

2012 Spencer Weersing Memorial Regatta
White Lake Yacht Club
June 9-10, 2012

The wind was booming at White Lake Michigan for the Spencer Weersing MC Regatta. Forecasts for the big air seem to have held the number of folks down a bit this year, but 19 very able skippers made it to the line. Though the numbers were not large, the talent was top flight! Discussion on Saturday brought forward the thought that there was a high probability that the 2012 MC National Champion was present at this regatta. Could be the truth as the "top guns" of the younger generation were present - and through the course of the regatta clearly demonstrated why they should contend at the MC National Championship to be held at this same venue on August 22-25th of this year.

Saturday dawned with a brisk southwest wind that was blowing well over 16 by race time. There were times throughout the day the velocity hovered close to the class limit of 20 mph. We got in one race before taking a break for lunch and then hit the lake again for three more. It was a grueling day for many sailors for whom this was the first regatta of the year. Having a crew certainly helped.

With only a narrow dune strip separating White Lake from Lake Michigan, a southwest breeze typically brings big puffs and 30 degree wind veers. This day proved to be typical. It was important to get to the South shore quickly and the race winners were able to do that. Cam McNeil got the hole shot on the pin end and won the first race, which he was to repeat yet again later in the day in race #3. Not to be ignored, Jamie Kimble won races 2 and 4. Jamie and Cam ended the day tied in points for first, with the advantage going to Jamie for the evening lead by virtue of a third place finish to Cam's two fourths. This writer enjoyed watching the duel from the back of the pack. Sportsmanship of the day award went to Clark Wade of Ohio who braved the strong winds solo and suffered from two capsize, with the second resulting in a swamping. I had the good fortune to share dinner with him on Saturday night and he recovered and was ready to mix it up again on Sunday. Nice job Clark!

The strong winds, puffs, and wind veer placed a premium on keeping your boat moving. Lots of vang sheeting and keeping the boat flat yielded great dividends. The leaders all had their boats flat up wind and big heels to windward downwind.

Sunday's wind showed up early, but proved to be a bit more moderate (10-14 mph) and much less puffy. Two races were sailed and Cam McNeil grabbed the first race win. Jamie Kimble finished close behind in second and with a drop race now in play it was either ones' regatta to win. Jamie took the last race win while Cam settled for a 5th. Congrats to Jamie Kimble for a hard fought win. Top 5 were Jamie Kimble (8 pts), Cam McNeil (11 pts.), Rob Kimble (15 pts.), Pete Comfort (17 pts.) and Rob Terry (28 pts.). Individual race winners were Jamie Kimble (3) and Cam McNeil (3) - do you notice the repetition?. Top Master was Rob Terry, Top Grand Master was Dave Bedau, and top family crew was Todd Bosgraff and son. Top Youth was Sam Currier.

The 2012 National Championship is right around the corner and White lake is ready to roll out the red carpet. The "Epic" event is coming together with 65 sailors already registered. Don't miss this event! Register today!

submitted by Tim Marvil