



Steketee Trophy



The Steketee Trophy was awarded to a fleet rather than to an individual. It was deeded to the Class by Neal Steketee, printed in the Flashes from 1944 until his death in 1972, on the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the association of Steketee-Van Huis, Inc. of Holland, Michigan, and the ILCA. Among his words at that time, in addition to congratulating the Class for its growth and advancement, commending the able leadership and enthusiastic guidance of all its international officers, and paying tribute to the devotion and concern of Mrs. Helen Limbaugh, Executive Secretary of the Class, he added, "One final word – my continued wish for the ILCA is that it will continue to grow. It is imperative that each District and Fleet continue to feed to local news media publicity on their regattas and activities. They will be more than happy to publish these events. And don't fail also to send news to your Executive Secretary for publications in the Flashes. I hope that the "Neal Steketee Trophy" will play a small part in promoting the International Lightning Class Association and be a constant reminder to each member, district and fleet to help promote the continued growth of this fine association."

The Trophy Deed stated:

"The Neal Steketee Permanent Trophy will be awarded at the North American Championships to the North American fleet who has been outstanding in furthering the purpose of the ILCA in promoting and developing racing in Lightnings.

Such things as maintaining entire fleet membership in good standing with the ILCA; interesting new people in the sport; publishing the most interesting and best newsletter; conducting an outstandingly fine regatta; insuring high activity in racing in its fleet; providing a top-notch junior sailing program; placing a high percentage of its fleet in the Top Flight District and/or North American Championship; etc. The trophy will be placed in contention annually for one or a combination of the above or similar accomplishments, as determined and announced by the Executive Committee or a panel of judges appointed by the Executive Committee.

The trophy will be held by the fleet until the next North Americans, but is to remain the property of the ILCA, who will have it properly engraved with the year, name and number of the fleet receiving the award."

Lake Fenton, Michigan, Fleet 53 was the first recipient when, according to the "Terms of the 1969 Award," the trophy was awarded to the fleet with the highest rating on percentage of the ILCA membership of its fleet in 1968 and in 1969, as of May 20, 1969, plus points for each additional ILCA member from May 20 to July 24, 1969.

The trophy was then awarded each year through 1977 to the fleet which had done the most to promote the Lightning Class. The 1970 award went to Fleet 274, Memphis, Tennessee, for their outstanding news coverage of the fleet's activities in their newsletter, write-ups and photographs, as submitted for Flashes and as covered in local newspapers, especially the section in the colored magazine section of their newspaper, which is most unusual; also, their continued ad in the classified section of the yellow pages. Fleet 274 received the Steketee Trophy again in 1974 when it was judged the North American fleet having the best program for sowing Lightnings and for getting non-Lightning sailors into the Class.

The 1971 award was also made on the basis of the portfolio of new coverage, Flashes and yearbook coverage and newsletters which had been submitted for the competition and went to Washington, DC, Fleet 50. In 1972 the "Terms of Award" called for the best overall growth rate, with several factors taken into consideration. And the best was shown by Fleet 229, Chinook Lightning Fleet, Pacific Northwest District, with honorable mention to second best. Fleet 227, Lake Bomoseen, New England District.

Unfortunately, Class records of the recipients in 1973, 1975 and 1977 are not available. The trophy was in need of repair, and it is possible it may not have been awarded those years.

The trophy was reinstated in 1980-1981 in conjunction with the membership derive which was then conducted to be awarded to the fleet which showed the greatest increase in its membership. It was awarded at that time to the Pontiac Yacht Club, Fleet 54, Michigan District, who also received the trophy in 1982. Cedar Point Yacht Club, Fleet 126, Connecticut/Rhode Island District, showed the greatest increase in membership ending with a total of 32 active members in 1983 over 21 in 1982. The Fleet Captain was Guy Moulton and Fleet Secretary was Edson White.

There was a tie for the trophy in 1984 between the Lake Washing Fleet 132, Seattle, Washington, and Columbia Fleet 283, both in the Pacific Northwest District. It was determined the trophy would stay with Fleet 132 and host fleet for the 1984 North Americans.

Pontiac Yacht Club, Fleet 564, under the leadership of Fleet Captain Louis Nickels and Fleet Secretary Jim Bowers, again won the trophy as they went from forty-nine to fifty-nine members in 1985. Runner-up that year was Devils Lake Yacht Club, Fleet 31, Michigan District, led by Captain Bruce Goldsmith and Secretary Jack Tibbs, showing an increase from fifteen members in 1984 to twenty-three in 1985. In 1986 the Willow Bank

Yacht Club, Fleet 164, Central New York District, Secretary Alistar.

Thomson was awarded the trophy for an increase from fifteen to twenty-one members. There were five fleets with increases of four members each for runners-up honors: Fleets 1, 152, 215, 314 and 484.

Lavallette Yacht Club, Fleet 104, Central Atlantic District, increased their membership from seven members to twenty-one in 1987, and the trophy was presented to Fleet Captain Chris Larsen and Fleet Secretary Bill Dacosta. Runner-up in 1987 was again Devils Lake Yacht Club, Fleet 31, going from twenty-one to twenty-six, according to Fleet Captain Bill Rogge and Fleet Secretary Jack Tibbs.

In the anniversary year 1988 the trophy was awarded for the best coverage of the 50th Anniversary, and it was fitting it should go to the Skaneateles Country Club, Fleet 1. Fleet Secretary was Anne Roth Hueber and Fleet Captain was Frank Haas. President Anne Allen wanted a Service Award to go to the fleet with increased membership for 1988, and the award went to Mission Bay Fleet 194, San Diego, increased by fifteen members.

