



2016 Bunny Hop Regatta

The Bunny Hop Regatta was held at the Lake Norman Yacht Club Oct. 22nd & 23rd with 14 MC sailors competing from as far away as Keuka Lake (John Tooker) and St. Louis, MO. (Chris Brooks and JP Bordes).

This regatta was started by Jonathan Few back in 2013 but we were only able to complete the initial regatta since the event had to be cancelled for the past two years due to excessive wind conditions. Saturday brought us temps in the low 60's with winds out of the NW sustained at 16 MPH and gusts up to 25 MPH. Jonathan Few led after the first day with finishes of 1-6-1 followed by Fred Herr and Kurt Stadelle. Ivan Lopatin and JP Bordes were also doing well in the first two races until both skippers capsized at the leeward mark in race 3 and could not recover which led to DNF's for both of them.

Sunday brought warmer temperatures with shifty air in the 2-5 MPH range out of the west for races 4&5. Kurt Stadelle took the honors for race four and Jonathan few posted his third bullet for the series in race 5. Race 6 saw a drastic wind shift from the west to the south with steadier winds in the 7-10 MPH range so the race committee had to hustle to reset the race course before the 12:30 PM deadline. The last race was a fast one and a half lapper won by Ivan Lopatin and followed by Kurt Stadelle, Steve North and Fred Herr.

The regatta wound up in a tie for first place between Kurt Stadelle and Fred Herr at 24 points apiece but Kurt won the tie breaker and first place honors. Jonathan Few was third and had won the most races but was hurt by two 9th place finishes on Sunday. Kurt sailed a consistent regatta and was very competitive in all wind conditions which was the key to his victory.