



MCSA National Championship Day 1 report - Jamie Kimball leads after 3 exciting races

Three great races today. All in the medium air range. Some great hiking, crews on board for many of the teams today and some folks hiking hard by themselves.

Huge premium on surviving the first beat and being in that forward group at the top marks. With such great talent represented, the rich getting richer theme you usually see in club racing or smaller regattas was not there today. You did need everything possible to get away from the big pack though. Great starting lines from PRO Chip Mann and his big team. A couple of individual recalls for each race but no generals. Courses were W7, W5, W7. Gorgeous weather at this bucket list stop for the MC Nationals here on White Lake, Michigan.

Race 1 Winner Jamie Kimball

Race 2 Winner Ted Keller

Race 3 Winner Doug McNeil (with his son former Nationals Champ Cameron second- that was cool)

Boats are starting to pile up on their scores but with four races to go and a possible drop race to be included if 7 races are completed (Class rule). Lots of opportunities for things to happen. Jamie Kimball is poked out pretty good on the group right now with Ted Keller sailing in a strong second right now.

Here are some scores. Full results hopefully will be posted later at www.mcscow.org.

1st Overall and top U50 Jamie Kimball (former Nat champ) 8 points,
2nd Ted Keller 17 pts, 3rd Bill Colburn 23pts, 4th Cam McNeil 24 (former Nat Champ), 5th Justin Hood 34 (former Nat Champ), 6th Joe Rotunda 38 (former Nat Champ), 7th Brett Hatton 43 (former Nat Champ), 8th Steve Everist 44 (last weeks ILYA Champ), 9th Brien Fox 45 , 10th Enrico Schafer 45, 11th Andy Burdick 47 (former 11 time Nat Champ and sailing with three today . Mya and Finn Burdick), 12th E Hood (Top Master) 47, 13th Jeff Surles 53, 14th Noel Neuman 59, 15th Jeff Grinnan

61. Top Grand Master Stefan Schmidt 25th with 83 pts, Top Youth David Gates 35th with 112 pts, Top Woman Lynn Walborn 54th with 154 pts, Top Mega Master Gary Verplank 59th with 165 points.

Big bucket smart things learned today. Top boats sailed in clear air 95% + of the time. Escape and find a way in top 10 after start. If that did not work find a way to top 10-15 by top mark. Position yourself to have a chance on the last beat to finish well. Focus, focus, focus on dark water - stay in the pressure.

Great job by the huge volunteer teams including the race committee, scoring teams, dinghy service, great food and drink teams .

Day 2 Friday- big winds are predicted .

Hawaiian Party now here at this classic club built in 1903 on White Lake.

Aloha,

E Hood
MC 2566
Melges Performance Sailboats

MC National Championship Day 2- 6 Races Completed

Wow, another fantastic day here in West Michigan at the White Lake Yacht Club. Great southwest breeze ranging from 8-17 m.p.h. Tight racing and a few big shakeups in the scores are setting us up for an exciting finish to this 41st annual National Championship. Big spectator crowds are having a really good time watching the thrills and spills out here today.

Outstanding photos will be available at www.ingridl.com by Sunday. Ingrid will have at least 600+ fantastic images I have seen. So check that out.

Race winners for the day -

Race 4 Bill Colburn from Lake Harriett,

Race 5 E Hood from Lake Eustis

Race 6 Coye Harrett.

Overall scores will be posted to all the websites soon. With such a tough fleet we have seen scores all over the place. A few swimmers, lots of OCSs .

I will give an in depth report once the regatta is over. Right now just trying to get ready for our big Champions dinner tonight, fixing a few boats and looking at all the cool images from Ingrid Lindfors.

Here is a quick snapshot top 20 of 95

Jamie Kimball 27, Bill Colburn 47, Andy Burdick 56, Cam McNeil 63, Ted Keller 68, Joe Rotunda 76, Brien Fox 86 , Brett Hatton 95, Jeff Grinnan 98, Mark Tesar 99, E Hood 107, Doug McNeil 121, Todd Bosgraaf 125, Steve Everist 131, Jeff Nicholas 133, Noel Neuman 134, Rob Terry 144, Jeff Surles 148, Scott Harestad 154, Brian McMurray 156

More to come soon.

E Hood

MC 2566

Melges Performance Sailboats

Final Day Report by Eric Hood

Jamie Kimball Wins Big at 2012 MCSA National Championship

Jamie Kimball has won one of the largest One-Design Championships of 2012 sailing season here in the United States. 94 teams came to White Lake, Michigan for the 41st Annual MC Scow National Championship. Not only did we have a large turnout but we also had MC skippers and teams there that represented 22 of those 41 National Championships. Having sailed in over 200 MC Scow regattas myself I can tell you this clearly was the strongest fleet we have ever assembled. That also suggests the class is extremely healthy and strong which is great news for this cool little 16' Hot Rod that we all simply call the MC.

Normally in my regatta reports I give you all some blow by blow reports about the top boats. For this report though I think I will do something a little different. I say that because there is not much more to say other than that Jamie Kimball dusted us. You have to give some high honor to a National Champion who does not have to sail the last race (actually no choice because he could not risk a black flag which cannot be dropped).

So, let's talk about the other 93 teams. I am going to point a few things out here that I hope are encouraging for everyone between 2nd and 94th. First I want to start with the race winners, but here is something I am going to do differently (encouragement), and that is, I will put out to the side of each race winner in brackets their worst race. What you will see I think will surprise you and hopefully it gives you a sense of how tough this event was out on the course.

