

Lake Harriet Spring Regatta

May 9-10, 1992, Fleet 42-Lake Harriet YC, MN

Submitted by John Bates

Can you believe 87° in May -- in Minnesota!??? That's what was in store for 30 midwestern sailors at the annual Lake Harriet Spring Invitational. Cool water temperatures and strong, gusty winds on both Saturday and Sunday kept everyone from overheating and shortened the scheduled five race regatta to three races.

Gordy Bowers won the first race in medium air but a bent mast in race two forced him to retire for the weekend. Jacob Skalla led wire-to-wire for the gun in that second race, but it was Mark O'Neill and John Bates, each with a 2nd and 3rd, who shared the lead at the Saturday evening party after race three was cancelled.



Lake Harriet winners. L to R: John Burton, John Bates, Terry Neff, Scott Norby, Peter Crawford, Mark Mischke, Steve Lein, Mark O'Neill

Bright sun and blue skies again greeted everyone Sunday morning and it was Scott Norby just nipping O'Neill at the line for the win. (It was amazing how well Scott could finish when he avoided the capsizing he experienced in both races on Saturday!) Gusts above 25 mph again caused the cancellation of a race and O'Neill's consistently high finishes gave him overall honors.

A great time was had by all who are looking forward to a return to Lake Harriet for the Diehard Regatta in the fall.

Pl.	Skipper	Club	Boat No.	Race			Pts.
				1	2	3	
1	Mark O'Neill	WBYC	1079	2	3	2	11.7
2	John Bates	LHYC	1239	3	33	4	16.7
3	Scott Norby	MnYC	1361	5	5	1	20
4	Terry Neff	MTKA	1067	4	4	3	21.7
5	Steve Lein	LYYC	970	6	8	9	40.7
6	Peter Crawford	BSails	1379	9	7	8	42
7	John Burton	M MnYC	1310	8	9	7	42

8	Pete Taylor	LYYC	846	17	6	5	44.7
9	Morgan Fanberg	MnYC	1236	11	10	12	51
10	Mark Prochaska	LHYC	820	10	13	10	51
11	Jacob Skalla		849	12	1	29	53
12	Steve Jensen	LHYC	1348	19	11	11	59
13	Mel Paulsen	M CLYC	1329	7	12	23	60
14	Jim McCarthy	LHYC	LH46	16	14	13	61
15	Gordy Bowers	MnYC	1342	1	23	29	64
16	Bob Bellafronto	LYYC	1205	18	15	16	67
17	Don Chametski		1432	13	17	20	68
18	Kramer	LHYC	383	20	19	15	72
19	Edward Quinn	CLYC	1375	21	16	18	73
20	Dick Walker	LHYC	933	15	30	14	77
21	Susan Dees	W LHYC	1012	26	30	6	79.7
22	Art Tesar	M CLYC	958	23	20	19	80
23	Ed Krisch	LHYC	LH41	14	23	29	84
24	Tom Louis	LHYC	LH24	27	18	21	84
25	Marge Byers	W LHYC	LH0	25	21	22	86
26	Patrick Born	LHYC	LH25	30	23	17	88
27	Myra Urness	W LHYC	979	22	23	29	92
28	Mark Bressler	LHYC	1267	24	30	24	96
29	Mitchell/Roberts	LHYC	514	28	23	29	98
30	Jim Johanson	MnYC	1245	29	30	29	106

Thoughts on Starting

I asked six or seven of our MC National Champions for their thoughts about that crucial part of sailboat racing -- the start. A great deal has been written about the start, but hopefully our readers will find these MC skippers comments useful in their own racing program. Let me thank each of you who have responded to this call.

Happy Fox, Spring Lake YC, MI. 1979 and 1980 National Champion, and one of three back-to-back winners, the others are Dick Prokup, Rush Creek YC, TX, in '72 and '73; Brett Hatton, SL YC, MI, '85 and '86; and Andy Brudick, Melges Boat Works, '88, '89, '90, and '91.

1. Start at or near the favored end of the line.
2. Have clear air.
3. Be on the line, at full power with speed at the starting signal.
4. Tack to cover the fleet as soon as you can clear the fleet. Don't over cover if the side of the course you started on is heavily favored.
5. If, for some reason, you end up in bad air just after the start, tack to clear air as soon as possible, and then tack back to favored side of leg.
6. Once #4 and #5 are completed and you are clear, go for full speed and less power, assuming relatively flat water.
7. Races are difficult to win if you are in the second or third tier of boats at the start signal. If you are in this position often — "Try to be over early", remembering the old rule of thumb — "If you are not over early in 1 of 10 starts, you are not being aggressive enough."

Winn Story, Lake Lanier SC, GA. 1st Masters and 3rd overall in the 1991 Nationals.

Prior to the start I like to get compass readings to establish the average wind direction. Our lake, probably like most, has oscillating winds and usually one side will be favored due to geographic conditions.

After determining the high and low compass readings for each tack, and making an educated guess as to the favored side, my strategy is established and I'm ready to focus on the start. Truthfully, I seldom get a really good start. I try to do all the standard approaches; come in on port, tack into a hole and make room to leeward, etc. However, my usual start is less than ideal.

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