

Lake Lansing 2011 Lightning Tune Up Regatta

May 7, 2011

All Boats

Series Summary

PL	Sail #	Skipper	Sub	From	1	2	3	4	T
1	14323	John McCree		BCYC	2	1	1	2	6
2	14567	Mark Allen		PYC	1	2	4	4	11
3	14249	George Sipel		North Cape	4	5	3	3	15
4	14760	George Siegle	LSC	LSC	9	4	8	6	27
5	15391	Mike Welch		PYC	5	6	7	10	28
6	14746	Ed Bayer		DYC	8	7	6	7	28
7	15200	Tom Klaban		PYC	3	15/DNS	5	8	31
8	15313	Michael Morin		CSYC	13	8	11	1	33
9	14468	Mike Moody	LSC	LSC	15/DNS	15/DNS	2	5	37
10	1503	Jonathon Ahlbrand	LSC	LSC	11	3	12	11	37
11	15318	Trey Rose		PYC	7	11	9	13	40
12	14710	Neil Willets		PYC	12	10	10	9	41
13	15300	Chris Princing		Tawas Bay YC	6	9	13	14	42
14	14294	Larry Koster	LSC	LSC	10	12	14	12	48

Turnout was great, winds were light; weather was sunnier and milder than the forecast. Based on previous years, I brought a lot of gear that wasn't needed at all and sailed in a T-shirt and board shorts all day. Remembered the sun block, forgot to bring cards or backgammon. For a second weekend in a row, Ernie Dieball showed up to tune a few boats and hand out sails, but didn't sail.

We were there because Gus and Rachel Dey said "yes", so we had a recent MSU grad on board for the Sparty trophy, almost two MSU alumni if Gus hadn't received early admission into dental school. Rachel is the best I've ever sailed with at managing the transition from trim-to-the-spreader-marks to trim-to-telltails in the light and a little too shifty, wonderful when you want to press the bow down for a speed build.

We drifted out to the course and floated around while the puffs oozed onto the lake from several different shorelines; during the day we sailed some E to NE to NW with an occasional W or SW making things interesting. Four short course races were sailed, and the keys seemed to be connecting the dots and not being afraid to step out of line to get to a puff, staying wide and out of traffic to maintain momentum at the marks, getting the board up high enough to get around the weather mark in race 3, and most importantly, finding a way to recover from second row starts and gracefully get onto port on the relatively short and generally pin-favored starting line. We spent a patient 2 ½ minutes waiting for the puff with George Siegel at the start of race 1, but were able to make up most of the distance with a puff that the fleet was reluctant to go get down the "run".

Race 2 we got onto port more quickly, next to Mark Allen, who up to that point was on a hot streak and in a local puff that created huge separation from the rest of the fleet.

Race 3 we escaped a slightly late arrival at the pin by Mike Welch and got onto port soon enough to stay in touch with Commodore George Sipel up an interesting beat that included an unexpected 45 degree lift to the mark that I was reluctant to commit to.

Race 4 saw yet another second row start and some awkward confrontation and confusion in the Klaban zone, while attempting to duck yet another starboard tackler; but it all worked out in the end for us, I guess, and a very well-sailed final race for Matt Morin and 313 in the best breeze of the regatta.

We ended the day with the now traditional beer and chili, some great door prizes that seemed to be won by all the Pontiac sailors, and we packed up watching the kayaks paddle back against a gentle breeze that was mostly settled in to the predicted NW 5-8.

Back at the house, NE 12-15, whitecaps and 54 F.

John McCree