

2019 'Not So' Frigid Digit Regatta Provides Glorious Fall Racing Off Annapolis September 28-29, 2019



Winning Team of Justin Coplan, Ian Sanderson, and Chris Schon pose with Regatta organizer Joe Friebele and Fleet 329 Fleet Captain Joan Hurban

For 68 years the Lightning Frigid Digit Regatta at Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis, MD has been a fall rite of passage for Lightning sailors. Each year, generally just after summer fades permanently into the rear-view mirror, the best and brightest sailors in the class have gathered in Annapolis to sail, and occasionally endure, the first big fall regatta.

This year, however, scheduling issues moved the regatta date forward several weeks, resulting in a spectacular weekend of late summer/early fall sailing. Lightning Fleet 329 is calling the 'Not So' Frigid Digit. The weekend of September 28-29 brought temperatures in the mid 70's, breezes in the mid-teens, and 25 Lightning's for 2 days of wonderful one design racing in Whitehall Bay off Annapolis.

Lightning competitors from more than just the mid-Atlantic states noticed the scheduling change, and sailors from Greece and Italy showed up to give the event an international flair. Francesco Rulli sailed for Italy with his sons Edoardo and Stefano, and Grete Ernst came from Greece to crew with Alister Thompson and Philip Lange.

Severn Sailing Association and Lightning Fleet 329 pulled out all the stops for this event, absorbing the 25 boat Lightning Fleet without a ruffle. The club runs 20-40

boat one design events each weekend from April thru October, and the on the water RC work is superb. PRO Luke Shingledecker and his excellent team had the races starting on time at 11 am on Saturday morning, kept things moving, ran three great races, and had the fleet back at the club by 2:15 pm. There was a general recall in the first race, but after that the 'I' Flag kept the starts clean all weekend. On Sunday, a 10 am start and brisk breezes had the remaining three races completed and the fleet ashore by 1:30 pm.

Ashore, Fleet 329 had volunteers with beer and appetizers ready when the fleet arrived Friday afternoon, breakfast and a PBJ station for on the water sandwiches Saturday and Sunday morning, and beer, appetizers, and a catered dinner for the fleet Saturday night.

On the water Saturday morning Team Maloney, ILCA 2019 Boat Grant Recipients, hit the right side up the first beat in race one's southerly breeze, caught a shift, and kept going for the win, followed closely by Team Cobbum and Team Cabrall. Cobbum followed his second with a win in race 2 to take the early lead, while Tea, Coplan moved up from a 4th in race 1 to take second, and Team Taboada came third. The picture got a little clearer after race 3, which Coplan won, and Taboada came second and John Bauman, sailing with Brian Hayes, Sr. and Lesley Cook finished third. When the fleet sailed back to SSA midafternoon, Coplan topped the leaderboard with 7 points, followed by Taboada and Jim Alman tied for second with 14 points.

While boats were pulled and appetizers arranged, the days drone footage was quickly reviewed and edited by Carlos Linares and Steve Cofer. Post-race debriefs are a Lightning tradition, and when the fleet reconvened upstairs at SSA, Brian Hayes of North Sails went over the footage for an hour providing tack by tack analysis of the action with the teams involved immediately available for feedback. It was fascinating to see the racing unfold, hear from competitors why they made decisions, and see the results play out.

The drone coverage has been condensed and posted on a You Tube playlist you can find at the following links:

[Linares/Cofer Drone Footage](#)

[Italian Team Rulli Regatta Recap](#)

The debrief was followed by a catered Italian dinner from Squistos, allowing the fleet to relax and enjoy sunset over Annapolis on a warm fall evening from the upper deck at SSA, one of the best sailing locations in North America.

Sunday morning everyone was back on the water promptly for race 4's 10 am start in bright, clear sunny weather with a brisk NE breeze in the upper teens. Team Bauman played the right side of the course for the win, followed by Cabrall in second, Taboada in third and Coplan in fourth. Race 5 followed close on its heels as the breeze began a series of large oscillations. This time Ryan Davidson, sailing with Timmy Crann and Emmy Stuary took the win, followed by Bauman in second and Ian Moriarty in third.

Going into the final race, Team Coplan led with 16 points, followed by John Bauman's boat with 23, Keith Taboada and crew with 24, and Ryan Davidson with 27. John, Keith, and Ryan all had large throw-outs available, and the regatta was very much up for grabs going into race 6. The sailing was very close, many teams had followed good races with mid fleet finishes, and anything was possible in the final races moderating breeze.

