

JOURNAL OF THE THISTLE
CLASS ASSOCIATION



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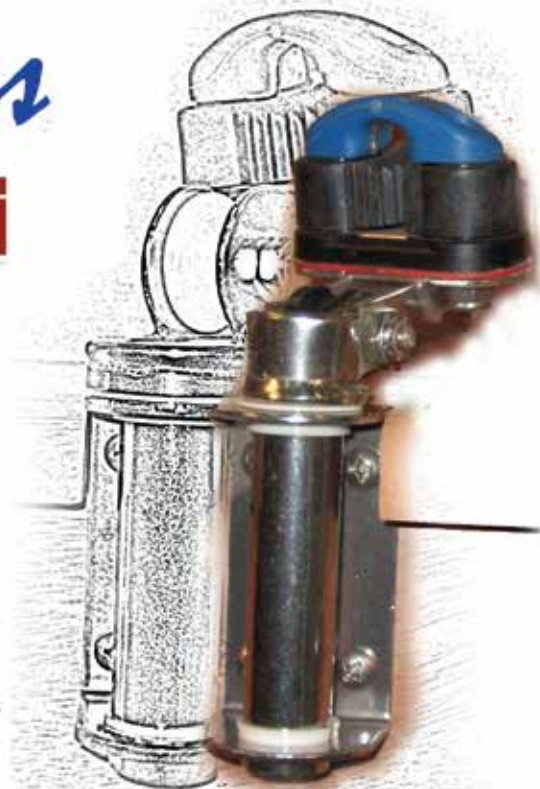
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On the Cover:

Wednesday evening in September at Indianapolis Sailing Club

Photo by Bill Crawford

This Page:

Aaron Shaikh and Mike Lovett with Hanna Santantonio behind the sail at Hoover Sailing Club's Last Splash Regatta

Photo by Lisa Kreischer

BAGPIPE

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John I. Howell III - 1st VP

Growing the TCA by the Numbers

Last week, Nicole Shedden, Warren Duckworth, and I reviewed results from the 2019 TCA Class Survey. The first of two major findings are that the average age of Thistle sailors is between 57 and 59 which means we have less than 10 years to grow the 25-40 age demographic. If we cannot increase the number of younger sailors by 250-300 members in 10 years, most of the class will age out, and we will be watching the class disappear. Simple math says we need to add 25-30 new members or about 4% per year. If we assume that half of these new members will come from families, then we need 8 families and 12-14 new single members each year. Since the class has about 60 active fleets, we can meet our growth goal by adding ONE new member to each fleet, every two years. Stated in this fashion, adding 250-300 new members (under 40) does not seem so unimaginable.

The good news is that the class is growing already. Joy Martin reported that as of Oct 15, 2019, the Class has grown from 633 members to 652 members or just about 3% per year. The question is how do we maintain and expand this growth profile in the coming years.

First, we must identify who should be attracting and engaging these new members. Again, the survey results gave us some great input. The principle reasons we sail Thistles are, in order, PEOPLE, BOAT, and COMPETITION. When we look at the under 40 crowd, they would add a fourth reason being PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE. The fact that people are the number one reason we sail the boat suggests that our sailors are the best ambassadors we can have to invite new sailors to join the class.

Next, we have to ask what we do to identify, develop, and retain new sailors in the fleet. There have been several great articles in the *Bagpipe* in the recent past which show us what some individuals and clubs are doing. Nancy Molitor published *How to Grow Thistle Sailing* in the Oct/Nov 2017 *Bagpipe*, where she described Atlanta Yacht Club "Thistle Rallies". The rallies emphasize having fun and building skills rather than racing results. In conjunction with their adult learn to sail program, they have added three new boats in two years and are increasing activity with their existing members. Jack Finefrock wrote an article in the Aug/Sept 2019 *Bagpipe* titled *Encouraging, Nurturing, and Developing Young Sailors*. He describes his one-on-one methods for connecting with young sailors and his proven methods for encouraging, nurturing, and developing our Thistle sailors of tomorrow. Jack is responsible for at least one new Thistle in the recent past. Scott Meyer published *Thistle Tune-up Days* in the Oct/Nov 2019 *Bagpipe*. The column describes how he helped new Thistle racers develop their skills and get out of the tail end of the club races. Scott's efforts may not add new boats, but he sure keeps existing boats engaged. There are also unpublished examples where John Baker and Joy Martin nurtured young sailors or Mike Gillum eliminated roadblocks to get some young guys into a Thistle for PCC's in 2019 (and the team won the regatta). Baker/Martin and Gillum are all responsible for one or more new boats in the last few years.

If we pull all this information together, we can say we have a very clear purpose, goal, resources, and multiple programs that have proven successful. Our purpose is to expand the group we call Thistle sailors, and in the process ensure the succession of our beloved class. Our goal is one new member, per fleet, every two years for the next 10 years. Our resources are the people who currently sail Thistles. This includes skippers, crews, family, etc. We all play a role in making the "Thistle Family" a great place to invest our time. The proven programs are great examples to learn from, but we should not be bound by them. The challenge is to find the individuals in our fleets who will accept this challenge and invite new people to join the Thistle Family. These individuals will develop an approach that they are comfortable with and that works for their situation.

The last time the Thistle Family was challenged with a clear goal (matching \$15,000 in 2018) we exceeded the goal by more than 35%. I hope we can exceed this goal by more than 35% and thus ensure the long-term success of the Thistle Class. Please join with me in committing to add one new Thistle sailor to your fleet this year. Together, we can reach and probably exceed our growth goal. 🚀

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Bagpipe Deadlines

January 1 for February/March
February 20 for April/May
May 1 for June/July
July 1 for August/September
September 1 for October/November
November 1 for December/January

If you want to advertise in the **Bagpipe**, contact Joy Martin at thistlejoy85@gmail.com.



Alison Gillum- 3rd VP, Growth & Promotion Right for the Class

I knew that she wouldn't be thrilled when she found out. Driving back from Encinitas, the toothpick that was being dragged repeatedly across my sunburn reminded me that I had to tell my mother sooner or later of what I had done. Except there wasn't a toothpick in sight and my skin hadn't been out in the sun. The never-ending pain was from a fresh tattoo on the side of my torso that showed the blueprint outline of a Thistle hull complete with mast and sails.

While she wasn't tickled, she understood the reasoning behind it - many of our fondest memories as a family revolved around the boat and class. I can recall being begrudgingly babysat on shore while the parents raced on Huntington Lake and many late nights as both of them toiled away on the next **Bagpipe** issue. When I finally weighed enough to do something more than just pleasure cruise (which, honestly, I still do to this day) and was brought along to more regattas as crew, I realized that the events were really just glorified family reunions with a competitive aspect. When I went off to college and then moved to Santa Barbara, there came a time that my family and I only saw each other at Thistle events. When Nationals ended each year, I bawled at the airport each time, heartbroken that I wouldn't see many of my favorite sailors/people for another year. When I landed a new job last year, I couldn't wait to tell all of the Thistlers since I knew that they would be just as stoked as my family. Many of you have all seen me grow up, know of my triumphs and my troubles, rooted for me no matter the situation, and always, always had my back.

So when I was asked about possibly joining the TCA Executive Committee, it was a no-brainer. How could I say no to the class that gave me so much for more than two decades? It is high time that I start giving back. As I try to fill in the shoes that John left behind, I cannot make any promises, but I will tell you this - I will only do what is right for the class, and I will listen to each and every one of you, be open to change, but also realize that change doesn't happen overnight. While you don't need to get a tattoo to show your loyalty, voice your love for the class in other ways - donate a buck or two to the Growth and Promotion Fund, lend your boat out to a young team who is strapped for cash for a couple of regattas, volunteer to take people out in your Thistle at your club's open house, or simply tell someone a relevant anecdote about sailing Thistles. And as they say, teamwork makes the dream work...

In the meantime, feel free to bug me with any questions, concerns, ideas, or even how your day went through email, DM, postcard, text, phone call, smoke signal... whatever suits your fancy. Catch me on Instagram at @alisonlikestosail (cute and original, I know) if you want to sort of follow the life of an executive officer (sort of = I rarely post, but more so than FaceBook, and if I do post, 95% of the content isn't about sailing). Let us ride through this adventure together and be the class that saves the sport of sailing! #gobigorgohome? 🚩



Joy Martin - Class Secretary 10 Ways to Help our Class Secretary Keep the Thistle Class Strong

1. Host a fleet party in December or early January and collect dues and contact information.
2. Host a fleet happy hour at your club or a local pub and collect dues and contact information.
3. Send a fleet newsletter encourage to folks to pay their dues via the membership tab on the website, Thistleclass.com, or by snail mail to:
Thistle Class Association
3407 County Rd. 20
Stanley, NY, 14561
4. Encourage skippers to buy Associate Memberships for all their crew.
5. Have your fleet sponsor Junior Memberships for any juniors at your club.
6. Send your birth year to class secretary Joy Martin so we can monitor class demographics.
7. File your fleet report by mid January. Be sure to confirm all contact information.
8. Elect or re-elect fleet captains and fleet secretaries and let Joy, your District Governor, and Regional Vice President know who they are.
9. Pay your dues via class store or snail mail individually on time!
10. Let Joy know when you move, change phone numbers or email addresses. 🚩



Shaker Upper

The first job of a president is to be a caretaker of the organization, to administer the group according to the group's rules. The second job is to shake up the place looking for fresh ways of doing things that might make it even better. I can be a caretaker. I'd like to be a really good "shaker-upper."

