

2012 MCSA MIDWINTER CHAMPIONSHIP



Day 1 - Midwinter Championship Report

Three races scheduled for day one of this 79 boat championship was delayed much of the day today with no wind. Finally late in the afternoon after a day of swirling , spinning on and off light wind a pretty nice breeze settled in from the east here on Lake Eustis just northwest of Orlando. It was great to see such a large fleet with so many fleets and states represented here at our 39th annual MC Midwinter Championship.

It has been a week of high pressure and light air with three days of practice and the two day Zenda U racing clinics all in light air. Hopefully we will see the trend snapped with this late show of breeze this afternoon . So with two days left we have five races to sail and still have a great chance to get them all in.

Today's top ten are:

1. Al Haeger from Lake Beulah, WI.
2. Jim Gluek from Pewaukee , WI. Jim is a past Midwinters Champion.
3. Scott Harestad from Spring Lake , MI . Scott also finished 2nd at Zenda U during that 9 race event against 24 other skippers.
4. Jon Pomerleau from Crystal Lake, MI

5. Dr. Rob Terry from Crystal Lake, MI. Rob is a past Midwinters Champion and Zenda U champ too.
6. Rob Seidelmann from New Jersey. Rob like our other Rob is also a past Midwinter's Champion.
7. Dan Fink from Pine Lake, WI . Dan is our current class president.
8. Terry Mestan from Cedar Lake , WI
9. Mark Tesar from Clear Lake , Iowa
10. Erich Schloemer from Rush Creek YC, TX

Top Mega Master today was Dr. Jack Kern from Rush Creek YC, TX

Other highlights so far have been the warm sunny weather for all the northern folks. The Oyster Troff of course and they are catering our banquet dinner tomorrow night being hosted by Keuka Lake YC of New York. Tonight drinks and fun times were provided by Rush Creek Yacht Club and Colorado scow sailors. Wednesday nights party was hosted by Melges Performance Sailboats and North Sails Zenda.

So a lot more to come folks stay tuned.
E Hood MC 2549

Day 2 Midwinter Championship Report

The huge high pressure system continued to dominate central Florida for day 2 of this 79 boat championship. Looking out my 5th floor hotel window and looking at Lake Eustis here on day three for the regatta it is not looking any better. In our 39 years of MC Midwinter Championships we have always had at least the three minimum races required for an official championship.

Everyone is hoping and praying for the best today. The cutoff time for the championship gives us about a 4 hour window to get the regatta in.

Day 2 we had one Crazy Ivan race with two 90 degree persistent shifts in very light air. So to this point two tricky races are on the books. Jim Gluek survived sailing very well under the trying conditions and finished third to lead the regatta with only 5 points. Richard Blake who practices probably more than anybody put together a race win for race 2 and as hard as he practices I would say it was not luck.

Here are the top ten:

1. Jim Gluek 5
2. Jon Pomerleau 12
3. Terry Mestan 13
4. Ted Keller 14
5. Scott Harestad 20
6. Dan Fink 22
7. Clark Wade 23
8. Richard Blake 24
9. Jeff Grinnan 31
10. Al Haeger 33.

Top Junior as of right now is Ham Morgan from Rush Creek
 Top Woman is Trish Keenan End
 Top Under 50 is Ted Keller
 Top Master is Jim Gluek
 Top Grand Master is Terry Mestan
 Top Mega Master is Bob Miller.

We had a fantastic party hosted by Bob Cole and the visiting Keuka Yacht Club . Bob shipped wine in from Keuka, NY and also France that was great. The Oyster Troff provided a great meal. I was emcee for the evening. After checking a few facts from 92 year old Frank Keenan who was an early class leader for us I shared some news with the group about our beginnings with the Midwinters and a state of the union for our class as of today. Also I do not think I have heard such laughter at the Midwinters since the appearance of Bubba and Earl ten years ago. We had a great time. 39 years old as a event and we have sailed on 6 different venues (Mt. Dora, Harris, Eustis, Tampa Bay, Ft. Meyers and Sarasota). I will just bullet point some of the things we talked about as a group last night.

