

Lake Lansing 42nd Annual Regatta

Fleet 387

May 19, 2007

Lake Lansing is typically known for its light air and fluky conditions but this year's regatta started out with a forecast of 15 - 25 knot winds out of the WSW. When we arrived at the Lansing Sailing Club however there was little wind with light rain. By the time we sailed out to the race course it had begun to clear with 5 - 10 out of the WSW. In the first race we decided to defend the middle left, we nailed the pin end start and then crossed the fleet on port. Our plan worked out well as we finished first, however I thought there were two more legs to the race and we rounded the mark and set the chute not realizing that we had already finished. It just goes to show that you should pay attention to the race committee.

In race two the wind began shifting to the right and picked up to 10 - 15 as George Nickles from Lake Fenton Sailing Club caught a nice winder on the right up the last beat as we lost our lead and finished second. In races three and four I must have started paying attention again as we won them both with good boat speed and by playing the shifts up the middle right. Race five saw Pat Dolan displaying some local knowledge as he banged the left corner and passed us on the last beat to win the race. In the final race there was a three-way battle up the last beat with George edging out local sailor Larry Koster as we finished a close third. This ended up being our throw-out and proved to be good enough to win the regatta.

Rounding out the top five were in 5th - Larry Koster, 4th - John Heagy from Northcape with none other than Bruce Goldsmith as crew, 3rd - Pat Dolan and George Nickles taking 2nd. Overall it was a great day of sailing with great conditions. The folks at Lake Lansing are known for their hospitality and famous chili and cornbread lunch, the race committee did an excellent job in challenging conditions and their one day format is becoming popular and convenient for many Michigan District sailors. Consider putting it on your calendar for next year.

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