

St Lawrence Valley

215 Royal St Lawrence Yacht Club
516 Beaconsfield Yacht 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
14398	Nickels and Dimes	Mark Osterman
14443	Flip	Rod Hayes
14821		Peter Hall
15210	Krista Too	Peter McBride

2012

2012 was a rebuilding year in which we achieved most of our objectives:

- Have fun, sail safe, sail fast, sail often.
- We had over twenty-five races, mostly Thursday evenings, averaging four to seven boats, and three weekend regattas with six to eight boats.
- We enjoyed the best, most consistent winds in many years, but water depth remains a problem!
- Congratulations to Audray Lemieux, a Lightning crew who won the "Crew of the Year" at the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club.
- We ran the Canadian Lightning Championships in the first weekend in July. Bill Fastiggi won, Tom Allan second, Ed Adams third and Peter Hall Fourth. In reality, their crews deserve all the credit!
- We increased junior participation in the crew program. More than ten juniors participated.
- Chantal Leger and even "Big" Al Boucher raced their boats.
- All skippers took their turn on "beer" duty seriously, and parking lot debriefs were great fun.

The results for the summer series were:

1. Peter Hall
2. Peter McBride
3. Mark Osterman
4. Chantal Leger

Russ Gordon, John Sauter and Rod Hayes continue their improvement. Again the crews deserve all the credit.

Our 2013 goals include getting ten boats on the on starting line, good winds, lots of fun and beer, some parties, travel to Malletts Bay and maybe to the Canadians, more education and sharing of winning strategies/go fast trim, and more juniors.

Megan Armitage, Chantal Leger and Peter Hall will do the Worlds in Italy, and Megan, Peter and Mark Osterman will do the Europeans and Masters' prior to the Worlds. We are hoping to see more of Jamie Allen, Jay Deakin, Al Boucher and Mike Holly/Valerie Tardif in 2013. We wish everyone great, fun sailing in 2013.

2013

Similar to 2012, 2013 continued to be a rebuilding year. Our Fleet has six Lightnings at Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club and three other boats on Lake St. Louis. We had over twenty Thursday evening races, and two weekend regattas. Participation varied from four to eight boats. Light winds prevailed.

Peter Hall won the overall results, Chantal Leger was second, Peter McBride third and Mark Osterman was fourth. Chantal won the Thursday evening racing.

Peter enjoyed at least ten different juniors sailing with him, while Mark had eight different juniors.

"Beer" debriefs in the dingy area continue to be a most important factor in fleet FUN.

Megan Armitage, Mark Osterman and Peter Hall finished 2nd in the World Masters, and 4th in the Europeans. Megan, Chantal and Peter finished 9th in the World Championships, even with a very damaging pre-start collision with a port tackler. Franco, Gianfranco and all our Italian friends were very hospitable, and we had lots of fun in Castiglione del Lago in some very complex sailing conditions. Wine, food, and short trips sight-seeing were amazing.

The Pan Am Games will be in Toronto from July 9-19, 2015, and crews will be mixed. Some local boats are preparing for their participation in the trials.

David Berger has bought a Lightning, and Nathan Berger and crew will compete in the World Juniors in early July at the Buffalo Canoe Club. Hopefully a number of boats will travel twenty hours to the Canadian Championships in Thunder Bay in mid July.

516 Beaconsfield Yacht 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 Tardif- Holly
14354		Jacques Trottier
14591		Alain Boucher
14905	Rum Lime	Jamie A Allan
14905	Rum Lime	Jay Deakin
15082	Day Girl	Jamie Allan
15082	Day Girl	Michael Holly

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

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
12571	Joy II	Alain Perret
12860		Jean-Michel Luthi
13358	Chyloe II	Gilbert Despland
13840	Chiloe	Gilbert Despland

358 Flotte Murtensee

Sailing on Lake Murten
Murtensee, Switzerland

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Urs Wyler
Fleet Secretary: Walter Dürr

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

2012

In diesem Jahr konnten wir unsere vermutlich letzte Europameisterschaft in der Schweiz organisieren. Es kamen noch gerade 10 Boote nach Neuhaus Interlaken an den Thunersee. Die vom Segelclub Neuhaus bestens organisierte Europameisterschaft konnte dank gutem Wetter (sonnig, warm bis gewitterhaft) und guten Windverhältnissen (Windstärke 1 – 6) durchgeführt werden. Die Meisterschaft wurde einmal mehr von der Meltemi-Crew mit Urs Wyler, Walter und Gilbert Dürr mit 8 Laufsiegen überlegen gewonnen. Die Meisterschaft wurde mit der Preisverteilung auf dem Niederhorn würdig abgeschlossen. Herzlichen Dank an alle Teilnehmer, die den Weg ins Berner Oberland angetreten haben!

