

Pacific Northwest

90 Kitsilano Yacht Club
283 Columbia
507 The Prairie Fleet

District Commodore: John DeBenedetti

90 Kitsilano Yacht Club

Sailing on Maple Bay
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Douglas Ash

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
11645	Shanic	Douglas Ash
14089	Ozone	Menno Bos
14841	Isabelle	Matthew Henley

We sail out of Kitsilano Yacht Club on English Bay in Vancouver, BC, the home of the 2010 winter Olympics. Our Fleet expanded this year and sadly contracted again as one of the new boats was found to not be seaworthy. It will instead become a parts boat.

Since taking over as Lightning Fleet Captain two years ago, I have started a bi-monthly email newsletter to the Fleet for news and race results. The participation has increased from two to three boats in 2009, from three to four boats in 2010, and from five to six boats in 2011. Hopefully, we can add two more for 2012 racing, specifically #7071 and #12206.

We have one Lightning that is owned by the Kitsilano Yacht Club and is used for sailing students to teach them the operations of a larger boat. The sailing school uses Lasers and Pirates, so the Lightning is perfect. We actively recruit new sailors from the lesson program.

I started a program of never leaving anyone on the dock. If a new person or a returning person arrives on race night, they are placed in a boat. I often had an extra crew member. Our reward was more boats and increased club members in the Lightning Fleet. Other Fleets are status quo or shrinking, so this has certainly worked for us.

We hosted a very successful regatta with members from Fleet 283 attending. There were two full days of racing and partying, both very enjoyable! As usual, a boat from Fleet 283 won the top prize.

Besides weekly evening racing, we had two great Sunday sailing days that were all social, with five to six people in each boat. We also took part in a promotional free day of sailing for the Club. We had a couple of boats doing two sessions per day with three to four crew, some who were complete novices. Fortunately, the weather cooperated, and it blew about seven to ten knots—perfect for beginners.

I do have a question for other Fleets: Does anyone have wooden boats that race against modern boats? If yes, do you handicap them in any way?

Douglas Ash

283 Columbia

Sailing on Vancouver Lake
Portland, Oregon

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Jeff Stong

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
6725	Natural Speed	Dale J Drevdahl
11151		Darrell K Peck
12426	Tin Hau	Gary A Kokstis
12675		Edward Bourguignon
12990	Quick Silver	Darrell K Peck
13788	Too Tense	Gerald L Neuburger
13896	Foam Heads	John DeBenedetti
14040	Roaring Forties	Roger Hicks
14152	Langskib	Erik Troelsen
14233	Taxes Due	Gerald L Neuburger
14246		Darrell K Peck
14453	Blue Bayou	Darrell K Peck
14539	Gunsmoke Too!	Dale J Drevdahl



Fleet 283

Fleet 283 had a good year, with members joining the Fleet this year. Locally, our club races start in March and stop at the end of October.

Philip Parshley is our new Fleet Champion, and Jerry Neuburger the runner-up. Our most improved sailor is Jerry Martin, and Kevin Stravers is crew of the year.

Our Fleet Captain, Jeff Stong, gets the MK DeBenedetti award for service to the Fleet in a trying year!

Our Districts were held at our club and was won by area newcomer Bob Bush. Congratulations! We had sailors from Vancouver, BC, and had some good racing.

507 The Prairie Fleet

Sailing on: Chestermere Lake, Lake Newell in Alberta, Canada, and Canyon Lake and Canyon Ferry Lake and Flathead Lake in Montana

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Karsten M Dalberg

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
13674	Hard Tack	David E Martin



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Southeastern

257	Clarks Hill	429	Greater Charleston
348	Lake Lanier	440	Palmetto
391	Lake Hartwell/ Western Carolina	463	Lake Maccamaw
415	Lake Norman	481	Wake
		511	Cape Fear

District Commodore: Lawrence N Frost III

2011 was a year of explosive growth for our District, thanks to Charleston Fleet 429! The momentum appears to be continuing into 2012. The season was wrapped up by the now-legendary, first annual Wild Oyster regatta, hosted by Fleet 429.

The District Traveling Series had twelve qualifiers and was won by 2011 Boat Grant recipient Will Tyner, followed by Lenny Krawcheck in second and John Sawyer in third place. We are expecting to almost double participation in the series in 2012.

