

**SLYC**  
**C Scow Mothers' Day Regatta**  
**5/9/2009 – 5/10/2009**

Two great weekends of sailing weather in a row! This one was a little cooler, than Cedar Lake, Indiana last weekend, but the wind was great! Six races were sailed over the two days. Day one saw gusty winds between 10 to 25 mph, and one race that was mostly a nice 18 to 25 mph blow. The second day had a nice 3 to 10 mph race, followed by a race that turned very light for the middle part and than filled in to finish. In other words a little bit of everything! The sunshine made the mid – fifties temperatures seem not so bad, and the east side of the Spring Lake Clubhouse was sheltered from the wind, and had plenty of sunshine to make it feel like a beautiful summer day, for the famous Spring Lake Lean too.

This regatta had some of the best food for the meals of any regatta I have been to. Big congratulations must go out to first time regatta Mom and Dad, Bruce and Nikki Hanson. For serving as the main regatta bosses the first time, these two put on quite a show. It was a shame more boats did not make it to enjoy the great Spring Lake hospitality. They missed one of the best run regattas' of the year!

Pete Fox was the Head Judge for this one and did a great job. Being a great sailor himself, he made sure that the regatta was run correctly, but also took great care to make sure the sailors were well catered to. Dave Fox helped on the main boat the first day, and Mike Gassman, helped Pete the second day. Erik Peterson did double duty, serving as a crash boat and also sailing with Todd Bosgraff later in the day. Pete Sjoberg helped with the rescue boats as well. I am sure I have left many, many, people who helped run this regatta, but it was really well done! On behalf of the out of town sailors, a big Thank you to the Spring Lake Yacht Club!

The first race presented some problems for Pete Fox as the wind to the west of the sailing club was blowing northwest, and to the east blowing northeast. The northeast side had the steadier winds so the course was set up there. Because of the high wind advisory for the area the hope was to get a quick W2 in, followed by a W 2 +.

Race One: W2, NE 10 to 20 mph. This race saw Brett Hatton win the start and control the early portion of the race, with Joe Schaub in hot pursuit. On the first downwind Karl Lanka, who like Brett Hatton, was returning to the C Boat for the first time in a while, used his downwind speed to roll into an inside overlap on LF-1 at the bottom behind the two lead boats who were having quite a battle between themselves for the lead. The left side had been paying off on the beats as an occasional northwest shift will roll through on the early part of the leg. The two leaders and Karl were both working the second beat on the left, while LF-1 was kicked out to the right. Some huge velocity hit the right side of the course and it paid off for the first time in the race. LF-1 was able to take advantage of the shift and barely cross both Hatton and Schaub. All three boats were very close heading on the run to the finish. LF-1 gibed inside at the offset followed by Brett Hatton. Joe Schaub split from these two trying to find a private puff. The inside paid off as

the other side just didn't have the same velocity. LF-1 managed to hold off Brett for a narrow victory. Joe Schaub sailed in for a hard fought third.

Race Two got started right away: W2 +, NE 10 to 20 mph. The start of this one was a carbon copy of the first one as both Brett Hatton and Joe Schaub got the jump on the fleet and were battling for the lead among themselves on the left. LF-1 was again able to take advantage of the fight and found some velocity on the right to sneak into second behind Joe. On the second beat Joe Schaub and LF-1 were very tight and this time the boat to boat battle was waged on the right side of the course. Joe Schaub was able to keep control of LF-1 and had them boxed out on the right lay line. Brett meanwhile worked the left hard and found the NW shift to round the top mark first. Downwind the three boats did not change positions. Upwind the Brett and Joe battled left, and LF-1 worked hard right. The left was again the king. This one was real tight until the left lay line. Brett won the fight and held off Joe for a tight victory and the regatta lead at the lunch break. LF-1 limped in late for third from the right side.

The wind built during lunch and the race committee was careful to take plenty of velocity reads to make sure the wind was not above the 25 mph class limit. It was a very steady 20 to 22 mph, with a few puffs at 25 and a few lulls at 18 mph. It had finally settled in from the Northwest, and the racing now shifted to starting in front of the club and sailing the west side of the lake up towards the bridge.

Race Three W2. Kevin Haviland won the start in this one and was powering up the race course with very good speed. Joe Schaub was next followed closely by LF-1. Brett Hatton had some crew issues and made it to the start on time but was boxed out at the committee boat and had to restart behind. Haviland and Schaub worked the left while LF-1 worked the right. A huge shift with big velocity came off the right side and LF-1 rounded with a nice gap on Haviland and Schaub. These three boats had a good gap on the rest of the fleet. On the second beat Joe Schaub whittled down the lead from about 150 yards to 100 rounding the mark. Haviland still held third with a good gap on Hatton who had battled back into fourth. The wind on the downwind began to fade very quickly, dropping from the steady twenties to a mere 10 to 15 mph blow. Schaub leaped on the opportunity and began to close quickly on the heavier LF-1 team. Soon the lead was 25 yards, then 15, and finally as the two boats closed on the finish line the lead was down to just two boat lengths. LF-1 held on for a narrow victory over the hard charging Schaub. Haviland and his crew Patti Griswold and Alex Jones sailed a very steady race for a very nice third place finish. Kevin is new to the C Scow and has been improving every year.