This year we organized what is likely to be our last European Championship in Switzerland. There were just ten boats from Neuhaus Interlaken to Lake Thun. It was successfully organized by the Sailing Club Championship Neuhaus, and we experienced sunny, warm weather with no thunderstorms. The Championship was won once again by the Meltemi crew of Urs Wyler, Walter Gilbert and Dürr with eight race wins. Many thanks to all participants who entered the path to the Bernese Oberland!

Texas

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

District Commodore:

Clarke Newman

2013

2013 marked a transition year for the District after having mobilized to host the North American Championships in 2011. We moved forward with the 2013 Southwestern Circuit. The Houston Fleet enjoyed continued growth while the Dallas fleets had weak activity.

The first event of the year was the Texas District Championships. We decided to hold this event in March to provide time for the packing up of District boats for the trip to Italy for the World Championships. After three years straight of nuking breezes, we had very light air on Saturday, accompanied by dense fog that proved costly in two damaging port/starboard collisions prior to the first start. Also, finding the marks proved to be a bit of a challenge. On Sunday, the temperatures dropped, and the wind was beyond nuking, so we never launched. Clarke Newman was the top Texas District finisher in second place and took home the Texas District Championship trophy.

We had two competitors from the Texas District compete in the 2013 World Championships. Clarke Newman and Tom Sutton went to Castiglione del Lago. A great time was had by all, and Tom and Diane used the trip to exchange wedding vows before the regatta. While two competitors from Texas attended the Worlds, six Texas District boats were shipped to Italy. Ian Edwards, while technically a member of the Australian District, sails mostly in the Texas District. He shipped five of his boats to Italy. He used one, Tom used one, and the rest were used by the sailors from Nigeria.

Eight boats were shipped from Houston, with Scott Finkboner from California and Steve Davis from Colorado joining us.

The Fleet activity in Houston was awesome. They had regular fleet racing and local regattas, and they participated in the Circuit regattas, especially Steve Harris and Ian Edwards. The Dallas event was our Circuit stop in October. We had a great regatta.

This year, Clarke Newman and Marvin Beckman attended the North American Championships in Connecticut. Marvin finished in the trophies in the Presidents Cup.

In 2014, we hope to rebuild activity in the Dallas area while continuing to build on the momentum in Houston. The 2014 Southwestern Circuit will begin with the Texas District Championships in April at Houston Yacht Club. Come sail with us.

35 Dallas Corinthian Sailing Club

Sailing on White Rock Lake
Dallas, Texas

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Stephen Bell

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
3104		David Yancy
10014		Rob Edwards
10020		James Crittendon
10285	Spray III	Carl E N Takle
10811		Matt Moran
10937		Kerry Cole
11118	Roadrunner	Ralph Bilnoski
12065		Bruce Jenevein
13100		Joan Bond
13512		Mike Tankersley
13722		Spencer McGowan
13806	Starlight II	Sylvan R Newman
14344		Clancy McKenna
14600	Mass Confusion	Jimmie E Ankele
14737		Stephen Bell

2013

Lightning sailing continues on White Rock Lake for the 70th year in 2013. Fleet membership has increased by one, and several boats changed hands.

Mike Tankersley returned to the area after several years absence and replaced his veteran Lightning 11817 with 13512, purchased from Bob Ustruck of Corpus Christi. Chris Roberts sold 13100 to Joan Bond of the White Rock Boat Club. Mark Rohr purchased 14344 from Clancy McKenna. We also gained our first Woody, 3104, in many years from New York, and longtime Lightning sailor and past Fleet Champion Ralph Bilnoski sold Roadrunner, 11118, to an out-of-town buyer.