Karen Dial

257 Clarks Hill

Sailing on Strom Thurmond Lake
Augusta, Georgia

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Robert E Harkrider

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
13877	Adrenaline	Robert E Harkrider
14127	No Excuses	Marcus Moehlman
15310		Robert E Harkrider

348 Lake Lanier

Sailing on Lake Lanier
Flowery Branch, Georgia

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Pamela M Burke

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
15180		Pamela M Burke

391 Lake Hartwell/Western Carolina

Sailing on Lake Hartwell
Anderson, South Carolina

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Dennis K Baker

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
11090	Baby Doll II	Dennis K Baker
11771	Wasabi	William R Sloger
12115		Dennis K Baker
14412	Yea Baby	Dennis K Baker





415 Lake Norman

Sailing on Lake Norman
Charlotte, North Carolina

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Carter Utzig

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
392		Clayton Gray
1915	Warbird	Clayton Gray
7592	Capricorn	Clayton Gray
12281		Clayton Gray

429 Greater Charleston

Sailing on Charleston Harbor
Charleston, South Carolina

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Leonard Krawcheck

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
9392	Last Dance	Pete Russell
10860	Still Crazy After All These Years	Greg Fisher
13941	Rumors	Henry McCray
14266	Green Wing	John E Cameron
14684		Christopher Hamilton
14730	cacique	George Scarborough
14752	Hot Flash	Granville Fairchild
14930	Widespread Panic	Mark Marenakos
15085		Leonard Krawcheck
15116	Amethyst	William R Sloger
15181		Greg Fisher

We had a great year. Fleet 429 grew from just three boats to fifteen, with many of those traveling to regattas throughout the southeast and three going to the North Americans.

We hosted the first annual Charleston Wild Oyster Lightning regatta with thirty-seven boats. The sailing, food and fellowship were great. The College of Charleston Director of Sailing and lifetime Lightning

sailor Greg Fisher hosted a clinic on the Friday before the event. His brother Matt Fisher must have been listening, as he went on to win the event.

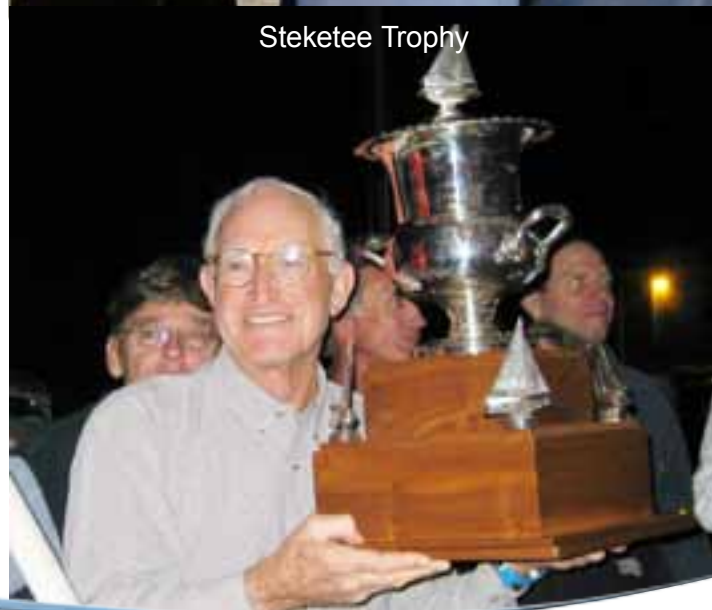
We were very honored to receive the Steketee Trophy for promoting the Lightning. Lenny Krawcheck continues to lead the Fleet, including a new generation of sailors. Several boats are being crewed by two generations. We are encouraging members of nearby Fleets to sail with us as often as possible. Karen Dial from Columbia is a regular.

Our Fleet maintains an active website: <http://www.CharlestonLightning.com> and a Facebook group. We appreciate the warm welcome we've received from so many in the Class.

