauk, Dan Weidenhoft & Claudia Aguado

WOMEN'S NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

WOMEN'S NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Women Speak

Christina M M Norris

We went back and forth saying: "you write, no, you write" and finally here it is.

Any way, as a WJM Lightning "Crew winner" there are some things that I would like to share that made it possible for us to achieve such.

It all started 40 Years ago when my dad had a wooden lightning on Lake Guarapiranga, São Paulo, Brazil and I used to play with my dolls under the foredeck...I think I still hang around at that area!

Such an honor to sail with Betsy and my friend Sara; we had a great time together. Many thanks to my husband Michael Norris, who got the boat ready for us, detailing it to such an extreme that beside the Teflon buff on the hull, the weekend before he took the centerboard out to sand and polish it!

I also would like to thank all the great sailors that I crewed for and met during all these years. They teach me so much about how to sail the lightning: Mario Buckup, Ched Proctor and, of course, my husband Michael.

The class is just amazing, so many friends, there are just too many to mention them all! The best of all is that we made those friends overseas and that is what made it possible for us to be at the WJM Lightning Champ. Betsy, I always competed against you and now we did it together!

Joy MacDonald

My first Women's North American Championship was a blast and I learned a lot. I hope to do it again next year. Sailing with Jody was a great learning experience and was interesting because

I learned a whole lot!

—Joy MacDonald



*Jody Swanson, Joy MacDonald, Lauren Jones
the next generation learning from the best*

we were racing such a small number of boats. Jody, Lauren and I worked great as a team and discovered how important it is to check the current since there was a strong one in Lake Michigan. My favorite part of the regatta was winning two races, even after we were over early in the second one. The wind co-operated with us but we really got a good work-out during hiking.

Every day after racing and after derigging the boat, we did something fun. My favorite night-time experience was going to a really neat restaurant called 'The Safehouse' and dancing to the one-man reggae band. I hope more people my age decide to sail the women's next year because it was so enjoyable and I can't wait to go to San Diego next year.

*Lorrie Walsh, Tina Walsh, Katrina Oostveen
Thunder Bay, Ontario, CANADA*

Participating in the Women's Lightning NAs has been a goal of mine for as long as I can remember. Growing up as a third generation Lightning sailor I had ample opportunity to crew for my Grandpa, my Dad, and my brother. A couple of years ago, my Dad gave me the use of my grandfather's Lightning, "The Bonbo," so I could attempt to beat the 'Good Old Boys' of Thunder Bay, Ontario myself.

Somehow, I understood that the "well-used" Bonbo just wasn't going to cut it at the NAs. With a little luck and a generous brother, I got my hands on his new boat and his pro crew/wife Tina. Finding a middle girl was a must, so I invited my friend Kat, who has sailed on my Women's Keelboat team, to join us. I believe her response was, "Sure, I'd love to...what's a Lightning?" With 1 year of sailing experience and five hours in a Lightning, Kat was on her way to Milwaukee with us for Women's NAs.



Sarah Buckley, Betsy Alison & Christine Norris

WOMEN'S NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



With sweltering heat, no air conditioning and a dirty pick-up truck, we finally reached the Milwaukee Yacht Club. We were greeted immediately by the regatta chairman, Steve Cushman, who happily pointed us in the right direction (to the beer keg). From the moment of our arrival it was clear that the NAs would prove to be a memorable and amazing experience, and we weren't let down.

A really well-organized event with great wind and awesome competition. We were so happy to not only be there, but to be up with the top boats. We tried everything to win including sailing upside down and rounding the wrong windward mark but nothing seemed to work. It was an amazing and valuable experience for all of us. We had fun and learned a lot of "what not to do next time".

I would like to thank my crew for many things: Swimming while I stayed dry, for having a sense of humor, for being positive, but most of all for "bringing it". We want to sincerely thank everyone involved in the event and the kindness of the Milwaukee Yacht Club. Biggest thanks to my brother Richard for lending us his boat, being our biggest supporter, saving Spilly and spending an entire evening making us new mast blocks out of a cutting board.

Congratulations to all who competed. See you in San Diego.

Monica Jones

Participating in the 2005 Women's NAs in Milwaukee was a great experience!

The last time I skippered a Lightning was in the 2004 Women's NAs at my new home Yacht Club, the Buffalo Canoe Club. Prior to that, the last time I skippered was when I was 17 with my Dad at the Metedeconk River Yacht Club in NJ. Needless to say, it's been a long time.