1st – Larry Frost, Watt Duffy, Asher Zittre



435 Rush Creek Yacht Club

Sailing on Lake Ray Hubbard
Dallas, Texas

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: William Biermann

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
13228	Andros 3	Vernon R Goldberg
13703	Jive-Ho	Peter C Doncaster
13806	Starlight II	Clarke D Newman
14045	Blitz	John M Womble
14817	Sexy Bitch	John M Womble
15360	Seizure Salad	Clarke D Newman

521 Houston

Sailing on Upper Galveston Bay
Houston, Texas

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Christopher M Shipman

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
9845	Chase	Ron Smalley
11815	Revolution	John Glasscock
13806	Starlight II	William M Walton
14964	Ragnot One	Derek F Beck
15326	Mystique	Gary L Schwantz
15455	Salt Life	Steve Harris
15462	On Fire	Marvin Beckmann
15496	The Martian	Marvin Beckmann

2nd – Clarke Newman,
Deanna Newman,
Ralph Bilnoski



3rd – Steve Harris,
Michelle Harris,
Eric Harris



4th – Ian Edwards, Andrew Lee, Andrea Zaitte



US@Large

488 Rocky Mountain

488 Rocky Mountain

Sailing in Metro Denver and the Inter-Mountain West – Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming

Fleet Officers:

Fleet Captain: Walter David Thompson

Fleet Secretary: Jan Davis

Boat#	Boat Name	Skipper
435		Donna Downey
1477	Heliotrope	Ben S Beall
2230		John H Pattison
6392	Zephyr	Jesse Witt
7084		Tim Cochran
7311	Glory Days	Thomas Plunkett
8656	The Cheese	John H Pattison
9688		Tom Doroff
9809		Tim Ostrander
10383	Windtree	Scott R Evans
11138	Beater	David Spira
11211	Stress Relief	Christopher Safford
11446		Bob Stoller
11457	'lil Peppa	Evan Morris
11457	'lil Peppa	Norman R Jarvis
11795		Community Sailing of Colorado
12015		William F Cabrall
12029		John H Pattison
12290		Greg Mattoon
12428	Strata-G	Stephen Saunders
12871	Dandy Lion	Adam Hostetter
12871	Dandy Lion	Lucas A Armstrong
12962	Rakija	John H Pattison
13857		Martin R Mulhern
13858	Grey Goose	Al Gawthrop
14030		Steven H Davis
14041	Family Affair	Jacob Vargish
14681		Jim England
14713		Eric R Mayer
14769	North Star	Bob Stoller
15004		R Scott Hathcock
15026	Lively	John Hutton
15103		Steven H Davis
15104		Scott Hathcock
15228	Blue Two	Walter David Thompson
15265		Steven H Davis
15315	Quest	William F Cabrall
15405	Odyssey	David Spira

2012

Fleet 488 enjoyed an active and stimulating season in 2012, starting with the 2011 end-of-season Fleet banquet in January and going through October and into November, at the

Denver Sailing Association Awards banquet November 10, with lots of series racing and regatta action in between.

Team Blue Two, 15228, inaugurated the 2012 Fleet 488 season with their second trip in two years to the MLK birthday and Leukemia Cup Regattas at Lake Pleasant, Arizona, near Phoenix. Winds were light, and the air was a bit cool, but it was still an enjoyable escape from the mid-January winter chill in Denver. Blue Two turned out to be the fastest Lightning on the lake—we'll parenthetically note that she was the only Lightning on the lake.

The following weekend, Steve and Jan Davis hosted the 2011 Fleet 488 end-of-season banquet at their gracious home. Fourteen fleet members met for a most memorable evening of food and camaraderie, staying well past the designated end time to socialize and to get to know each other better. At the business meeting, David Thompson was elected to the post of Fleet Captain for 2012, and Bill Cabrall to the post of Fleet Secretary. A skeletal set of by-laws was adopted, and outgoing Fleet Captain, Bill Cabrall, was presented with a copy of 2011 musings of a Lightning Fleet Captain, a compendium of Bill's much-loved 2011 newsletters.

