

2006

**July 29-30 Grand Rapids,**

Grand Rapids Yacht Club went into this year celebrating it's 75th anniversary. At the Spring Shakedown MC regatta, Jeff Minore and Al Vorel approached me and wondered if the C Fleet would come and sail a C regatta at Grand Rapids to celebrate the 75th anniversary and acknowledge the importance the C Scow played in the development of the Club. Over the next couple of weeks the club jumped at the opportunity and Jim Flood stepped up to head the project. The dates were picked to start right before the WMYA Championship regatta at nearby Muskegon Lake.

Clear Lake Indiana stepped up to the plate to support a neighbor club with former Grand Rapids sailor Brian Barr heading a group of three boats coming to the regatta. John Cochran and new C sailor John Carricarte joined Brian in the trip to Grand Rapids.

Lake Fenton sent over brothers Scott Craig and myself, while Pete Litzbarski, Tom Rathsack and Tom Keenan donated their boats for local Grand Rapids sailors to use. Bill DeCoste and Steve Beckman provided trailers to help move the boats from Fenton to Grand Rapids.

Spring Lake sent talented MC sailor and new C boater Andy Molesta in Brett Hatton's SL-4 to race. Andy has been switching with Brett between the MC and C Scow at Spring Lake. Brett Hatton after receiving e mails from LF-1 and a couple calls from Jim Flood went and borrowed Kevin Haviland's SL-54 to come support the event.

More pleasant surprises were in store at this regatta. Bill Metcalf multiple WMYA champion and one of the best Michigan C sailors ever joined the event to crew for Andy Molesta.

Karl Lanka and Lara Lanka also returned to the C Scow to sail with Brett Hatton. Karl, a very talented C sailor in his own right, was also the long time editor of C-World magazine and member the NCSSA board. He and his wife were a very welcome addition to the small but growing fleet.

Best yet, upcoming young sailor Charlie Knape sailed with his dad John Knape for his first races ever on the C Scow. Charlie is a very talented Laser and Butterfly sailor.

Long time MC sailor and C Scow crew Dan Chappell raced for the first time with his son Danny Chappell on Jim Flood boat.

MC scow and C scow veterans Jeff Minore and Art DeBryan, joined with Chris Pinckney and Danielle Ralston to round out the four Grand Rapids entries to this event.

Co-Race Committee Chairs Brian Wrase and David Bloye managed to get in all five scheduled races. They were supported by Mark Boyce, Mike Pinckney, Ben Rundquist. Jim Flood provide he could handled the on shore duties of running a regatta as well as he sails on the water. Quite a feat for one of the most talented C sailors in the state. The food was great and the T-Shirts awesome. Jeff Minore did some heavy lifting by towing over all three boats as he was running back and forth to the Flint area campaigning for his Dad, Jack Minore. He already has moved one back. Thanks to everyone at Grand Rapids for making this one of the funnest events of the year. Race One: Wind W 8 to 15 mph, course Triangle with a W1. Starboard rounding. The combination of a young talented sailor and the experience of a veteran C scow-er proved to be too much for the fleet in race one. Andy Molesta and Bill Metcalf powered off the left side of the course to round the first mark first. As a tight pack of boats battled behind the leader, Bill and Andy used the puffy air to build a huge lead on the reaches. A lead that would not be touched.

Behind the leader, John and Sean Cochran on IC-407, rounded next followed by Brett

Hatton. At the gibe mark LF-1 worked inside of the pack and was able to move into fourth. A small tangle of boats at this mark allowed LF-1 to get on a line above Brett Hatton. The puffs came from the inside on the next reach and LF-1 was able to pop into third behind Cochran and the race leader Molesta.

On the next beat the wind got really puffy and Molesta continued his horizon job. LF-1 used him for a tell tail as he came off the left in a big puff that was also a port lift. LF-1 tacked right first in the same puff Molesta had used moments before. This shift helped move LF-1 into second at the top mark. Hatton used this same shift to sneak past Cochran into third.

The rest of the race down and back saw no changes in the top four boats. Molesta and Metcalf won by a handy margin over LF-1, Hatton and Cochran. Newcomer Charlie Knape sailed a very competitive race to finish fifth.