Thanks to Abby Ruhlman and Kathryn Moloney for crewing. We made a great team! Abby is awesome at calling the line and Kathryn learned how to climb the mast to retrieve a spinnaker halyard. Thanks to Jody Swanson for encouraging us to do this and for putting our team together.

Growing up in a Lightning sailing family, meeting my husband Ian at a Lightning Regatta and now exposing our two girls to Lightnings has been a wonderful thing for our family. There are so many great things about this Class. With all the sports your kids can do these days, how many can you participate in as a family?

Now we're off to Chile in November to watch Ian sail in the World Championship and to do some touring around. As Abby Ruhlman says "these Regattas are our family vacations!" Thanks Milwaukee Yacht Club for hosting a great North Americans.



Courtney O'Connor, Caroline Sundman & Maegan Ruhlman

WOMEN'S NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Women's North American Championship

Milwaukee Yacht Club

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 8-12, 2005

Sailed: 6—Discards: 1

Bow#	Sail#	Skipper	Fleet#	District	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
17	15193	Sarah Buckley	204	MI	Christine Norris Betsy Alison	1	1	1	2	2	DNF	5
41	15125	Jody Swanson	12	LE	Joy MacDonald Lauren Jones	2	4	2	3	1	1	9
58	14958	Kathy Lundeen	187	MW	Denise Cornell Lynelle Reak	5	2	3	1	3	2	11
51	14479	Monica Jones	12	LE	Katherine Moloney Abby Ruhlman	3	6	DNS	4	6	3	22
9	15064	Lorrie Walsh	279	CC	Tina Walsh Kat Oostveen	4	8	5	6	4	5	24
75	15075	Maegan Ruhlman	36	OH	Cortney O'Connor Caroline Sundman	7	5	4	5	5	OCS	26
69	14749	Gaby McCoy	69	MW	Kim Petritz Deb Petritz	6	3	DNF	7	7	4	27



Starting gun!

WOMEN'S NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



Steve Cushman presenting to the winning team of the Women's North American Championship—Christine Norris accepts the trophy on behalf of skipper Sarah Buckley



*Jody Swanson
2nd Place Women's North American Championships*



*Karen Johnson presents to Kathy Lundeen
3rd Place Women's North American Championships*



*Karen Johnson presents to Joy MacDonald
Crewed with Lauren Jones for Jody Swanson
2nd Place Women's North American Championships*

JUNIORS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNIORS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Juniors Speak

Ian Schillebeeckx

We came into Milwaukee Yacht Club Tuesday morning with a certain air of expectations. We had participated in the P&T Regatta a month before so we were ready for the conditions and the limited parking space. The Leukemia Cup in Sheboygan the weekend before also had us trained for Lake Michigan's finest conditions. We were also expecting a big chance to qualify for the Youth Worlds. The competitors who beat us last year were to age out by the time the Youth Worlds came by automatically knocking the qualifications back several places. That night we went to sleep expecting a certain performance that we had been training for all year.

My crew, Lucas Hofmeister and Beth Ward (both from HIYC in Nashville, TN), and I rose the next morning with total excitement and activity. Scarf down breakfast, drive 15 minutes to the club, prepare the boat in 45 minutes, and we were in sailing mode by 9:00. This day presented our 420-pound team with "heavy air" (to us) at 12-15 in the morning building up to 20 in the afternoon. A bad start in the first race left us fighting for a seat on the top rung resulting in a 6th place finish. In the second race, an aggressive fleet resulted in an 8th place finish. Due to incoming storms, all later races that day were cancelled. We came out of this day with the surprise that the difference between first and last was as little as 30 seconds.

Coming into the second day, the race committee clearly wanted 4 races. The heavy air presented that day gave the race committee the perfect opportunity to get their wish. My crew and I had a slow morning with a 6th and 7th place finish. Seeing that we had no bullets next to our name, we pushed to finish well. The 3rd race had us battling for 1st place, but we ended up succumbing to the 530 pound leaders. With hard work, we ended the 2nd day with a 5th place finish. This put us in a good spot to qualify for the Youth Worlds, yet it still wasn't in the bag.

