AMETHYST WEEKEND - August 17-19, 2018

Amethyst Harbour, Thunder Bay, Lake Superior

Temple Reef Sailing Club

RESULTS:

BOAT	CLASS	RACE 1 POINTS	RACE 2 POINTS	TEMPLE REEF TOTAL POINTS	TEMPLE REEF FINISH POSITION	CRYSTAL TROPHY RACE 3 POINTS	CRYSTAL TROPHY FINISH POSITION	VAN BAILEY OVERALL TOTAL POINTS	VAN BAILEY OVERALL FINISH POSITION
R. WALSH	LIGHTNING	0.75	0.75	1.5	1	0.75	1	2.25	1
R. BAILEY	LIGHTNING	3	2	5	2	2	2	7	2
A. COX	LIGHTNING	2	3	5	2	3	3	8	3
B. COX	LIGHTNING	5	5	10	5	6	6	16	4
C. WELLS	LIGHTNING	4	4	8	4	8	8	16	4
A. MURTOMAKI	VIPER 640	7	8	15	7	4	4	19	6
NIKKA STOGER	LIGHTNING	6	6	12	6	7	7	19	6
C. McWHIRTER	EXPRESS 27	8	7	15	7	5	5	20	8
C. BAILEY	C & C 32	10	11	21	11	9	9	30	9
P.MARTEL	LASER	9	10	19	9	11	11	30	10
S. MARLER	LASER	11	9	20	10	11	11	31	11

AMETHYST WEEKEND - 2018

We stretched Amethyst Weekend this year to include Friday, with an optional 20 mile sail from Thunder Bay city to Amethyst Harbour, which we would race out from on Saturday and Sunday. Three boats plus a keelboat "chaperone" started out at noon in quite light easterly breezes. With organizing things still to do, Bailey and crew pulled the plug about a mile outside the breakwall and instead paddled back. Six hours later, Brian Cox and Richard Walsh with their crews had almost made it when the wind quit completely. Two kind hearted motor boats towed them the last mile or so after a very relaxing sail.

Saturday dawned quite still but a beautiful southeast breeze filled in just before the first start. The course is out of Amethyst Harbour, around three islands, around **Temple Reef**, and back into Amethyst, about 6 miles. Alex Cox started in a blaze but was slowly caught by Richard Walsh who finished first, followed by Cox and Ross Bailey. Chris Wells looked to finish third but the run to the finish through the little islands let Bailey sneak past.

The second race Saturday, on the same course saw Bailey lead until Buck Island where Walsh had the courage to cut the reefs more closely and took the lead. Richard is hard to catch once ahead and finished first, followed by Bailey and Alex Cox.

Saturday evening we bar-b-qued and campfired at the Nancy and Ross Bailey's until well into the night. Corn cooked over the fire was a nice addition and marsh mellows later kept us all happy.

Sunday was the same start, with a beautiful southwest wind, but this time around Caribou Island, about 10 miles. The north cliffs of Caribou send puffs down, tempting you closer, then to leave you becalmed and struggling back to wind. Alex Cox in third gave it a try and looked great for a long while, but the wind caprices did indeed abandon him, hauling him back, but able to hang onto third. Bailey with good speed downwind on the backside and upwind through the tricky winds on the near side of Caribou led all the way until the home stretch into Amethyst Harbour. Walsh caught a couple of nice slants to edge up to and then pass Bailey to win. Congratulations Richard, Terry Cano and Will Evans for sailing very indeed all weekend, a well deserved first place, the Temple Reef Trophy, the Crystal Trophy and the Van Bailey Memorial Trophy.

These rather unique races are really the birth of sailing in the Thunder Bay area, with the Crystal Trophy sailed each year since 1938 and Temple Reef Trophy since 1974. Great fun with exceptionally picturesque sailing. They are scored with Portsmouth Handicap, but most often the Lightnings dominate. We're already looking forward to next year's Amethyst Weekend. Give us a shout if you'd like to join in.