- Trick question for the crew was how many venues have we sailed at during the 39 year history. Answer was 6 - Mt. Dora, Lake Harris, Lake Eustis, Sarasota, Davis Island and Ft. Meyers.
- Furthest travelled this week was from Portland ,Oregon and also Montana.
- Largest fleet that travelled to the Midwinters this year was the Rush Creek Yacht Club crew from Rockwall, Texas with 9 teams. Keuka Yacht Club had 6 teams and Hoover in Ohio had a large group here also.
- We had a lot of family teams this year husbands, wives, sons, daughters. That was really cool to see.
- We talked about growing fleets . Selling or donating used boats within your own club to grow fleets and stimulate new boat purchases to keep our class growing up and to the right. Next hull 2562 was mentioned.
- We shared class news with seven of class officers and class president Dan Fink present. We shared the challenges and upgrades to things coming in the near future.
- One of the fun parts of our night was the auction to benefit the junior yacht club. Things started out slow with Hoffman's Custom paddle and the Melges mystery box so we told the crowd if you all "get it going" with the bidding that we would add a National Championship entry, a Midwinters Championship, a 2013 ZU entry plus the box. After some spirited bidding we ended up at \$1500 total taken in with Eric Protzman winning the big prize and Trish End winning the paddle.

The last and most important thing we discussed was how to best coach and mentor sailors to keep our class growing with new sailors, taking care of sailors at the back of the fleet who are learning, woman skippers, young sailors, older sailors. The theme I discussed was to "LEAD WHERE YOU ARE". In other words my encouragement to everyone was to use whatever influence they had at their home club settings to help build our class sustaining our future. Maybe it is a volunteer supporting racing, maybe it is actually coaching, maybe it is taking one sailor in your fleet under your wing and helping them throughout the year to improve their sailing skills. There are so many ways that all of us can help to keep our class going strong. If you ever need help and ideas please feel free to call Team Zenda and we would be happy to help guide you through great ideas we have seen over the years on fleet growth and promotion.

So signing off for now here at 9:30 am on Saturday our last day. The lake is pure glass right now. Crew is happy and our social time together this week has been fantastic. Hopefully we will get a little more sailing in soon.

Final Day Report - Midwinters

Well after a long five hour wait today we finally got in a third light air race to have an official Championship in place. As most of you know we had 6 scheduled over the three days for the Midwinter Championship but we had a huge high pressure system park over central Florida. No "Crazy Ivans" (90 degree shifts) as in the first two races. Today we held it down to about 20-30 degree shifts but it was fair racing as you could always see things coming at you.

Five sailors really stayed focused during this extremely challenging series and were always up at the front. So whether you say it was fluky Crazy Ivan racing or not they hung in there every race. So really the only thing you can say we learned from a tactical perspective was that in all three starts the winners emerged together from the same zones. So it was clear to them that this was the place to start. Then after that it was simply staying in dark water or as I say often in training when sailing light air "velocity rules over direction". Go for the dark water when there are big holes or try to position yourself for the dark water so it intercepts you.

1. Jim Gluek from Pewaukee Yacht Club in WI, won the 79 boat regatta with a crazy low score of 6 points. Jim was also top Master.
2. Ted Keller from Torch Lake Yacht Club in northern Mi, had 16 points and was the top Under 50 sailor.
3. Terry Mestan from Big Cedar, WI, put together a great regatta with 22 points and was our top Grand Master.
4. Dan Fink our class president from Pine Lake, WI, was consistent, collected 26 points and survived all the crazy shifts.
5. Clark Wade from Hoover Sailing Club in Columbus, OH sailed very well finishing with 28 points

Others in order for the top 20 - Scott Harestad, Richard Blake, Craig Eaton, Rob Terry, Pete Gregory, Drew Ziegler, Skip Moorhouse, Bob Cole, Al Haeger, Tim Fredman, Byron Beasley, Pete Japiske, Eric Hood, Ham Morgan, Jon Pomerleau.

Top Youth was Ham Morgan with Anders Hudson 2nd.

Top Woman was Trish Keenan End and her sister Candi Robb finished 2nd in that category.

Full results will be posted on www.mcscow.org shortly along with the complete regatta reports.

A ton of great volunteer efforts this week and some new volunteer models surfaced that are pretty cool. As I mentioned in yesterday's report, three other yacht clubs from outside of Florida hosted significant portions of this big championship. The parties were fantastic, quality time with friends was in abundance with all the shore time. Sometimes that is a gift and it certainly felt that way this week with all the sailors having great community time with each other.

Big thanks to Scott Tillema, the Dave Williams family and a cast of many others for making it a great week from the start with Zenda U to the finish of racing today. It was 6 good days with 79 MC teams a new Midwinters record.

Sign up for the National Championship now and you really want to get your housing squared away now for this incredibly cool regatta coming this August. That is my old home lake and I know the gang is pulling out all the stops to make it a historic event.

See you on the course somewhere soon.

E Hood MC 2549
Melges Performance Sailboats