Race Two: Wind W 8 to 18 mph, very puffy. Course Olympic course port rounding. The wind had a little north in it allowing the Committee to set a true Olympic. Molesta and Metcalf continued their magic leading around the first mark. Brett Hatton was next followed by Brian and Matt Barr together on IC-9. LF-1 was next and the top four boats opened a gap up on the two reaches. Upwind Hatton and Molesta battled on the left shore, while Barr and LF-1 went right. Barr worked some nice shifts off the right and rounded the top mark with the lead. Hatton and Molesta were next followed by LF-1. Jeff Minore had pulled into fifth to take control of the next pack and started to get closer to the top four boats. Brian, who had chanced to a heavy air sail between races opened a nice gap ownwind and appeared to be pulling away with this one. Hatton and Molesta continued to try to hang around, but Barr seemed to be gradually pulling away. LF-1 had fallen off the pace and had to work to stay in front of his former crew Jeff Minore. Disaster hit Barr at the top mark. A huge puff with a big shift hit him while he was trying to round the mark. He lost control for just a couple of seconds, but the damage was done as he ran over the mark. His 360 allowed Molesta and Hatton to soar ahead. Barr still retained control of third but LF-1 had rallied and was much closer. On the last beat Hatton got right of Molesta to win a tight race. LF-1 rallied off the right to get within a boat length or two of Barr who had shot the left corner trying to regain the lead. Jeff Minore cruised in with a nice fifth.

Brian Barr had started the the day with really bad luck. In the first race his real traveler came apart and he had struggled to a seventh place finish. On the drive to the lake he had put his Cell phone in a cup of coffee in his console. Brian always puts his Cell phone in his empty cup of coffee in the morning. This cup was not his however it was the half finished cup of Matt's. Luckily he had put the cellphone in antenna down so the cellphone was not wet when he pulled it out. He decided he needed to flip it over so he could see the light when John Cochran called him on the way to the lake so he put it right back in the coffee only to really soak it this time. Race three: Wind North at 0 to 4 mph. A big west shift on the first two reaches would turn this into a reaching race up and down the lake. Brian's luck would change in this race despite having left his heavy air sail on the boat. The wind was real flat and the fleet struggled to make the first mark. John Cochran rounded first followed by Brett Hat ton and Scott Craig. On the first reach the wind went pancake. Cochran and Hatton found a light west shift and rounded the gibe mark with a big lead. Brian Barr meanwhile had recovered from about eight or so and was now one or two boats lengths west of LF-1 as both boats battled for the west shift they thought would come. The shift came down and hit Brian but did not make the other two boats lengths. Brian used the west shift to sail around the mark and the two leaders to take a lead he would not give up as the wind filled from the west on the next beat. Hatton and Cochran were next and the three boats had a huge gap on the rest of the fleet. They reached back in fourth to finish in that order. Meanwhile LF-1, Dan Chappell and Scott Craig had to sail a north breeze around the two reach legs as they watched the three lead boats sail in a west breeze in front of them. They rounded the bottom mark and finally received the west shift and they too would remain in that order around the rest of the course.

Jim Flood continued to prove he could handle the off shore activities as well as he handles the on the water fun. The food and entertainment was awesome. Everyone had a great time, despite the high heat. Thanks again to Jim and his staff. Brett Hatton had control of this regatta going into Sunday. He had 6 points, followed by LF-1 with 10 points, Andy Molesta and Bill Metcalf with 11 points and Brian Barr with 11 points. Sunday dawned with a light southwest breeze. The wind continued to build and by the 9:30 am start it had grown to 4 to 8 mph. Race four: Wind SW 4 to 8 mph, course triangle and a W1. Brett Hatton used a late left shift with Sean Cochran, who was sailing IC-407, to round 1st and 2nd in front of LF-1 coming hard off the right. Andy Molesta snuck in front of LF-1 right at the buoy as well from the left to round third. Chris Pinckney in his first C scow regatta had a huge first leg and rounded fifth, although he could have easily been third.

On the first reach a following breeze brought the fleet very close together. Brian Barr rallied low continuing to show his off speed to round third behind Hatton and young Cochran. Andy Molesta was next followed by LF-1. On the reach Cochran got pinned low and was passed by Barr, Molesta, and LF-1.