In the end, consistency paid. Justin Coplan won race 6 to take the regatta, followed by Keith Taboada in second for second place overall. John Bauman finished third in the regatta, followed by Ryan Davidson's fourth and Jim Alman's fifth place. Bill Cabrall was the most improved skipper, Grete Ernst took home the award for the farthest traveled, and Stefano Rulli, age 9, received the prize for the youngest participant.

All-in-all, a perfect weekend, with great racing in moderate breezes at a spectacular location during its best time of year against a multi-generational set of competitors captured by state-of-the-art drone coverage and debriefed by one of the world's best one design sailmakers.

Final Results:

Pos	Sail	Skipper/Crew	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	Total Points
1	15536	Coplan, Justin/Ian Sanderson, Chris Schon	4	2	1	4	[5]	1	12.00
2	15464	Taboada, Keith/Mark Hillman, Lyzz Schwegler	[9]	3	2	3	6	2	16.00
3	14752	Bauman, John/Brian Hayes, Sr., Lesley Cook	[11]	6	3	1	2	11	23.00
4	15147	Davidson, Ryan/Timmy Crann, Emmy Stuary	5	5	[10]	6	1	7	24.00
5	15208	Alman, Jim/Kaitly Norton, Will Harding	6	4	4	7	[16]	4	25.00
6	14907	Moriarty, Ian/Kevin Kenny, Jeff Neurauter	8	[13]	7	5	3	3	26.00
7	15406	Moloney, Christine/Rachael Moloney, Kathryn Moloney	1	12	5	[16]	4	10	32.00
8	15315	Cabrall, William/Alex Smith, Jessica Resnick	3	11	11	2	[14]	5	32.00
9	15320	Cobbum, Craig/Jenn Millar, Peter Rich	2	1	15	8	10	[18]	36.00
10	14900	Hurban, Gary/Joan Hurban, Pauli Kaiser	[16]	9	12	9	9	6	45.00
11	15425	Friebele, Joe/Dave Friebele, Bob Daniel	15	[26/OCS]	8	12	7	9	51.00
12	15142	Alsalam, Nabeel/Tom Hutton, Scott Bradford	12	7	6	[21]	15	12	52.00
13	15546	Thomson, Alister/Philip Lange, Grete Ernst	18	10	9	11	[26/RET]	8	56.00
14	15498	Prior, Trevor/Barb Hill, Mike Constants	10	15	[16]	13	8	15	61.00
15	15084	Buczowski, Joe/Zach Buczowski, Ed Lane	13	14	[19]	10	12	14	63.00
16	15310	Hutchison, Hugh/Marc Venables, Peter Jadrosich	7	16	17	15	[18]	16	71.00
17	14660	Elder, James/Sara Martin, Tim Lojek	[19]	18	18	18	17	13	84.00
18	15379	McGuckin, Michael/Doug Mroz, Evan Roth	14	17	14	22	20	[26/DNF]	87.00

Pos	Sail	Skipper/Crew	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	Total Points
19	15240	Constants, Stephen/Chloe Constants	17	8	13	[26/DNC]	26/DNC	26/DNC	90.00
20	14484	McLaughlin, Dan/Brian Fry, Ed Crowder	21	20	22	17	11	[26/DSQ]	91.00
21	15126	Lane, Lisa-Marie/Alli Gutenhunst, Jim Lane	22	19	20	[23]	13	19	93.00
22	13874	Rulli, Francesco/Edoardo Rulli, Stefano Rulli	20	21	21	20	[22]	20	102.00
23	11248	Rogan, Ched/Andrew Rogan, Riaz Laifullah	23	[26/OCS]	23	24	23	17	110.00
24	15377	Glenn, George/Brad Jungles, Dave Robeson	[26/DNF]	26/DNC	26/DNC	14	21	26/DNC	113.00
25	15054	Lange, Jonathan/Katie Newkirk, Ryan Sirmon	[26/DNC]	26/DNC	26/DNC	19	19	26/DNC	116.00

Notes

(1) Scoring System is ISAF Low Point 2017-2020

(2) Finishes in [brackets] denote throwouts

Principal Race Officer: Luke Shingledecker



2019 Frigid Digit Participants gather for a group photo on a spectacular Annapolis Afternoon