

Okauchee Lake regatta set

Midwest's best sailors to compete

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Premier young sailors from across the Midwest will converge upon Okauchee Lake next week to compete in the 19th annual Inland Lake Yachting Association OPTI Championship Regatta.

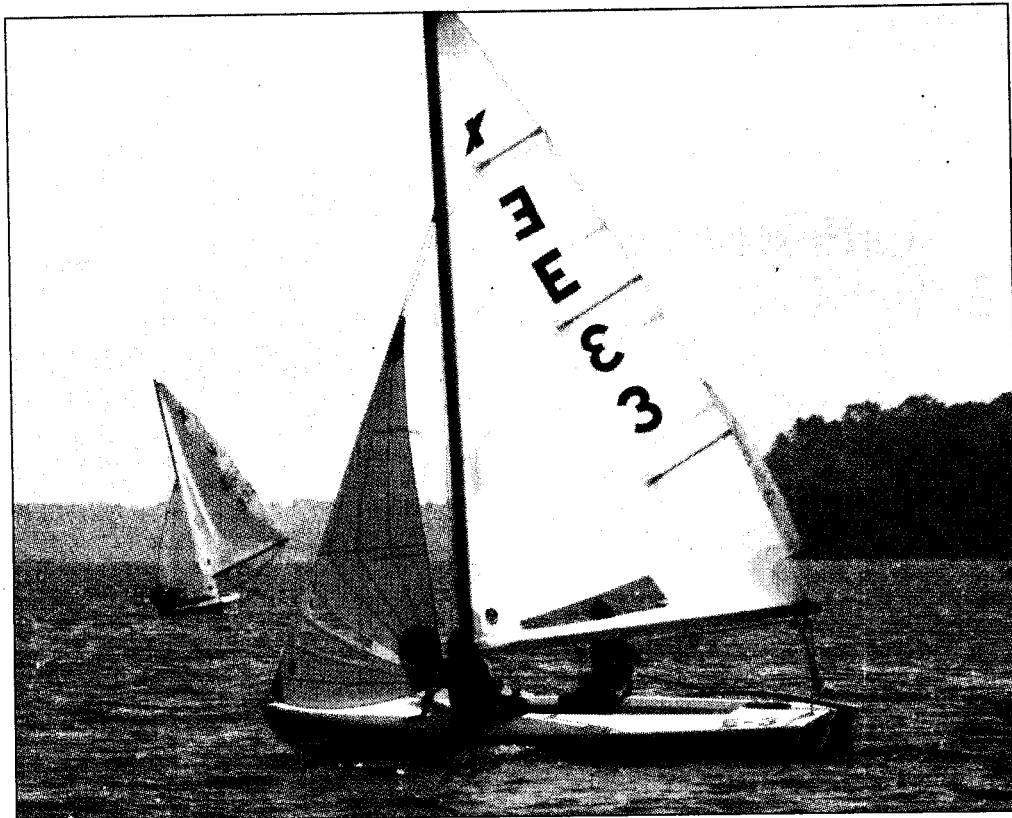
The event, hosted by the Okauchee Lake Yacht Club and sponsored by the Inland Lake Yachting Association, will run Sunday through Tuesday and feature competitors from Wisconsin and a number of other states.

The regatta dates have no doubt been circled on the family calendars of many of these competitors, most of whom range from 7 to 10 years old.

"The ILYA OPTI Championship held on Okauchee Lake is the championship regatta for Midwest sailors," Okauchee Lake Yacht Club (OLYC) board member Tim Kay said. "This regatta has received national ranking and is one of the most prestigious OPTI events in the country.

"Sailors come from Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota, Florida and Wisconsin. We are expecting approximately 120 OPTI sailors, not including parents and siblings. There will be many spectator boats for those who wish to watch this spectacular event."

Unlike the X-boat level, in which two sailors man each boat, this regatta's competitors will sail solo in Optimist - "OPTI" - boats, which mea-



Submitted photo

Natalie Kay and Spencer Waldron of the Okauchee Lake Yacht Club sail an X-Boat to seventh place among 53 teams in the recent Lake Geneva Regatta. The OLYC will host the 19th annual Inland Lake Yachting Association OPTI Championship Regatta Sunday through Tuesday.

sure 8 feet long by 4 feet wide.

There will be three different classifications within the competition.

There is a "no tears" group, which is usually for 6- and 7-year-olds. The rules are very relaxed and the course is extremely small. The idea is to get the children used to the boat.

Next is the green, junior fleet, which consists of beginner sailors who wish to start sailing competitively. Usually beginner skippers spend a year in the green fleet before moving up to the senior fleets.

The senior fleet is com-

prised of three divisions: red, white and blue. The white fleet is for skippers who are 10 or under on the opening day of the regatta, the blue fleet is for skippers ages 11 or 12 and the red fleet for those ages 13 through 15. Depending on a skipper's ability and size, some have sailed well in the senior fleet during their first year.

