

Ohio District Championship  
Pymatuning Yacht Club - Fleet 36,  
Jamestown, Ohio  
June 19-20, 2010

Pos	Sail#	Home Club	Skipper	Crew	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
1	15075	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Dave Werley	Emma Werley	Greg Maras	t OCS/25	3	1	1	1	2	8
2	15420	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Ryan Ruhlman	Patrick Wilson	Ryan Milani	4	4	3	t 8	5	1	17
3	15412	Chautauqua	Tim Scanlon	Nick Troche	Christine Moloney	3	5	6	t 9	2	4	20
4	15172	Cowan	James Taylor	Carl Taylor	George Auer	1	t 8	7	3	8	3	22
5	15257	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Rob Ruhlman	Abby Ruhlman	Michael Sheehan	5	1	t 11	6	9	5	26
6	15317	CLSA	Steve Weeber	Donna Weeber	Stanley Cummins	t 9	9	4	5	7	6	31
7	15439	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Justin Proctor	Susan Fink	Laura Stumpff	8	6	2	16	4	t 18	36
8	15015	Pymatuning Yacht Club	John Werley	Bertie Werley	Samantha Maras	6	7	8	11	t 16	7	39
9	15202	Edgewater Yacht Club	Bill Buckles	Greg Florian	Nick Florian	2	10	5	13	t 21	11	41
10	14285	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Robert Thompson	Steve White	John Thayer	11	2	12	4	13	t 15	42
11	14546	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Victor Maras	Adam Maras	Cameron Maras	10	t 16	10	15	3	10	48
12	14573	Pymatuning Yacht Club	John Woodall	Sarah Woodall	Bobbi Sundman	16	12	16	7	6	t 16	57
13	15000	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Tim Werley	Kate Werley	Beth Werley	DNC/24	t DNC/24	9	2	11	12	58
14	15191	Leatherlips	Eric Brandt	John Lehman	Nick Brandt	12	13	13	12	t 15	8	58
15	15022	Pymatuning Yacht Club	John Dunne	Garry Condon	Tristan Jackson	7	17	t 22	10	18	14	66
16	14067	Mansfield Sailing Club	Bob Shutt	Zack Austin	Don B.	15	14	14	t 17	14	9	66
17	14952	Mansfield Sailing Club	Tom Varley	Jon Varley	Matt Buchanan	14	11	17	14	t 20	13	69
18	14579	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Scot Werley	Alex Werley	Bruce Sundman	13	15	21	t 21	10	17	76
19	12593	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Bob Baumgardner	Nate Signor	Becky Skidmore	17	20	15	19	19	t 22	90
20	14678	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Ed Rumble	Marc Cline	John Dunne	19	t DNF/24	20	20	12	20	91
21	15112	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Matt Werley	Cody Signor	Maura Condon	t 21	18	19	18	17	19	91
22	14956	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Herb Jestel	David Weihe	Mary Maras	20	21	18	22	t 23	21	102
23	14885	Pymatuning Yacht Club	Doug Blackburn	Lis Blackburn	Diana Pollock	18	19	23	23	22	t 23	105

I learned the prior weekend that we would be sailing in a different boat. This was due to the fact that Dave Werley would be lending his boat, 15112, to his son Matt for the regatta. We would be borrowing Maegan Ruhlman’s boat 15075. Also, my niece Emma Werley, Dave’s daughter, would be crewing for this regatta, replacing our regular middle crew, Jonette werley. Emma and I crewed for Dave in last years’ District Championship and finished 2nd to Matt Fisher after leading into Sunday, more on that later.

One of the many refining qualities of PYC and Fleet 36 is the willingness to share our ”stuff”, including boats. Thanks to Maegan for the use of her boat.

Twenty-three boats registered for this years’ Districts, from five different yacht clubs.

It was a beautiful day at PYC with winds about 8 -12 knots out of the west, southwest. On the way to the starting line, we noticed a boat with the mast down. It turned to be Tim Werley. As he said, ”It was there and then it was down.” Thank God no one was hurt. Tim would be back and we would tangle in race 4.

As we set up for the first race, Matt Werley was on our hip. Dad was not about to let his son roll us, so we pressed him to weather. At the start, the individual recall flag went up and signal sounded. It was Matt. Dave begins to coach Matt on how to get back while dealing with several boats to weather and leeward. With Matt’s sails luffing we left him and proceeded up wind. We worked the center of the course tacking on the headers and seemingly hitting every lift. Rob Ruhlman gets to the weather mark just ahead of us. We round and pop the chute. We split with Rob at the gates and start back up wind. Again we are hitting every shift like they had our name on them. We are now in the lead and are having a perfect race.