Upwind Hatton and Molesta went left while LF-1 and Barr went right. LF-1 found a big puff coming off the right and tacked right before it hit. The puff carried LF-1 across Molesta and forced Brett to tack below the starboard LF-1. LF-1 carried the momentum to the Left lay line and tacked with Brett tacking with him. Brett rallied inside of LF-1 and both boats rounded together. Molesta and Barr were right behind heading to the downwind leg. Molesta and Hatton were able to gibe first and found a puff that carried them well ahead of Barr and LF-1, who was pinned outside. Molesta, who was sailing with his sister, surged into the lead. The race now broke into two fights. One between Hatton and Molesta for first, and one between Barr and LF-1 for third. Upwind Molesta came off the right and forced Brett to tack below him very close to the line. Somehow Brett and Lara Lanka managed to spin the boat and get it going enough to get their nose in front of Andy. Brett squeezed out a victory by less than a foot to win the race. The battle for third was also this close. Brian rallied in front of LF-1, only to see LF-1 find a right shift to force Brian to duck below LF-1 on starboard. Barr only needed one right shift and a starboard tack at the end to get third back. The Starboard came late and LF-1 was able to cross the leeward end of the line a couple of feet in front of Barr on the Starboard end. Jeff Minore again battled through the fleet to get close to the fight to only have to settle for another fifth. Race Five: Wind SW 4 to 8 mph. Course triangle with a W1. Brett appeared to have this regatta won, but the start would turn this regatta wide open. The starboard end of the line was favored and both Brett and LF-1 luffed next to the boat to control that end. Brett was just below LF-1 and was able to stay in front of LF-1, but ran out of space and time and was over early at the start. Molesta, who was tied with LF-1 going into the last race was below LF-1 right behind Brett's stern. He tried to tack out behind LF-1 but did not have enough room to clear and run into LF-1 (actually Julie took the blow, not a wise move for any sailor) and Andy was forced to do a 720. LF-1 powered off the starboard end with a hurt crew while Brian Barr surged up the middle. LF-1 worked the right early and then the left late to round just in front of Brian. Dan Chappell, who had sailed solid first legs all regatta only to struggle with the difference of a C compared to MC off the air had now caught fire and rounded third. On the first reach LF-1 and Brian powered out to a nice gap. Brian kept pushing the slower LF-1 from behind, but LF-1 protected the overlap and was able to gibe around the mark and find the new breeze first and open some breathing room. Meanwhile Brett was buried back in ninth, while Andy despite also hitting the first mark and adding a 360 to his 720 was back in fifth. The regatta was now wide open. Upwind, LF-1 continued the pattern of working right early and finishing left late to open a good lead. Barr was next followed by Chappell. Downwind LF-1 and Barr gibed right away, while Chappell sailed a big puff in the middle. Barr and LF-1 had wandered way to far and Chappell was closing ground fast. LF-1 found a good shift to gibe back on and barely rounded in front of Chappell who was now second. Barr was next followed by Andy Molesta. Brett was still deep, looking to find some help. Upwind LF-1 worked right early with Barr, while Molesta went hard left with Chappell. Chappell was now moving the best of all the boats and took a good shift towards LF-1 who had lost the main sheet as they tacked back to try to salvage the race. LF-1 was barely in front of

Chappell and tacked right on his nose to defend the right side. Chappell tacked and went back left towards a surging Molesta. LF-1 saw a huge puff coming from the right and tacked right as it hit to try to run all the way left at the top as had become their pattern. The puff lifted big, and LF-1 was able to clear both Molesta and Chappell near the left lay line. Meanwhile Brian Barr left alone to run back into the race had worked all the shifts to challenge again for the lead off the left. A few good puffs carried LF-1 past the hard charging Barr who crossed Chappell and Molesta to finish second. Chappell was third followed by Molesta. Now the regatta depended on whether Brett could get to seventh to tie LF-1 and win the tiebreaker. Brett rallied to sixth to win the regatta by one point. Andy Molesta was third overall followed by Brian Barr in fourth. Dan Chappell's last race third placed him in fifth place tie with Jeff Minore, but he won the tiebreak because of his last race finish. This regatta was great because so many people who had never enjoyed the awesome sailing of a C Scow got to do it for the first time. Many young sailors like Sean Cochran and Charlie Knape also either saw the boat for the first time or got to improve their own C Scow ability. But the best moment came after the trophy presentation when young Danny Chappell who had raced with his father for the first time and was proudly holding his fifth place trophy said, "Dad, we need to get one of these boats."

I will update Thursday on tomorrow's Start to the Westerns. We race two back to back at 2:30 pm and then first thing Thursday morning. Right now I am at the Ludington Public Library sending this out between visits to the beach! I will also update the Team and individual rankings for all the regatta when I return home in just over a week! Sail fast enjoy the Westerns, WYA or Inter lakes, but get out and sail the best boats out there, scows.

LF-1

1. Brett Hatton SL-54 3 1 2 1 6 13pts
2. Chris Craig LF-1 2 4 4 3 1 14pts
3. Andy Molesta SL-4 1 2 8 2 4 17pts
4. Brian Barr IC-9 7 3 1 4 2 17pts
5. Dan Chappell G-11 8 8 5 7 3 31pts
6. Jeff Minore G-88 6 5 7 5 8 31pts
7. John Cochran IC-407 4 9 3 8 9 33pts
8. Charlie Knape G-10 5 7 10 6 5 33pts
9. Chris Pinckney G-4 10 6 9 9 7 41pts
10. Scott Craig LF-111 9 10 6 10 10 45pts
11. John Carricarte IC-49 11 11 11 11 11 55pts

Western Michigan Championship starts this Wednesday, more to follow!