"The OPTI sailor needs to steer, adjust the main sail for maximum speed, watch for wind shifts, watch for other sailors/competitors on the course and move the sailboat as quickly as possible to the next buoy," Kay said. "The first boat across the finish

line wins the race."

This event is scored independently from other regattas and utilizes a low-point system. For example, the first-place sailor will receive one point, the second-place sailor will receive two points, etc. The OLYC will attempt to schedule between six and nine races for the red, white, and blue fleets and approximately three races for the green fleet. The skipper with the lowest number of points after the last race will win the regatta and the first-place trophy.

The OLYC and the

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Okauchee

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Okauchee Lake Sailing School will be well represented in the competition.

"Currently the most prominent OLYC OPTI sailor is Tom Groskopf," Kay said. "He has the lowest number of points for the sailing season to date. Tom is also expected to do well at the OPTI Inland."

"Other local competitors include Joe Sazama, Allie Amato, Spencer MacKay, Callie Pilgrim, Evan Boutelle, Laini MacKay, Sam Petelinsek, Jeff Brandl, Dan Stetter and Eleri MacKay."

These competitors will be carrying on a time-honored tradition.

The OLYC has been in

existence since the 1930s. It features a clubhouse and a boat ramp complete with piers for membership use only. The club has an active social calendar during the summer months and consists of approximately 100 families and close to 20 single memberships.

Alan Petelinsek and Patricia Sazama are co-chairing the OPTI Regatta, and Mark Prange will serve as chief judge. The OLYC will have between 60 and 70 volunteer board members working to make the event a success.

The OLYC's competitors in the OPTI regatta represent just one level of the club's membership.

The X-Boat sailors, who usually range in age from 11 through 16 and compete as two-member teams in the 16-foot crafts, include Natalie Kay, Delora Prange, Bridget Smith, Annie Geschke,

John Schmidt, Greg Tarmann, Scott Sazama, Avan Prange, Dan Groskopf, Lauren Kuhlman, Jeff Brandl, Spencer MacKay, Willie Napgezak, Cameron Zwart, Tom Groskopf, Sam Petelinsek, Casey Andreski, Francis Way, Sara Petelinsek, Zac Aasen, Katherin Aasen, Spencer Waldron and Parker Waldron.

C-Boat sailors include competitors ages 17 and up. The OLYC has 20 C-Boats teams comprised of two sailors each including Kurt Prange, Mark Prange, Bob Stelter, Dave Smith, Alana Smith, Briana Smith, Lesley Smith, Chris Pinahs, Tim Mielke, Peter Pakalski, Scott Tarmann, Sam Andreski, Alex Kay, Tim Kay, Tim Schmidt, Bruce Rosenheimer, Tom Rolfs, John Murphy, Bridget Murphy, Bob Henschel, Matt Zea, Jake Zea, Bobby Stelter,

Matt Prange, Liz Prange, Bob Prange, Allen Prange, Al Krug, Dennis Foley, Terry Brandl, Bill Groskopf, Rick Pavlic, Shea Pavlic, Al Petelinsek, Cailey Petelinsek, Ethan Petelinsek, Rob Kneiser, Alina Dix, Chris Dix and Brian Unterweger.

At a glance

What: 19th annual Inland Lake Yachting Association OPTI Regatta

When: Registration and opening ceremonies begin Sunday at 3 p.m.; races start at 10 a.m. Monday and 9 a.m. Tuesday

Where: Okauchee Lake
FYI: The Okauchee Lake Yacht Club expects close to 120 sailors, along with their parents and siblings, to turn out for the event, which is considered the championship regatta for Midwest sailors.

Updates: Visit olyc.org for updated status of the regatta pending weather conditions and potential rain totals/lake levels.

Oconomowoc Lake regatta ends in tie

Lac LaBelle's Trepton, Harris win tie-breaker

Parker Trepton and Sean Harris emerged as champions of the X-Boat Championship Regatta conducted by the Wisconsin Yachting Association and Oconomowoc Lake Club last weekend on Oconomowoc Lake.

Trepton and Harris, representing Lac La Belle, held a six-point lead over Natalie Kay and Delora Prange of the Okauchee Lake Yacht Club after three races Saturday.

Kay and Prange finished strong, sailing to first in Sunday's race, then watched Trepton and Harris finish seventh to place the two teams in a tie for first place with 13 points apiece.

The tie was broken by

first-place finishes, with Trepton and Harris posting two compared to one for Kay and Prange.

Oconomowoc Lake Club commodore Jeff Fellows served as sailing and regatta chairman, and Chip Mann from Big Cedar Lake was chief judge.

Eleven judges managed the racing, and many volunteers assisted with the running of the event.

One hundred twenty four sailors from 12 different area lakes participated, and Saturday's attendance was estimated at 300.

Kay earned the WYA Best Female Skipper Award for the third time.

The top 10 finishing two-person teams received awards for each team member, and the top five teams received traveling trophies featuring the names of past regatta winners that they will keep until next year's regatta.