The 3rd and final day came in with a light breeze from the north. Light air—this was our home turf: Beth and Lucas were experts from the squirrely airs of Lake Hickory and I was in charge of putting everyone's knowledge into a collected effort. The light air was also an advantage for the 2nd representative of CSA: Nicholas Beckman, Edd Burke, and Ian Moriarty. CSA was a strong contender for this day; we both took turns as the fleet leader. With an almost team racing attitude, we both had strong finishes in the first two races bringing Nick's boat with a 4 and 8, and me picking up a 2 and 4.



Ian Schillenbeeckx, Lucas Hofmeister & Beth Ward

The final race of the day started out in good air, but we soon were forced to the back of the fleet by an unfavorable tack into Lake Michigan chop. To our great disappointment, we rounded the windward mark near dead last. With everyone lined up on the port layline, fighting for air, we had to make a decision. With a puff building up on the left side we decided to go for it. At first we were nervous about breaking so far away from the fleet, but we were confident that it would pay off. With a 20 degree shift we were now heading straight for the leeward mark. The boats on the right were left to head dead-downwind. With an angular advantage, we sailed right past them.

Rounding the mark in the top 5, the race seemed to be ours. Sailing against the chop in puffs, and precisely predicting the wind shifts left us out in 1st around the windward mark. A nervous downwind leg kept us in the lead. Coming back upwind, our predictions served us well again. We had gained a substantial lead of over 30 seconds and finished the race and the regatta with a bullet. We did our math and figured out that we had indeed qualified for the Youth Worlds! There was a sense of ecstasy the rest of the night. We packed up the boat, then onto the NAs in Sheboygan. Even though we finished well the real heroes of the story were our sponsors. My parents and the parents

JUNIORS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

of Beth, Lucas, Nick, Edd, and Ian were to be thanked for their continuous support and effort. The most noteworthy of our sponsors, however, was the Carlyle Lightning Fleet and CSA. Their generous contributions made the trip possible.

Thank you as well to everyone else who helped us get here.

*Tim Jones, Skipper
Justin Groden, Middle
Nikki Butchart, Bow*

We had a bunch of fun times at this year's Junior NAs. Some funny things that happened...the first spinnaker set we did was right before the practice race. The chute went up fine, but when we jibed we rounded up and our bow girl, Nikki Butchart, got knocked right into the water. Now we had our chute flying uncontrollably in the air, so I had to have Justin Groden, my middle man, try to get it down, while I focused on getting Nikki back in the boat. She didn't have a life jacket so I was a little bit worried. When the chute finally came down she had drifted about 20 yards from the boat. It was a close one!

The second day of racing, on the way out to the course, Justin went for the hiking strap on his way to hike out, and completely missed, and somehow grabbed it with his hand as he was falling out of the boat. He was now hanging completely upside down, and Nikki and I were laughing far too loud to save him, so he ended up falling in and we had to turn around for him.

In between races one day, we were going back downwind to the finish line, and I was sitting up on the rail of the boat. We were completely by the lee, and me not paying attention, we jibed and the boom swung over and hit me directly on the top of the head. I fell right down into the middle of the boat and passed out for a couple of seconds, and then popped right back up. I think I had a minor concussion, but, oh well.

These are just some of the highlights of the trip that come to mind when thinking of the funny things that happened.



Matt Wierzbach—14005

It was my first NAs this year, and it was certainly as great as I expected. My crew, Jake Den Boer, was a veteran and made a huge difference with preparing and knowing what's going on in a regatta that is much more official than anything else in the lightning fleet.

To sum up the regatta in as few words as possible, it was a blast. The wind was the best I had all summer, and although we didn't do as well as we'd have liked, we were satisfied with what we did do right. It has left me waiting for another season of campaigning for Juniors.



John Newell, Jamie Moran & Joe Raite



Chad Miller, Tanya Miller, Daniel Kagan

JUNIORS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Junior North American Championship

