

2014 MCSA Midwinter Championship

Day 1 Report

Article courtesy of Eric Hood — Winter MC Scow sailing continued this week at Lake Eustis just outside Orlando. Three events have been happening this past week with the final event being the big 74 boat Midwinter Championship. Early in the winter season many MC teams just relocate south and kick it off with the S.E. Championships. Shortly after the New Year the class then can sail again in prep for the big dance by coming to the "Train Wreck Regatta" (regatta was renamed from Geo. Washington Regatta to the Train Wreck Regatta several years back when we were all trapped behind a train that came off the tracks at the club blocking everyone in.) Then for this whole week things got kicked off first with Team racing this past weekend, followed by Zenda University and now the MCSA Midwinter Championship.

Team Racing we should see a report coming out soon on that event. Great participation and good winds so more info coming soon on what all happened in that event.

For Zenda University 22 sailors attended the fast moving 2 day course led by Andy Burdick, Eric Hood, Jim Gluek and Ted Keller. Richard Blake from Hoover in Columbus, Ohio sailed really well both days to win that event. David Perrigo from Pewaukee, WI was a close second.

On to the Midwinters. On Wednesday night a strong double-edged front came rolling through taking winds up into the mid 20 mph range. Thursday morning our first day of racing sailors arrived at the club with still a strong breeze of 15-18 but very chilly temps. The class officers made a decision for the class to lean on the side of safety. It was a tough call for the group to take as the breeze was fantastic championship sailing wind but it was cold and safety won out. Races were postponed until 1:30 pm from the original 10:30 start time. Once we got rolling in the afternoon exactly as all the weather sources had predicted we had a major shift going on from NNW to N and then slight NE competing winds. So end result was massive shifts, big swings in velocity and unstable conditions with the course set up exactly in between the two competing breezes. One thing about the sailboat racing everyone gets to sail in the same good or bad breeze. Starting lines were a challenge with the lengths required for 74 boats because both races held on day 1 had varying conditions at different spots on the line. You had to be a little lucky to survive and be in the right spot when the big shots or big shifts came through. At our press conference post race I interviewed the top five for the day and everyone said the same thing. Sail to the dark water and tack on every shift which sometimes would make you feel like you were sailing the wrong way but you had to do it to survive. Regatta leader Rob Seidelmann said it best you simply had to be lucky today too. For the rest of the event we are looking at dying breezes and continuous clocking breeze. Today light easterlies that will roll into S.E. Breezes by afternoon and for tomorrow. More patience needed. Temps back up into the Florida 70s though which will be nice.

Here are your top ten in order with points:

- 1.) Rob Seidelmann (10-1)
- 2.) Chris Andert (2-10)
- 3.) Al Haeger (3-9)
- 4.) Kenny Wolfe (12-2)
- 5.) Jim Gluek (6-8)
- 6.) Ted Keller (14-4)
- 7.) Scott Tillema (13-6)
- 8.) David Mooring (7-12)
- 9.) Kurt Stadele (20-5)
- 10.) Michael Considine (18-7)

More reports to come.

Ehood
MC 2610

Day 2 Report

Article courtesy of Eric Hood — Very nice East winds for the first race of the day today and what would become the third race of the series. Velocity about 7-10 through most of the race. Start was pretty good for this race. Just a few OCSs and pretty balanced line in relation to the breeze which was oscillating within a range of about 20-25 degrees depending on velocity. W5 for a course and we were off to the races. Great breeze towards the end of this race and for what should have been another race but some challenges on course/marks positioning put us into a postponement for what could have been a great race with the best wind of the week. After lunch and getting the fleet out for a 2pm start for race four the breeze just went away, Crazy Ivans present, 180s, dying breeze for a very tough race four. Tomorrow breeze predicted for possible race 5 and doubtful race 6 before noon cutoff is said to be less than 6mph out of the SE. Our regatta might be over, hopefully not but for sure looking on the edge at this point.

Great party this evening at the club with some upcoming regatta presentations made by Bob Miller for the MC Youth Champs at Diamond Lake, Jeff Annis for the National Championship at Augusta and Brian Morgan from Rush Creek on Lake Ray Hubbard speaking about the upcoming Masters National Championship.

Here are your top ten after four races:

- 1.) Ron Baerwitz 29
- 2.) Rob Seidelmann 31
- 3.) David Moring 33
- 4.) Kenny Wolfe 34
- 5.) Jim Gluek 34
- 6.) Michael Considine 36
- 7.) Scott Tillema 37
- 8.) Will Hendershot 54
- 9.) Ted Keller 54
- 10.) Al Haeger 55

More on Saturday.

E Hood
MC 2610

Final Report

Article courtesy of Eric Hood — Our 2014 sailing season for the MC Scow is now officially on with our first sanctioned major event in the books and complete. For many of the northern folks it was great to see 60s and 70s while we watched many of the locals apparently very cold with the two 60 degree days we had. All the major weather services were spot on with wind directions, velocities and changes during the four days of the Midwinter Championship.

