

'95 Midwinter Championship

March 8-10, 1995, Fleet 4 Lake Eustis Sailing Club, Florida

From Bob DeWitt

Wednesday morning all of Central Florida was under a tornado alert. The regatta committee assured everyone that it would be possible to get two of the three scheduled races in after lunch. Happy Fox, with his portable weather radio to his ear, said it all when he declared "if the national weather station removes the tornado alert, I'll go out but not until then." When the alert was lifted it took the wind with it and what was remaining took a 100 degree shift just as the first race was to begin. By the time the course was adjusted, only enough daylight remained to complete one race which Doug McNeil won after a long battle with John Adams.

Thursday dawned to a forecasted 15-20 MPH wind out of the NE with temperatures in the low 60's. Four races were completed over a shortened Olympic course. In the 3rd race of the day, Andy Burdick put on a sparkling display of his championship sailing ability. After jumping the gun and weaving his way through the fleet back to the starting line, he restarted in last place several minutes behind the entire fleet. It was a spectators delight to watch him skillfully work his way back into contention to a strong 4th place. Andy did not lose, he just ran out of time. While Andy was doing his thing, others were capsizing all over the course and Tim Fredman had the misfortune to have his mast fall when the forestay pin slipped out (what price a bit of tape?). Jim Hauser of the new Lake Norman, NC fleet took the days honor by capsizing three times. The next day, Jim Apollonio of Diamond Lake, Michigan tied Houser's record but went him one better by swamping twice.

Friday brought more of the 15-20 MPH NE stuff with temperatures in the mid to high 60's. Two more of the shortened Olympic course races were completed with Andy accumulating two more bullets.

Doug McNeil and son pressed Andy every race, winning two and was the top amateur with an overall second place. An outstanding regatta was sailed by Duane and Irene Pierson sailing old #500, the Pickle. They were 6th overall, 3rd amateur and first grand master. Ron Stryker, sailing single handed throughout, finished 7th overall, 4th amateur and 1st master, just four points behind Duane. Suzi Reese with daughter Kelly sailed a consistent regatta (though not good enough to satisfy her own high standards) to finish 10th overall, 7th amateur and 1st woman.

Although temperatures were not the hoped for 70's, the winds left nothing to be desired, particularly if you brought along a crew or were lucky enough to find one. Doug McNeil could have auctioned his three sons to the highest bidders!

Set aside March 6-8, 1996 and plan to attend the 24th annual Midwinter Championship Regatta on Lake Eustis where you are always assured of weather, many times it is even very pleasant.

Editor's Note: Again this year, great winds at Lake Eustis. Dinner at Vic's Embers and Frank Vandall's after-dinner remarks were excellent. Special thanks to the hosts, and especially to Frank Keenan and Bob DeWitt who interrupted their straight participation in the Midwinters after 23 years and 20 years respectively to help on the water. Finally, a special "Good Sport, Good Crew" trophy should have been awarded to Barb Bedau, and to her skipper, husband Dave, a "Simon Lagree" trophy. Barb stopped a mean jibe with her forehead, recovered to sail the next race only to swamp, and with one eye, lived to sail the next day!



Midwinter Trophy Winners: L to R: Kelly Reese, Suzi Reese, young Schmidt, Tom Schmidt, Kathy Fox, Happy Fox, Young McNeil, Andy Burdick, Curt Bradley, Duane Pierson, Bill Freytag, Tom Keenan, young McNeil, Doug McNeil, Tim Fredman, Ron Stryker. Kneeling in front - Nancy Bradley, Irene Pierson

Pl	Skipper	Club	Boat No.	Races							Pts
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	Andy Burdick-P	MBW	1645	3	1	1	4	1	1	1	6.7
2	Doug McNeil	WLYC/MI	1466	1	3	3	1	2	3	2	11.5
3	Bill Draheim-P	NSIs	1569	5	2	2	7	4	2	3	18
4	Dan Guidinger-P	JBW	1635	7	10	4	DNS	3	5	4	33
5	Happy Fox	SLYC/MI	1654	45	4	8	9	5	6	5	37
6	Duane Pierson-GM	WLYC/MI	500	8	7	5	8	9	8	DNS	45
7	Ron Stryker-M	PLYC/MI	1400	6	6	11	6	13	7	48	49
8	Tom Keenan	LFYC/MI	1372	46	8	9	5	14	12	11	59
9	Tom Schmidt-M	LGYC/WI	1278	20	5	18	2	8	17	14	64
10	Suzi Reese-W	LGYC/WI	1527	10	9	15	45	10	10	10	64
11	Tim Fredman-M	PnLYC/WI	1456	11	16	DNF	DNS	6	4	7	65
12	Jim Hatch-M	PnLYC/WI	1532	48	12	10	14	7	9	13	65
13	Curt Bradley-GM	GRYC/MI	1405	12	14	7	46	11	14	15	73
14	Tom Wurster-M	DLYC/MI	1625	9	11	17	12	15	16	47	80
15	John Adams	LLSC/GA	1648	2	13	11	DNF	DNS	DNS	DNS	87
16	Devin Farley-M	LGYC/WI	1356	19	16	14	DNF	12	18	8	87
17	Bill Freytag-GM	LGYC/WI	1222	DNF	DNS	6	3	DNS	15	9	88
18	Dave Bedau	WLYC/MI	1455	13	DNS	DNS	10	DNF	11	6	88
19	Knox Rodgers	LLSC/GA	1416	4	18	12	18	DNF	DNS	DNS	100
20	Tony Bruskas-GM	LDSC/IA	1484	21	DNS	DNS	13	16	19	12	110
21	Norm Reese-GM	LGYC/WI	1219	25	DNS	16	20	DNS	13	16	119
22	Jim Apollonio	DLYC/MI	1123	DNF	15	19	19	DNF	DNF	DNS	119
23	Chuck Nichols-GM	LGYC/WI	1218	17	DNS	DNS	17	17	20	19	119
24	Jim Houser-M	LNVC/NC	485	14	19	DNF	s1	DNF	DNS	DNS	123
25	Frank Vandall-M	LLSC/GA	1568	24	DNS	20	ss	18	DNF	DNS	134
26	Bill Crum-GM	LESC/FL	1068	22	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	167
27	John Schneider-GM	LESC/FL	1254	23	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	168
28	Jim Mueller	CLYC/WI	1390	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	183

Threw-out race