

'97 Midwinter Championship

March 19-21, 1998 Sarasota Sailing Squadron, Sarasota, FL

Our traditional hosts, Fleet 4 at Lake Eustis, Florida, was unable to accommodate us this year so we followed several other one-design fleets, including Es and Cs to Sarasota. Our host there was Jim Barr and he did a marvelous job of making us welcome and providing good beverages, lunches and a lasagna dinner. Can you imagine? - \$1 premium beer, \$1.25 hot dog and hamburger lunches!!!

Our judges were Alan Becker and Sandy Sundstrom. Good job with race courses.

Unfortunately some rather unseasonable weather followed the northern sailors to this new venue for this year's Midwinter Championship. We got in two windward-leeward races on Thursday with college freshman Kelly Reese, Ingleside, IL and Lake Geneva YC, WI leading the way with a second and first.

Close behind were Kevin Watrous, Grand Rapids, MI and Torch Lake YC, MI and Gary Verplank of Spring Lake YC, MI.

During the night a low came through and more wind then was good for MC racing. A few brave souls got out to the line but had to tum back as the wind was steady 22 mph with some pretty strong gusts coming through. Thus it became a two-race regatta with Kelly capturing the top honors. Tim Fredman of Hartland, WI and Beaver Lake YC, WI in 4th overall won the Masters Trophy (50-59). Eric Hood of Melges Boat Works was the top pro in 5th overall. Top Grand Master (60-69) honors went to Mike Sherin of Delaware, WI and Lake Geneva YC, WI. The top Ancient Mariner (70 and over) (formerly MegaMaster) trophy went to Curt Bradley of Greenville, MI and the Grand Rapids YC.

Pl	Skipper	Club	Boat	Races		Pts
				1	2	
1	Kelly Reese-JW	LGYC/WI	1219	2	1	3
2	Kevin Watrous	TLYC/MI	1758	3	4	7
3	Gary Verplank-M	SLYC/MI	1777	1	9	10
4	Tim Fredman-M	BLYC/WI	1774	10	3	13
5	Eric Hood-P	MBW/WI	1822	5	8	13
6	Mike Sherin-GM	LGYC/WI	1829	8	5	13
7	Dan Guidinger-P	JBW/MN	1808	13	2	15
8	Ron Stryker-M	HYC/OH	1800	4	12	16
9	Win Story-M	LLSC/GA	1684	12	7	19
10	Ted Keller	TLYC/MI	1431	6	16	23
11	Happy Fox-M	SLYC/MI	1838	21	6	27
12	Tim Fredman, Jr.	BLYC/WI	1325	16	13	29
13	Tom Wurster-GM	DLYC/MI	1819	15	14	29
14	Justin Hood-J	LGYC/WI	822	7	24	31
15	Knox Rodgers	LLSC/GA	1415	9	22	31
16	Jack Schwindler-M	MYC/MO	1752	17	15	32
17	Bob Prange	OLYC/WI	1751	14	20	34
18	Bill Freytag-GM	LGYC/WI	1728	11	25	36
19	Mark White	HYC/OH	1530	27	11	38
20	Matt Cassady-J	SLYC/MI	1607	20	18	38
21	Bob Miller-GM	DLYC/MI	1840	29	10	39
22	Charlie Miller-P	ISIs/WI	1851	18	21	39
23	Suzi Reese-W	LGYC/WI	1527	22	19	41
24	Sid Peterson-GM	PLYC/WI	1702	19	26	45
25	Curt Bradley-AM	GRYC/MI	1405	23	23	46
26	John Adams-M	LLSC/GA	1648	DNF	17	53
27	Bill Gilmer-M	LLSC/GA	1365	25	28	53
28	Dan Gloeckner	HYC/OH	1101	24	30	54
29	Willi Lenkeit-M	LLSC/GA	1649	28	27	55
30	Devin Farley	LGYC/WI	1356	26	31	57
31	Tom Larimer	LGYC/WI	1626	31	29	62
32	Doug Kiser	HYC/OH	1400	30	32	62
33	Bill Crum-AM	LESC/FL	1773	DNF	33	69
34	Bob Cooley	MYC/MO	828	DNF	DNF	72

Keys to Success

by Neil Cunnintgham as seen in *Jibsheet*
(San Juan 21)

It has been my experience that a good start and a good weather leg usually make for a good finish. You should begin preparing for the start of a race before you leave the dock. Make sure all rigging is working properly.

Read the Sailing Instructions before attending the skippers' meeting, listen carefully and don't be afraid to ask questions if there is something you don't understand. Make sure you have all information and instructions concerning the race and place those SIs in the boat where they can easily be found.

On the way out to the race course take note of wind shifts. When the starting line is set, find the favored end. Start in clear air if possible.

Concentration also plays a big part in winning. I have found that the skipper who never lets anything interrupt his concentration always does well.