

1993 Polar Bear Regatta

October 2-3, 1993, Fleet 20 Lake Davenport SC, IA

Submitted by
Tony Bruskas

(As promised in the last issue of the MC Newsletter, here is the story of the '93 Polar Bear along with the complete results.



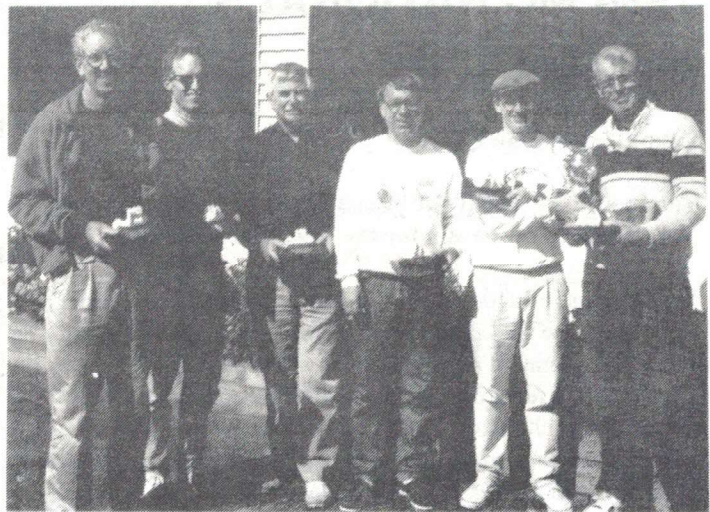
Good conditions at MC Polar Bear Regatta

Because of the national and local media attention given the "Great Flood of '93", the bad press adversely affected attendance at this year's MC Scow Polar Bear Regatta. The weather and river conditions were actually very good, providing you were lucky enough to have a crew. The weather was sunny and bright, the current was moderate but the winds were strong. Perhaps you can say that the conditions were better than in most Polar Bears in the past.

The Lightning and C scow fleets must have known things weren't going to be exactly right for this year's regatta, so they opted out. However, after several discussions, pro and con, the diehard MC sailors prevailed and decided to go it alone.

Nothing really changed as far as racing on the Mississippi is concerned all year, albeit a short one, MC sailors have watched Dick Duley's transom fly by -- either coming from behind or watched "Bad News" become illegible as he cruised distantly into the horizon to win most of the races. He took three bullets and a second to win the WOC Trophy and Bruskas Masters Trophy. No one else was really close as you can see from the following results.

Pl	Skipper	Club	Races				Pts
			1	2	3	4	
1	Dick Duley-M	LDSC/IA	1	2	3	4	4.5
2	Tom Getz-M	WLYC/MI	3	4	1	5	12.7
3	Mike Zmuda	LDSC/IA	2	3	4	6	15
4	Jim Davis		8	2	5	2	17
5	Dave Staub	LDSC/IA	4	8	3	4	19
6	Cowles Mallory-M	LDSC/IA	6	6	6	7	25
7	Lee Schneider-M		5	7	8	DNF	28
8	Tony Bruskas-M	LDSC/IA	7	5	7	DNS	31
9	Doug Stryker-M	PLYC/WI	DNF	DNS	DNS	3	38
10	Bill Wrase	LDSC/IA	9	9	DNS	DNS	42
11	Pat Stromberg-M		DNF	DNS	DNS	DNS	47



Polar Bear Award Winners:
Cowles Mallory, Dave Staub, Tom Getz, Mike Zmuda,
Jim Davis and Dick Duley (overall winner)

Racing Against the "Great Flood of '93" -- Backwards!!

Tony also submitted this story.

It was in August at Lake Davenport Sailing Club and water levels of ole' Miss had dropped considerably but the current was still too strong. Yet, it was a race day for the MCers and they were itchin' to go out after waiting months for the river to subside. Unfortunately, winds were slower than the current. A gathering of skippers were BS-ing around the beer tap and gabbing about conditions when someone piped up and said that if we raced it would be a real drifter and the winner would be the last to cross the line (wind and current were going in the same direction -- down stream). "Ya know, we oughta just try it," another piped up. "Try what -- in this?" "Yeah, we'll get towed upstream, drop our anchors above the starting line and pick them up before the starting gun. The last to finish wins!" "What ya say? Hmm, OK, Yes, OK, I will if you will, Uh-huh." So the committee boats towed six of us upstream, we dropped anchors in a staggered pattern and waited for the gun. Unfortunately, most of our anchors were stuck on the bottom at the gun and those last to leave the line were already 10 boat lengths ahead in the race. The judge yelled out "Keep going --- we're not going to restart after all of this mess." Well, some caught a breeze and slowed the backward drift -- thus gaining on the fleet. Another picked up an eddy going around the neighboring marina and actually moved upstream! The tough part was trying to cross between the mark and the RC boat at the finish line. Most of the boats drifted by on either side since there wasn't wind to maneuver. It was an unfair race but interesting. With a better start -- no anchors, it would have been a pretty good "backwards" race.

Back at the clubhouse, the guys once again gathered around the beer tap and BS-ed about the race. "It took too long. Next time we'll make it a 15 minute race and start it when we let go of the tow." "Next time? What do you mean next time." Well, anyway we made history today. We did the first backwards race -- probably in the world. "We run out of beer yet?"