

2014 Michigan District HI Point Championship

PL	Sail #	Skipper	From	Leukemia Cup	Bayview	BCYC	Boyne	NCYC	Higgins	Whitecap	BG Memorial	Blow Out	Total
1	15430	John McCree	BCYC		20	11	13	13	10	22	14		103
2	15500	Team Morin	CSYC	4	19	10	16		14	21	12	2	98
3	14249	George Sipel	NCYC		22		20	10		20	10	5	87
4	15480	Jim Allen	PYC		15		21	15		19	13		83
5	14176	Ernest Dieball			18		23	14			16	6	77
6	15543	Ryan Flack & Team	PYC		21		18		13	24			76
7	15474	Rob Linden				12	22		16		11		61
8	15222	Bobby Flack			16	5	7	5		14	8		55
9	14774	Team Vickers	CSYC	3	13		14		9		6	4	49
10	15513	Rose/Garza	CSYC	2	9	7	6			16	5	3	48
11	14176	Skip Dieball	NCYC		23						17		40
12	14933	Terry Hart	BCYC		14	2	8		6				30
13	15512	Mark Allen	PYC		17		12						29
14		John Mathers					11			17			28
15	15445	Matt Fisher			26								26
16	15390	Todd Wake			25								25
17	14301	Ryan Mabie	DLYC		11		3	3	7				24
18	9	Thomas Allen	BuF CC		24								24
19	14628	Andy Monique	PYC		6				8	9			23
20	15146	Gary Sowden				8	15						23
21		John Garrison & Team								23			23
22	15515	Christopher Princing	TBYC				10		12				22
23	14937	Matt Princing				3	17						20
24		Brad Wagnon					19						19
25	14511	Matt Warner & team	PYC	1	5		2		3	7			18
26	14860	Jack Mueller & Team	SSC					11			7		18
27		Dave Sprague & Team								18			18
28	15545	Team Starck	BCC					16					16
29	14866	Cameron Carlin	SHBC, FL						15				15
30		Mike Welch								15			15
31	14818	Craig Gabel	DLYC								15		15
32	14449	Dale Kreck	PYC				1		2	11			14
33		Norm Burns & Team								13			13
34	15125	Bill Ziegler	PYC		12								12
35	14191	Greg Florian &Tteam	CDYC					12					12
36		Karl Aavik & team								12			12
37	14690	Nick Harris	PYC						11				11
38	15509	Richard Dishaw	PYC		8					2			10
39	14242	Geoff Nelson	PYC		4					6			10
40	14710	Neil Willetts	PYC		10								10
41		Dick Beaubien & Team								10			10
42	15406	Whitney Kent				9							9
43		George Siegle					9						9
44	15213	Jeff Schmahl & Team	WYC					9					9
45	14830	David Laidlaw	DLYC								9		9
46	15206	Amanda Hofmeister & Team	HIYC					8					8
47		Joel Humphrey								8			8
48	15346	Mike Hecker	PYC		7								7
49	15078	Bruce Richards & Team	HIYC					7					7
50	15225	Chris Jacobson				6							6
51	15450	Aroldo De Rienzo & Team	VYC					6					6
52		Chris Matora					4			1			5
53		George Peet					5						5
54	14021	Emery Scheibert	BCYC						5				5
55		Bruce Finsilver & Team								5			5
56	15233	Jim Scholfield				4							4
57	14400	Peter Polgar & Team	BVYC/FYC					4					4
58	14054	Alan Krauss	HLBC						4				4
59		Joe LaPalme								4			4
60	15148	Doug Tagsold	DLYC								4		4
61	15200	Tom Klaban	PYC		3								3
62		Mike Roulet & Team								3			3
63	14856	Mike Williams	Crescent								3		3
64	15309	Edward Wagnon			2								2
65	13449	Cary Diehl & Team	FYC					2					2
66	14649	Bill Rogge	DLYC								2		2
67	14856	John Hutt			1								1
68	15513	Mikey Garza				1							1
69	14276	Frank Noto & Team	FYC					1					1
70	11844	Branden Warner	PYC						1				1
71	10638	Tom Love	DLYC								1		1
72	15085	Chris Snyder										1	1