Race 1 winner – Jamie Kimball (12)

Race 2 winner - Ted Keller (26)

Race 3 winner – Doug McNeil (41)

Race 4 winner – Bill Colburn (18)

Race 5 winner – Eric Hood (44)

Race 6 winner – Coye Harrett (73)

Race 7 winner – Justin Hood (OCS)

So everyone between 2nd and 94th just know that at some point during this event you beat a team that won a race at the nationals. That is a big deal and just know you can put that on your list of "how am I doing, how am

I improving". I think the most important thing I would say to folks who came this year to the nationals is that it was really tough sailing, in very tough conditions (extremely shifty at the top of the course each race) and not to think you got hammered or had a bad regatta. Anyone who sailed at this year's MCSA National championship is going to be a lot further down the road as a good MC skipper and team as a result of sailing this event. So way to go for everyone hanging in there!!!

Another huge win and success story for this particular championship this year was the high count of crew and young sailors on board. With the solid wind velocity ranging most of the time between 12 and 18 mph for most races sailors were able to sail with their crews. Seeing so many young sailors both male and female was extremely encouraging. It also helped, I think, that regatta co-chair Cam McNeil recruited from the large White Lake Yacht Club junior team. During our Champions dinner I gave a short speech on the "HIGH VALUE" of mentoring, coaching our youth, and it was like it opened the flood gates of conversation. So many folks came up to me afterwards and said how much they appreciated that moment. I heard from many that in their own world they would work harder to that end of creating sailing legacies for the next generations to come. We had a great week with young sailors. In my case, I had a 13 year old, Connor Briegel, who sails a Butterfly. When we sailed out to the course on one windy race broad reaching at a high rate of speed I asked him to steer. Wow, that was worth the whole regatta effort for me in seeing a new sailor grab the tiller of an MC in a breeze broad reaching down the course with a huge smile and big eyes. You had others out there like Andy Burdick's team with his daughter Mya and son Finn. They added a piece to the history books by sailing with three and doing well. We talked to a lot of crew members who were crewing in their first major regatta and that is really encouraging for our future.

Another "Note to Self" moment was that we picked a great spot for a National Championship. White Lake Yacht Club established in 1903 had everything you could want. Many teams brought their whole family and I think the year long promotion of don't miss this "Bucket List" stop proved to everyone that it really was a "Bucket List" stop. A great lake to sail on even in unstable wind conditions. There is nothing nicer than Lake Michigan on the west shore of Michigan. A really cool club house, great pool. The world's best ice cream for a buck. Everyone there said it was incredible how nice not only the entire area, club, both lakes were, but also how incredibly nice all the folks from White Lake were. A large number of folks stayed with folks in this semi-remote area. So a big thank you to all those who housed folks.

Back to some sailing. Here are the top 20. Complete results race by race are posted at www.mcscow.org :

Overall Champion – Jamie Kimball 27pts, Bill Colburn 34 (wins tie-breaker), Andy Burdick 34, Cam McNeil 50, Ted Keller 68 (wins tie-breaker), Jeff Grinnan 68 (Top Master), Justin Hood 71, Joe Rotunda 76, Brett Hatton 77, Doug McNeil 82, Brien Fox 86, Eric Hood 87, Mark Tesar 99, Noel Neuman 105, Rob Terry 113, Brian McMurray 117, Scott Harestad 122, Coye Harrett 125 (wins tie-breaker) Todd Bosgraaf 125, Steve Everist 130

So another view to help encourage everyone in the fleet.

Past champions from the big 5 regattas including the MCSA Nationals, MCSA Midwinters , MCSA Masters, ILYA and Westerns finished in these positions throughout the fleet

1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,15,16,20,22,27,31,34,43,47,53,84. These are all folks who have won a major. So it was tough from 1st- 94th as I have said previously.

Other divisional winners: Jeff Grinnan from Rush Creek-top Master, Stefan Schmidt from Madison-top Grand Master, Gary Verplank-top Mega Master, Lynn Walborn-top Woman.

PRO Chip Mann had a large, great crew with him. Locals Jack Rillema and Peter Blacklock were on the mid-line and leeward ends. Chip had Bill Best and several others from his regular crew on board helping. We had great starting lines, very good courses under the tricky conditions down in the east end of White Lake. Bottom half of course was always good, middle was always a little dangerous on velocity and the top last couple of

hundred yards is where we saw some very tricky conditions that could quickly add or subtract 10-30 boats at any given moment.

Largest learning from this event with the huge fleet was you had to get off the line and sail the first three minutes in unrestricted air. I would say the top 5 boats in this regatta sailed 95% of the time in clean air. That was the first premium and the second premium was velocity. With so many boats if you were not in velocity all the time you were probably not doing well.

As I close this report I would like to say on behalf of all the competitors: "THANK YOU" to all of the folks at White Lake Yacht Club and of course Spring Lake Yacht Club for their social add-ons like the "Lean In Party".

Check out about 800+ photos going up on Ingrid Lindfor's website WWW.INGRIDL.COM. You can purchase photos there and I can promise you there are hundreds there worth purchasing.

Watch for an interview I am doing with Jamie Kimball in the near future.

Next year Clear Lake, Iowa for MCSA Nationals and 2014 Augusta, Georgia. I want to challenge everyone now to get ready. Freshen up your sails, freshen up your rides and work hard at getting 5% better with each weekend of sailing you do. There is nothing more fun than going to a major championship with big numbers attending. Add Clear Lake Iowa to your calendar now. End of June next season.

See you all out there.
All the best from Zenda,

E Hood
MC 2566
Melges Performance Sailboats