The Steketee Trophy is an impressive one, rather large, and has caused some anxious moments. In 1974 the trophy was delivered to YCY in a locked box – without the key! During the presentation in 1972 the trophy was being displayed on a huge metal case. The fleet representative reluctantly accepted the trophy, thinking he had to pack the metal case 3,000 miles home in his boat. (It was an ice chest, not the packing case!)

At the time when Neal Steketee deeded the trophy to the Class, it was designated for North America only, since shipping this trophy overseas was impractical. In 1980 a special award was presented to the overseas fleet which was credited with the greatest increase of dues paid owner memberships. The recipient of the award, a brass tray, was Fleet 249, Flotte de Gardia, in Italy. Records indicate the award was to be presented annually to the European or South American fleet which best furthered the Lightning Class. However, there is nothing available which indicated the award was presented following the initial presentation. Vice President Nando de Amicis has been contacted about whether or not Fleet 249 has the tray at their club.

It has been suggested the fleets in Europe and South America would like to participate in competition for an award. If there is widespread interest, and if the award from 1980 or other trophies are made available, terms of the award could be set up.

Recipients

| Year | Recipient |
|------|---|
| 1969 | Fleet 53, Lake Fenton Sailing Club , Lake Fenton, Michigan, Michigan District |
| 1970 | Fleet 274, Delta Sailing Association , Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi Valley District |
| 1971 | Fleet 50, Potomac River Sailing Association , Washington, DC, Dixie District |
| 1972 | Fleet 229, Chinook, Eugene, Oregon, Pacific Northwest District |
| 1973 | Fleet 85, Niantic Bay Yacht Club , Niantic, Connecticut, Connecticut/Rhode Island District |
| 1974 | Fleet 274, Delta Sailing Association , Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi Valley District |
| 1975 | Fleet 252, Keuka Lake, HammondSport, New York , Central New York District |
| 1976 | Fleet 187, Sheboygan, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Midwest District |
| 1977 | Fleet 435, Rush Creek Yacht Club, Dallas, Texas, Texas District |
| 1980 | Fleet 54, Keego Harbor, Michigan, Michigan District |
| 1981 | |
| 1982 | Fleet 54, Pontiac Yacht Club, Keego Harbor, Michigan, Michigan District |
| 1983 | Fleet 54, Pontiac Yacht Club, Keego Harbor, Michigan, Michigan District |
| 1984 | Fleet 132, Lake Washington, Seattle Washington, Pacific Northwest District Fleet 283, Columbia, Portland, Oregon, Pacific Northwest District |
| 1985 | Fleet 54, Pontiac Yacht Club, Keego Harbor, Michigan, Michigan District |
| 1986 | Fleet 164, Willow Bank Yacht Club , Cazenovia, New York, Central New York District |
| 1987 | Fleet 104, Lavallette Yacht Club, Barnegat Bay, New Jersey, Central Atlantic District |
| 1988 | Fleet 1, Skaneateles Country Club , Skaneateles, New York, Central New York District |
| 1989 | Fleet 54, Pontiac Yacht Club, Keego Harbor, Michigan, Michigan District |
| 1990 | Metropolitan District |
| 1991 | Fleet 35, Dallas Corinthian Sailing Club , Dallas, Texas, Texas District |
| 1992 | Ohio District |
| 1993 | Fleet 279, Temple Reef Sailing Club, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, Central Canada District |
| 1994 | New England District |
| 1995 | Florida District |
| 1996 | |
| 1997 | |
| 1998 | |
| 1999 | |
| 2000 | |
| 2001 | Fleet 253, Susquehanna Yacht Club , Long Level, Pennsylvania, Dixie District |
| 2002 | Fleet 85, Niantic Bay Yacht Club , Niantic, Connecticut, Connecticut/Rhode Island District |
| 2003 | |
| 2004 | |
| 2005 | |
| 2006 | Fleet 329, Severn Sailing Club, Annapolis, Maryland, Dixie District |
| 2007 | Fleet 50, Pontiac Sailing Association, Washington, DC, Dixie District |
| 2008 | Fleet 1, Skaneateles Country Club , Skaneateles, New York, Central New York District |
| 2009 | Fleet 12, Buffalo Canoe Club, Pt Abino, Ontario, Canada, Lake Erie District |
| 2010 | Fleet 34, Metedeconk River Yacht Club, Brick New Jersey, Central Atlantic District |
| 2011 | Fleet 429, Denver Charleston , Charleston, South Carolina, Southeastern District |
| 2012 | Fleet 488, Denver Sailing Associaion, Denver Colorado, US @ Large District |
| 2013 | Fleet 28, Erie Yacht Club, Erie, Pennsylvania, Lake Erie District |
| 2014 | Fleet 228, Riverton Yacht Club, Riverton, New Jersey, Central Atlantic District |

A panel of judges comprised of past ILCA presidents and members of the Executive Committee has chosen to recognize Fleet 228—Riverton Yacht Club—in the Central Atlantic District with this prestigious award for 2014.

Not only do Fleet 228 members participate actively in a great weekly racing schedule, they hosted back-to-back events (New Jersey Governor's Cup and the CAD Championship) and they very often lend a helping hand when it comes to loading containers to be shipped abroad. With the recent International Development efforts in Greece, their help has been invaluable in prepping boats and shipping them to the welcoming European recipients. Please join us in congratulating and praising them for their part in making our Class strong locally and internationally. Thank You!



2014 Steketee Trophy Recipients – Fleet 228