Matt Fisher, Stuart Fisher, Jeff Irvine



Steketee Trophy





Team Twisted Sister



440 Palmetto

Sailing on Lake Murray
Columbia, South Carolina

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Terry E Tyner

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
14702		Karen Dial
15141	Ciaobebe	Craig Milling

463 Lake Maccamaw

Sailing on Lake Maccamaw
Maccamaw, North Carolina

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: David A McLamb

481 Wake

Sailing on Lake Kerr and Lake Jordan
Raleigh, North Carolina

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: John W Pelosi

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
9398	Old School	Phil Taylor
13738	Past Due	Lauren W Beauchamp
14637	Great Escape	Charles L Moore
14932		John W Pelosi

511 Cape Fear

Sailing on the Atlantic Ocean
Wilmington, North Carolina

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Pierce P Barden

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
9398	Old School	Jay Taylor
14318	Soul Sister	John R Sawyer
14356	Lighnt'up	William F King
14622	Hot Rocket	J. Gates Harris
14682		Bob Cowen
14690		Thomas Hissam
14695		Richard B Waldkirch
15236		Steven D Johnston
15285		John R Sawyer
15345	The Situation	James A Harris
15351		Pierce P Barden

2011 Southeastern District Traveling Circuit Championship Results

Skipper	Boat #	Avg Score
Mark Marenakos	14930	4.909
Marcus Moehlman	14127	5.444
Will Sloger/Scott Lane	15116	6.476
Pearce Barden	15241	6.526
Karen Dial	14702	6.643
John Pelosi	14932	7.737
Dennis Baker	14412	8.667
Pam Burke	15180	9.636
Chris Hamilton	14684	10.545

Southern

- 62 Southern Yacht Club
- 135 Mobile Bay
- 179 Pass Christian Yacht Club
- 388 Jackson Yacht Club

District Commodore: Karen Dial

2011 was a busy year for the Southern District Lightning sailors. Participating in many regattas, including some Texas District events, Mississippi Valley events, the North Americans and Winter Championships, Southern District sailors are working hard and having fun racing and supporting the Lightning Class.

Attending the Winter Championships in St. Pete were Larry Frost and Cal Herman. Larry also got up to the North Americans and qualified for his first Blue Fleet competition.

Robert Bernhardt made the trip up to the Bluenose regatta in Nashville. The Southwest Circuit has provided a great opportunity for southern sailors to compete in bigger numbers at more events in Dallas,

Houston, Memphis, New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola and Jackson, Mississippi.

Tommy Meric was the top Southern District sailor in the Southwest Circuit, but next door Texas District sailor Clarke Newman was the overall winner of the Southwest Circuit, just edging past Tommy Meric in the last event at Pensacola Yacht Club.

Many thanks to those sailors who travelled down south to sail with us at many of these circuit events. We hope to see you back down for a few more regatta's.

With the North American's in Houston this year, we hope to have a full representation of Southern District sailors.

62 Southern Yacht Club

Sailing on Lake Pontchartrain
New Orleans, Louisiana

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captains: Lawrence Frost
Callender R Herman

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
14136		Callender R Herman
15211		Lawrence N Frost
15329		Thomas S Meric

179 Pass Christian Yacht Club

Sailing on the Gulf Coast, Mississippi Sound
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Peter W Furze

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
8131	Woodstock	Eugene H Walet
13627	Summer Lightning	Bob Peat

135 Mobile Bay

Sailing on Mobile Bay
Mobile, Alabama

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: John P Buziak

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
13060	Bigeminy	E Russell March
14507	Oh Baby!	John P Buziak
15201	Bob Sled	Robert E Bernhardt

388 Jackson Yacht Club

Sailing on Ross Barnett Reservoir
Jackson, Mississippi

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: John B Waskom

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
10959	Hard Tack	John B Waskom

St Lawrence Valley

215 Royal St Lawrence Yacht Club
516 Beaconsfield Club

District Commodore: Peter Hall

215 Royal St Lawrence Yacht Club

Sailing on Lac St Louis
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Peter Hall

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
13855		Louis Brousseau
15210	Krista Too	Peter Hall

2011 was a rebuilding year. We started with four boats racing Thursday evenings, and we had sixteen races with four to five boats and another eight races with only three boats.

Will Hall lead the junior fleet and enjoyed beating his father a few times. Mark Osterman returned to active sailing and had a different junior crew every week. Rod Hayes and John Sauter continued to enjoy racing and improved tremendously. Peter Hall, with crew Megan Armitage and Chantal Leger, trained together in preparation for the Pan Am Trials in Kingston in July and the XVI Pan Am Games in Guadalajara in October.