Here are some things I'd like to address and make better.

1. Making us known as those sociable people who routinely take new people out 'just' sailing. And then they'll say, 'Oh, and they have a cool boat. And, you can compete.'
2. Inspiring each of us to become actively involved in teaching sailing somewhere. I would love to see the TCA become known as "The Class that Teaches Sailing." Good things will come of that if we do it right.
3. Expanding coaching opportunities for the whole fleet. Coach-TCA goes viral!
4. Encouraging individual fleets to launch their own boat grant program, providing a fleet-owned boat to a younger team, OR getting a small fleet of loaner-Thistles available in your club.
5. Exploring different race courses for Nationals and major events.
6. Exploring a different schedule of days and races for Nationals.
7. Exploring how to add reliable child-care options to regatta planning.
8. Applying a test to each solution in items 1-7, 'Does this serve the interests of women, particularly mothers with young children?'
9. Trying to get your club to take down the "members only" sign. How else will you get new members if they are not welcome?
10. Simplifying our Nationals trophy deluge, reducing costs, and without reducing recognition.

For inspiration, I offer some recent, condensed content with permission from **Scuttlebutt Sailing News**, <https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/> & **Seahorse Magazine**, <https://www.seahorsemagazine.com/>

About Robbie Doyle, Inductee to the National Sailing Hall of Fame 2019
In 2009 he was elected commodore of the Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead. To grow participation in racing, Doyle hired a collegiate sailing coach to work with members on their technique during the summer racing season. The initiative was a huge success.

The club purchased a fleet of boats for members to use and built up team racing. Reflecting on his time as commodore Doyle says, "It's fun to sit at a council meeting every month and talk about ideas, and then watch people go out with passion and make things happen."

By Ian Walker, [2 Olympic medals, Volvo Ocean Race winner, now racing manager of the Royal Yachting Association]

- *Changing formats*

"Few would wish to go back to the days of long Olympic triangle/sausage courses....

[Fleets often need] a qualifying series, followed by gold and silver fleets... This puts a huge pressure on the schedule that often leads to not much racing.

The best inventions of the past 40 years would have to be either the inner/outer loop trapezoid course that enables two fleets to race on the same course....

I can't help but think that the next step is for fleet racing to somehow learn from team racing where courses that never return to the same mark twice enable races to start every few minutes....

- *Improved race management*

Being a race officer has become a complex task.... One championship race area typically needs about 16 volunteers (excluding umpires and jury) More complexity, more officials, and a higher standard of racing comes at a cost. Big events are getting ever more expensive to host and beyond the reach of many clubs. This is highlighted by the lack of bids for World Sailing's prestige regattas,....

- *Coaching*

[People want coaching but he laments the cost of too many coaches on the water and crewing the boats.]

- *Changing role of the club*

After the boom in small boat sailing in the UK in the 1960s.... Fast forward to the current day and many clubs are struggling. Often the club product hasn't really changed, and we face increased competition from both new and traditional sports like.... As if that isn't enough, clubs are having to come to terms with fundamental societal shifts such as increased working hours, Sunday shopping, the changing roles within the family,.... Sailing clubs need to position themselves at the heart of local communities and welcome families who may see the lifestyle benefits of their children taking up our sport. Who wouldn't want their child to make new friends, have fun and learn independence, competitiveness, teamwork, creativity, confidence, courage, resilience?

- *Rise of singlehanders*

.... Singlehanded sailing has its advantages but it is not as social for kids, it doesn't cater for those who don't wish to helm, it is not as popular among females, and by the top of youth sailing it becomes extremely physical. In my view too much emphasis on singlehanded sailing is a real risk to participation.

- *Separation of the top of the sport from its roots*

.... We need the inspiration provided by the pinnacle events and we need heroes, but we also need to think about what the sport looks like for the average weekend sailor.

.... Sailing is for all ages, it should be social, fun, inclusive, challenging (mental and physical), healthy, sustainable, accessible, to name but a few qualities.

Some may be single-minded enough to progress on to become Olympic champions, but to sustain a healthy sport we need many more simply to take part, join clubs, race, cruise, or volunteer.

Above all else we need to develop ways of making the sport more affordable. Without this sailing will never be accessible enough to grow again.

I am singing the same song as I have for years. Altogether now, let's do this! 🍷

Coach-TCA MWE

How about seven days of coaching while you race in St. Pete on Tampa Bay?



Three of those days we will have with Greg Fisher [Champion many times in Thistles, Lightnings, J/22s, National Champion college coach, US Pan-Am Team coach]

Coach-TCA is built on the belief that continuing to learn and improve skills makes sailing fun and keeps people in the game. Informal sessions on shore bring people together. This coaching program wraps around the Thistle Midwinters East in St. Petersburg, FL.

Participating in Coach-TCA is a good way for competent home-fleet sailors and for experienced sailors who need a refresher to get up to speed for the more challenging regattas.

Components of the course:

- Personalized on-shore boat tune-up session
- Six twenty-minute morning sessions about lessons of the previous day and weather today
- Six 45 minute discussions or post-race analyses, videos, & demonstrations
- On-board coaching – weather & time permitting, the goal of one 30 minute session with a top-of-the-fleet sailor

Cost:

\$30 per boat contribution to the TCA Growth and Promotion fund.

NO COST for

- first time MWE sailors,
- all new class members (2019 & 2020) and
- all skippers under 26 years old.

Please register EARLY, by email to V.P. John Howell, III.

<jjhowelliii@gmail.com>

Regatta registration is a separate item, go to

<https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=9691>



Another Growth and Promotion Idea Revisited

by Chris Klotz #1

There have been some very good suggestions in the past few **Bagpipes** concerning Growth and Promotion for the class. I'd like to suggest another idea that would help in that regard. And that is Team Racing! It has many pluses:

1. It involves less experienced sailors that team up with more experienced sailors working together as a team.
2. It involves lots of learning/teaching in making the boat go fast (sail handling and balance), plus the strategy / tactics involved in helping teammates produce a winning team score for each race.
3. There is a social aspect to it during and

afterwards for everyone.

Team racing works best at the Fleet level, which is perfect for G&P within a Fleet. It works best when the winds are moderate and fairly steady, but doesn't have to be. You should also place the less experienced sailors in the same boat as the more experienced sailors. You could have as few as 4 boats consisting of 2 teams of 2 boats with 2 people per boat = 8 people or as many as 4 teams of 4 boats / team with 3 people per boat = 48 people. Ideally, 4 teams of 3 boats with 2 or 3 people per boat = 24 -36 people.

I am deliberately not using the term "racers," "competitors," or even "contestants," because

this is supposed to be not so much about winning, but more about camaraderie and giving the less experienced sailors a chance to interact with the "hot shots." So it is very important for the more advanced sailors to remember to not be overbearing on your boat and with your other team members and even the other teams. It's supposed to be fun! Go ahead and mix it up. I know the Fleet members who tend to not score well in Fleet races will appreciate what Team Racing has to offer, which will help maintain and even expand Thistling at your club. Let all of us know with a blurb on the Listserve and, better in the **Bagpipe**, of your experience(s) with Team Racing. 🚩

Calendar

December 14-15, 2019

Hot Rum Regatta

Mission Bay Yacht Club, San Diego, CA
Contact: Mike Poltorak
poltorakmi@cox.net
2018 Winner: Kirsten Cummings

January 30-February 2, 2020

Mid-Winters West & Larry Klein Memorial

Mission Bay Yacht Club, San Diego, CA
Contact: Lizette Hackett
hackettfamily8@yahoo.com
2019 Winner: Mike Gillum

March 1-6, 2020

Mid-Winters East

St. Petersburg Yacht Club, FL
www.spyc.org
Contact: Greg Griffin, thistle3976@gmail.com
2019 Winner: Matt Fisher

March 20-22, 2020

Orange Peel Regatta

The Florida Yacht Club, Jacksonville, FL
Contact: Paul Abdullah, 904-571-6051
Paulabdu@bellsouth.net
2019 Winner: Paul Abdullah

May 16-17, 2020

Damful Regatta

Leatherlips Yacht Club, Columbus, OH
Contact: Paul Kreitler, 614-507-7360
paulkreitler@gmail.com
2019 Winner: Steve Lavender

August 1-7, 2020

75th Anniversary Thistle Nationals

Cleveland Yachting Club, OH
Contact: Fred Hunger, 440-725-3537
f.hunger@worldshipping.com
2019 Winner: Greg Griffin
Women's Winner: Nicole Shedden
Junior Winner: Grant Gridley



Midwinters East Trivia

by John Deermount

1. Who won the first MWE at SPYC (1956)?
2. Have any famous sailors raced at the SPYC MWE?
3. Who holds the record for SPYC MWE attendance?