As we approached the finish line, something didn’t seem right to me. I could see my sister and mother on the race committee boat and they weren’t smiling. I gave my sister a grin and got no response. We sailed an almost perfect race and – OCS. We never heard our number or even thought that we were over early. James Taylor wins the race with Bill Buckles second and Tim Scanlon third.

We were now proud owners of a 25th place. Not where you want to be after race one. Our regatta seemed to be over as soon as it started.

The start of race two was a bit more conservative. We worked our way up the first weather leg and rounded in the top five with the fleet quite close together. We have a good downward leg and maintain our place. Emma was doing great with the chute until the second downwind leg. She was suffering from low blood sugar and started to fall apart on us. I took the chute for a spell so she could down some Gatorade and get her bearings back. Through all of this we manage to have a great final leg. We were battling for second place with Robert Thompson. Robert took to the right and we stayed center. Rob Ruhlman won the race and Robert Thompson smoked us going right.

After lunch we head back out. The winds are still great. A beautiful afternoon for sailing, and for us, it just keeps getting better. Race three finds us nailing the start. Again we worked the compass and hit the windward mark in first. We are flying down wind and begin to stretch our lead. The next leg finds us leaving off where we started in the morning. We were balanced, moving quick from tack to tack, counting down puffs and hiking. Dave just put the hammer down and we were gone. We cross the finish line well ahead of the fleet. Justin Proctor finished second and Ryan Ruhlman third.

Emma remembered to bring a snack, sunflower seeds and granola bars. We needed our energy, because race four would be a greater test for us. We knew it wasn’t going to last, or was it...

Race four started with the west winds continuing. We started toward the boat and soon found ourselves working the shifts just like the first three races. We rounded the weather mark in third, behind James Taylor and Tim Werley. We had great downwind leg and decided to split and go to the right gate. As we approached the committee had shortened the course and we would be heading toward the finish. We stayed to the right and decided to tack and consolidate the fleet. Tim lee bowed us and we tacked back out to the right. We caught a favorable starboard lift back to finish and won the race.

What a day. We haven’t sailed that well in a day in a long time and man did it feel good. We go into the cocktail party in seventh place hoping for two races on Sunday, unlikely as that seemed.

Sunday morning rises to little or no wind. Nothing new for a PYC Sunday morning. Oh, well, we had a great day on Saturday and you can’t take that away. However, wouldn’t be nice to race and be the hunter instead of the hunted, just for once.

The winds start to increase and the warning signal goes. We have food and drink cause there is no going in and it looks like we might get two races in. The fifth race begins with us on top of the line above Ryan Ruhlman. I keep telling Dave,” Top five, Dave top five.” We didn’t need to do anything brave and we certainly could not afford to be over early. It was close but, we nailed the start again. We tacked to the right for clear air and we were on the move. We rounded first with Tim Scanlon close behind. Again I reminded Dave that we needed to be in the top five and not to tangle with these guys. I looked back to see much of the fleet going way high. John Werley and James Taylor were fighting out.

We rounded the left mark and headed back up wind. We battled with Scanlon for the rest of the race while Vic Maras made his up to the top 3. And that was the way we finished 1,(Werley), 2 (Scanlon), and 3 (Maras).

Now the pressure was on. We had to be in the top ten to win this regatta. So, before the race my mantra was similar now being ”top ten Dave, top ten”. The boat was favored for the sixth and final race. We worked our way back and forth. Dave set up at the boat, high and I was starting to get nervous that we would be shut out. However, God was smiling down on us because the fleet left the boat wide open and we took advantage. We tacked early for the clear air with Ryan Ruhlman just off our hip. We worked our way up to the mark and Ryan Ruhlman was in the lead, with Scanlon, us and Taylor. Ryan rounded first and Taylor was second. At the leeward gate, we were forced to tack right away and head back through the fleet. This put us ahead of Scanlon. Taylor had to go well beyond Ruhlman which allowed us to re-gain second. We were able to pass Ruhlman on the second leg when Ryan said to us, ”What did you have to pay the devil?” Ruhlman hit a couple of shifts and re-gained first place. We stayed in this order all the time I was reminding Dave to stay clear of these guys. We had the regatta in hand if we can keep in the top 10, and we did.

We finished second to Ruhlman and had won our second Ohio District Championship. It was truly an exciting time on our boat. The competitors were full of compliments and well wishes. Ryan Ruhlman stated at the trophy presentation that you usually have to pay a lot of money for that kind of ”clinic”. It made me feel, and I am sure it did for Dave and Emma, a sense of pride and accomplishment. This regatta is never an easy one to win and I have finished second and third more times than first, but on those two days in June, it was all ours.

Sincerely,  
Greg Maras  
Fleet 36