

Pontiac Yacht Club																
52nd Annual Whitecap Regatta																
September 11-12, 2010																
Rank	Bow #	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	Race 1	DNS DSQ	Race 2	DNS DSQ	Race 3	DNS DSQ	Race 4	DNS DSQ	Race 5	DNS DSQ	Total Points
1	33	15200	Tom Klaban	E. Klaban, M. Klaban	PYC	6		2		4		1		5		18
272	84	15048	John Garrison	J. Mathers, R. Lyons	PYC	4		1		2		4		14		25
363	27	15171	Rob Linden	M. Walter, B. Cripe	NCYC	3		3		13		8		1		28
254	6	15300	Ryan Flack	J Rhodes, J Flack	PYC	1		17		1		6		8		33
245	8	14323	John McCree	D Corchoran, S McCree	BayCity	2		4		5		18		11		40
236	5	15317	Steve Weeber	D Weeber, S Cummins	Miamisburg	11		9		3		2		19		44
227	17	15251	Debbie Probst	T. Probst, A. Hopkins	BCC	8		23		11		5		2		49
218	13	14439	Michael Rouaet	M. Roualet, A. Roualet	PYC	12		18		10		7		3		50
209	7	15346	Mike Hecker	G Rhienhamer, R Dishaw	PYC	5		13		19		11		7		55
1910	15	13991	Joel Humphrey	R. Peters	PYC	16		16		18		3		6		59
1811	19		Mike Welch	B. Beaudet, F. Blackmer	PYC	7		8		16		15		17		63
1712	21	15313	Matt Morin	K. Morin, T. Rose	CSYC	14		10		9		17		15		65
1613	18	14690	Greg Harris	M. Harris (Sat), J. Abbott (Sun)	PYC	17		11		14		10		16		68
1514	28	14774	Tom Vickers	L. Vickers, J. Tompson	Crescent	9		5		27		26		4		71
1415	12	14767	Richard Beaubien	E. Okorn, R. Beaubien	PYC	10		12		22		14		20		78
1316	20	15125	Bill Zeigler	J. Axelson, M. Griswold	PYC	20		18		8		22		10		78
1217	4	13985	Norm Burns	J Bowers, J. Ostrander	PYC	15		7		7		24		26		79
1118	22	14280	Tom Crosby	J. Smyk, C. Matora	PYC	27		19		6		9		21		82
1019	23	14603	Terry Hart			13		20		12		16		22		83
920	16	14543	Jody Kjoller	J. Kjoller, J. Wells	Toledo Ice	18		6		25		27		9		85
821	26	14628	Andy Monique	P. Hillberg, M. Denio	PYC	22		14		21		13		18		88
722	1	14919	Ed Dziuba	Eddy P, Wilking G	PYC	30 X		16		13		12		30		101
623	2	15230	Bob Mathers	J Vondrehle, G Awerbuch	PYC	24		22		15		19		23		103
524	11	14477	Stephen Handelman	L. Watts, J. Hevron	PYC	26		23		24		20		12		105
425	9	14294	Larry Koster	D Claiborne, C. Guarina	Lansing	21		23		20		29		13		106
326	10	15160	Paul Lieberman	D. Rau, Kurtis Rau	PYC	19		23		17		28		28		115
227	3	14511	Matt Warner	B Warner, P Cuthbertson	PYC	23		21		26		23		27		120
128	14	14449	Pete McGinity	D. Krcek, C. Dodd	Indianappo	25		23		28		21		24		121
	29	14854	Stromberg			28		30 X		29		24		25		136

The 52nd Whitecap regatta provided a wide range of weather patterns and some of the most challenging racing the 29 Lightning sailors could remember. It was also the 9th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy and as we embarked on our sailing adventures, we were all reminded of the price of freedom that is enabling us to host such an event.