Answers on page 22

MARCH 1st - MARCH 6th, 2020

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1215 EL CARMEL PLACE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92109

Schedule:

January 29 > Practice day annual dinner at Leslie Klein's

January 30 - February 1 > Racing in the ocean

February 2 > Match racing in the bay

Contact:

Lizette Hackett or George Samuels

Lizette - Hackett2152@gmail.com

George - resultscpa@gmail.com

2019 Winners

Championship: Mike, Mardy, and Alison Gillum

Presidential: Bruce Holderbein, Tim Zimmerman, Jordan Reed



MARCH 1st - MARCH 6th, 2020

ST. PETERSBURG YACHT CLUB



TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE 2020 MWE

1. It's a week later March 1 - 6. More younger crews should be available due to spring break.
2. It's a week of great sailing in warm weather with an award-winning Race Committee.
3. Races will be limited to two per day, unless absolutely necessary.
Yes, you'll be able to sail and enjoy your vacation, too.
4. Shuffleboard is back on Monday night. Who's going to win this year's rolling pin?
5. It's not that expensive, if you plan early. Early reservations get the best room rates. There are plenty of AirB&B and VRBO options that are very reasonable and if your budget affords, the best hotel deals are thru the SPYC website. Also, 25 rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn. They're at a discounted rate, but not as good as SPYC corporate rate. They're being held until Feb. 1st.
6. The MWE qualifies for the Thistle Class Scholarship Program.
Younger sailors can have their entry fee comped.
7. The entry fee will be the same as last year, but with more included!
Better food, more events including the Shuffleboard Night and more trophies!
8. An "Old Salt" trophy is being added, awarded to the highest finisher over the age of 60.
9. There's more for non-sailors to do - the Dali Museum, the James Museum of Western Art, and a brand new Arts & Crafts Museum. Even parts of the new Pier are scheduled to open by March.
10. The MWE is one of the oldest Thistle events held continuously at one location. This is the 64th year of MWE at SPYC. Come join the celebration and see why the MWE is something special.
The NOR is up on the class website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT JOHN DEERMOUNT

email jdeermount@gmail.com • *or call* 201-264-1527



2019 Delta Dinghy Ditch Run

Lake Washington Sailing Club - August 18, 2019
by Mike Gillum #926



West Sacramento, CA

Photos by Jonathan Weston

Sunday, August 18, 2019 saw six Fleet 97 Sacramento Thistles sail as a one design class in the smaller than average eighteen-boat fleet in the 2019 Delta Dinghy Ditch (aka DDDR).

What makes the DDDR so unique is that you launch your Thistle in Rio Vista mid-morning, drive your tow vehicle with trailer back to Lake Washington Sailing Club, and then hitch a ride back to Rio Vista on one of several shuttles. In our case, we picked up one of my employees at LWSC and they drove the rig back to LWSC as it's a rather scenic drive back and forth on Highway 16 along the Sacramento River.

The staggered starts are in reverse Portsmouth Handicap order with Past North American Champion Tom Tilotson in his El Toro sailing with a 126.6 PN starting first at 11:30 am. George McKay, single-handing his Hobie 20 sailing with a 65 PN, started last a couple

of hours later with the Thistles and other dinghy classes sandwiched in between.

The course consists of a start line set perpendicular to a building southerly delta breeze with a short 250+/- yard upwind leg back towards the Highway 12 Bridge. You then round the weather mark to starboard followed by nearly 30 miles of reaching and running in building conditions where we finish to the cheering crowd in front of

Lake Washington Sailing Club at the Port of West Sacramento Turning Basin.

Back in 2007, Dan Clark along with Rich & Deb Glovin in his then Thistle #3347 *Tippicanoe* set the absolute mono hull course record

of 3:19:45 in 15-20 knots with gusts to 30 knots that has withstood the test of time.

The forecast for the 2019 edition initially looked promising for a possible record attempt, but the forecasted delta breeze was initially slow to develop. This tested our lake sailing skills for close to 30-45 minutes after our start, but within an hour, we were all enjoying occasional planing in the stronger 15-20 knot gusts. The temperature was in the low to mid 90's, so all in all, fantastic Thistle sailing conditions.

Somewhere around the 20-mile mark, Team Gillum ground down the lead Laser to pull in front of the Peloton only to be passed several minutes later by the Hobie 20 that blew through our lee like we weren't even there. A couple of miles later while running DDW, Steven Hale two-manning with Alex Burke was able to pass Team Gillum after several attempts, ultimately to finish 2nd overall behind the Hobie 20 and 1st overall in the Thistle Fleet. 🏆



Delta Ditch Thistle Finishes		
Pos	Boat	Crew
2	3685	Steve Hale, Alex Burke
3	926	Mike, Mardi & Robyn Gillum
4	1040	Dan Clark, John Doval, Barbara Reynolds
7	4010	Mike Arrow, Andy Oliver, Deb Glovin
9	1195	Steven Oliver, Sailesh Tallapotau, Nick Young
11	2071	Jason Jarvis, Carl Huppert

HIT THE COURSE FLYING

...AND FIND YOURSELF CLOSER TO A VICTORIOUS HIGH FIVE AT THE FINISH.



Photo by Paul Brichford

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GEORGE SZABO | gszabo@quantumsails.com GREG GRIFFIN | ggriffin@quantumsails.com
 BILL DRAHEIM | bdraheim@quantumsails.com MIKE GILLUM | mike@gpsawnings.com



Acrylic Thistle Covers

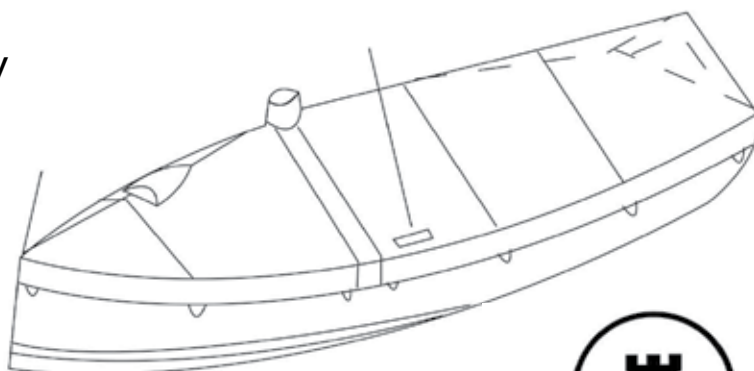
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Adirondack Thistle Invitational

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club - June 15-16, 2019

by Mary Ellen Brown #3775

Ballston Spa, NY

Photo by Greg Northrop

It was a beautiful sunny upstate New York spring day with a honking southwest breeze that was kicking up big whitecaps and gusts that required some serious hiking. The breeze was forecast for the gusts to increase to the high 20s and low 30s so in the morning the RC was efficient in knocking off 2 races. They sent us on shore for some Saratoga style lunch and back out for a late afternoon butterfly shaped race as the breeze died back just enough. The breeze provided nice planing conditions which we could work to our advantage. We had a blast.

There were 18 boats on the line who are all solid competitors which created crowded mark roundings, the need to frequently tack out of dirt and some close finishes. As Doug K. put it, we are all learning from each other and that makes us better Thistle sailors. A new boat from New Hampshire joined us, Andy Cline #3608, who we hope to see often in the future.

Clear air was the name of the game as the shifts, while there, were less influential than the significant velocity changes from the persistent gusts. Gains were to be made by taking sterns to get clear air especially right after the start and in the cone as we got closer to the mark. We had a few discussions about whether it was worth it to take a stern or stay in someone's really bad dirt. In the big gusts we had to remind ourselves to keep the boat flat and in retrospect we should have eased the Fisher main more. It was a balance between driving off, being flat and pointing - constantly changing.

The first race we had a good clear air start and stayed mostly left catching the pressure and gusts coming off the big hill and ended up top 5 at the windward mark while within touching distance to the top guys. We had big gains in the passing lane down wind as we constantly communicated the timing of the gusts, lulls and adjusted our angle while letting the chute breath happily. We seemed to have good boat speed and were able to pass a few boats. We worked up to 1st for the second windward rounding but were never far enough ahead to hold it. We shot the line at the pin and were able to eke out 2 others at the boat end who were right there with us to finish 4th.

