

# Cow Town Classic

May 6-7, 2000  
Fleet 54 Hoover Yacht Club, Ohio

Report and photo from Ron Stryker

Twenty MC Scows attended this year's Cow Town Classic. Fleet Captain Mark White and Regatta Co-chair Ron Stryker organized a great regatta with excellent race courses, great food and good winds. Also, on Saturday, between Race 2 and 3, most of the skippers received massages from Ron's personal trainer.

New fleet member, Brian Pace, was designated as the new fleet Beer Meister and quickly selected 'Corona' as the new fleet beer. Fleet Captain Mark White showed concern that the fleet budget might go broke over the 'Corona' issue but was quickly reminded by the group that everyone was very happy with the new Beer Meister.

Saturday night we had a great prime rib meal that included homemade pies and of course watching the sunset was another added bonus. Eric Hood, North Sails and Melges Boat Works, gave a seminar just before the skipper's meeting Saturday morning that was well received by the group.

Four races were held on Saturday and two on Sunday. Winds varied between very light, 3-5 mph, to 15-18 in the last race.

The fleet while small, was tough. Ted Keller, fresh off a win in Atlanta, Eric Hood who won in Charleston, and Pete Comfort, last year's Cow Town Champion headed the list. Katie Reese and Dave Bandstra were among the others who competed.

The key at the start was to make your decision at the very last moment. If you cruised the line and hung out towards the middle with, say, one and one-half minutes to go you were in good shape. You had to position yourself to intercept the next good puff coming down the lake.

This was a regatta where sailing in the wind pressure was an absolute must. You could

Pl	Skipper	Div	Club	Boat	Races						Pts
					1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Ted Keller		HYC/OH	1898	3	1	4	1	2	2	9
2	Eric Hood	P	NSIs	2012	2	2	3	3	3	1	11
3	Pete Comfort		TLYC/MI	1918	1	10	5	2	1	4	13
4	Dave Bandstra		SLYC/MI	1852	7	3	1	8	10	3	22
5	Katie Reese	W	SLYC/MI	1827	5	11	6	7	5	6	29
6	Scott Caston		GRYC/MI	1754	4	4	8	4	12	10	30
7	Carl Pratt		GMCLSA/OH	1887	8	12	12	5	4	9	38
8	Bob Bellafronto	M	CLSA/OH	1797	OCS	13	2	6	11	7	39
9	Lath Keller		TLYC/MI	1970	6	5	7	15	DSQ	11	44
10	Mark White		HYC/OH	1530	11	6	13	9	7	12	45
11	Ron Stryker	M	HYC/OH	1800	12	14	9	11	6	8	46
12	Phil Weiler		CLSA/OH	1755	9	7	10	14	9	16	49
13	Brian Pace		HYC/OH	1569	13	15	17	10	13	5	56
14	Dan Gloeckner	M	HYC/OH	1101	15	9	16	12	8	13	57
15	Devin Koski		TLYC/MI	1793	10	8	15	13	DNS	DNS	67
16	Doug Kiser	M	HYC/OH	1400	OCS	18	11	17	14	15	75
17	Jack Sanderson	M	HYC/OH	1625	16	DNF	18	16	16	14	80
18	Judy Hearn	W	CLSA/OH	1347	OCS	16	14	19	15	17	81
19	Sandy Schirmer		HYC/OH	955	14	17	DNF	18	17	18	84
20	Mike Kindred	GM	HYC/OH	1286	DNS	DNF	19	20	DNS	DNS	102

One throwout was allowed.

quickly drop 5-10 boats in a matter of seconds if you stepped outside the wind zone that your group was sailing in. As the weekend went on the racing got much tighter, a sign that the skippers were catching on to the trends of the lake and realizing that sticking with the group was a good thing. Those who strayed from the group rarely made out.

Pete Comfort started with a quick win in Race 1 with Eric Hood 2nd and Ted Keller 3rd. Race 2 went to Ted with Eric in 2nd. In Race 3, with the lead tied between Ted and Eric, things started to get interesting. Others were sailing very well but had inconsis-

tent moments. Eric regained the lead by one point after three races. Ted regained the lead in Races 4 and 5 with a 1st and 2nd.

Race 6 found Eric needing to beat Ted with two boats in between. Eric took the lead at the first mark with Ted in 2nd. A huge puff separated Eric and Ted from the rest of the fleet on the reach leg. Some good old fashioned match racing occurred during the next four legs with Eric trying to slow down Ted and let others catch up. It almost worked but Eric ran out of runway by the finish.

Congratulations, to Ted!



**COW TOWN CLASSIC WINNERS**  
L to R: Carl Pratt, Bob Bellafronto, Katie Reese, Ron Stryker, Pete Comfort (kneeling), Dave Bandstra, Ted Keller, Eric Hood.