

FREE

October 2013

WindCheck

Sailing the Northeast

**Lightning
North American
Championships**

**AYC Juniors Conquer
the Buzzards**

The Forgotten Caribbean

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16 Winter Destinations: "The Forgotten Caribbean"

Mention "the Caribbean" and most cruising sailors think of places like the Virgin Islands, Antigua and St. Barths, but there are plenty of overlooked yet lovely islands in the Greater Antilles. Frank Virgintino, the author of the popular *Free Cruising Guides* series, leads us to some beautiful spots in Jamaica, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

22 Winterizing Checklist

Properly decommissioning your boat for winter layup will make it easier to have her ready for action when warm breezes beckon next spring. Our friends at West Marine provide a system-by-system checklist, and Jessica Wurzbacher, the Director of Marine Education for Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island in Newport, RI, offers tips on eco-friendly winterizing.

42 AYC Junior Big Boat Team Conquers the Buzzards

Many sailors compete in Stamford Yacht Club's Vineyard Race for years without ever winning. Eight members of American Yacht Club's Junior Big Boat Team, however, won the 238-nautical mile race in their first attempt, and they describe how they sailed the J/122 *Patriot* to victory, capturing the Vineyard Lighthouse Trophy and the Corinthian Challenge Trophy.

52 Lightning North American Championships

With the International Lightning Class Association celebrating the 75th birthday of one of the greatest one-design sailboats of all time, two of the world's finest Lightning fleets, Fleet 126 at Cedar Point Yacht Club and Fleet 75 at Nyack Boat Club, were selected to host the North American Championships and the Women's, Juniors' & Masters' North Americans, respectively. We have reports from Eric Heller and Amy Villalba and photos by Art Petrosemolo.

56 Gear Up for Frostbiting!

When icicles are forming on the mainsheet, having the right clothing can make the difference between doing well on the racecourse and needing to head in early because your teeth are chattering uncontrollably. Ryan Dodd, Marketing Manager at Landfall and Dinghy Locker in Stamford, CT, outlines the best options from base layer to outer layer.



On the cover: "Triple A" threat: Lightning Youth World Champion Adam MacDonald (center) and crew Abby Bennet (left) and Allie Jones, representing the Buffalo Canoe Club, cruising downwind on the Hudson River on their way to capturing the 2013 Juniors' Lightning North American Championship, hosted by Nyack Boat Club in Nyack, NY in August.

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2013 Womens, Junior & Masters Lightning North American Championships

By Amy Villalba

Photos by Art Petrosemolo

The largest Women's, Juniors' and Masters' Lightning North American Championships (WJMs) in the last 10 years took place on several unusually cool, clear, crisp days August 14 - 17 at Nyack Boat Club (NBC) in Nyack, NY.

With a long history of holding major championships for Lightnings, Thistles, Sonars and Ensigs, NBC graciously hosted 57 teams: 21 Juniors (under age 20), 31 Masters (55+) and five Classic teams (wood or glass boats built before 1974). Juniors had strong representation from the Buffalo Canoe Club, with 12 teams. The Masters included many familiar names, including Hallagan, Hurban and Proctor. The Classic Rally, held in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Lightning Class, included hull #2, possibly the oldest actively competing non-keel boat.

Rare for August, there was too much wind (20 with gusts to 22) for Wednesday's practice race, although PRO Judy Hanlon tried to kick one off. Back on shore, competitors were



Skipper Christine Moloney, Kayla Oak and Julianne MacDonald finished third in the Junior North American Championship.

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with his son Charlie and Debbie Dudas as crew, led the day with two bullets and a second.

Postponed on shore Friday morning, participants perused 75 years of Class yearbooks and enjoyed other activities

organized by International Lightning Class Association (ILCA) Executive Secretary Laura Jeffers and NBC's Jan Crittenden. Without winds over four knots, sailing was abandoned for the day. Everyone enjoyed another beautiful, cool evening that included a slide show celebrating Dick Hallagan, his longtime dedication and support of the Class and his participation in 20 Lightning World Championships.

After light air forced the abandonment of Saturday's racing, ILCA President John Faus, Laura Jeffers and Bob Sengstacken presented trophies to Masters' North American 2013 Champions Ched Proctor (skipper), Charlie Proctor and Debbie Dudas, Juniors' North American 2013 Champions Adam MacDonald (skipper), Abby Bennet and Allie Jones, and 75th Anniversary Classic Rally Champions John Boynton (skipper) Jamie Boynton

and Bob Shapiro.