Aaron and Scott nailed the start of Race 2 with clear air and never looked back. We were

able to get clear air early after the start and we traded places with Chris Wilson throughout the race. The breeze was building and we tended to play more middle and right while working hard to keep our clear air and lane. We immediately tacked out of any dirt and watched up the course for where the pressure was coming in. Calling the gusts, playing the sails, and hiking hard to stay as flat as possible were key. We also kept our weight back to keep the knuckle skimming the water and out of the chop. Trying to head up before we were at speed proved slow and the mantra from Jonas was, "Forward, forward." Between races, we got to do some planing under jib and main only with Doug in front of us which was super fun.

While it was still gusting and we had serious white caps, the breeze was somewhat down for the late afternoon Race 3. The RC had us do B-Mod (butterfly) course which took some pre-race studying to actually visualize. We were trapped a bit after the start (we do have excellent Thistle starters) and ended up heading almost north to duck Peter (ouch) to grasp for our clear air strategy. We ended up very far right with

the other side paying off and we rounded 15th with a double tack at the windward mark (that hurt). We have to say we did an awesome job of executing that tack! We were able to make significant gains downwind, getting and reacting to the gusts, and picking a good lane. We rounded in better shape. We played a significant shift while we went up the middle and we caught

a few good lifts by tacking back to starboard. When we got towards the top, things got worse for us. We were in a few people's gas and had to cross the cone on port tack ending up on the starboard layline (went back to that ink well) and it paid off big time. This time, Jonas kept saying, "Don, you are on Starboard," and we hung in there. Bill Wilson snuck in between us and the mark while Don still was trying to grasp the concept of a starboard rounding. We think we overheard Carol say to Bill, "You can't do that, Bill." Anyway, we got our chute up with a satisfying "pop" and positioned ourselves with enough space to react, surf, and do some planing to get us separation from the fleet resulting in a lot of boats clustered behind us. They started dinking with each other, and as we headed straight for the leeward mark, 6 boats, as if they were in a beautiful choreographed dance just for us, took each other out. The breeze had shifted to the left and we immediately tacked to the right for the short beat to the finish as the breeze was dying for the day.

Big thanks to Saratoga Sailing Club for their hospitality and another great weekend. 🍷

Adirondack Thistle Invitational - 2019

Pl	Sail	Crew	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	4043	Doug Kaukeinen, Rachel Maass/Sarah Hesse, Andrew Green	3	3	1	7
2	3954	Chris & John Wilson, Laura Kowalski	1	5	2	8
3	3775	Don Stehle, Jonas Kelly, Mary Ellen Brown	4	4	3	11
4	3811	Scott & Lauren Meyer, Dan Fein	5	2	6	13
5	3896	Aaron Holland, Dana Hollenbeck, Bill Dexter	6	1	11	18
6	4047	Bill & Carol Wilson, Brad Swett	7	6	7	20
7	4024	John Baker, Joy Martin, Kira Munger	2	9	10	21
8	3782	Adam, Eric & Judy Gesner	10	8	4	22
9	3984	Paul & Alissa Owens, Ellen Pfeiffer	9	7	8	24
10	3908	Jerry Zell, Steve Olson, Shawne Perkins	12	10	5	27
11	3821	JT & Aidan Fahy, Lucy Lauzon-Fahy	8	11	9	28
12	3947	David & John Hudson, Charlotte Osborne	11	12	12	35
13	3321	Peter Hudson, Jen Tayne	13	13	13	39
14	2920	Nelson Snowden, Carlton Elmer	15	14	14	43
15	3995	Bernie Zabek, Andrew Murnan	14	16	15	45
16	3437	Jake Greiner, Alex Funciello	16	19/dnf	16	51
17	3849	Andrew Klein, Piotr Czajkowski, Lewis Sulkin	19/dns	15	19/dns	53
18	285	Tom Kilcer, Steve Hadcock	17	17	19/dns	53

Lake Erie Fall Series

by Conor Ruppen & John Duckworth



Photos by Richard Enslin



Photo by Lisa Kreischer



Photo by Ben Werley



Photo by Harald Bransch



Photo by Ann Jones

My sister and I found our passion for sailing on little old Atwood Lake. Every Saturday my parents would wake us up and take us over to the Yacht Club for sailing all morning, then spending all afternoon in the pool. So much time was spent on that water. Whether it be on our pontoon or taking that silly yellow Sunfish out. We knew every nook and cranny of Atwood. We could be sailing the same angle with our sails on opposite sides. This was all we knew, we didn't know it could get any better...until we found Thistles.

Jack and Edy Finefrock also had a house on Atwood. So every once in a while we saw them at the Yacht Club for Saturday Lessons. Who knew Anna would go off to college at good old Ohio University and change it all. Through the OU sailing team and Midwest regattas, she would find Steve Bauer, Sarah Paisley, and Nicole and Kyle Finefrock. My mom also became friends with Anne Keyser, and they found me a spot in the big leagues: sailing Lasers at Berlin Yacht Club. From there we got sucked into the Thistle Class.

Both my sisters and I eventually moved away from Atwood. Most of our old neighbors from the Atwood Glens have moved... or passed away. I miss spending every waking hour of the summer at the beach and on that gem of a lake tucked back in the hills of Ohio. It doesn't have the greatest wind; usually, we don't even sail on Sunday. But nothing beats the fall weekend in Sherrodsville.

This was my first year back to the Harvest Moon Regatta in a few years. I was lucky enough to drive out this year with Nicole and Jesse Shedden and the kids. Driving past the Dairy Bar and over the dam brought it all back. Down the winding road to the yacht club. Pulling in that gravel driveway, a cool crisp in the air, and a Thistle on the hitch. Of course, they were out of small shirts. They always are.

Unfortunately, my ride had to bail, but Conor Ruppen and Carrie Patterson invited me along. Most people were sailing with three, and the



Nathan & Jason Tschantz, Cole Finefrock, Lincoln Weible, Finn & Evelyn Shedden
Photo by John Duckworth



Sherrodsville, OH

Photo by Richard Enslin

boats with the youngest crew had four. The weather was perfect. Leaves hadn't started to change yet, but the sun was out along with some brilliantly fluffy clouds. It spit some rain a few times, which I hadn't seen in months living in California. Winds were up, seas were flat, and there were kids yelling and singing all over the course. I looked around the place I had been a million times and teared up. I wished so badly my sisters could be there with me.

I remember when it was the three Rice girls, the Finefrocks, and the Bauers yelling and racing our little Sunfish. Now their kids are racing alongside us. Yes, it made me feel horribly old, but it's magic. Being out on Atwood with my sailing family, there is no place I'd rather be.

Saturday featured very variable winds both in direction and velocity. Sunday featured no wind and no races. That gave Kyle Finefrock time

to remove several "modifications" made to his boat to assist him in his advancing years. (Happy Birthday, Kyle!)

Congratulations to Jack and Kathy Finefrock and Jamison Burt for winning the Harvest Moon. Since the inception of the trophy,

Jack is the first repeat winner of the Harvest Moon Growler trophy! This year's Harvest Moon also saw 3 boats with 4 crew, 2 grown-ups and 2 kids 7 and under; Finn (7) and Evelyn (5) Shedden, Jason (4) and Nathan (2) Tschantz, and Lincoln Weible (6) and Cole Finefrock (4) who won Race 1 with their dads. One again, thanks AYC for a great regatta! 🍷



Photo by Chris Rice

Harvest Moon Regatta - 2019						
Pos	Boat	Crew	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	3945	Jack & Kathy Finefrock, Jamison Burk	2	2	1	5
2	3764	Liz Barker, Kevin Bradley, Abby McLaughlin	4	1	7	12
3	3948	Kyle & Cole Finefrock, Ben & Lincoln Weible	1	3	9	13
4	3845	Michael & Miranda Poltorak	5	4	5	14
5	3613	Mark Hess, Bob France	6	5	4	15
6	3687	Adam Gilbertson, Tim Vining, Annie Corral	8	6	3	17
7	3903	Conor Ruppen, Carrie Patterson, Christine Rice	3	15/ret	6	24
8	3744	Eddie Duckworth, Dustin & Kathy Buckenmeyer	7	8	10	25
9	3866	Ron Fiedler, Barry Levin, John Hill	14	13	2	29
10	4003	Mike McBride, David & Reed Schworm	9	7	14	30
11	1619	Charlie Yingling, Dustin Davis	11	11	11	33
12	3464	Kevin, Chris, Jason & Nathan Tschantz	12	12	12	36
13	3909	Mark D'Apolito, John Duckworth	15/ret	10	13	38
14	1784	Nicole, Jesse, Finn & Evelyn Shedden	13	15/dns	15/dns	43

Dornin Memorial Regatta

Pymatuning Yacht Club ~ September 14-15, 2019

by Jim Beard #3738



Jamestown, PA

Photo by Ben Werley

Pymatuning Yacht Club's Thistle Fleet 31 hosted the 2019 Dornin Memorial Regatta on September 14 and 15, 2019, the second stop in the Lake Erie Fall Series. Twelve boats participated in five races in light to medium winds with many challenging shifts. Ryan Anstrom with crew Laura Helwig and Noel Ridge sailed #3773 consistently near the top of the fleet and took home the regatta win.