Peter McBride, our Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club Commodore, bought Peter's boat, Peter bought Ched's boat, and Jean-Paul Widmer bought Jamie Allen's older boat. Russ Gordon from Thunder Bay moved to Montreal with his Lightning and crew wife, so our Fleet grew to seven boats. Our goal for 2012 is to get Waldie, Jay Deakin, and Mike Holly to rejoin our Thursday racing somewhere on our lake—for a total of ten boats.

Peter, Chantal and Megan had a great year sailing. They won the May Cedar Point regatta, the Connecticut Districts, the Pan AM Trials in Kingston, and finished fourth at the Pan Am Games.

The Pan Am Games had many highlights, such as the opening ceremonies and making new friends, but the most fun was winning the medal race.

2012 looks promising. Rumors indicate that "Big Al" Boucher has rejoined the Yacht Club and may get his

boat out on the starting line with at least one of his sons! Our challenge is to get all the boats on our Lake St. Louis to have fun sailing together, but as our young families have children attending junior squadron, their parents are being encouraged to sail the best family boat—the Lightning!

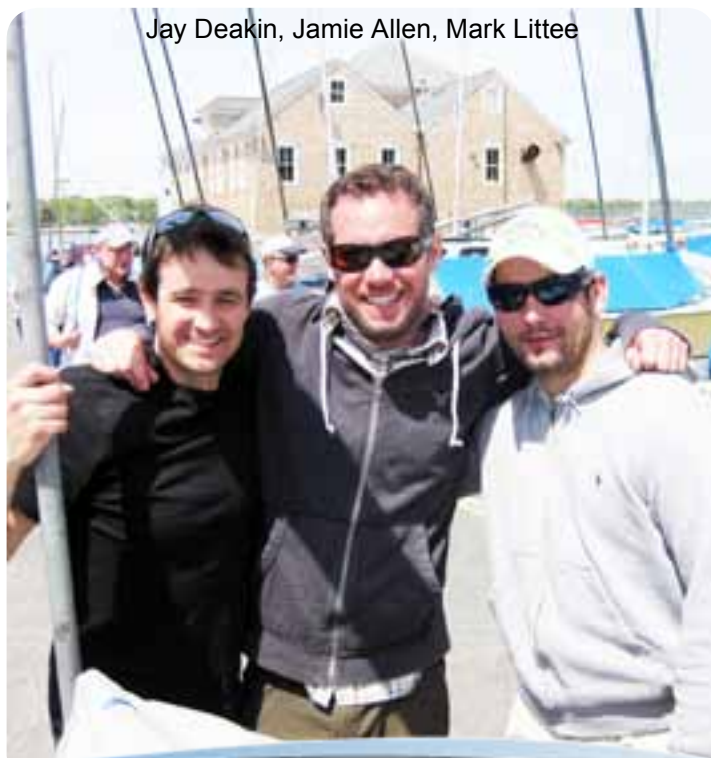
516 Beaconsfield Club

Sailing on Lac St Louis
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Jay Deakin

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
2684	Day Girl	Michael Holly
12217		Valerie Holly-Tardif
14114		Etienne Portelance
14905	Rum Lime	Jamie A Allan
15082	Day Girl	Michael Holly



Jay Deakin, Jamie Allen, Mark Littee

Switzerland

169 Lac de Neuchatel

358 Flotte Murtensee

District Commodore: Jacques Perret

169 Lac de Neuchatel

Sailing on Lac de Neuchatel
Neuchatel, Switzerland

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Gilbert Despland

358 Flotte Murtensee

Sailing on Lake of Murten
Murtensee, Switzerland

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Urs Wyler

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
13692	Milan	Hans-Peter Schmid
13790	Meltemi	Urs Wyler
14530	Santa Fiamma	Jacques Perret
14664	Karhu	Peter Graf

Die Aktivität der Flotte sinkt und sinkt. An der Europa-meisterschaft in Finnland nahm noch gerade ein Boot unserer Flotte als einziges Schweizerboot teil. Dafür kamen immerhin noch 3 Boote zum Claude Lambelet Memorial im Herbst auf dem Neuenburgersee. Doch hier blieb dafür der Wind Mangelware und es kam kein einziger Lauf zustande.

Wir hoffen, dass nächstes Jahr mit der (letzten?) Europameisterschaft in der Schweiz auf dem Thunersee die Teilnehmerzahlen und der Wind etwas besser sein wird.

