



Torch Lake Hosted the 86th Annual Western Michigan Yachting Association Regatta August 5th through the 8th. 161 total boats took to the beautiful waters and tested their skills in a variety of condition. There was 22 E Scows, 12 C-Scows, 6 Melges 17's, 40 MC Scows, 10 Laser Radials, 20 Full Rig Lasers, 30 Junior Butterflies, 6 Open Butterflies and 10 Optis.

If you have not sailed on Torch Lake you need to add this to your list of must visit venues. The volunteer helpers pulled out the red carpet and made everyone feel welcomed and at home.

The MC fleet got in all 5 races over the 4 days in a variety of conditions. In race 1 the wind was 5-10 out of the North West and saw Spring Lakes John Bolling take an early lead. He held on to the lead almost all the way around until former MC National Champion and multi time WMYA Champion Jamie Kimball of Grand Rapids finally got around John to take the Race 1 victory.

On Day 2 there were 2 races scheduled in the afternoon for the MC's and the wind had been building all day. Many opted for crew, but by the end of the race the wind started to come down and many crews were finding themselves sitting in the boat. Spring Lake Continued to have their sailor make their way to the front as Scott Harestad took an early lead and held off the charging fleet to take a the race 2 win. Followed closely behind were Spring Lakes Frank Reeg and Tony Pugh from Crystal Lake.

In race 3 most of the crews were dropped as the afternoon breeze began to fade, but not enough to prevent another race. Jamie Kimball showed his speed and dominance again by winning this race, but was closely contended by Frank Reeg, Torch Lakes Pete Comfort and Eric Rivard from Glen Lake who was fast all weekend despite a breakdown in race 1.

With 1 race scheduled for day 3 the sailors were eager to hit the water. The breeze was light and out of the south. Shortly after the start the lead pack all tacked to port and headed West. Chris Lopez of White lake started at the Pin and headed East which turned out to be the place to be. The breeze faded out on the west and filled in from the East. Lopez and Tony Pugh took an early lead and eventually Tony passed Lopez to take the race win. Pete Comfort and Allison Price from Crystal Lake finished 3-4 with Grant James from Spring lake finishing 5th.

The final day of racing had the MC's racing in the morning time slot. The breeze was light and out of the South East. After a slight delay in getting started the Race Committee got the racing under way for the final race. After one leg the wind started to fade away and by the time the fleet reached the bottom mark they RC decided to shorten the race to have the sailors finish on the next windward leg. Most of the lead pack stayed to the west, but Frank Reeg and Tony Pugh explored the waters on the east side of the lake. About 3/4th the way up the leg they had found the breeze and were charging to the finish. Most tried to work east but just could not get there in time. Frank finished out the regatta winning the final race with Tony taking second, which was enough for Tony to secure the lead and win the Championship.

Tony sailed a great regatta, not only winning the MC fleet, but was also crew for Rob Terry in the Melges 17 fleet and they won that division. Tony was always in the right place at the right time and sailed fast and smart all week. Congratulations to Tony and we all look forward to joining Tony at Crystal Lake for the MC Nationals in 2016.

Top 5

Tony Pugh—26pts

Pete Comfort—27pts

Frank Reeg—29pts
John Bolling—33pts
Jamie Kimball—40pts

Pete Comfort
MC-2524