On Repeating as Michigan District High Point Champion

John McCree

We started the season with a new core team, Carrie, Amy, and Rachel, and e-mails from all expressing enthusiasm for multiple regattas on MI District circuit calendar—but as the season progressed, a promotion and relocation for Carrie, volunteer and travel commitments from Amy, a new job for Rachel, and changes in my life would put gaps in our sailing and open the team to more reconfiguration. After declining health from Parkinson’s, Dad passed away in May, which left me reflecting on life, the legacy of parents, and the passing of my three mentors, Joe Dissette, Colin Parky, and Bruce Goldsmith.

Following the lead of my old friends Tim Botimer and Chris LaBorde, Amy continued to promote our BCYC “young professionals” program, so I was presented with opportunities to on-board a good handful of new Lightning sailors, including Maureen and Hougard, Matt and Kevin and Jennifer and Jing, and Christophe and Spencer and Heather; and Dave’s friend Emery was recruited for an evening and a weekend, from our M&J fleet. I also enjoyed some great weekends with my young veteran teams—regional regattas with Rachel and Amy, and the much-promoted and well-choreographed NAs and two fall regattas, with Rachel and Bobby Flack. There were many moments of apprehension followed by delight, as new teammates took the spinnaker sheets or the helm for their first race or regatta.

There were also pleasant afternoons and evenings with old friends—grilling and spilling with the Flacks and the Lindens at the beach house on the shore of Lake Michigan, re-connecting with Bruce and Duane and team Hofmeister at North Cape and the Masters, go-karting with Trey and Kevin and Matt at Bay City’s Dutch Village, fireside and foggy reflections on Higgins’ Treasure Island with a handful of first-timers from PYC, ice cream with the Hubbles at Boyne City, Bed and Breakfast with the Nelsons, Brad and Daphne’s place and Jeff’s program at Wawasee.

Indy and Pymatuning, with Kevin Morin and Ryan Flack, were deferred to family commitments.

Lansing, with Rachel and Jamie, was cancelled by a facilities maintenance problem. I took a chance after forgetting the cell phone on the charger, and was rewarded with a door prize from Blaine, and a look of disbelief from Rachel. There was a time...

Bayview One Design regatta has become the new benchmark for Midwest Lightning sailing. Top sailors converged on this event, making the Lightning fleet the largest fleet in numbers and talent, again. Repeated with Amy and Rachel—and drifted across a finish line between Skip and Ernie Dieball. Mikey’s mom’s the best. Matt Fisher, Todd Wake, Tom Allen.

Bay City was the best sailing of the season, seven (7) solid races in the full range of conditions, slowly building thermal breeze on Saturday and strong shore breeze that shifted and faded on Sunday. In a last-minute campaign, Amy reeled in John Hougard, a young C-scow sailor, for a spinnaker coaching session Wednesday, and he signed on for the weekend. We should host more teams on Saginaw Bay, the only venue on the circuit where “light and variable” means “NE 5-12”. Rob Linden, John McCree, Matt Morin.

District Championship at Somerset Pointe, Boyne City. Another last-minute campaign, Amy signed up Kevin (and Jennifer and Maureen) so we were one of a couple of boats with enthusiastic new sailors. With a foreshortened season from the Polar Vortex, none of us were prepared with a Womens/Juniors team for Friday—so I’ll take a moment to encourage the veterans on the circuit to coach a team, next season. In past years, it was my job to review SIs and NORs and propose a later Sunday time limit at District Championship venues with afternoon thermal breezes. Only three light-air races scored, but Maureen and Kevin stayed out for an afternoon of spinnaker adventures and social sailing when the thermal breeze finally showed up, followed by a leisurely dinner and stories on the deck overlooking Lake Charlevoix. Ernie Dieball, Rob Linden, Jim Allen.

