

The 2015 MCSA Junior Championship

KING FOR THE WEEK by Eric Wynsma

Left side, right side--- it really didn't matter. Frank was going to make any side win on this day and throughout this week. Displaying impeccable boat handling, good boatspeed, and a high level of patience with the shifts, this would be his day.

This years' MC Junior Nationals were hosted by Grand Rapids Yacht Club, on Reeds Lake and included 5 races sailed in 6-12 knots of very stable southwesterly breeze. Saturday AM's squall blew through town and shortened the series but with five good races on the books the event was complete.

2015 saw several new sailors in the MC junior fleet, many on borrowed boats and most of whom are major players in other fleets. Ben Finkelstein (former Butterfly nat'l champ) turned in a well-sailed 5th place for the event. Ella Wynsma with sister-crew Jenna scored 4th and simultaneously "top chick" for the regatta, despite their first MC experience being the trip to the starting area. In third place was dinghy fleet tough-guy Conner Goulet, also brand new to the MC fleet. Second was won by local Butterfly and Laser magician Sam Ralston, who intermittently had his girlfriend as crew.

On this day, however, Frank Reeg would be King. Frank won the 5-race series with straight bullets--- nearly unheard of in a tough one design fleet. What makes it more interesting is that Frank also won the Butterfly Open Nationals sailed earlier this week at Spring Lake YC, and ALSO with no finish worse than first place. That's 10 races sailed, 10 bullets earned, and 2 national championships all within 5 days' time. Yes, this is a remarkably good sailor we are talking about here.

GRYC volunteers Danielle Ralston and Commodore Louise Finkelstein provided a meal program that will be hard to beat. Many thanks to the volunteers that made this possible on short notice at GRYC ! We look forward to hosting the next regatta, with thanks to the members who willingly loaned their boats in the interest of getting more kids involved in this awesome sailboat class.

Top Five Results:

Top Woman: Ella Wynsma

5th: Ben Finkelstein

4th: Ella Wynsma

3rd: Conner Goulet

2nd: Sam Ralston

1st: Frank Reeg