

Early Bird Regatta
Cedar Point Yacht Club
May 18, 2013

Place	Boat #	Team	Location	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	15507	Ched Proctor, Meredith Killion, Rob	Cedar Point YC	1	3	1	5
2	14950	Ed Adams, Ben Cesare, Chris Musele	Newport, RI	2	2	5	9
3	11346	Stu Nickerson, Kip Hamblet, Austin Schaeffer	Altamonte Springs, FL	7	1	3	11
4	15395	David Dellenbaugh, Dave Halse, Jay Lurie	Easton, CT	4	6	2	12
5	15380	Jim Crane, Kelly Crane, Bill Crane	Noroton YC	3	5	4	12
6	15055	Hugh Hutchinson, Marc Venables, Cecile Steinriede	Riverton YC	5	4	10	19
7	15464	Margurite Kohler, Keith Taboda, Stephanie Swann	Amityville, NY	6	7	6	19
8	14942	Dick Moyer, Helen, John	Oaks, PA	9	9	8	26
9	14889	David Fried, Peter Fried, Leland Chang	Cedar Point YC	11	12	7	30
10	15405	David Spira, Randy Shore, Ty Whitman	Niantic Bay YC	8	11	12	31
11	14807	Rod Ratcliffe, Dave Marseli, Colin Grother	Cedar Point YC	10	10	11	31
12	14819	Eric Heller, Colin McGlynn, Jim McDevitt	Cedar Point YC	12	13	9	34
13	15356	John Greiftzu Jr, Melissa Scott, Bill Murray	New York YC	13	8	14/DNS	35

Early practice at the home of the 2013 North American Championships!



Champions: Ched Proctor, Meredith Killion, Rob



Runner-ups: Ed Adams, Ben Cesare, Chris Musele



3rd Place: Stu Nickerson, Kip Hamblet, Austin Schaeffer

The annual Early Bird Regatta was held the traditional weekend before Memorial Day at Cedar Point Yacht Club. This would be the last tune- up event at the venue of this year’s North Americans. Thirteen boats, including some “old guard” Lightning skippers from various clubs in the area, participated. Of note, Stu Nickerson, representing Altamonte Springs, Florida, and Dick Moyer, out of Oaks, Pennsylvania, made special trips to join the fun.

The forecast was for partly cloudy skies, with wind hovering around 7 or 8 knots, enough air to rig and cast off from the dock on time. The tide was slack, always a good thing for the sail out. PRO Dick Thackaberry and his team were aware of the lighter wind and afforded crews plenty of time to gather around the Race Committee boat while he studied the course.

The first race, an up and down, started with a compass heading of southeast in about 8 knots of breeze. There was a crowd near the committee boat for the start, and most boats went right as soon as they could find a lane. It was a tight pack around the marks. At the finish Ched Proctor was first, Ed Adams second, Jim Crane third.

Race Two took a few minutes extra to get off, as the Race Committee had to adjust for the shift south that was now fully in motion. At the start, skippers jockeyed for position on the line, but this time there was a split between who went right, and who stayed left for at least the first third of the upwind leg. On the downwind leg, still in a tight pack, the split was more pronounced, with many boats opting to wait to jibe. After all was said and done, it shook out Stu Nickerson first, followed by Adams, then Proctor.

There was time to eat a sandwich before the third race, as Thackaberry had his hands full. The wind had clearly clocked south, a good 70-degree difference from the heading of the first race. It wasn’t as crowded near the boat this time, but a general recall was announced, as everyone was anxious to get going after the delay. With the around-the-ends flag up, the second start went off without a hitch, a good move by Dick to fly that in those conditions.

Many boats headed right soon after the horn, and again, it was a tight grouping at the windward mark. The tide also helped push boats over the layline, so there was some aggressive lee bowing close to the mark. As the wind started to fade on the downwind leg, it was just enough to get everyone over the finish line, with Proctor, followed by Dave Dellenbaugh, then Nickerson in the top three.

Overall, the final standings shook out to be Cedar Point’s own Ched Proctor, then Ed Adams, followed by Stu Nickerson. Fleet 126’rs that skippered included David Fried (9th), Rod Ratcliffe (11th), and Eric Heller (12th), as well as many club members aboard different boats. A great dinner of Italian food, salads, and desserts, was enjoyed by all, and awards were given to the top five finishers. We look forward to seeing everyone in August at the North Americans!

Dave Marseli
Fleet 126