Having packed up their boats, many competitors remained at NBC enjoying a few last beers and buying a few more raffle tickets. Junior sailor Meredith Ryan won the 50/50 raffle and was immediately encouraged to "Go buy a boat!" and NBC was thrilled to add to its Sandy Recovery Fund. Thank you to all the competitors, our sponsors and ILCA for their support and generosity! ♦

Amy Villalba lives in Mamaroneck, NY and sails with Lightning Fleet 75 at Nyack Boat Club.



Skipper Brian Phelan, Patrick Phelan and Barbara Hill took second place in the Masters Championship.

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welcomed by NBC Commodore Kieran Quinn and co-chairs Bob Sengstacken and Eric Kent, who'd been planning the event for nearly two years.

Three very competitive races took place Thursday afternoon. Conditions tested competitors with lots of position changes on each of the four legs of each race, and several sailors commented on the challenging Hudson River current. The downwind finishes were so close that the Race Committee burned the midnight oil to ensure the results were correct. Ched Proctor,

Tough Competition at the 75th Lightning North Americans

By Eric Heller

Photos by Art Petrosemolo

Sailors from across the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and even a crew member from Australia were treated to a week of good wind and great competition as part of the 75th Lightning North American Championships (NAs) at Cedar Point Yacht Club in Westport, CT on August 17 - 23. Competitors included World and National Champions in multiple classes, as well as a former America's Cup skipper, an Olympian, and Rolex Yachtsman/Yachtswoman of the Year winners. Needless to say, the on-the-water battles were tough!

After three days of qualifying, led by 5-time World Champion Tito Gonzalez from Santiago, Chile with crew Cristian Herman and Trinidad Gonzalez, the 58-boat fleet was split into Championship and President's Cup divisions.



Above: With several sailing champions in the fleet, there was plenty of close racing. © Art Petrosemolo/nauticalphotography.us

Below: Fifty-eight boats competed in the 75th Lightning North American Championships. © Art Petrosemolo/nauticalphotography.us



Fresh off his Thistle Nationals victory, Allan Terhune, Jr. of Annapolis, MD with wife Katie Terhune and crew John Wilson sailed consistently, with no race worse than a fourth, and won the Championship division by 12 points. This was Allan's third time winning the Lightning NAs. David Dellenbaugh of Easton, CT with crew Jay Lurie and Janel Zarkowsky came in second. Jody Starck from Buffalo, NY with crew Allie Jones and Ian Jones were third, Claudio Biekarch from Sao Paulo, Brazil with crew Gunnar Ficker and Marcelo Batista de Silva were fourth, and Rob Crane from Darien, CT, with Tanner Probst and Nick Sertl were fifth.

The President's Cup division was won by Stephen Warren from Surf City, NJ with crew Becca Huyard and Ben Huyard. In second place was Gustavo Tamayo from Bogota, Colombia with crew Javier Delgado and Juan Sanchez. Taking third was Marvin Beckman from Houston, TX with crew Zach Steuer and Charles

Krawiec, with Donald Barrett from Niantic, CT with wife Donna Barrett and crew George Wiedermann fourth, and Will Tyner from Charleston, SC with crew Sara Fox and Reese Wilkins fifth.

Competitors had the opportunity to unwind with food and entertainment most evenings during the week. A 75th International Lightning Class Anniversary Party was held, featuring a prize giveaway that helped raise more than \$1,200 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Thanks to all that donated items, including North U, Sperry Top-Sider, West Marine, Nickels Boat Works, Allen Boat Co, JCD Custom Race Parts, Dinghy Locker@Landfall,

Wines & More, The Boat Locker, and APS Ltd!

Additional regatta sponsors included Save the Sound, Atlantis WeatherGear, North Sails, DonQ Rum, Absolut Vodka, Beaver Beer, Nestle's Poland Springs and San Pellegrino brands, Utz Chips, Harbor Lights Waterfront Dining, Tutti's Ristorante, Barrack Hill Capital, LLC, and Nautical Photography.

Thanks to Cedar Point Yacht Club members who volunteered all week, and our PRO Dick Thackaberry and his team for running a great regatta. Next year's Lightning North Americans will be held in Sheboygan, WI. See lightningclass.org for more information about the 19-foot Lightning class sailboat and cedarpointyc.org for more about Cedar Point Yacht Club. ♦

Eric Heller is the Fleet Captain of Lightning Fleet 126 at Cedar Point Yacht Club in Westport, CT.