

**Lake Fenton Sailing Club
Cage Match
June 1- 2, 2013**



The forecast for the regatta looked rather tough for Saturday, but thank goodness weather men are not always very accurate. It turned out to be one of the best Sailing Days Fenton can offer. Beautiful Southwest winds at 6 to 14 mph, with a few south shifts thrown in. Five races were sailed Saturday, because the Sunday forecast changed to high winds so the plan was to get in a really good regatta with lots of sailing on Saturday, and if Sunday blew, people could head home early. It worked to perfection lead by Head Judge Dave Nickels and his team.

The key to the sailing was getting off the line in good shape and than finding the famous down wind escalator down on the club point. The boats that sail low on this run get pulled in front of the boats that try to go high, even though it looks like they will really make out. The front pack would than separate and was very tough to reconnect with. So getting in the break away pack was also very important.

Doug Kiser got a great start, and lead around the first mark. He was caught with a pack that battled high on the first run which allowed Chris Craig to get below everyone and ride the downwind escalator into a large lead. John Hans and Richard Blake never gave up and rallied on the last leg to pass a fading Chris Craig. Mike Keenan sailed a solid race to finish fourth flowed closely by Stuart Strother from New York.

Race two really showed how square Dave Nickels start lines were. Stuart Strother worked off the right side of the line and course, while Chris Craig worked off the left side of the line and course and they rounded one two at the top, with John Hans close behind. Stuart got a puff to get away and rode the escalator to a big lead he never relinquished.

John Hans worked through Chris Craig and beat him by less than a boat length. Mike Keenan took another fourth followed by Richard Blake.

Race three Tom Keenan got the early jump and this time there was no front pack break away, and twelve boats were very close as they reached the downwind mark. The next beat was very tight and pretty shifty. Chris Craig battled from ninth to take the lead and held on to win the race. The next pack of four boats all finished within a single boat length all overlapped on the finish line. Urs Geiger knifed through the pack on starboard to take second, followed by John Hans, Mike Keenan, and Stuart Strother.

The fleet broke for lunch and a much needed rest from the three back to back races to start the day.

The fourth race saw Stuart get out to a big lead right away and walk away from the fleet. Richard Blake was second followed by the very consistent John Hans. Chris Craig and Doug Wyrwicki rounded out the top five.

The last race on Saturday and the last race of the regatta was another walk away. John Hans got out front early and broke away to sail the course by himself in the front to win the regatta by seven points. Three other boats also broke out from the pack and had their own battle. Urs Geiger won this battle for second followed by Richard Blake and Tom Keenan. Stuart Strother snuck past Chris Craig on the last beat to finish second and tie Chris in points and with two bullets he held the tiebreaker for second overall. Fourth place honors went to Richard Blake, and Urs Geiger rounded out the top five for the regatta.

The top Master was John Hans, the top Grand Master was Urs Geiger. Everyone was on their way home by 11:30 Sunday morning, with everyone talking about what a great sailing day it was, many saying it was the best one they had sailed on Fenton yet.