On Saturday, PRO John Werley and his PYC Lightning Fleet team completed three races. In responding to the endless wind shifts, every race included mark changes, usually at both the top and the bottom of the course. In Race 1, team Anstrom held off Mike Werley and his crew of Carolyn (Titi) Tuta and Kathy Butters to win. In Race 2, George Pearsall Jr with crew Krista Stevens and Gavin Svenson pulled out the win, holding off Nicole Shedden with her full boat family team of Jesse, Finn, and Evelyn Shedden. For the last race of the day, team Shedden took an early lead and led the way around the course. At the end of Day 1, team Shedden topped the leader board, but other obligations forced them to miss Sunday sailing, leaving the outcome of the regatta wide open.

After the long afternoon of racing, Fleet 31 hosted a chili dinner with live music from the PYC duo of John Thayer and Lenny Ciccone. Everyone enjoyed the wide range of creative chilies offered, thought many pointed out through sweat, tears, and gasps that Charlie Butter's venison chili was

not to be missed. Following dinner, while sitting around the PYC fire pit, the fleet was treated to a spectacular moonrise.

Sunday morning dawned calm and cool with just a hint of a breeze. The race committee held off for 90 minutes before sending out the fleet. Just like Day 1, the shifts were plentiful, course changes were frequent, and for the final race the start line had to be reset mid sequence.

In Race 4, many boats took a turn at the front, but Steve White with crew Nora White eventually worked into the top spot, holding off team Anstrom. For the final race, Jim Beard with team Kathy Beard and Harold Hall finally

figured out what was going on and held off team Anstrom to take the final win.

Nine of the twelve boats were sailed by teams that included family members. Mike McBride and Kimberly Pasley adopted the Shedden approach and loaded up the boat with kids Alex and Ellie. Six teams sailed with spouses on board, and cousins and siblings were sprinkled all over the fleet. Meanwhile the kids left on shore set up a free lemonade stand and met the incoming fleet at the docks with refreshing cups of lemonade. Great family fun was had by one and all. 🍷

Dornin Memorial Regatta - 2019									
Pos	Boat	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total	
1	3773	Ryan Anstrom, Laura Helwig, Noel Ridge	1	3	4	2	2	12	
2	4050	George Pearsall Jr, Krista Stevens, Gavin Svenson	6	1	5	3	4	19	
3	3906	Mike Werley, Carolyn Tuta, Kathy Butters	2	6	7	4	3	22	
4	3863	Steve & Nora White	3	7	8	1	5	24	
5	3893	Steve, Rachel & Erin Lavender	5	5	6	5	7	28	
6	1784	Nicole, Jesse, Finn & Evelyn Shedden	4	2	1	13/dns	13/dns	33	
7	4003	Mike, Alex & Ellie McBride, Kimberly Pasley	9	8	3	8	6	34	
8	3605	Jim Tuta, George Yates, Kim Svenson	7	4	9	9	9	38	
9	3738	Jim & Kathy Beard, Harold Hall	12	10	10	7	1	40	
10	3945	Jack Finefrock, Callie Ruppen, Jamison Burt	8	9	2	13/dns	13/dns	45	
11	3449	Sam & Beth Werley, Blake Stevens	11	12	11	6	8	48	
12	3909	Mark & Julie D'Apolito, Ron Brubaker	10	11	12	13/dns	13/dns	59	

Johnson Memorial Regatta

Chautauqua Lake ~ September 21, 2019

The Johnson Memorial Regatta on Chautauqua Lake promised nice wind, but it didn't keep that promise. Steve Lavender and Dave Sexton were able to find enough to finish 1st in a very long 2 lap Race 1. As the breeze abated, the race course was shortened and reduced to 1 lap before Race 2. The hunt for wind began right at the start. Jack & Kathy Finefrock with John Bauer were the last of the finishers to the windward mark, but then they found their own personal zephyr which they rode all the way to the leeward mark and the finish to come in 1st. Only 4 of the 7 teams finished Race 2. Team Lavender was the most consistent and won the regatta. 🚩



Maysville, NY

Photo by John Duckworth

A View of the Lake Erie Fall Series from the Youngest Qualifiers

Finn (7) and Evelyn (5) Shedden qualified for the Lake Erie Fall Series this year. They sailed the first three regattas of the season: the Atwood Harvest Moon, the Pymatuning Dornin Memorial, and the Chautauqua Johnson Memorial. Here are a few words from them about the experience.

Finn's Recap of the Series

"I had my first swamp at Atwood. It was very slow. The boat filled up to the rail. I thought, 'What just happened?!' It was kind of scary. Then I got used to it. The water was cold, and then warm. We opened the bailers and used a bucket to bail it out. Evelyn and I had a job to save all the food. We trapped the food when it floated by us. I was hungry, so when Dad asked if we wanted to go back, I said yes. I was disappointed when we got back because the pool was closed. That's what I had planned to do after I ate. I liked playing baseball with the boys who brought baseball stuff.

"At Pymatuning, we won our first race against our grandpa in the Fall Series. We tacked closer to the starting line, and he tacked right after us. We always would copy tacks. We would tack and he would tack, we would tack and he would tack. We got close to the finish line, and he did a tack and we did a tack, and we won. I felt happy that we had actually won against Grandpa and Grammie. We had some really good races at Pymatuning: a 2nd, a 4th and a 1st. It was exciting because we got our first really good regatta.

"I drove out to the race course at Chautauqua. We were early, so we had some time to sail around. It was pretty cool driving out. It was sunny with only a few clouds in the sky. We were going fast, but when the race started, it was pretty slow. The clouds were gray when we started the race. I was confused when the race was slow. We completed one race, but the second race we decided to go in because it was getting too slow. We saw a boat near the dock; it had a golden

Johnson Memorial Regatta - 2019					
Pos	Boat	Crew	R1	R2	Total
1	3893	Steve Lavender, Dave Stetson	1	2	3
2	3945	Jack & Kathy Finefrock, John Bauer	3	1	4
3	3903	Conor Ruppen, Carrie Patterson	2	8/dnf	10
4	3652	Scott & Morgan Hubbell, Betsy Yingling	7	3	10
5	3890	Tom & Levi Hubbell, John Yingling	6	4	10
6	3744	Warren & John Duckworth, Mark D'Apolito	4	8/dnf	12
7	1784	Nicole, Jesse, Finn & Evelyn Shedden	5	8/dnf	13



Photo by Melissa Emhardt

mast and a grayish-brown cover. We used it to get back when we couldn't find which dock was which. I zip-lined for my first time and jumped on a trampoline in the water."

Evelyn's Quick Take

"I liked Pymatuning because we won a race. I liked sailing the boat in. It was fun. I had to pull the tiller.

"Atwood... not so good. I didn't really like swamping. I didn't like the water because it was freezing cold. Eating fruit roll-ups on the boat was the only good thing.

"At Chautauqua I liked zip-lining for my first ever time. The boat was very slow.

"I was glad to sail. It was my second or third time sailing with my whole entire family. I liked when I could sit on the bottom when we were tacking." 🚩

Ice Breaker Regatta

Crescent Sail Yacht Club ~ September 28-29, 2019



Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

Photos by Michael Szymanski

The Detroit Icebreaker typically means fall sailing and this year was no different. Each race had it's own flavor, from 90° shift, to rain, and growing chop. RC did a great job getting four races in Saturday before we were treated to awesome pulled pork in the new CSYC clubhouse. Sunday was more true to the Icebreaker name. Several teams were suited up to sail, but the easterly breeze throughout the night and morning stacked up some sharp, tall waves, and the RC held everyone on shore while they attempted to set a course. After multiple unsuccessful anchor sets, they called the day. Congrats to Craig, Lauren, and Ryan. 🍷



Ice Breaker Regatta - 2019							
Pos	Boat	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	4028	Craig Koschalk, Lauren O'Hara, Ryan Kyle	4	3	1	1	9
2	3877	Ken & Brendon Swetka, Rachel Robinson	3	1	2	3	9
3	3945	Jack Finefrock, Conor Ruppen, Carrie Patterson	5	4	6	2	17
4	3889	Champ Glover, Paul Nuechterlein	2	5	7	4	18
5	3704	Ron Sherry, Thomas Dawson, Alexandria Zimmerman	7	2	3	15/dnf	27
6	1340	Tim, Michelle & Tony Sgrazzutti	8	7	5	7	27
7	4026	Mark Udell, John Duckworth, Chris McGrave	1	9	10	8	28
8	3893	Steve & Erin Lavender, Noah Porschart	6	8	9	5	28
9	3944	Thor Krembel, Ann Marie Lambie, Mike Loosevelt	11	6	8	6	31
10	3794	Greg & Daniel Gerhardstein, Bob Cazabon	10	12	4	15/dns	41
11	3460	Jason & Caitlin Huyghe, Catherine Wagner	9	11	11	10	41
12	3909	Mark & Julie D'Apolito, Mark Pytell	14	10	15/dnf	9	48
13	3555	Rhea Nicholas, Dominique Delano	13	14	13	11	51
14	2702	Andy Warmack, Michael Delano, Matt Patrick	12	13	12	15/dns	52