The wind drop at the end of the third caused both Brett Hatton and LF-1 to drop a crew and join Karl Lanka and Shane Good as well as Scott Craig and Annette Mason in sailing with just two people. The latter boats had been battling the big breeze without a third all day. Todd Bosgraff had sailed the morning with Brett Hatton. Jonas Saunders the boat owner had arrived from his kid's soccer game to sail in the afternoon. This allowed Todd to grab Erik Peterson off a crash boat and join the action for race four.

Race Four: W2, NW 10 to 22 mph. After a general recall, the breeze picked back up and the crew dropping did not look good. LF-1 nailed the start but was

unable to hold the boat down with just Adam Forbush crewing. Julie Craig was sitting on shore and was now very needed on the LF-1 boat. Brett Hatton was handling the breeze much better than LF-1 and hammered out from below with Joe Schaub. These boats cruised to a big lead at the first mark. LF-1 limped in third followed closely by Todd Bosgraff. Downwind Schaub and Hatton continued a now familiar fight for the lead. Upwind both boats battled first left and then to the right trying to get an edge. LF-1 found a lift further left than the two leaders had gone and was now working back right towards them on port. The two leaders had lost some ground and were now on starboard heading back left. LF-1 worked further right crossing behind the leaders who appeared to be knocking a hair. LF-1 found a huge knock with a line of wind and tacked back to starboard on the lay line and was able to barely cross both Schaub and Hatton and round with a very surprising lead going into the downwind finish. Hatton was next followed by Schaub and Bosgraff, who was still hanging very close. Around the mark LF-1 got a private puff and planned away to a big gap and the race victory. Schaub and Hatton got into a very tough duel downwind, and Bosgraff worked through them to leeward to capture second. Hatton held off Schaub for third.

Going into the dinner LF-1 had the lead with 6 pts, followed by Hatton with 10 pts and Schaub with 11pts. Friday's dinner was awesome. The New York strips were perfect, and the fixings made for a very nice dinner.

Sunday dawned with light air. Finally around 10:30 the wind filled in from the WNW at 3 to 8 mph, and looked like it could build.

Race Five: Wind WNW 3 to 8 mph, W2: The fleet was really on the line for this one and it would prove to be the tightest race for the entire fleet of the regatta.

The line was heavily favored for port and starboard tack could barely make the line as the gun went off. Joe Schaub found a hole just down from the leeward end crowd and nailed a port start with speed. The leeward end crowd flopped to port and was above Joe Schaub and Kevin Haviland, who also nailed a nice start, but they were behind. Haviland worked the top half really well and rounded the mark with the lead. Joe Schaub was next, followed by LF-1. Haviland had the lead, but a tight pack of five boats were directly behind and blocking the wind from Haviland. The lack of air forced Haviland high and allowed Joe Schaub and LF-1 to get an inside overlap at the bottom mark. The fleet was still really tight with Hatton, Bosgraff and Lanka all right in the hunt. Upwind the boats swapped positions, until LF-1 caught Haviland on starboard and worked the left side hard. Hatton was able to dive behind these two boats on port and had really built up some steam. The left was really strong and LF-1 moved into the lead upwind with about 100 yards to the mark. A big knock hit LF-1 and stalled their progress. Schaub took advantage having crossed behind and had better wind above and behind on the left. Hatton came off the hard right on the knock and looked very dangerous. Schaub barely rounded in front of LF-1 and Hatton, and the drag race was on to the finish. Justin Schaub was crewing for Joe, so they had a slight edge in weight over Hatton and LF-1. Joe kept the boat heated up and worked away for an easy victory. Hatton and LF-1 sailed the whole leg within a boat length of each other, with LF-1 holding on for a half a boat length second over Hatton.

**This set up the fleet for the final race with LF-1 needing a fifth to clinch the regatta. The standings going into the last race were, LF-1 with 8 pts, Schaub 12 pts, and Hatton 13 pts. LF-1 had the tiebreak because of the three bullets Saturday.**

**Final race, race 6, W2 + wind WNW 3 to 8 mph. Brett Hatton port started the fleet and was off to the races. Joe Schaub and Todd Bosgraff also had nice starts and these three boats quickly left the fleet in the dust. This race was yet another very close duel between the lead boats. It also pitted three defending Western Michigan Yachting Association Champions in a classic battle that would have a photo finish at the end. LF-1 meanwhile was way back and rounded the first mark a very deep sixth.**

**The three lead boats were gone. They had their own private war going until the last downwind when the wind suddenly went pancake. Schaub who had rounded the first mark first was holding on to a narrow lead. The wind began to fill some from behind and Karl Lanka and LF-1 began to rally from behind. It was not to be the three lead boats maintained a 30 or so yard gap around the buoy.**

**Upwind Schaub and Bosgraff were working the left side while Hatton was banging hard off the right. 100 yards from the finish, Bosgraff found a big left lifter and looked like him might sail right above Schaub, who was leeward and ahead. Hatton at the same time had some velocity on the right and was on the starboard lay line cruising towards the finish and the other two port boats. Todd's lift faded, and Schaub squirted out from underneath to barely cross Hatton for the wind. Bosgraff and Hatton were now side by side and both luffed for the finish. Hatton finished second by less than a foot to nip Bosgraff. LF-1 had managed to work past Lanka and finished fourth to seal the regatta.**

**As always Spring Lake provided very close exciting racing. The lead swapped back in forth in most races. Hopefully next year we get this regatta back to the numbers it has enjoyed in the past! Get out and sail!**

**LF-1 reporting**