Milwaukee Yacht Club

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 8–12, 2005

Sailed: 9—Discards: 2

Bow#	Sail#	Skipper	Fleet#	Dist	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	Total
31	14737	John Newell	164	CNY	Jamie Moran Joe Raite	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	dnf	7	11
12	15246	Billy Healy	108	CNY	Conor Healy Emily Maloney	8	2	11	2	4	4	3	1	5	21
1	14119	Chad Miller	301	NE	Tanya Miller Daniel Kagan	2	7	3	3	3	3	6	12	2	22
5	15238	James Unsworth	301	NE	Peter Hazelett Derrick Deming	5	4	1	4	5	7	7	3	3	25
3	14901	Ian Schillebeeckx	266	MW	Lucas Hofmeister Beth Ward	6	8	6	7	2	5	2	4	1	26
10	14821	Tim Jones	12	LE	Nicole Butchart Justin Groden	3	3	2	9	DNF	14	8	2	9	36
11	14146	Nick Aswad	301	NE	Connor Aswad Max Far	11	5	10	5	8	9	9	5	4	45
16	14508	Jack Freysinger	69	MW	Jeremy McMahon Cassie Kraus	4	13	8	6	12	6	14	6	11	53
6	14636	Nicholas Beckmann	266	MV	Ian Moriarty Edd Burke	12	12	7	13	6	13	4	8	6	55
25	15005	Liz Hines	69	MW	Luke Franke Ailee Cassel	7	11	14	8	13	2	11	11	8	58
2	13794	Eric Roman	69	MW	John Weissert Gracie Blumberg	14	9	4	14	10	8	10	10	13	64
15	15103	Gwen Lemon	488	US@L	Ian McKenzie Reeve Dunne	13	RAF	13	10	9	12	5	7	10	66
18	15057	Matthew Schon	34	CAD	Michael Crann Tara Schon	10	6	12	12	7	11	13	9	12	67
23	14005	Matthew Weirzbach	187	MW	Jake Den Boer Nate Komoroski	9	10	9	11	11	10	12	13	14	72



JUNIORS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



Coming to the mark!



Billy Healy, Conor Healy & Emily Maloney



Chad Miller, Tanya Miller & Kaniel Kagan



Nicholas Beckmann, Ian Moriarty & Edd Burke

JUNIORS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



Champions—John Newell, Jamie Moran & Joe Raite



2nd Place—Emily Maloney, Billy Healy & Conor Healy



3rd Place—Chad Miller, Tanya Miller & Daniel Kagan



4th Place—James Unsworth, Peter Hazelett & Derrick Deming



5th Place—Ian Schillebeeckx, Lucas Hofmeister, & Beth Ward

MASTERS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

MASTERS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Masters Speak

Mike Elmergreen

Sometime last winter, Ric Larsen approached me about crewing at the Masters' NAs with him and his son, Eric. He needed someone that was at least 46 to make the age limit, so being 'mature', I said yes. The regatta would only be an hour drive for me which made the decision even easier. I thought we would have a chance to do well even though there are some extremely good Masters out there. After the first race, I was a little unsure about getting some hardware. The sea breeze was fighting the land breeze, we bet on the sea, and lost. We took a 10th in the 11 boat fleet which was a little hard to swallow. Hallagan, Mauk, Fisher, and Hofmeister were all sailing very well. This would be a tough fight back, especially since there would be no throw-out.

We went into the second race of the day thinking we would try to at least get into the trophies. The breeze settled in quite strongly which worked well for us as we picked up a win by playing the shore side—we had learned our lesson in race one, no more left corner Larsen. We were in better shape except that all the good guys were ahead of us. Fisher and Mauk only had 4 and 5 points respectively, so they were the ones to beat.

Day two brought more good breeze and we received a little present in the first race of the day. We crossed the finish line in 4th, but the only boat ahead of us that was not OCS was Hofmeister. This not only gave us a 2nd in the race, but would you believe me if I told you that Mauk and Fisher were OCS? Game on! The second race of the day was physically and mentally tough. There was lots of breeze and there were shifts and holes. Mauk was

really on his game, sailing well as he seemed to have it all figured out. He led for most of the race until right corner Ric worked a little of his magic. We got a little leverage, did a lift, tack, lift all in good breeze, and squeaked out a small lead in front of Mauk. He gained on us the rest of the race, but we somehow held him off just barely to take the win.

Now the game was getting really interesting. We went into the last race a point out of the lead and three points ahead of Hallagan. We went out a little early and sailed up the course in the light northerly. We sailed in towards the beach and we sailed out into the lake. All three of us decided that in to the beach was not the way to go, definitely go out into the lake. We had a good start and we soon were able to head out while most of our main competition went in. We went way out in the lake while Hofmeister was having some kind of a beach party and Hallagan seemed to be having a tough time in the middle. We were in the lead but got passed by two boats just before the weather mark. We did a good job on the run, sailed well on the next beat and came into the last downwind leg in the lead. It turned into a bit of a reach, which helped keep speed up in the lighter air, and left very few passing lanes. On the last beat, we covered like crazy as the good guys showed their form by making gains. We caught up to the women which made covering harder, but we held on to take the win. Hofmeister came from way deep for a fourth which secured second overall and gave us the regatta win.