1st Place
Craig Koschalk
Lauren O'Hara, Ryan Kyle



2nd Place
Ken Swetka (right)
Brendon Swetka, Rachel Robinson



3rd Place
Jack Finefrock
Carrie Patterson, Conor Ruppen

Blow Out Regatta

North Cape Yacht Club - October 5, 2019

La Salle, MI

Photos by John Duckworth

Congratulations to Craig, Lauren, and Ryan for keeping the train rolling at NCYC! After taking the win at Detroit, they took three bullets at North Cape. Twelve boats enjoyed fantastic Fall Series sailing with three triangle W/L races run by John Greiner and team. John's been running this regatta since 1966. Several boats took new crew from the University of Toledo sailing team. Big breeze and big waves left over from the night before made for excellent reaches. 🚩

North Cape Blow Out Regatta - 2019						
Pos	Boat	Crew	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	4028	Craig Koschalk, Lauren O'Hara, Ryan Kyle	1	1	1	3
2	3905	Kevin Bradley, Cody McCoun, James Humason	4	2	2	8
3	3980	Tom Hubbell, John Yingling, John Duckworth	2	3	7	12
4	3766	Ethan Taylor, Max Belli, Dave Branson	3	5	4	12
5	3948	Kyle Finefrock, Carrie Patterson, Carly Fraker	5	4	8	17
6	3433	Corinne Sackett, Dave Aspery, Gwen Mulvey	8	7	5	20
7	3945	Jack Finefrock, Ashley Carr, Joe Goetz	6	8	6	20
8	1619	Charlie Yingling, Colin McDowell, Emily George	7	6	9	22
9	3903	Conor Ruppen, Brian Pribe, Marlee Berlan, Nicole Shedden	10	13/dns	3	26
10	3893	Steve & Erin Lavender, Nathan Ward	9	9	10	28
11	3909	Mark & Julie D'Apolito, John Hill	11	10	11	32
12	2905	Charlie Essi, Tola Kryvenko, Lori Myer	13/dnf	11	13/dnf	37



1st Place
Craig Koschalk & Lauren O'Hara
with John & Judy Greiner



2nd Place
Kevin Bradley (center)
James Humason, Cody McCoun



3rd Place
Tom Hubbell (center)
John Yingling, John Duckworth

Thistle Fall Regatta

Edgewater Yacht Club - October 12, 2019



Cleveland, OH

Photo by Harald Bransch

Thistle Fall Regatta - 2019								
Pos	Boat	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	4027	Ben France, Jordan Gourash, Sarah Paisley	3	2	1	2	1	9
2	4028	Craig Koschalk, Conor Ruppen, Carrie Patterson	1	1	4	3	2	11
3	4005	Lee Sackett, Emery Eiber, Caroline Sundman	4	3	2	1	4	14
4	3893	Steve & Erin Lavender, Howard Hill	2	6	5	6	3	22
5	1055	Mike Lovett, Dustin & Kathy Buckenmeyer	7	5	3	4	5	24
4	3744	Ed & John Duckworth, Joe Goetz	6	4	7	5	6	28
7	1619	Charlie Yingling, Morgan Noonan, Braden Farrell	5	7	6	7	7	32

This weekend was just another reminder to never trust the forecast! Seven boats braved the forecast for the Edgewater Fall Regatta. While big waves and cool winds would have made Lake Erie a handful, PRO Mike Vining made the right decision to keep the fleet inside harbor break-wall. It was almost like college sailing. Five exciting quick races were held as the sun came out and turned it into a beautiful day. Thanks to Ben France, Mike Vining, and team for putting on this regatta. 🚩

Last Splash Regatta

Hoover Sailing Club - October 19, 2019



Westerville, OH

Photos by Lisa Kreischer

It's time for a well over-due Fall Series wrap-up. Twenty-four boats made the trip to Hoover Sailing Club for the Last Splash regatta. Five races were sailed in typical Hoover Fall conditions. Congrats to Ben France and Mark Hess for staying consistent and taking the day. In typical Hoover fashion, there was plenty of mixing it up throughout the fleet. And thanks to Lisa Kreischer for her great photos. You can see more at: LisaKsPhotos.com/Sailing



Hoover Last Splash Regatta - 2019								
Pos	Sail	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	4027	Ben France, Mark Hess	1	3	1	6	3	14
2	3875	John & Kevin Shockey	7	5	2	2	2	18
3	3838	Kit & Laura Hozafpfel, Noel Thurber	6	1	7	9	4	27
4	3890	Tom Hubbell, John & Betsy Yingling	5	9	4	11	6	35
5	3903	Conor Ruppen, Carrie Patterson, Ed Spengeman	4	7	6	8	11	35
6	4028	Craig Koschchalk, Lauren O'Hara, Ryan Kyle	14	13	5	4	1	37
7	3766	Ethan & Will Taylor	2	6	10	5	15	38
8	1784	Nicole & Jesse Shedden	3	8	15	1	14	41
9	3950	Nadia Reynolds, Brendan Smuckers, Emma Friedauer	12	18	12	3	5	50
10	3744	Eddie Duckworth, Dustin & Kathy Buckenmeyer	13	4	16	12	12	57
11	3828	Jack & Kathy Finefrock, Jamison Burt	9	12	13	13	13	60
12	3893	Steve & Erin Lavender, Dave Stetson	11	2	14	15	19	61
13	3687	Conor Madden, Tim Vining, Dave Aspery	8	11	8	17	18	62
14	3735	John Hutt, Charlie Risenga	15	16	3	19	10	63
15	3946	Bob McNitt, John Church	23	17	9	7	7	63
16	3788	Bob France, Evan Graves	17	10	19	14	9	69
17	1619	Charlie Yingling, Emily George, Colin McDowell	10	22	17	16	8	73
18	3147	Brian McNeil, Braden Farrell, Kathryn Booker	21	15	18	10	16	80
19	4003	Mike McBride, Kimberly Pasley, John Duckworth	16	14	20	21	17	88
20	2464	Nathan Ward, Nate Ireland, Simon Pennells	18	21	11	20	20	90
21	1055	Mike Lovett, Aaron Shaikh, Hanna Santantonio	19	20	21	18	22	100
22	2503	Natalie, Margot & Matt Dugan	20	23	22	22	23	110
23	3909	Mark D'Apolito, John Hill, Joe Goetz	25/dnf	19	24	23	21	112
24	3075	David & Reed Schworm, Kile King	22	24	23	24	24	117

Although we had five races and five opportunities to try to catch #4028, it was not to be. Congratulations to Craig Koschalk for taking home the LEFS Skipper trophy in convincing fashion. Following him up were Jack Finefrock and Steve Lavender.

In the crew division, #4028 rolled on. Lauren O'Hara and Ryan Kyle tied to take home the crew trophy. Carrie Patterson took a close 2nd, with Erin Lavender in 3rd.

In total, we had 10 skippers qualify and 16 crew qualify by sailing three regattas. Congrats to all those that were able to qualify and take home a trophy. And thanks to Dustin Buckenmeyer for keeping track of and posting the scores for the whole Lake Erie Fall Series. 🍷



DG Conor Ruppen presents the LEFS Skipper Trophy to Craig Koschalk (right)



The LEFS Crew Trophy is presented to Lauren O'Hara and Ryan Kyle.