Things were quiet in Denver until the end of February, when, in March, three Fleet 488 boats sailed the 2012 Lightning Southern Circuit. Teams Thompson and Cabrall, Bill, Raeyane, and Jim England, sailed Savannah in chilly air and gusty winds, then drove on to Miami to race in warm sunshine and nice winds.

Former Fleet 488 member Mariel Yarbrough, on vacation in Miami after moving to the DC area, joined team Thompson and added her expertise as middle crew in Miami. Then it was on to St. Pete where the two Fleet 488 teams were joined by Steve Davis, sailing his boat with Brian Hayes and Maddie Waldron, while grandchildren Kai and Kylie Thompson flew in from Denver to be the crew for Blue Two. The air was warm, skies were sunny, and winds were light, resulting in only three races in three days, but the events were always enjoyable, especially the Saturday night banquet, as well as the Thursday night welcome reception and the Sunday closing ceremonies.

For the three-regatta series, Bill Cabrall placed 20th and David Thompson placed 27th. Steve Davis placed 15th in the St. Pete Winter Championships. At the Winter Championships banquet at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Steve Davis was awarded the Carl Smither memorial award for 2012, given each year to one of the ILCA's shining lights for his or her Corinthian spirit, support of the Lightning Class, and Class mentorship. Congratulations, Steve!

The 2012 Denver Sailing Association season kicked off on April 1, a fantastic spring day with sunny skies, temperatures in the 80s, and good



breezes. Unfortunately, only one Lightning, Bill Cabrall's Quest, #15315, came out. It may have been that nobody else thought there could be such a nice day on the first Sunday in April.

Then on April 7, the second race day in the spring Thaw-out Series, we again found only one Lightning, Blue Two, on the race course. Team Cabrall was on Race Committee and, unfortunately, David Thompson, sailing Blue Two, double-handed with Richard Allen, a highly experienced keelboat skipper, found a way to capsize and turtle the boat in only moderate winds and into extremely cold water. That required the full attention of the Race Committee. Racing was abandoned for the day in order to effect a successful rescue of the upside-down Lightning and the wet and cold crew.

The third race day in the Thaw-out Series, on April 15, was too cold and windy for sailboat racing on Cherry Creek Lake, and RC canceled racing for the day. However, on April 22, the fourth race day in the series, we had sunny skies, mild temperatures, and nice winds, and that was enough to get five Lightnings out. Steve Davis was on Race Committee, but his boat was still on the race course, helmed by long-time ILCA member Mark Schneider from Philadelphia, sailing with Cindy Schneider and Jan Davis. Not surprisingly, they took top honors, with three bullets. On April 29, the last race day in the series, we had good sailing conditions, but only two Lightnings were out, teams Quest and Dandy Lion.

The DSA Spring Series of ten race days, with dinghies sailing on Thursday evenings, kicked off on May 3, but no Lightnings went out that evening in the 25 mph winds, gusting to 35. The nine subsequent Spring Series dinghy race days were better, and we averaged five Lightnings on the line, on evenings that varied from having very light winds to one evening with 29 mph winds, gusting to thirty-seven.

We were joined in some of the Spring Series evenings by visitors Andrew Smith from upstate New York, Michelle Gruesbeck from Chicago, and Elaine Leo from Memphis. Also joining us were Pete Horsch from Denver, who became a more-or-less regular crew on Quest, Greg Cox, who moved here along with his keelboat from Missouri, and Jim England, formerly a regular crew on Quest, who purchased Lightning 14681 and started his own team, sailing with spouse Lori, Rebecca Bevrit, and/or Greg Cox. Speaking of purchasing Lightnings, Bill Cabrall went to western Colorado in June to appraise, then purchase 12015, a home-built woodie in museum-quality condition, and is keeping it sheltered in indoor storage until the right purchaser comes along.

The high point of the spring, however, was the annual DSA Shootout/Hornblower Regatta on May 19 and 20. Congratulations to Bill Cabrall, who scored seven bullets in a series of eight races over two

days in variable wind conditions, to take first place in the 2012 Hornblower Regatta! Bill sailed with Raeyane Farrell and Norm Jarvis, and they dominated the dinghy course in all but one race. Congratulations to Bob Stoller, down from Union Sailing Club, with Rebecca Espinosa and Catherine March, who took second. Team Blue Two, with Kai Thompson and Jim England on board, took third, and the Dandy Lions took fourth.



