

Bay City Lightning Regatta

Bay City Yacht Club

June 23-24 2012

Pos	Sail#	Owner/Skipper	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOTAL
1	15313	Morin	2	2	2	1	2	[5]	9
2	4249	Sipel	3	1	1	[4]	3	4	12
3	15430	McCree	[5]	3	5	3	1	1	13
4	15146	Sowden/Hilger	[9]	6	3	6	4	2	21
5	15391	Welch	1	7	8	2	8	[9]	26
6	14703	Bayer	4	[8]	4	5	6	7	26
7	14937	M. Princing	6	5	[13]	10	7	6	34
8	14933	Lyons	[10]	4	6	9	9	8	36
9	15300	C. Princing	7	11	[12]	8	12	3*	41
10	14260	Rose	8	9	11	[13]	5	10	43
11	14603	Hart	11	[12]	9	7	10	12	49
12	15233	Schofield	[13]	10	7	11	13	11	52
13	14087	Waechter	[15]	13	10	12	11	13	59
14	14468	Severin	14	[15]	14	14	14	14	70
15	14022	Johnson	12	14	15	15	15	[16s]	71

This weekend, our team sailed the best we have ever sailed together. Our team included my dad, Michael, and my brother, Matt. We have sailed together for more than twenty0 years but haven't sailed on the Lightning together before last year. It led to a challenging year in 2011, with Matt and I being very familiar with the inner workings of the Lightning and our dad just picking it up. By the end of the season last year, we were finally in sync. The boat handling mistakes of last year were completely gone this weekend. We had fast tacks, fast jibes, fast sets, and fast drops. It really felt good.

Matt skippered the regatta with my dad in the middle and me in the front.

I have sailed the Bay City regatta almost every year for the past ten years and have never had anything but great sailing conditions. Either we always come during a great time of year, or the Bay City group is completely spoiled. This weekend was no exception. We had a combination of light to medium air with puffs to find and lulls to avoid.

We sailed very consistently with four second places and one first place. Our start in the race we won was incredible and put us in a position to lead the whole way around. Our starts in each of the second place races were good enough to get us in the top third by the top mark in each race, which let us fight to second. I attribute the win to our boat speed. Matt did an incredible job keeping the boat moving. On Saturday, there was a lot of motor boat chop that made keeping boat speed difficult. We adjusted our jib wire constantly, eased and trimmed the jib on every wave, and pinched up to get puffs that were up above us.

Thanks to Brian Hayes who recently reminded me how important it is to play the jib on every wave. Thanks to John McCree for teaching Matt and I about the trick to pinch to puffs instead of tacking to them.

We went back and forth with Geo all weekend. We are pretty sure this is the first time we have ever beat him. No amount of lead on him was safe. The highlight for use was the 5th race when we were neck and neck with Geo and managed to barely squeeze ahead of him in the last couple seconds of the race. That finish was the difference between first place in the regatta and second place. We also beat John McCree for the first time. Matt and I raced with John in Wawasee last year and Pymatuning this year and learned a lot from him in those two weekends.

A special thanks to Trey Rose for helping to find many of the other teams crew. We probably would have had three less boats if it wasn't for him

Lastly, a call out to all the teams that are pushing to get women involved in the District. One of the goals for the District for the year is to get more women sailing/skippering Lightnings. The Bay City fleet always seems to push the hardest of any of the clubs to get women interested. This weekend was a fine example of that. If my count was correct, there were thirteen women racing this weekend, which means 30% of the sailors were female!

Matt and I have won Lightning regattas together, but this is the first for our family team, which made it really cool. We had a champagne toast last night and Matt summarized it best saying "Dad, you have officially transitioned from being a big boater to being a small boater!"

Fleet 216 and the Bay City Yacht Club wish to thank all participants and helpers. We would also like to thank our fleet sponsors: Affordable Storage, Award & Sports, Annapolis Performance Sailing (APS), Bayside Drafting and Design, Nickels Boat Works and Shotwell Construction. Your participation and support allows us to offer the best in racing and entertainment to make this a complete experience.

See you at Districts,
Kevin Morin

We went into the weekend with a discouraging "light and variable" forecast, and a boat to loan that couldn't be given away to a PYC sailor even if it came with crew. But there was talent on the "who's coming" list, from a last-minute Commodore Sipel with a pick-up team, to Mike Welch and J-35 co-owner Ed Bayer, Teams 313 and Spinnaker Ninjas, and our own Gary Sowden and Princing Brothers, Matt and Chris. And we got in a decent round of golf at Spring Valley on Friday afternoon.

As it turns out, Saturday beat the forecast by a ton, with little cumulus along the shore lines and a clear lane down the bay, giving us a decent thermal ENE 5-10 that was very comfortable upwind and just enough to power through the pleasure boat traffic downwind. PRO Bruce Neiderer served up three 4 ½ leg W/L courses with slightly challenging pin-favored starting line and a couple of recalls and an OCS or two. Conditions were tough for local talent, even though we know the breeze starts stronger offshore and left we just can't bring ourselves to tag a layline that so often collapses in our Wed evening sailing. Brothers Morin, sailing with Dad, were the reference blue boat all weekend, but the day ultimately went to a very fast George Sipel. Important to note that Secretary Welch popped out to the corner to win Race 1 and hold onto a tie to round out top five with a very consist Ed Bayer, driving the "loaner" '703.

Saturday's entertainment was well-choreographed, dinner buffet from Bay Café, our local band with some solid 70's riffs and the apparently mandatory dance-off with Ninja leader Trey Rose, followed by a round of challenge Putt-Putt and the highlight of the weekend, wet-track go-carts that left more than a few aggressive Lightning drivers up against the rails in turn two.

Sunday morning brought slowly-building and shifting SW-W morning breeze that had locals looking left for the wind down the river, but oscillations that more often favored the right at the top, and a progressive shift that kept the mark boats busy all morning. Sunday was boat-favored line, with another general and an OCS or two. This was our day to shine on HWNN, especially in the big breeze of race 6 which was shortened to a "hot lap" once-around per local custom, supposedly because RC saw a solid 25+ as we came down the run, but more likely because our safety boats were lightly briefed due to forecast, and we didn't want to ruin anyone's pre-Districts weekend with a bent spreader or twisted mast cap—which allowed for the first capsized-free B CYC regatta in many years.

Scores were close in top three, but it was team 313's turn to take their first regatta win on the Michigan District circuit, followed by Commodore Sipel with Jody Kjoeller and Anneliese, team HWNN, Grant and Drew Hilger making a comeback to break into the trophies in uncle Gary's boat, and Mike Welch squeaking into top 5 on tie-breaker over guest Lightning skipper Ed Bayer. Door prizes aplenty were awarded, and teams were on the road or off to Turkey Roost for late lunch by early afternoon.