

Newcomers Guide to the MC

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This is the conclusion of this article, the first part appeared in the January 1996 MC Newsletter. The article was originally published in the April 1994 MC Newsletter.

As far as tuning, we basically just copied what the fast guys were doing. The 'magic' number for mast rake was 28' - 3-1/2". For our sail, we found it helpful to sweep the spreaders slightly farther forward (31" tip-to-tip) which helped stiffen the mast between the hounds and the spreaders and make the main a little bit more powerful. We just stuck with the standard Johnson spreader lengths, but because of my nature to dittle with things, we did experiment a good bit with shroud tension. It seemed like the faster sailors were sailing a little bit tighter so we cranked our rig up fairly snug as well. We quickly realized it was easy to get the rig too tight as indicated by the spreaders pushing the mast to leeward in the middle (definitely did not seem fast!). This was eye-balled by looking up the back of the mast. Instead, we tensioned the shrouds until the mast was just straight from the gooseneck to the hounds at which point the tip sagged off to leeward.

It took us a few races to figure out how important the vang is to performance in a breeze. After being pinched off at the start for the second time (we sure appreciated the recalls!), we noticed that the boats that had the height on us had a good deal more vang. Once we started playing with it, we found that pretty heavy vang tension was necessary. Our guide for knowing when we reached the right tension was the development of slight inversion wrinkles in our mainsail. These were diagonal wrinkles that ran from approximately six feet up the luff to six feet back on our boom indicating that the mast had developed maximum bend for our sail. If we over-vanged and over-flattened the main through bending the mast too much, these wrinkles got pretty severe.

We found there are still some definite boat handling techniques that we need to work

on. Doing 720 turns was certainly a thrill in the MC, especially if you try to turn the boat too fast. We figured that spray coming off the side of the boat instead of the bow was an indication that something wasn't quite right. I'm not sure in those couple of turns if we ever figured out which board was supposed to go down when, and I'm still not sure if we came out bow first or stern first!

I was certainly glad there was enough wind to sail with a crew as I think it also helped our learning curve. Being able to concentrate on speed, sail trim and steering while Carol Newman, my ace crew, was looking around for windshifts and other boats, definitely helped a bunch.

You definitely have to have your share of good breaks to do well in any sailboat race or regatta and we certainly appreciate the luck we had at the Midwinters (1994). We also had fun racing against Andy Burdick, Jim Gluek and Mark Christensen. Congrats to them on a great series! We sure have a lot more to learn about scows and the MC specifically. We are looking forward to the regatta circuit this summer. I hope to see you there! Good Sailing!

Geo. Washington's Birthday Regatta

February 24-25, 1996
Fleet 4 Lake Eustis SC, Florida

Submitted by Bob DeWitt
The LESC held this regatta in conjunction with the City of Eustis' 94th Annual George Washington's Birthday Festival -- the longest continuous festival in the State of Florida.

Three races were held Saturday in southwest winds of 10-12 mph and two on Sunday in light and extremely variable winds. The wind conditions made no difference to David Beatson as he took five bullets to win by over 16 points! Bill Crum edged Tiny Knowles by two points for second but Tony Bruskas would have finished ahead of both had he not gone through a closed gate on the beat to windward. David Cleaver spent Saturday on the committee boat but took two seconds Sunday after four years away from sailing.

Regatta Chairman, Greg Murphy, rescued three exhausted fishermen when his wife, Delores, spotted what they thought was an obstruction on the on the race course. It turned out to be about 2 feet of the bow of a rented fishing boat to which the three men were clinging. They had been in the cold water for quite some time. When they got on board Greg's boat they hugged each other and cried. A happy ending to a great day of running a regatta for Greg and Delores and three very grateful fishermen.

Results are shown below.

Geo. Washington Regatta

PL	SKIPPER	CLUB	BOAT	Races					PTS
				1	2	3	4	5	
1	David Beatson	LESC/FL	657	1	1	1	1	1	3.75
2	Bill Crum-GM	LESC/FL	1068	4	2	4	5	5	20
3	Tiny Knowles-GM	LESC/FL	881	5	7	3	4	3	22
4	Tony Bruskas-GM	LDSC/IA	1484	2	DSQ	5	3	4	24
5	Dennis Oldham	LESC/FL	72	8	5	6	6	6	31
6	Peter Hysten-GM	LESC/FL	830	7	4	2	DNS	DNS	35
7	Dale Holasek-GM	LESC/FL	85	6	3	8	7	DNS	35
8	David Cleaver	LESC/FL	1675	DNS	DNS	DNS	2	2	37
9	John Schneider-GM	LESC/FL	1654	3	6	7	DNS	DNS	38
10	Chuck Nelson-GM	LDSC/IA	1038	9	8	DNF	DNS	DNS	48