It was truly a fun regatta with great competitors. If you think these 'Masters' are out for a fun sail, you will be surprised if you ever get the chance to do a Masters event. These guys all still 'got it', and our team from Sheboygan feels fortunate to compete with them. Thanks to MYC for putting on a good show.



Masters' Fleet

MASTERS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Bob Starck's Random Thoughts

Milwaukee was a nice venue. It's good to have a regatta in close proximity to a major city once in a while. Lots to see and do after hours.

Those who helped facilitate the regatta at the Milwaukee Yacht Club couldn't have been more helpful and accommodating. The regatta was an outstanding value.

This year we kind of missed the attention that Jack Elfman (God rest him) used to pay us, but Dick Hallagan showed he still cares about us.

The older Jim Eagan and I get, the more we enjoy the company of the ILCA Masters. They're not only fun to hang out with, they're a privilege to race against.

Finally, George Fisher and Jim Carson continue to amaze us—and beat us. I guess I should have taken sailing lessons when I was a kid.



Jim Carson and Bill Mauk



Mark Dadd & Mark Grinder

Jim Carson's Reflections *LOGICAL #15122*

I arrived with many fond memories of past NAs, particularly 1971. That year there were varied conditions on the lake, including a blown-out race.

I had a most willing crew, Donnie & JoAnne Schon. JoAnne had little sailing experience in the Lightning but pitched right in, learned a lot, and was invaluable off the water in keeping Donnie & I fed and hydrated (alcohol doesn't help hydration but...).

I was surprised there were so few Masters, but there was certainly quality if not quantity, skippers and crews as well.

HOT, HOT, HOT! Long sail out of the harbor dodging moored boats. Long sail in as well. How could anybody turn over 100 yards from the hoist? Ask... Oops, we're sworn to secrecy.

Seven of eleven boats were OCS, two returned, and five were unhappy with the no hail policy. It fit my traditionalist nature perfectly. I loved it! Certainly, it affected the outcome of the regatta. Bill Hofmeister enjoyed his "king for a day."

Congratulations to Rick Larson, the guy you seldom notice unless he's doing a horizon job and thanks to Milwaukee Yacht Club.

MASTERS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



Master's American Championship

Milwaukee Yacht Club

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 8-12, 2005

Sailed: 5—Discards: 0

Bow#	Sail	Skipper	Fleet	Dist	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total	
24	15119	Ric Larson	187	MW	Mike Elmergreen	Eric Larson	10	1	2	1	1	15
7	15206	William Hofmeister	262	MV	Mandy Hofmeister	Bruce Richards	3	5	1	4	4	17
55	15255	Dick Hallagan	77	CNY	Steve Davis	Al McReynolds	4	3	3	6	5	21
14	14866	Bill Mauk	226	FL	John Humphrey	Rob Ruhlman	1	4	OCS	2	7	27
19	15181	George Fisher	43	OH	Tom Emch	Greg Fisher	2	2	OCS	3	8	28
22	15122	Jim Carson	34	CAD	Donald Schon	JoAnne Schon	6	8	4	7	6	31
52	14371	Bob Starck	12	LE	Brian Starck	Jim Eagan	7	7	OCS	5	3	35
8	15185	Bruce Finsilver	54	MI	Salo Korn	Michael Roualet	5	9	6	8	10	38
21	14672	Mark Dadd	47	LE	Mark Grinder	Scott DeGolyer	9	6	5	11	9	40
4	13910	Bill Allen	154	IN	Peggy Lehman	Greg Johnson	8	10	OCS	9	2	42
66	14162	Mac Slater	69	MW	Paul Reak	Jim Hadley	11	11	OCS	10	11	55



Master's Fleet

MASTERS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP



Ric Larson, Mike Emergreen & Eric Larson



William Hoffmeister, Mandy Hoffmeister & Bruce Richards



Dick Hallagan, Steve Davis, Al McReynolds



Bill Mauk, John Humphrey & Rob Ruhlman



George Fisher, Greg Fisher & Tom Emch



Jim Carson, Jo Anne Schon & Donald Schon

MASTERS' NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

1st



Eric Larson, Ric Larson & Mike Elmergreen

2nd



William Hoffmeister, Mandy Hoffmeister & Bruce Richards

3rd



Al McReynolds, Dick Hallagan & Steve Davis