LEFS Skipper Standings - 2019				
PI	Sailor	Regattas	Best Scores	Total
1	Craig Koschalk	4	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 3	13
2	Jack Finefrock	6	1 1 2 2 2 3 4 5 6	28
3	Steve Lavender	6	1 2 2 2 3 5 5 5 5 5	35
4	Conor Ruppen	4	2 3 3 4 6 6 7 8 8 10	57
5	Tom Hubbell	3	2 3 4 4 5 6 6 7 9 11	57
6	Nicole Shedden	4	1 1 2 3 4 5 8 8 13 13	58
7	Eddie Duckworth	3	4 4 5 6 6 7 7 8 10 12	69
8	Charlie Yingling	4	5 6 6 7 7 7 8 9 10	72
9	Mike McBride	3	3 6 7 8 8 9 9 14 14 16	94
10	Mark D'Apolito	5	9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 12 13	107

LEFS Crew Standings - 2019				
PI	Sailor	Regattas	Best Scores	Total
1	Ryan Kyle	3	1 1 1 1 1 1 3 4 4 5	22
1	Lauren O'Hara	3	1 1 1 1 1 1 3 4 4 5	22
3	Carrie Patterson	6	1 1 2 2 2 3 3 4 4 4	26
4	Erin Lavender	5	2 2 3 5 5 5 5 5 6 6	44
5	John Duckworth	6	1 2 3 4 4 5 6 6 7 7	45
6	John Yingling	3	2 3 4 4 5 6 6 7 9 11	57
7	Jesse Shedden	4	1 1 2 3 4 5 8 8 13 13	58
8	Kathy Buckenmeyer	3	3 4 4 5 5 7 7 8 10 12	65
8	Dustin Buckenmeyer	3	3 4 4 5 5 7 7 8 10 12	65
10	Kathy Finefrock	3	1 1 2 2 3 9 12 13 13 13	69
11	Jamison Burt	3	1 2 2 2 8 9 12 13 13	71
12	Joe Goetz	3	4 5 6 6 6 6 7 8 19 21	88
13	Finn Shedden	3	1 2 4 5 8 13 13 13 15 15	89
13	Evelyn Shedden	3	1 2 4 5 8 13 13 13 15 15	89
15	Julie D'Apolito	3	9 10 10 10 11 11 11 12 13 13	110
16	John Hill	3	2 10 11 11 13 14 19 21 23 24	148

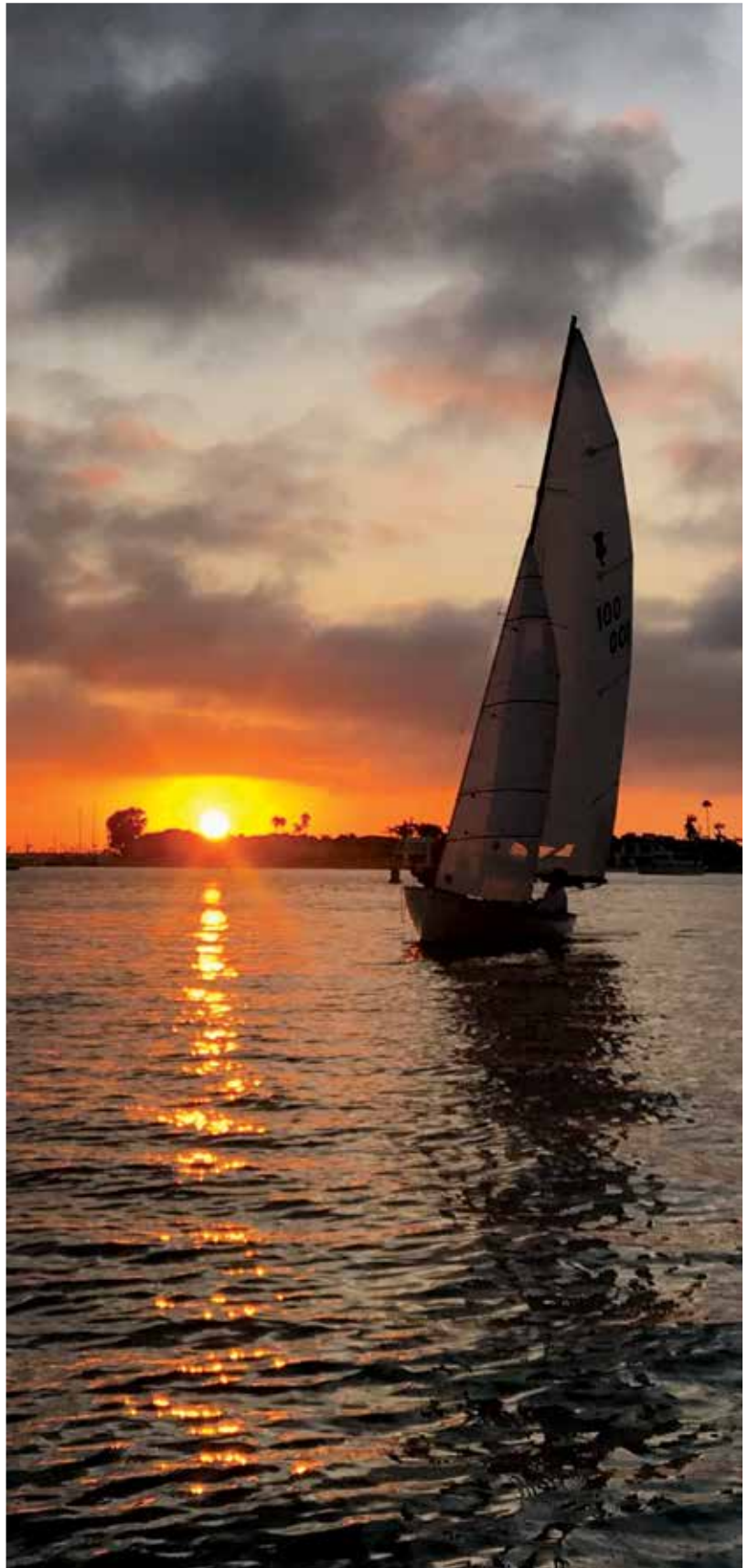
A page for the unexpected



Rachel & Steve Lavender examine a sign they found in Austin, TX. Photo by Erin Lavender



Jackie, Owen & Kyle Finefrock enjoy some of the special modifications made for Kyle's 40th Birthday Party at the Atwood Harvest Moon Regatta, That includes special lumbar support, a magnifying glass on the compass, and an oversized countdown clock. Photo by John Duckworth



Chuck Simmons sails home on Newport Bay, California. Photo by Heather Reid

Midwinters East Trivia Answers

- 1. Jack Beachem of Atlanta beat 19 boats; he was the Thistle Class President at the time.
- 2. Yes, many including Ding Schoonmaker, Charlie Morgan, Howard Boston, Dave Dellenbaugh, Greg Fisher, and Mike Ingham.
- 3. That's an easy one - Elmer Richards first raced in St. Pete in 1958. He raced in the regatta for the next 50 years.

Old Salty 2019 Regatta

Lake Norman Yacht Club ~ October 5-6, 2019

by Brad Russell #3993

Mooresville, NC

20 boats from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia & Florida came to Lake Norman for the 2019 Old Salty. Saturday had 4 races on the schedule and the breeze was moderate to heavy. Oscillations averaged 40° and it ended up being one of those lake days where being in the middle could be bad news.

Being puffy and shifty made driving tricky. The fastest boats were doing the best job of keeping the boat flat even in the big puffs. The biggest difference between the top boats and the others was how much they would ease the mainsheet when a puff hit to keep the boat upright. Boats further back seemed to keep the boat too powered up and would slide sideways and even dip a rail in the water.

In the first race Scott Griffin got the last shift right to lead at the top mark and went on to win ahead of Mark Gise and Brad Russell. Race 2 saw Brad Russell and Joe Hart get the win by a long way with a tight battle behind. Scott Griffin was able to get 2nd while Scott McCormack was able to get into podium position by holding off Mark Gise, who had brother Scott and Allison Chenard on board.

Scott Griffin with wife Nerissa made the fewest mistakes and the smartest decisions in Race 3, leading Russell and Gise. Race 4 got a bit lighter towards the end and had a great battle on the last downwind between the top 3 boats in the regatta. In the last fifty yards starboard advantage, covering, room, boat handling, and the favored end all played a part. In the end Mark Gise edged out Griffin and Russell.

Saturday evening featured an Oktoberfest dinner, discussion about the day's racing, some teaching, and a few tall tales. Most people were quite tired after a hard day of racing.

Sunday morning the breeze was light but sailable, although it felt like it would continue to back off. It took a while to get racing started, but eventually the fleet was sent off in 3-4 knots. The lighter air shook up the fleet a bit and

several people had their best legs of the regatta during the race. On the final leg of the race the RC decided to abandon with Russell in the lead. The fleet waited around a bit to see if another race could be teased out of the breeze, but we weren't so lucky and the fleet headed in to pack up.

