

Round Table Discussion at GRYC Spring Shakedown

May 20, 1995, Jeff Doubek, Johnson Boat Works;
Greg Fisher, North Sails, Eric Hood, Melges-Sobstad Sails

The discussion centered around sailing in near survival conditions experienced in the morning race. Eric fielded the first question about the priorities in heavy air conditions by naming, in order, the adjustments to be used to depower the boat: 1) maximum vang to keep the mast bent, 2) board up about 2-3" to minimize up and down heel. Eric did point out that Bret Hatton had his traveler let out to the deck at the start and motored over him and son Justin.

More on that later.

Jeff agreed with Eric and pointed out that in his experience 65 to 75% of scow sailors sail with too much heel. In an experiment with a Flying Dutchman in which the skipper thought he was heeling to windward, the video pictures showed the boat flat. Sailing flatter provides greater forward thrust on the sail.

Greg added that balance is the key. Try to keep the tiller neutral, which he believes allowed Bret to roll over the Hoods. With the board up balance is greatly helped. He also suggested that in a wild day, with the boom way out, try easing the outhaul so as to let the sail curl up and still get some drive.

Downwind: Eric says the vang on hard is absolutely necessary and he quoted Buddy's dictum -- "constant sail shape, constant heel, constant speed." Also, a bit more board down, although at times he brings the board up more so that the boat skates or slides off the wind for tactical reasons. Admits this is tricky!

Jeff added that with the vang on hard heeling back and forth is reduced.

On a heavy air jibe Jeff says he eases the vang just 2". During a jibe he doesn't have the vang off, nor on too hard. Greg suggested you must oversteer and try to get the boat flat or heel the boat to windward in starting a jibe to use the hull's shape to aid the turn. He also suggested that the sailors try an "S" turn jibe.

In answer to a question about using a heavy air sail, Eric says a heavy air sail is only effective when the waves are no higher than the deck at the bow. He also noted to a question about side stay tension that is under debate at the time. The thought until now has been quite tight, while the Spring Lake sailors are slacking off their sidestays.

Eric also added that in light air you should set the vang so that the boom is just up from horizontal 2" to 3"

Spencer Weersing Memorial Regatta

June 17-18, 1995, Fleet 24 White Lake YC, Michigan

Submitted by Sally Weersing and Sara McMurray

Doug McNeil of Grand Haven and Brian McMurray of Whitehall, both members of the host club, had identical scores in the First Annual Spencer Weersing Memorial Regatta, held at the west end of White Lake. The unprecedented tie ended the competitive six race event in MC Scows.

The regatta was held in perfect sailing conditions, Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18. The winds were fairly steady from the southwest, while temperature was perfect for water sports.

Most of the 31 competitors were from Michigan, but one sailor who entered from far-away Denmark, while another from California.

Rounding out the final top five were Chris Craig of Flint, Curt Miller from the Grand Rapids YC, and Bob Milne of WLYC. Duane Pierson, sailing with daughter Joan, won the Family Division, while Bill Farabaugh was 1st Master. 1st Junior was Kyle Verplank and Tracy Stevens won the Women's Division. Curt Miller later exclaimed that he plans to change his name to "McMiller" as it seems that was the key to success in this regatta.

Pl	Skipper	Boat		Races						Pts
		No.	Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Brian McMurray	1643	WLYC/MI	1	2	1	3	2	2	7.5
1	Doug McNeil	1466	WLYC/MI	2	1	2	2	1	3	7.5
3	Chris Craig	1509	LFYC/MI	4	3	5	1	6	5	17.7
4	Curt Miller	101	GRYC/MI	3	4	4	5	3	9	19
5	Bob Milne	909	WLYC/MI	7	9	3	6	8	6	30
6	John Bolling	1041	SLYC/MI	5	7	9	4	7	32	
7	Thor Sorensen	1665	GRYC/MI	9	6	4	10	7	1	32.7
8	Todd Bosgraaf	1451	SLYC/MI	8	5	8	9	5	8	34
9	Duane Pierson-F	500	WLYC/MI	15	12	7	4	12	4	39
10	Larry Brand	1567	WLYC/MI	6	8	6	7	18	19	45
11	Kyle Verplank-J	1530	SLYC/MI	12	15	13	16	11	11	62
12	Skip Manny	930	WLYC/MI	17	10	18	15	9	12	63
13	Dan McCormick	1413	WLYC/MI	21	18	14	13	13	10	68
14	Dave Bedau	1455	WLYC/MI	16	11	17	12	15	20	71
15	Tracy Brand	1017	WLYC/MI	11	16	11	8	32	32	78
16	Brent Bedau-J	984	WLYC/MI	13	22	27	17	20	15	87
17	John Milne	1015	WLYC/MI	20	20	15	22	19	14	88
18	Tim Keck-F	1314	WLYC/MI	18	13	21	19	22	18	89
19	Dave Fedeau-J	973		27	25	23	20	10	13	91
20	Bill Farabaugh-M	893	CoLYC/MI	19	26	20	24	14	16	93
21	Nils Reuterdahl-J	1200	SLYC/MI	14	24	24	18	21	17	94
22	Brent Daily-J	1309	WLYC/MI	25	14	19	14	26	28	98
23	Jon Penn-F	1494	WLYC/MI	23	23	10	21	25	22	99
24	Bobby Engstrom-J	30	WLYC/MI	24	21	16	32	23	21	105
25	Tom McMurray	1425	WLYC/MI	10	17	32	32	16	32	107
26	Jacques Chatain	1269	WLYC/MI	22	28	22	25	17	23	109
27	Bob Kopec	1357	GRYC/MI	29	19	25	23	27	25	119
28	Wendel Kent-M	965	WLYC/MI	26	27	26	32	24	24	127
29	W.E.Lanquette-M	924	WLYC/MI	30	30	28	26	29	27	140
30	Lars Moller	92	Denmark	32	31	30	27	28	26	142
31	Tracy Stevens-L		WLYC/MI	28	29	29	32	32	32	150

F = Family, M = Master, J = Junior, L = Lady