Basically a barn burner was predicted for the practice day on Wednesday. Then a nice 10-18 mph day 1, 7-10 mph morning for day 2 with diminishing winds in the afternoon. Then nothing for day 3. Wednesday we started from the West and it just kept rotating right until we landed on final racing day with a southeast. Seventy-four teams made it to the season opener this year at Lake Eustis Sailing Club just northwest of Orlando.

Earlier in the week two other very fun events were held. The 18th Annual Zenda University with instructors/class leaders Andy Burdick, Eric Hood, Jim Gluek and Ted Keller leading 22 now successfully graduated students through the two day intensive training event. Also, the first Annual Team Racing Midwinter Regatta was held with a rock solid group attending that event. More on the Team Racing event will be posted soon.

So for the racing we had some challenges that popped up each of the three days that were all different in nature, unusual in nature and that cost us three great opportunities to have some solid mid-wind range races. Those

challenges will all be digested by class officers, LESC officers and probably at Melges too so we can avoid missed racing opportunities in the future. What did occur was three very difficult races where both luck and some quick thinking was the only way to survive and then we did have one pretty good race on day 2. Here are the challenges that we certainly as a class need to define more for our race officers who volunteer or are paid (for accountability) in the future. We had some cold temps to deal with that made some uncomfortable with going out on day 1 with great 15-17 mph winds. We had a wind condition and angle of viewing from the club that made it appear to some that it was blowing 20 mph plus on the lake when in fact the winds were only about 15mph in the race course area at the time of scheduled racing. Then we had fantastic winds on day two and could not get a starting line set to accommodate the big right hand shift that the weather services clearly had predicted. Also on day two we started a "Crazy Ivan" race in under 5mph and let it run its course with 90 degree wind shifts, glassy zero spots and basically an unfair race that should have never been held. For day three just no wind. Lessons learned here and not just for major championships but good club regattas too would be to have some standards in place and stick to them. Minimum winds, maximum winds all defined in the class rules – use them. Safety boats for challenging cool days or windy days should be a topic for the class and our class officers to discuss together in the future. Probably the toughest lesson learned was postponing a second race on day two when the wind was at its absolute best for the regatta and sending in 74 boats for lunch and a two hour break during which the wind went away completely as we tried to restart later in the day. Lots of GRACE for the great volunteers who worked so hard on trying to give us a great regatta but this was one for the books where some key learnings, fixes can only make our great class stronger for future major events. So thank you to everyone at LESC for the HUGE efforts and we will all learn and get better from the learnings we share in the days ahead.

On to the racing. Wow, lots of new faces mostly from Florida and the Southeast which is fantastic !!!!! Local favorites survived the squirrely races and took the top three spots. Dallas brought a good group, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Georgia, North Carolina, New York, Canada, Michigan (wolf pack present), Indiana, Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin (lots of cheese heads), South Carolina and Canada (you know the gold medal hockey guys) were represented. Lots of crews flew in for this event which was great to see.

Here are some results.

Top Ten Overall (and Division Winners)

Ron Baerwitz – LESC, FL 29 pts (also top Master)

Rob Seidelmann – no club 31 pts

David Moring – LESC , FL 33pts

Kenny Wolfe – Rush Creek, TX, 34 pts

James Gluek – Pewaukee , WI, 34 pts

Michael Considine- Chicago, IL 36 pts

Scott Tillema – Missouri Yacht Club, 37 pts

Will Hendershot – Canada 54 pts

Ted Keller – Torch Lake, MI 54 pts

Al Haeger – Lake Beulah, WI 55 pts (also top Grand Master)

Tim Fredman – Pine Lake , WI (Top Mega Master)

Amy Larkin – Lake Lanier, GA (Top Woman)

Parties and food were all very good. Sunsets were off the charts as usual at LESC. Camp grounds were full with tents, campers, Rvs big and small. Many were spotted having dinner on some nights over at the very cool Mt. Dora old downtown area where the Midwinters originally was sailed for many years. It was a great time and lots of new friends. Some of these new skippers are hotshots too which can only help our fleets get better.

Watch for all the great regattas coming up this year. Make sure you consider at least one major class event on your racing calendar as it is a great year. Masters at Rush Creek in June, Westerns at White Lake early August, followed by ILYA championships a couple of days later at Pewaukee, Team Championships, then the big Nationals at Augusta in September.

Congratulations to all the new boat owners at this years MC Midwinter Championship. Remember a high value for building fleets is to keep those used boats in your fleet when new boats are purchased. A fantastic model to follow is what Jack Kern has done in Texas.

See you all at the regattas. Give us a shout for all your MC Scow needs we are standing by to serve.

Eric, Andy, Jim, Ted, Matt, Harry Team Melges