Out on the Colorado Western Slope, Ben Beall in Steamboat Springs announced, on July 2, the successful re-launch of #1477 after a twenty-year restoration project. The boat, built in 1946 in the Hubert Johnson boat yard, was wet sailed on Steamboat Lake all summer and performed very well.

The DSA Summer Series of ten race days, with dinghies sailing on Thursday evenings, kicked off on July 12, and two Lightnings were out, Teams Davis and Gawthrop, while Teams Quest, Blue Two, and Dandy Lion used the evening instead to pack their boats for a trip to the mountains near Bassalt, Colorado, the location of Reudi Reservoir and the 2012 Aspen Open Regatta. More on the Summer Series below, but first, here is the scoop on Fleet 488's participation in the Aspen Open.

Saturday's sailing started with an hour and a half of postponement under flat calm conditions in warm sunshine, prompting several crew members to jump into the lake for a refreshing swim. Then a gentle westerly (and sometimes easterly) breeze filled in, allowing starts for all five divisions. Then towards the end of the first race for the Portsmouth division, that started fifth in the sequence), a passing storm cell brought 40+ mph gusts, knocking several keelboats flat and overturning most of the Lasers and Sunfish. Bill Cabrall at the leeward mark noted all six Sunfish sailing downwind side-by-side suddenly go simultaneously airborne before capsizing. Lightning flashes in the sky subsequently prompted the three Lightnings to finish the race and then retire, but most other boats stayed out for three more races.

Sunday's conditions were a repeat of Saturday's except that the postponement at the beginning was only about fifteen minutes, and the 40+ mph gusts from the passing storm cell waited until many boats were headed in after finishing the last race of the day. That made for some difficult docking scenarios, and a long wait at the clubhouse for the storm to pass before hauling out, but by 6:00 PM the sun was shining, the air was warming, and the last boats were hauling out.

The Aspen Open is always memorable for the Saturday post-racing dinner and entertainment, and the 2012 regatta was no excep-



tion, with an excellent catered dinner

Once the U-20 was removed, the Lightnings

and a very good open bar at the cocktail reception, followed by dancing and camaraderie into the later hours of the evening.

Most of the participants camped on the Aspen Yacht Club grounds, making for easy access to their boats and to the clubhouse facilities.

Three Fleet 488 boats made the trip to Ruedi Reservoir. All three boats survived intact, although there were some tense moments on haul-out on Sunday, when teams Thompson, Dandy Lion and Cabrall, in a plan to avoid the lengthy lines forming for use of the one concrete launch ramp, elected instead to haul out on the adjacent beach. The plan was to rendezvous the boats at the swim platform ten yards off shore, then, in an organized sequence, pull the boats out and stage them for packing right on the beach.

The plan had to be modified when a U-20, sailing for the dock, got hit by a 40+ mph gust, broached, and washed up instead against the weather side of the swim platform, pinning teams Cabrall and Dandy Lion on the leeward side and pushing them rapidly towards shore. Team Thompson, late to the rendezvous, saw what was happening and steered for the docks instead, avoiding the excitement. For twenty minutes, teams Cabrall and Dandy Lion held on, hoping against hope that they would not be crushed by the swim platform being pushed by the U-20, while a cadre of thirty volunteer swimmers held the U-20 as best they could until a rescue powerboat arrived to extricate the nearly beached whale.

While the Lightnings were hauled out, but a heavy ensuing rain, lasting more than an hour, kept the crews huddled at the clubhouse until it passed, delaying the boat packing activity. At last, by 6:00 PM, the three Lightnings were packed and on their way to Glenwood Springs, where they stayed overnight for a therapeutic soak in the hot springs pool, a nice diner, and a soft bed.

