

Mark Madness Regatta  
 Boyne City Yacht Club - Fleet 512  
 Boyne City, Michigan  
 June 11-12, 2011

Pos	Sail#	Name	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOTAL
1	14933	Red Lion	Dave Lyons, Alex Clarke, Jennifer Princing	1	1	2	(2)	1	1	6
2	14323	Horse w/no Name	John McCree, Dave Corcoran, Gus Dey	4	2	1	1	3	(6)	11
3	15313	(313)	Matt Morin, Kevin Morin, Mike Welch	2	(3)	3	3	2	2	12
4	14503	Hot Dog Man	George Pete,	(5)	4	4	4	5	3	20
5	15300	Hooch Sam	Chris Princing, Ryan Flack, Jon Banner	(6)	5	5	5	4	4	23
6	15318	Spinnaker Ninja	Trey Rose,	3	6	6	6	6	5	26

Friday, after the wet drive up to Boyne, we began gathering on the east side of Lake Charlevoix. I was the first to arrive, not really know where to go—a call to Jennifer Princing—then pulled into the park and right behind was John and Gus, then George Pete—ah, it must be the right place.

By Saturday, a light rain/mist with a calm met us for breakfast and the skippers meeting, but we had 6 boats and the anticipation of a nice breeze settling in. The rain/mist quickly departed as we began getting the boats ready. It was still a bit cold as we headed out to the course with winds building to WNW 8 to the mid-teens and a few gusts in the high teens and 20s throughout the 4 races. While the velocity and direction was always changing, the water was flat allowing for good in-the-groove sailing. The straight-line speed, acceleration and calling the shifts and puffs was the key for the day; the length of the weather legs allowed for good speed testing. With Jennifer Princing performing yeoman's work, feeding me puffs, knocks and lifts and relative boat positions all regatta, we were able to make good gains and overcome a couple of so-so starts and one devastating start—a McCree/Pete spit-out-the-back, take-all-sterns type.

Being that this was my first regatta, only my second time out with the Dieball sails, and having only sailed with Fishers, I didn't really know what to expect—I'm impressed. Our tune was standard, 250 on uppers and 120 on the lowers, and then we played with the blocks until I had the main shape where I wanted.

Race 1, we called the start as a port tack and took sterns as we expected a right shift, which allowed us to cross the fleet. We called the next two shifts, and, bang, a loose cover was the call. The next 3 on Saturday were all very tight until the end with many lead changes with a Horse with no Name taking 2 of 3 and 3 with 313 and Redlion fighting to the finish in each.

Sunday's conditions were even more difficult with winds out of the NW in the mid-teens gusting in the low 20s – cold but the sun did show up. With the winds shifting more NNW, the amount of both direction and velocity intensified as we approached the weather mark near the Young State Park peninsula, and it was quite a handful to manage. A few 15+ degree shifts with winds in the high teens resulted in a number of almost "auto tacks" with me being submerged once with tiller hard over as we approached the weather mark. Wind velocities were in the upper teens but constantly changing from 6 knot "lulls" to some gusts to the low 20s. The backstay, traveler, mainsheet, cunningham, outhaul jib cloth and wire were always changing making it difficult to get in a groove. Through all but the biggest puffs, the key was to keep very good leech control and drive the boat upwind with good helm balance. Many lead changes throughout the day both upwind and down with "Horse with no Name," "313," "Hooch Sam," "Hot Dog Man" and "Red Lion."

All in all Boyne was great set of races to get us going for the districts.

Many thanks and "great job" to my excellent crew, Jennifer Princing and Alex Clarke.

Dave Lyons – 14933 Red Lion