

Great Lakes Championship

North Cape Yacht Club / Fleet 42

LaSalle, Michigan July 28-29, 2018

Place	Sail #	Name	Skipper	Crew	Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total
1	14842	14842	Tom Klaban	Beth Groesbeck, Julia Matora	PYC	7	2	4	2	15
2	14867	14867	Ernie Dieball	Jacqueline Dieball, Amy Simonsen	NCYC	1	1	2	12	16
3	313	313	Matt Morin	Kevin Morin, Marcie Levey		3	9	3	1	16
4	15430	15430	Kalyn Froeschle			10	6	5	7	28
5	14880	14880	Craig Pomeroy			2	13	1	13	29
6	15470	15470	George Sipel		North Cape Yacht Club	4	3	8	16 DNF	31
7	15455	15455	Steve Harris			5	5	11	10	31
8	15210	15210	Jack Vanderhorst		EWYC	6	11	7	9	33
9	14515	14515	John Marley			11	4	9	11	35
10	14260	14260	The Mackays			14	7	12	3	36
11	15412	15412	Sandy McMillen			9	10	10	8	37
12	14818	14818	Glenn Hummel			8	14	14	5	41
13	15172	15172	James Taylor			16 DNC	16 DNC	6	4	42
14	15512	15512	Elizabeth Obermaier			12	12	13	6	43
15	15559	15559	Jim Davis			13	8	15	16 DNF	52



First Place (Left) Team Klaban - missing Beth Grosebeck. Second Place (Right) Team Dieball

Winner's Recap:

North Cape Yacht club is one of the premier Lightning venues in North America with Lake Erie as the playground. We've been coming to NCYC for several decades and this is the first time we've been able to pull out a victory.

Saturday's weather predictions called for 8 to 10 mile breeze changing to light and variable in the afternoon. While the wind predictions aren't always correct, they were right on the money this time. This year the Great Lakes Championship was attended by both the Lightning and Snipe classes with a nice turnout of boats from as far away as Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and of course Michigan.

The racing got underway after a couple of course mark changes, but for some reason my crew and I missed both the 5 and 4 minute sequence, so at 1 minute we thought we were in the 5 minute sequence. Needless to say we did not have a very good start, and all I remember of that race was trying to tack away from boats and get some clear air. I also remember the Dieball team leading the race from start to finish with the eventual third place Morin team coming back to a respectable third place finish. After the race I thought to myself that we might come back and get a fourth or a fifth place in the regatta, but in my wildest dreams I would not have thought that a win was even a remote possibility.

We had a much better start in the second race and found ourselves leading for three legs fending off the Dieball team, but a quick jibe insight on the last downwind leg gave the Dieball team another, and I might say familiar first.

The third race started out with good wind, but the eventual light and variable wind condition started to appear. We tried to stay in the wind lines and worked ourselves into second place right behind the Promeroy team winners of race three, only to have both the Dieball and Morin teams jibe insight us on the last downwind leg to finish second and third. So after three races the Dieball team had a solid first place with two firsts and one second and us with the Morin team fighting it out for second.

At this point winning the lottery was more plausible than us winning the regatta. But like the old saying "It ain't over till it's over", the light and variable conditions really kicked in for the fourth race of the day with the left side of the course filling in right at the weather mark, and to our delight the PYC (Pontiac Yacht Club) junior team, with Liz Obermaier, skippering rounded first. We were rooting for them as they battled the Morin team for the next two legs of the race. We got around the weather mark in eight or ninth and jibed immediately to stay in what was a dying breeze. We managed to pass one boat and tacked right around the leeward mark to head back up wind. The breeze went hard right and lifted the top five boats right to the weather mark. The PYC junior team led the pack of boats around the weather mark but were passed by the Morin team while jibing around the offset. I actually felt bad for them because we experienced the same thing twice ourselves. We rounded with a little breeze and jibed right around the offset mark as well, but then kept jibbing to try to stay in the little breeze we had found, and by some miracle we jibed one last time toward the finish line with what ended up the new lake breeze that was slowly filling in. We saw team Morin cross the finish line while we were still half way up the downwind leg, so when we finished second we were as shocked as anyone. It took another fifteen to twenty minutes for the wind to fill in allowing the rest of the fleet to finish, but it wasn't until after dinner that we saw the results and to our surprise we were in first. I knew that celebrating was premature so we enjoyed being on top for at least one day.

Sunday's forecast was light and variable and with 40 to 50 degree wind shifts the race committee abandoned racing around noon, and for the first time my crew and I could celebrate a first place finish at the North Cape Championship. I would like to acknowledge my long time crew Beth Groesbeck and our first time junior crew Julia Matora for a great job keeping the boat going and letting me vent at times.

I would also like to thank NCYC, especially the race committee for putting on a first class regatta, and the food volunteers for a wonderful dinner and lunches. We look forward to coming back year after year to this great sailing venue and wonderful hospitality.

Tom Klaban, PYC Fleet 54