Meanwhile, back in Denver, the DSA Summer Series continued on into mid-September, with six Lightnings out on most races days, and weather conditions suitable for racing on all ten. Also, Teams Davis and Cabrall headed for the Lightning North American Masters and Championships, leaving on July 30. On Saturday morning, July 28, Bill Cabrall, Jim England, Raeyane Farrell, Rebecca Bevit, Steve and Jan Davis, and David and Barb Thompson met at the Cherry Creek Marina to clean and pack three boats for a trip the following week to Houston. Davis' brought two boats, one chartered to a junior sailor from Houston and left on Monday. Jim England towed Bill's boat and left on Sunday. The other Quest team members flew out later in the week. Here are some photos of the packing party:

Both teams had some successes in Houston. Steve and Jan Davis, sailing with Will Brown, took third place in the 2012 Lightning North American Masters' Championships in Houston, with two bullets, a third, and two fourths in a field of sixteen boats. Team Cabrall, with Bill, Jim England, and Rebecca, placed 12th. Then, a week later, fifty five



Team Dandy Lion — Lucas, Jaimie, Nate



Jim England and Adam Hostetter



Lightnings competed in the 2012 North American Championships. From Denver, teams Davis (Steve, Jan and Ian Schillebeeckx) placed 26th and Cabrall (Bill, Raeyane and Jim England) placed 43rd. David Spira registered, but did not race.

At the annual summer meeting of the ILCA, Fleet 488 was awarded the Steketee Trophy for 2012, recognizing the Fleet for outstanding contribution to the Lightning Class, naming the Fleet as ILCA Fleet of the Year. When the teams arrived back in Denver they met for a photo shoot with the trophy:

Back in Denver, for the remainder of the Summer Series, we had four Lightnings out on August 23,

five on August 16 and six on August 30, September 6 and September 13. (See next page)

We concluded the Summer Series just in time for the 2012 Colorado Governors Cup Regatta on the weekend of September 22 and 23. Eight Lightnings were out for the 2012 regatta, on a week-end with beautiful sunshine and gentle winds. Sailing were teams: Davis, Thompson, Gawthrop, Dandy Lion, Cabrall, England, Vargish, and Ostrander. Team Davis, with Fred Gohl at the helm and Steve as crew, double-handed; and skipper Norm Jarvis crewed with Kai, as was David on the Thompson boat.





Saturday gave us a full day of sunshine and temperatures in the mid 70s, with northerly winds that were a bit light at first but that strengthened to the range of 5-10 mph for most of the afternoon, then died out at the conclusion of racing. On the dinghy course, we got in four races; on the keelboat course, RC was able to get off five races. All boats were back at the dock by 5:00 PM, and an outstanding dinner, prepared by Steve and Jan Davis and Francine Hoffman was served at 6:00 PM. Festivities went on well after dinner, for a most enjoyable first day of racing.

The weather forecast for Sunday called for mostly sunny and very warm conditions, a high temperature of 83 degrees, and winds from the northeast at three mph with gusts to seven. And that's what we got, except that starting at 12:15, following the conclusion of the first, and only, race, we got a flat calm until, mercifully, the RC put up the abandon flag at 1:30 PM.

On the dinghy course, the RC started the race promptly at 11:00 AM, on schedule, sending us on a 6 - L - 6 - L course in the then westerly winds that were light but directionally steady for the first two legs. But then, during the third and fourth legs, the winds got lighter and started oscillating to the northeast and back again, and in different directions at different points on the water. At one time on the fourth leg, three Lightnings were making progress with chutes up while four others were catching up from behind while sailing close-hauled. Fortunately, we all were able to finish that race, but, unfortunately, the winds died, and there was not another race. That however did give us the opportunity to get back to the docks, secure our boats, and enjoy the post-racing party and the awards ceremony.

Congratulations to Steve Davis and team who took home the first place trophy; Bill Cabrall and team took second, and Al Gawthrop and team took third.

The DSA Fall Frostbite Series started Saturday, September 29 and concluded on October 27.

The weather was too cold, wet, and windy

for racing on October 6 and 13 but on the other three race days we had four, six, and five Lightnings out, respectively.

The final event of the 2012 season was the Denver Sailing Association banquet on November 10, attended by eighty-four DSA members and guests. Lightnings were there in full force, with teams Davis, Cabrall, Dandy Lion, Gawthrop, and Thompson fully represented. Steve Davis was given the 2012 USSA Sportsmanship award, and Team Davis won the 2012 DSA Lightning Series Racing award. The following Lightning skippers were awarded these series racing trophies:

Steve Davis: Thaw-out Series - 2nd place;
Spring Series - 1st place;
Summer Series - 1st place.

