

2014 – Spring Shakedown - Grand Rapids

By Chris Craig

DAY 1

Great fleet as always at a Western Michigan stalwart venue. Cam McNeil, Jamie & Rob Kimball, Bob Currier, Andy Molesta, plus Grand Rapids stars Curt Miller, Andy Rundquist, Thor Sorensen, Dan Chappell, John Bolling, and Jeff Minore are all sailing this weekend. Sail Maker Mike Considine also made it to this event. Melges 20 star Eric Wynsma is back in the MC again and is sailing this regatta! Young guns Chris Lopez, Sam Currier, and David Gates are also in attendance. 25 boats showed up to sail on one of Michigan's toughest short track courses.

To the results:

Race one was battle to get off, with the very cool air and water temps combined partly sunny conditions made the wind bounce more than normal at this shifty lake. Head Judge Al Vorel and his team battled huge right shifts to try to get the race started which featured several recalls, before race one got started.

Thor Sorenson battled off the right to lead early in this race, Cam stayed close and in sync the big shifts. Mike Considine found a big lefty on the second beat to get to the front to battle with Cam who rallied from his big fight on the right with Thor to escape at the right moment to fight back left to round behind the hard charging Considine. Cam worked through to win the first race followed by Considine and Andy Molesta.

Race two was still very shifty. Bob Currier battled through Dan Chappell, who worked first left then hard right to lead the first three legs, to get to the line first. He was unfortunately OCS so long time scow sailor Bill Babel picked up the victory, followed by Cam McNeil, and Dan Chappell.

The fleet broke for lunch and the wind started to build.

Race three became windy, with some gust around 16 to 18 with big shifts and big holes.

The right became big again and on the second beat former C scow team mates Chris Craig and Jeff Minore battled to the front of the pack. The ever constant Cam was right on their heels. Cam worked through Jeff and came into the line on port almost in front of Chris, he ducked with a great angle very close, but Chris got a left blast and beat Cam by less than a boat length. Jamie Kimball rallied to a very close third in a very tight race.

Race four was a tight race at first with Cam, Rob & Jamie Kimball, and Chris Craig battling for the lead. Rob and Jamie worked left in the puffy breeze while Chris went into irons. The left failed and Cam won unchallenged in this one. Andy Rundquist who was solid all day motored to second, followed by Jamie Kimball.

Day one standings:

1. Cam McNeil 1 2 2 1 6 pts
2. Andy Rundquist 10 4 11 2 27 pts
3. Dan Chappell 12 3 7 6 28 pts
4. Jamie Kimball 13 11 3 3 30 pts
5. Rob Kimball 6 6 6 14 32 pts
6. Chris Craig 15 13 1 7 36 pts
7. John Bolling 4 10 12 10 36 pts
8. Bill Babel 11 1 13 15 40 pts
9. Chris Lopez 7 17 16 4 44 pts
10. Bob Currier 9 ocs 5 5 44 pts.

Cheers,
Chris"

"Grand Rapids Spring Shake Down Day 2:

The wind was still west and puffy, the forecast was 15 - 25. By 9:20 am it was going 8 to 18, shifty and puffy.

Race one:

Chris Craig went off the pin end with Andy Molesta, Jamie Kimball and Bill Babel among the group that got off the leeward with good starts going fast to the left. The concern was whether or not the big righties would reappear like Saturday. Jamie and Andy tacked back right with good speed and in solid shape against the fleet. Chris and Bill continued hard right towards the corner with the Police Department and Library. The left came in big and puffy, Bill tacked first and was in great shape, Chris tacked a little further left and was over stood with the lift getting even bigger. Babel rounded in front with Chris right behind, They had a decent gap over the next pack that was very tight and included Andy Molesta, Jamie & Rob Kimball, and Mike Considine. At the bottom Babel lead around with Chris right on his heels. Both boats cleared the downwind pack on port and than tacked to head back left. Chris tacked early and started up the lake for some puffs he saw coming down from the pin. He reached the puffs first and was lifting close to the mark,

The left did not hold as well and Andy Molesta and the Kimballs had pulled even with Bill. Chris' puffs held all the way to the bouy where he found a righty and rounded with a good gap and would not be caught. The intense fight for second between Andy and the Kimballs continued to rage. Andy won this one for a hard fought second, followed by Jamie Kimball. Rob Kimball took fourth followed by Mike Considine. Bill Babel slipped to a solid sixth in this fleet.

Race two:

The leeward end was not as strong in this one, as a righty shift held for most of the leg. Chris Craig started next to the boat and took the early lead. Mike Considine sailed the shifty top perfect and nailed a righty to tack Chris on Starboard as they approached the mark the wind knocked and both boats struggle to make the mark, Chris fouled Mike trying to slip around the mark and had to do spins. Jamie Kimball and Dan Chappell rounded behind Mike. Mike keep the lead will battling to hold off Jamie. He sailed smart and in phase and won the last race of the regatta. Jamie sailed to second, followed by Dan Chappell. Andy Molesta sailed solid all day and came in fourth in this puffy windy race. John Bolling had a strong regatta finish fifth in this race and tied for fifth with Chris Craig, but lost the tiebreaker. Cam finished 12th and 8th to win the regatta by 9 pts over Jamie in second. Dan Chappell was the top master and third overall. Rob Kimball sailed a solid regatta to finish fourth. Andy Rundquist had a capsize the last race to spoil an otherwise solid regatta. Bill Babel won a race and was the Top Grand Master, and Chris Lopez took Junior honors.

1. Cam McNeil 2166 1 2 2 1 12 8 26
2. Jamie Kimball 2478 13 11 3 3 3 2 35
3. Dan Chappell 1959 12 3 7 6 7 3 38
4. Rob Kimball 2142 6 6 6 14 4 13 49
5. Chris Craig 2269 15 13 1 7 1 15 52
6. John Bolling 2361 4 10 12 10 11 5 52
7. Bill Babel 1693 11 1 13 15 6 14 60
8. Andy Rundquist 1842 10 4 11 2 16 DNF 62
9. Bob Currier 2551 9 ocs 5 5 14 6 64
10. Mike Considine 1749 2 8 DNS DNS 5 1 66
11. Andy Molesta 2593 3 12 DNF DNS 2 4 68
12. Thor Sorensen 1665 14 7 14 19 9 9 72
13. Curt Miller 1701 8 DNF 15 11 10 11 75
14. Eric Wynsma 2515 19 5 9 13 18 12 76
15. Chris Lopez 2332 7 17 16 4 8 DNS 77
16. Chad Coberly 1956 16 16 17 8 13 10 80
17. Rick Busch 2208 17 9 8 ocs 15 7 81
18. Jeff Minore 1509 21 14 4 9 17 DNS 89
19. David Gates 2090 5 15 19 12 DNF DNS 99
20. Peter Wenger 1658 24 19 18 17 21 17 116
21. Kevin Cox 2612 23 DNF 20 16 20 18 117
22. Josh Vink 1708 22 18 10 20 DNS DNS 120
23. Vasily Gasin 1303 18 DNF DNS DNS 22 16 126
24. Sam Currier 2011 20 DNF DNF DNS 19 DNS 131
25. Adam Berry 931 DNS DNS 21 18 DNS DNS 139"