Thanks so much to everyone who came. Huge thanks to Allison & Derek Binkley for chairing the regatta. 🍷

Old Salty Regatta - 2019							
Pos	Name	Sail	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Scott & Nerissa Griffin	3997	1	2	1	2	6
2	Brad Russell, Joe Hart	3993	3	1	2	3	9
3	Mark & Scott Gise, Allison Chenard	3951	2	4	3	1	10
4	Scott & Gavin McCormack	4022	5	3	4	9	21
5	Bob McCormack, Alex Padgett	3783	4	6	5	6	21
6	Michael Reddaway, Emma Newton	57/3883	7	9	6	4	26
7	David & Darby Reddaway, Nick Allison	975	9	5	9	5	28
8	Reid Collins, Mike Kirschner	3579	6	10	8	13	37
9	John Norton, Diana Young Paiva	4000	8	15	11	8	42
10	Andy & Camden Russell, Reagan Cataldo	3659	11	14	7	12	44
11	BJ Jones, Derek & Allison Binkley	2870	13	12	12	7	44
12	Dan Russell, Alex Caster, Riley Cataldo	3828	10	13	15	10	48
13	Kevin Sheehan, Kirk Nelson	3978	14	11	13	16	54
14	Pete & Kerrie Lalli, Lauren Myers	3142	15	8	14	18	55
15	John & Caz Doyle, David Malcolm	3026	17	7	21/ocs	14	38
16	Len Wert, Bryana Shook	3894	12	17	17	15	61
17	Ian Hunter, Sam Baker, Telmo Basttera	4087	21/dnf	21/dns	10	11	63
18	Lauren & Chris Mershon	3807	18	16	16	17	67
19	Tom Payne, Dave Japikse	1447	16	19	18	21/dnf	74
20	Lincoln Baxter	3745	19	18	21/dnc	21/dnc	79

"It takes several years for anyone to learn to handle a yacht reasonably well, and a lifetime to admit how much more there is to learn."

- Maurice Griffiths

Blow Hard Regatta

Cowan Lake Sailing Association, Thistle Fleet 65 ~ September 7-8, 2019

by Steve Lavender #3893

Wilmington, OH

The forecast called for partly cloudy conditions and a westerly breeze in the 5 to 10 range. Well, someone was asleep on the job because at the time of the skippers' meeting it was overcast, drizzling, and a light northerly breeze. But by the time the RC and the fleet got on the lake, the forecast was coming true. While the breeze was "generally" west, it did vary quite a bit. Of course if one mentions this to a Cowan native, they look at you like you're saying the sky is blue. So perhaps it was not a surprise that two of the Cowan teams, the Lawrences and the Walkers, dominated the racing in these conditions with consistently strong finishes. The rest of the contenders seems to have more variation in their scores.

Given the variations in the breeze, there were a lot of opportunities for big gains or losses within each race. Kind of like the stock market. My crew was reading me numbers off the compass which

sometimes just kept showing our continual lift. It was hard to figure out when to cash in, and pay the price necessary to get back towards the mark. But this is what makes Cowan fun. It's not just about boat speed!

We enjoyed 5 races in these conditions on Saturday. The RC did quite a job keeping things moving despite the less than cooperative breeze. Sunday was a different story. I want to say up front, I think we all really appreciated the RC's optimism. There wasn't much breeze on the water. Okay, it was generally glassy, but there were some ripples. So offshore we went. It was one of those days when the breeze was not touching the water, but there was some, not much, but some in the sails. The RC tried in vain to find some consistency and set a course, but the breeze kept slip sliding away. So with full apologies to Paul Simon...

(Slip Slidin' Away)

Slip slidin' away
Slip slidin' away
It looked like the breeze would build but instead
It just kept a slip slidin' away
I know these guys, long as there's no storms around
They come and sail even when the wind is down
One said "Friends, I live in fear
There's not much wind today and
I'm afraid that it will disappear"

Slip slidin' away
Slip slidin' away
It looked like the breeze would build but instead
It just kept a slip slidin' away
I know they tried, to set a course
Even though it the wind appeared to have no source
They said "A good day ain't got no rain"
But desperately they were hoping
The wind would pick up again

Slip slidin' away
Slip slidin' away
It looked like the breeze would build but instead
It just kept a slip slidin' away
God only knows, God makes his plan
The information's unavailable to the mortal man
We're rigging our boats, we head out to sail
Not really thinking that the wind would fail
When in fact the breeze was slip slidin' away

Slip slidin' away
Slip slidin' away
It looked like the breeze would build but instead
It just kept a slip slidin' away
Slip slidin' away
Slip slidin' away
It looked like the breeze would build but instead
It just kept a slip slidin' away

Cowan Lake Blow-out Regatta - 2019								
Pos	Boat		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	3786	Andy & Jordan Lawrence	2	1	3	1	1	8
2	1765W	Bryant & Sheena Walker	1	3	2	3	2	11
3	3893	Steve, Rachel & Erin Lavender	3	6	1	4	3	17
4	3982	Mark Osterbrock, Dan Adams	5	7	5	2	6	25
5	3735	Tony Sgrazzutti, John Hutt, Mark Udell	7	2	6	5	8	28
6	3767	Martin James, Alberto De la Rivera	4	4	10	7	4	29
7	3944	Thor Krembel, Mike Loosvelt, Brendon Swetka	9	8	4	11	5	37
8	4006	Ed Hatfield, Judy Hearn	10	5	7	6	10	38
9	3524	Patrick Manuel, Brad Schaidach	6	10	8	8	9	41
10	3619	Tim Gilliland, Avery Lawrence	8	9	11	9	7	44
11	1716	Taylor Stuckert, Patty Lawrence	11	12	9	12	13	57
12	3784	Jon & Laura Fickinger	12	11	12	13	12	60
13	1474	Seth Mobley, Cori & Alec Vivian	14	13	13	10	11	61
14	1765B	Matt Allamang, Voytek Sak	13	14	14	14	15	70

Note from the organizers:

Getting more boats on the line at regattas is hard! We did the usual stuff of putting the date in the **Bagpipe**, publishing the NOR, calling our friends, etc. and are very thankful to those who made the trek to our lake. In addition, thanks to the diligence of Bryant Walker and the generosity of some local boat owners who could not make it we added 3 more:

- 3982 (Owner Dave Rosekrans) was sailed by two local sailors from other fleets
- 3524 (Owner Chris Frutkin) was sailed by two regular Thistle crew
- 1765B (Owner Bryant Walker) was sailed by one Thistle crew and a Flying Scot sailor.

Kudos to the generous boat owners and to the sailors for taking the plunge. 🍷

Wild Turkey Regatta

Occonee Sailing & Yacht Club ~ September 21-22, 2019

by Jack Mahaney #3818

Milledgeville, GA

13 boats from seven states made their way to Lake Sinclair, near beautiful Milledgeville, Georgia for the umpteenth running of the Wild Turkey regatta, second regatta of the SE Fall Series. After lunch we all hoisted sails and made the short trip to the race course. And sat. And drifted. And swam. And watched PRO Tanner Shultz do everything a brave man could do to set up a course and run a race in light, chaotically shifty conditions. Finally around four there was enough breeze for long enough that we could get in a short two-lap windward-lee-ward race, which was won by Scott and Nerissa Griffin. And that was racing on Saturday.

But not to worry. Beer is cold, with munchies, very quickly followed by a Yummy Thai Dinner, and everyone was prepared to enjoy a pleasant evening. Not to mention a very colorful Birthday Cake in honor of Bruce Springsteen's birthday (the Boss was 70 September 23). By 8 pm or so, many folks had gone down to the point (along with the beer cooler) to watch David Reddaway's

TV and enjoy UGA's victory over Notre Dame. Go Dawgs!

Sunday morning dawned cool and clear. And calm. But Tanner persevered and got a race off around 10 am, which was abandoned during the second run because the wind absolutely disappeared, leaving the lake glassy calm, and some crews rigging towing lines. A Yummy Thai Lunch (really leftovers from last night) preceded the awards ceremony. Following the awards ceremony, Jennifer Lund led everyone in a spirited singing of "Happy Birthday" for birthday boys Scott Griffin and Jack Mahaney.

The sailing wasn't everything we might have

wanted, but the fellowship and food were, and everyone left with smiles on their faces. 🍷

Wild Turkey Regatta - 2019				
Pos	Boat	Crew	R1	Total
1	3997	Scott & Nerissa Griffin	1	1
2	3001	Michael Reddaway, Emma Newton, Neal Davis	2	2
3	1166	Will Tyner and Emory Williams	3	3
4	3976	Greg Griffin, Mark Reddaway	4	4
5	3975	David Reddaway, Nick Allison	5	5
6	1811	Adam & Peyton Ankers	6	6
7	3579	Reid Collins, Wesley Turner	7	7
8	3818	Jack Mahaney, Elliott Newnham	8	8
9	4007	Loy Vaughan, Van Rogers	9	9
10	3993	Brad Russell, Joe Hart	10	10
11	3813	Len Wert, Keegan Musser	11	11
12	3680	Brian Anderson, Jennifer Lund	12	12
13	3072	Adam Young, Jackson Paul	13	13



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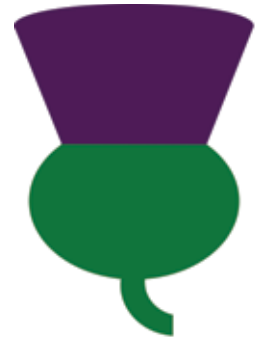


Photos by Lisa Kreischer
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