

Mid Continent Regatta  
 Carlyle Sailing Association - Fleet 266  
 Carlyle, Illinois  
 April 28-29, 2012

Pos	Sail #	Skipper	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	15390	Todd Wake	Kristine Wake, Doug Wake	1	1	1	4	1	8
2	15364	Dan Moriarty	Tobi Moriarty, Karl Schutte	2	3	2	1	2	10
3	14834	Jeff Coppens	Patrick Burrridge, Matt Burrridge	3	2	3	2	3	13
4	14938	David Stix	Ian Moriarty, Nick Beckmann	6	4	5	3	4	22
5	14766	Terry Burke	Steve Smith, Joe Quick	7	5	4	5	6	27
6	14901	Ian Schillebeeckx	Mike Reed, Caleb Leonard	4	6	6	6	5	27
7	14798	Rick Bernstein	Kyle Bernstein, Jacob Bernstein	5	7	7	DNC	DNC	39
8	14614	John Folwell	Howard Harris, Kevin Budd	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	50
8	14636	Bart Snyder	Jessica Snyder, Oliver Snyder	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	50

#### The Mid Continent Regatta - By Todd Wake

Team Wake traveled to Carlyle Sailing Association and Fleet 266 to attend the Mid Continent Regatta the weekend of April 27-28, 2012. It was our eighth trip down to visit all of our CSA friends for a little super competitive spring lightning sailing. The weather forecast was all over the map, from highs in the low 60's to storms and 80 degrees. Saturday morning found eight strong teams, with a great mix of ages, from sixth graders Doug Wake and Jacob Bernstein to more veteran sailors including 2009 Masters champion Terry Burke, two time NA's Champ Matt Burrridge, and Dan and Tobi Moriarty, who seem to have won just about everything including the NA's and worlds.

Race 1 was set up as a windward leeward twice around with winds out of the south at 5-10 knots. We paid little attention to the race committee's posting of the compass heading to the first mark, having accidentally left both our compass and radio at home. Fortunately, it was easy to see the windward mark and landmarks on shore. We concentrated on staying in pressure and pointing at the mark and rounded the first mark in first with Californian Jeff Coppens, sailing with Matt and Patrick Burrridge in second. Ian Schillebeeckx and Dan Moriarty rounded just behind the two of us and wisely gybed almost at the mark in the right hand shift and passed both of us. We had great speed on the final beat, passed both boats, and then held on for the win. Races 2 and 3 saw progressively lighter wind, always a bonus when your combined crew weight is 385 pounds. We focused on trying to stay in pressure, and our lack of compass really forced us to keep our eyes out of the boat and looking up the course for wind. We all drifted across the finish of race three and were somewhat relieved to hear we'd be heading in for the day due to lack of stable wind. The fleet hauled out, and tied down (yes, they tie the boats to built in tie-downs in the parking lot at CSA; we are in the severe storm belt after all). After some drinks and conversation, the group moved inside as a storm moved through, thankfully the baseball sized hail portion of the storm passed about 30 miles south of us. After the rain stopped we all had a great regatta dinner at Eli's in Carlyle. Even as a Midwesterner, I was amazed at how you can get great food for very little cash in a small town.

Sunday brought fog and much cooler temps. The forecast was for 8 out of the East. We arrived to find substantially more than that blowing out of the North. The first race of the day saw winds of about 12-15 knots. We had a great start at the boat end of the line, but could not hang in the chop and bigger breeze with team Moriarty (Dan and Tobi, sailing with Carl Schutte) or team Coppens. We hung on in third until the last run, when Chicago sailor David Stix, sailing with locals Nick Beckmann and Ian Moriarty, showed some great wheels and passed us for third place. Moriartys won the race with Jeff Coppens taking second.

We were fortunate that the wind calmed down a bit for the last race. We started at the boat with team Moriarty and team Coppens were just to leeward of us. All three teams arrived overlapped at the windward mark. Jeff and Dan were able to gybe right away and found more pressure on the right side and Dan managed to get to the leeward mark first with Jeff close behind. We all rounded the same side of the gate and we tacked immediately to clear our air. Pressure and a small left shift allowed us to catch Dan and Jeff. We chose to duck them as we were on a lift and thought we were sailing into better wind on the right. We were able to lee bow Dan heading into the last windward mark just off the port tack layline, and held the lead down the last leg.

This was the second travelling regatta for our son Douglas age 11. He is very excited about sailing with us and is quickly learning the middle position on a Lightning. There are some challenges as you would expect sailing with a "tween". We have found the best technique is to hand him the spinnaker sheets and let him learn on the job. Trying to cover for him or help fly the spinnaker through a gybe doesn't teach him how to do it properly or make the boat handling any better. Every now and then there may be a mistake or a tense moment but learning to shrug those off and focus on what's ahead is the most important lesson.

For sailors anywhere remotely close to St. Louis, I'd recommend you consider adding the Mid Continent to your schedule next year. Carlyle Sailing Association and Fleet 266 always put together a fun, friendly event and the competition can't be beat. It's a great start to the summer season, especially for northerners like us who can't sail locally this early in the season. We'll be back next year!