

# PENTWATER LIGHTNING FLEET (340)

## Michigan District

### Sailing on Lake Pentwater at Pentwater, Michigan

Fleet Captain.....	John T. Cartland
Fleet Secretary.....	Jeff H. Gobble
Fleet Champion.....	Jeff H. Gobble
1st Runner-Up.....	Wesley W. McMullen
2nd Runner-Up.....	Walter L. Hallenbeck
Third Position.....	John T. Cartland

Boat No.	Boat Name	Skipper
708	Warden	Alexander Christie, Jr.
1287	Miss Pent	Mrs. C. R. Taylor
2735	Miss T	George E. Tubich
3066	Gryphon	Dustin Griffin
4392	Hotspur	Deborah E. Gobble
5650	.....	Donald Lambrix
6889	Frantic	W. W. McMullen
7714	Therapy	Dr. J. S. Graettinger
8781	Bay Boy	Dan Webster
8979	Frenchtown II	John Cartland
9259	Took	Mrs. M. A. Bates
9966	.....	Virgil Powers
10071	Wiki-Wiki	Peter B., Martha & Timothy Northrup
10424	Indefatigable	Geoffrey Gobble & Dr. R. M. Galt
10874	Risky Too	Walter L. Hallenbeck

If last year the Pentwater Lightning Fleet had "arrived." this year it can be said to have flourished.

For one thing, competition was at an all time high. Over half of the boats that raced consistently this season won races, and the rest all led races at one time or another. Expressions of shock and disbelief from the traditional winners were frequent as they repeatedly observed boats they had previously considered antiques or pleasure craft, tailing them closely (or leading them) around the final marks. Those who were used to watching the stragglers finish as they downed their third beer now hope they get back before it runs out.

Increased activities were also in order this year. Match races were introduced to give each skipper the opportunity to wreak vengeance on his traditional rival, and they were more than successful. A Junior Lightning Race provided the younger sailors with a chance to put the seniors out to pasture, something they very nearly accomplished. Sue Roth and Mark Gwillim won it this year, sailing INDEFATIGABLE. The addition of seven slips surrounding the club and the wide use of spinnakers (even our newest entry, Don Lambrix, had his out every weekend) also considerably enhanced interest within and about the fleet.

Needless to say, our list of trophy winners was extensive. The well known sailing firm of Cartland, Mira, Jones & Ritter (alias Cartland & Co.) always provides strong competition. This year was no exception, as Jack and John Jones captured the Hewitt Series in July. Jeff Gobble (minus two wallets and three pairs of glasses) took the August Series, using in the process more different crew members than he cares to remember. Strong challenges were presented in both series by McMullen, Hallenbeck, and Bats/McKevitt.

Our Season Series went right down to the wire, and was to be settled by FRANTIC and INDEFATIGABLE on the final Sunday in August. Much to the bewilderment of both, Walt Hallenbeck, with the assistance of wife and jib specialist Bernice and spinnaker man Alan Graettinger, left them a half mile behind as he tasted the roses for the first time and took a third for the season. INDEFATIGABLE went on to win the club championship ending (temporarily at least) the McMullen monopoly. Wes also found himself shuffling crews frequently, but relied mostly on his wife Fran and Roger Pernell.

The only series this year which wasn't close was the Herb Behr Post-Season Series. Almost incredibly, a trio of juniors (Deb Gobble, Betsy & Susie Scott) triumphed in two straight races, leaving behind six frustrated seniors looking for weeds on their centerboards. To add insult to injury another junior, Dave Tubich, rejuvenated a boat 15-plus years old to take the Taylor Sportsmanship Trophy.

All in all it was a full season, with a full schedule and plenty of competition between both boats and age groups. Last year, Fleet 340 had finally arrived. This year it flourished. Next year we fully expect it will excel.