

Spring Fling  
Jackson Yacht Club – Fleet 388  
Jackson, Mississippi  
March 29–30, 2003

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**The 2003 JYC Spring Fling Regatta was an inaugural event on several levels.**

This was the first regatta hosted by the JYC in the new (\$3.5 million) clubhouse. It was also the first regatta in some years to renew an old club tradition of having a "Blessing of the Fleet" for participating boats as they sailed out of the harbor towards the racecourse. A priest blessed each boat as it passed... and we needed all the help we could get. This was also the first spring regatta in decades to have multiple dinghy fleets including Lightning Sailors from Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Mississippi participating. Fleet 388 would like to thank all the travelers for coming. Their support and participation is getting a lot of attention at the club.

The weather kept many from sailing due to the cold and high winds. Saturday morning temp was in the 40's with the wind blowing 20 - 25, gusts into the 30's and 3 foot swells. Sunday was colder and windier. It was a body pounding couple of days... The second day we did not fly spinnakers because of the wind but still had the boat on a plane with only the jib.

The strong winds provided some exciting times for all concerned. The Snipe Fleet had one capsize/turtle, all of the Vanguard 15's went over at some point, and one of the local Fleet 388 Lightnings lost a middle crew member overboard and during the rescue of their fallen comrade, lost the skipper overboard. All were reunited with their boat and on their way in to get warm, helped rescue a crewmember who had fallen over the side of a keelboat without a life jacket. (Our sailors were wearing lifejackets and laughed it off in the bar a little later.) It wasn't enough that weather was against us but we were dodging J22s the whole time also.

Each race was hotly contended and the outcome was not settled until the fifth and final race. Visiting Dallas boats swept the number 1 and 2 places, with a New Orleans boat taking third. Congratulations to Scott Anderson 14817 for taking first overall, Jeff Bodkin 15117 for taking second, and Larry Frost 10812 for taking third.

Watch the Flashes & Website; we have two more regattas this year and INVITE YOU TO COME.