North Cape was to be the NA tune-up, with Amy and Rachel, and a perfect practice sail on Friday evening with our Nashville friends, Mandy and Mikey. Nice clinic by the Starks, we held our lanes off the line, in the Bayview-conflicted fleet. “Sometimes it becomes apparent that one team has figured out the pattern, and it’s not necessarily a bad strategy to shadow them, until you figure it out for yourself.” Worked on rounding out the NA team in Carrie and Amy’s absence, and landed the young Ricky-Bobby, when he called me on Monday to say his travel budget was now a new engine for his car. David/Jody Stark, Jim Allen, Ernie Dieball.

The highlight of our season was the **Higgins Lake** regatta. There is no merrier banding of the clan than this late-July regatta, camping with family and friends. Lindens, Harris, Monique, Mabie, Kreck and two (2) Warner teams all made their first trip to the island. From our program, Amy invited first-timers Maureen, and Joey and Spencer and Jennifer and Kevin. Camping, grilling, adult beverages in moderation, and s’mores, were as advertised. Good racing too, 5 races, 16 boats, and the obligatory flip/flop shift for the final race. Amy took her first turn on the helm and handled the boat expertly. The trips across to the island and the return trip home were a little soggy. Next time, we’ll all remember to towel off, as prescribed. Rob Linden, Cameron Carlin, Matt Morin.

Eight days in **Sheboygan**—after resigning ourselves to a solo practice session in a light NE at BCYC (rescheduled due to Lake Erie cyanobacteria bloom), imagining boats and estimating angles to leeward gates, we heaved-off for NAs. I was treated to a couple of good days in the Masters Series with my old friends Bruce and Duane, and Nolan, minus a practice race and a final day. Surprised to find aggressive starts and, gasp! Black Flag, in a Masters Series full of past champions.

The Michigan District represented well in participation, but struggled in the NA qualifiers in one of the deepest fleets in many years. Our team was within a boat-length of completing two solid qualifying races, but we were an afternoon of boat prep and a practice race or two short—and a disappointing two points outside the Championship fleet and possible World’s qualifier. On the water, we had the veto of the launch on a 6-foot breaking wave, which, with hindsight, might have turned out badly, and the longest final leg ever, chasing a current-advantaged finish line that could not be crossed without paddling. Off the water, there was a relaxed beach house full of Lightning owners and charming young children that combined to create two teams, and made for a great vacation.

Back in the Michigan District, a nice start to the “fall series” at **PYC Whitecap**. With Bobby at the helm, we found ourselves in the hunt for his first regatta win. Next time, cover Geo, even if he’s going the wrong way. Sunday morning, no sailing, much idle talk of sponsoring womens and juniors teams for the W/J/M championship regatta. If you have doubts about making the trip to Tawas Bay next summer w/o the drama of NAs on the back-end, drop me a note—we’ll find a way to make the weekend or week worthwhile for you. Ryan Flack, John Garrison, Bobby Flack.

Just for fun, I introduced two of our newer fleet 216 sailors, Christophe and Spencer, to the regatta lifestyle at **Devils Lake**. All five races sailed, started with a cool, breezy NW that had the potential to be a handful for a first-time trimmer. Sunday’s sailing was a more typical light-air day at Devils Lake, complex starting lines, inverted fleets and crowded roundings. Stingers in a pitcher that looked like iced tea, to the uninitiated, and a “table for 12” for dinner. Skip Dieball, Ernie Dieball, Craig Gabel.

Our season ended with Bobby and Rachel, and Maureen, and past champions and incoming Class Presidents, at **Wawasee**, with only one race sailed on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, and everyone was OK with that. You know the new team has gelled, when you position for the gybe to port and the new breeze, in time to recover from deep for a trophy. Brothers Jeff and David filled the afternoon with jet-skis and tubing, water skis and wakeboards, and later in the evening a little light-hearted entertainment, and a pontoon ride to the Frog for the young guns, or just hanging out fireside after dinner with the old timers. Ernie Dieball, Bill Faude, John McCree.