Racing started around 1 pm on Saturday with a heavy cloud cover and a threat of thunderstorms all around the lake. The 18 PYC and 11 out of town boats were anxious to get started to perhaps get a couple of races in before the weather deteriorated. Unfortunately, three general recalls delayed the start and the fourth attempt produced a 40 degree wind shift with the starboard side of the line getting hammered. To our misfortune we were one of those boats that brought up the rear rounding the weather mark somewhere near 20th. The leaders Ryan Flack and John McCree were nearly rounding the leeward mark when our boat finally got around the weather mark. The wind kept shifting and we made some gains on the next two legs. The front of the pack was jousting for position when the breeze decided to start dying toward the south west and change to a more south east direction. By not putting up our spinnaker on the second downwind, we managed to take advantage of the dying south west breeze and then jibed to the new south east breeze to pass a lot of boats. Thunder and rain came while we were finishing and the subsequent downpour along with cold temperatures made us question our sanity of being out on the water. Ryan Flack and John McCree exchanged positions a couple of times with Ryan prevailing at the end. Rob Linden, John Garrison and Mike Hecker rounded out the top five with us miraculously fighting back to sixth. The race committee initially told us to go in but changed their mind when the rain let up and a new south easterly filled in. The second race we started on the right side of the line and lead the fleet to the windward mark with John McCree and John Garrison closely behind. With McCree on our wind we decided to jibe and pickup the building breeze from the south, but John Garrison came from the third position and smoked both John and I by staying on the rum line. We kept trying to chip away at Garrison's lead but he kept us at bay to the finish. Rob Linden, John McCree and Tom Vickers rounded out the top five. In a dying breeze, the race committee abandoned the third race in favor of beer, food and the most tasteful raffle on the Michigan Regatta circuit. The raffle benefited the PYC junior program and Mike Welch, along with lots of help from the PYC members, put together a fabulous array of prizes. From what I could determine the boats from Bay City cleaned up on the prizes, but everyone had a great time.

Sundays racing got started early as the race committee wanted to get three races in. A beautiful sunny day greeted the competitors with a building northwesterly breeze. What a difference a day makes. The first race got under way and while most locals thought the right side of the course would be favored, the left side came in hard right at the weather mark to prove once again that local knowledge is not always helpful. Ryan Flack, after a disappointing second race, held of John Garrison's charge to win the third race. Steve Weeber and our boat battled most of the race with Steve getting an inside position at the last leeward mark and holding us off to finish third. The fourth race was another flip of the coin as to what side of the starting line to pick with the starboard looking favored, but again a building breeze on the port end side of the line. We again picked the starboard side but Mike Roualet starting toward the pin end got to the new breeze first and took off. Steve Weeber and our boat followed him around the windward mark and chased him down the lake. The next upwind Mike and Steve split tacks and we stayed in the middle playing the shifts. We got close to both boats but they were still ahead as we were nearing the windward mark. We got past Steve on one of the many shifts that kept coming down the lake and were able to tack right under Mike to force him to tack. When we came together again, the port side prevailed and we rounded ahead of Mike. Because of the proximity of the shoreline at the windward mark, getting away from the shore was a challenge the whole day. On this particular rounding we got a nice gust and built a half a leg lead to the finish. Steve Weeber held off a charging fleet to get second, Joel Humphrey came from behind to take third and John Garrison fourth. Mike Roualet had his share of problems on the last upwind half-leg and finished seventh. At this point John Garrison was holding onto a two point lead with very consistent finishes in what can only be said were very difficult sailing conditions. The wind was osculating 40 or more degrees and for some reason we thought that this time the starboard side would finally kick in. Trying for the perfect starboard end start we nearly hit the committee boat and had no speed as we saw the fleet take off in front of us. Somehow we managed to stay in the middle of the race course and in contention, but the leaders took advantage of a nice port shift to round well ahead of the rest of the fleet. Rob Linden established a huge lead that he took to the finish followed by Debbie Probst with her young son and nephew, who did an excellent job throughout the regatta and capping it off with a well deserved second place finish. In this race, Mike Roualet and his two daughters kept it together with a strong third place finish. Tom Vickers rounded out the top four with our boat fighting from mid fleet to take fifth. In retrospect I can't remember sailing in more challenging and unpredictable conditions, even for Cass Lake, than in this regatta. Our success was due to my rock star crew Eric Klaban, who just got back from his honeymoon, and my wonderful wife Marie. In the end I feel very blessed to be able to do the sport I love with the people I love. To share this experience with so many great sailors and once in a while winning a regatta, well that's just icing on the cake.

I also want to thank all of the PYC members that make this one of the premier regattas in the Midwest and invite many more sailors to join us next year.

Tom Klaban