Bill Cabrall: Thaw-out Series - 1st place;
Spring Series - 2nd place;
Summer Series - 2nd place;
Frostbite Series - 1st place.

Lucas Armstrong: Thaw-out Series - 3rd place;
Frostbite Series - 3rd place

David Thompson: Summer Series - 3rd place;
Frostbite Series - 2nd place.

Al Gawthrop: Spring Series - 3rd place.

In the business meeting, David Thompson was elected to the position of DSA Vice Commodore; Steve Davis and Jan Davis retained their positions as DSA Treasurer and Newsletter/Website Editor respectively, and Francine Hoffman was elected to the position of DSA Groundskeeper.

All in all, an outstanding year for Fleet 488!

2013

Fleet Banquet

We started 2013 with the Fleet 488 End-of-2012 Season Banquet on Saturday, January 19, at the gracious home of Steve and Jan Davis. Twenty Fleet members and friends had a most enjoyable evening and lingered well past the scheduled ending time to socialize with members they had



Team Davis: Francine Hoffman, Steve and Jan Davis with the 2012 DSA Lightning Series Award

not seen since the end of sailing season in October. At the business meeting, David Thompson was re-elected to the post of Fleet Captain, and Jan Davis was elected to the post of Fleet Secretary. David reviewed the highlights of the 2012 season, including the awards given at the 2012 DSA End-of-Season Banquet.

Southern Circuit

In March, three Fleet 488 teams, Davis, Cabrall, and Thompson, traveled to the 2013 Southern Circuit. Steve and Jan flew into Savannah, chartered a boat from Laura Jeffers, and sailed with Laura and Brian Hayes. Bill Cabrall drove the northern route and picked up Raeyane at the Nashville airport and picked up Jim England at the Savannah airport.

Teams Davis and Cabrall sailed the entire Circuit. Barb and David drove to St. Pete the last week in February, where they stayed for an entire month in a rental condo. They headed down to Miami on March 11 to meet up with Rob Merritt who had flown in from Denver the night before. Team Davis placed 9th out of twenty-six boats sailing the entire Circuit, and Team Cabrall placed 22nd. Subsequently, Bill Cabrall published a poem in the April 1 edition of the ILCA Flash Blast emailed newsletter. We've nominated Bill to be Poet Laureate for ILCA!

Thaw-Out Series

Five Fleet 488 Lightnings competed in the Denver Sailing Association's Thaw-out Series, April 6 through May 4. Unlike last year, we had sailable weather for all five Saturdays. Not surprisingly, Steve Davis took first place, and Bill Cabrall took second place in this series. More surprisingly, David Thompson took third.

Toby Flips His Lightning

New Lightning skipper Toby Hamer had acquired #12015 last fall and needed to flip the boat over on to sawhorses in his back yard in order to refinish her bottom. So, on Saturday April 27 ten Feet members and friends appeared at his house at 10:00 AM to flip the boat. It only took about fifteen minutes, and by the time that Bill Cabrall arrived, the job was done.



Spring Series

Seven Fleet 488 boats competed in the Denver Sailing Association Spring Series, May 9 through July 10 in races sailed in light air on some evenings and heavier air on other evenings. Bad weather forced the cancellation of racing on May 9, and high winds kept the Lightnings ashore on May 30. Bill Cabrall took first place in the series, Steve Davis second, and David Thompson third.



Shootout/Hornblower Regatta

In the interim, five Fleet 488 Lightnings, teams Davis, Cabrall, Dandy Lion, Stoller, and Thompson, sailed in the 2013 DSA Shootout/Hornblower Regatta on May 18 and 19. We had light and variable winds on both days, but not so light that we couldn't race and occasionally strong enough in the gusts to cause us to get up on the deck and hike. Sailing on the dinghy course at the southeast end of the lake, we got in three races on Saturday and four on Sunday, all on windward-leeward courses marked by yellow buoys. Finishes were in the order you would expect, except for the last race on Sunday, when the Dandy Lions found their secret inboard engine and flashed by all four other Lightnings on the final leg to take first place. Way to go, Dandy Lions! In that race, team Thompson was second around the windward mark and also at the leeward mark, and had expectations of a second or third place finish, behind Dandy Lion and Davis, but in the twenty seconds or so before the finish line, teams Cabrall and Stoller both inched past Thompson on their windward side. As they say in France, "desolé!" Team Davis took first place, Cabrall came in second, and Dandy Lion took third.