The activity of the Fleet sinks and sinks. Still just one boat of our Fleet participated in the European Championship in Finland as the single Swiss boat. For this after all three boats came to the Claude Kaufmann Memorial in the autumn on Lake Neuchâtel. But here the wind remained scarce for this, and not one run came about.

We hope that next year, with the European Championship in Switzerland on Lake Thun, the number of participants and the wind will be somewhat better.

[Click here to go to page 208 for photos of the Swiss teams at the European Championships.](#)

Texas

35 Dallas Corinthian Sailing Club
435 Rush Creek Yacht Club
521 Houston

District Commodore: Clarke D Newman

The Texas/Mexico District had a big year this year. We added several brand new boats, and we secured the bid to host the 2012 NAs. We added Mexico to the District, including the Valle Bravo Fleet. In January and February, many of the Texas sailors from Dallas and Houston took our boats south to Valle for some good racing.

At this year's NAs, three of the five boats qualified for the Blue Fleet. Clarke Newman finished sixteenth, his top finish ever. Aroldo de Rienzo finished fifteenth in the qualifying series. Fernando Rebago was the third Blue Fleet qualifier. The NAs were doubly interesting for our District because it was the Pan Am Games qualifier for Mexico. Aroldo and Fernando duked it out all week, with Aroldo coming out on top and representing Mexico in Guadalajara. Also, of the sixty boats that attended this year's NAs in North Cape, five of them came from our District. That is almost ten percent of the entire Fleet, and we had drives from twenty-six to thirty-eight hours.

The TMD was also well-represented at the third annual Southwestern Circuit. With thirty-one different crews participating in seven different regattas over seven months, it was a real commitment to the Class on everyone's part. In a down economy that saw many regattas suffer from decreased attendance, four of our regattas were bigger. The Southwestern Circuit had regattas in Jackson, Mississippi; Houston, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Fairhope, Alabama; Dallas, Texas; and Pensacola, Florida.

The one major disappointment in 2011 was the passing of Sylvan "Doc" Newman at the age of eighty-five. Sylvan was a Class building mainstay for many decades and owned a Lightning for almost sixty straight years, having owned nine different boats. Doc was a major influence in the starting and building Fleet 435, which went on to host both the Worlds and the NAs. He will be missed.

In 2012, we will be heavily involved in the fourth annual Southwestern Circuit once again, with the NAs at Houston Yacht Club in late July and early August. Come on down to Houston in April for a preview. Our District Championship will be a Southwestern Circuit stop as well. We look forward to seeing everyone in Texas. Come on down—you won't regret it.

35 Dallas Corinthian Sailing Club

Sailing on White Rock Lake
Dallas, Texas

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Stephen Bell

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
10020		Patty-Joan Hines
10811		Matt Moran
10937		Kerry Cole
11118	Roadrunner	Ralph Bilnoski
12065		Bruce Jenevein
13100		Joan Bond
13100		Martine Chambers
13722		Spencer McGowan
14344		Clancy McKenna
14737		Steve Bell

Fleet 35 celebrated its sixty-eighth year on White Rock Lake. Membership grew somewhat, losing two skippers and gaining four.

Clancy McKenna of CSC sold #14344 to an experienced racer and new club member. Chris Roberts of the Boat Club sold #13100 to Joan Bond and Martine Chambers. We also gained an original 1948 wooden Lightning owned by David Yancy.

Ralph Bilnoski crewed in several out-of-town regattas, while Steve Bell was active in race management. The Lightnings also showed a boat and sponsored a booth at the Corinthian Sailing Club open house and antique power boat parade, celebrating the one-hundred-year anniversary of White Rock Lake. The Lightning's display generated quite a bit of interest in the Class—or maybe it was the four hundred plus free hot dogs provided by the Club!

435 Rush Creek Yacht Club

Sailing on Lake Ray Hubbard
Mobile, Alabama

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: William Biermann

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
13703	Jive-Ho	Peter C Doncaster
13806		Clarke D Newman
14045	Blitz	John M Womble
14817	Sexy Bitch	John M Womble
15360	Can't Stop	Clarke D Newman



First Place – 2011 Southwest Circuit: Clarke Newman, Deanna Newman, and Ralph Bilnoski



521 Houston

Sailing on Upper Galveston Bay
Houston, Texas

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Christopher M Shipman

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
9584		Steven Harris
9845	Chase	Ron Smalley
14964	The Texas Rose	Mark Haas
15462		Mark Haas