Crew Coordinator Program

We started the Fleet 488 Crew Coordination program on May 27. Following a recommendation by Fleet 488 skipper Jim England, our Fleet Captain filled the role of Crew Co-

dinator, for the purpose of getting more Lightnings on the line for our 2013 Spring and Summer series races.

Crew candidates were listed on the Lightning Crew Connection page on our website to serve as a pool from which to draw for crew positions on specific Thursday nights. Here is how it was designed to work:

- Any skipper knowing on Monday that he will need crew for the upcoming Thursday will contact the Crew Coordinator on Monday to explain his needs;
- The Crew Coordinator will canvas the crew pool and work to make a match;
- Skippers who know on Monday they will not be sailing will contact the Crew Coordinator on Monday to let him know which of his regular crew will be available to sail on other boats the upcoming Thursday.

Over the course of the Spring and Summer Series, we made at least one crew match per racing evening, getting more boats on the water this year.

Lightning Worlds

Also in the interim, two Fleet 488 skippers traveled to Castiglione del Lago, Italy, to compete in the Lightning World Masters' and Lightning World Championships. Congratulations to DSA Lightning skippers Steve Davis and David Spira, who placed 10th and 11th respectively in the International Masters' Championship Regatta! Steve sailed with Laura Jeffers and Amy Linton; David sailed with Todd Whitman and Randy Shore. Subsequently, Steve placed 18th out of a star-studded cast of forty-six in the Lightning World Championships, and David Spira placed 23rd. Well done, Steve and David!

Lake Level Low and Scheduled to go Lower



We experienced a dramatic drop in the level of Cherry Creek Reservoir, due to continuing drought conditions and a need to drop the lake level further to satisfy water-rights holders downstream. By the end of the Spring Series the lake was three feet below its specified recreational level, exposing mud flats in the harbor where we launch and recover for racing, and exposing fixed-keel racing boats to the risk of striking bottom on the race course. This

required a change in launching and docking strategy, basically pulling up centerboards and removing rudders once we entered the marina channel, and then paddling the rest of the distance to the crane dock. That proved to be a difficult challenge when returning on nights when winds were blowing from the west, straight out the channel we were attempting to enter.

On a Happier Note...



On a happier note, on July 6 Fleet 488 members David Spira and Rebecca Bevrit traveled east to sail with Alister Thomson on July 6 around Fishers Island, Connecticut.

Summer Series

Nine Fleet 488 Lightnings competed in the DSA Summer Series, July 18 through September 19. The continuing drought and low water put a crimp in our racing activities, as did a couple of strong thunderstorms.

Then rains of epic portions came the week of September 9–13, alleviating our low water problem, turning it into a high water problem on the lake, and causing catastrophic flooding along the Platte River drainage and the foothills communities north of Denver.

On September 15, all boats in the lower parking lot were removed and sent up the hill to the middle parking lot, where we created a new, if temporary, Lightning row.

In the Summer Series, Team England took first place, Team Davis took second, and Team Dandy Lion took third.

In Summer Series Race #4, on August 8, we noted that in our memory we have never had a race where a thunderstorm passed directly over the lake—until tonight.

As boats were leaving the marina for the race course, some eyes were focused on a dark cloud mass to the south, but it seemed like it was moving away and was not going to be of much concern for racing. A lighter cloud mass to the north was obscured by the dam, and we did not pay attention to it. In hindsight, it might have been a good idea to follow it more closely.

The Race Committee had, in the meantime, set a triangular course and started the Lasers after only a slight postponement. While the next group of boats was setting up for their start, some of the skippers wondered about that lighter cloud to the north that now appeared to be headed over the lake.