

National C Scow Sailing Association



INLAND LAKE YACHTING ASSOCIATION

C World Online

Vol 3, Issue 33a
September 23, 2009

C Scow Blue Chip

Editor's note: The following is a recap from Michael Morgan. Additional race coverage was done by *Scowlines*. Go to ILYA the website for those reports and complete results will be posted to cscow.org.

50th C Scow Blue Chip: In a word, WOW!

I just kept looking around and saying WOW all weekend long. From the moment the first boat arrived Friday morning, to the time the last one pulled out of the lot Sunday afternoon, the WOW factor was on high.

The 50th C Scow Blue Chip came and went scoring high marks on all fronts (If I do say so myself)! On the Fun Front, well I think it's safe to say there will be a few stories being shared for years to come. On the Food Front we did it up right and nobody should have gone away hungry. And on the Fleet Front, we had 42 boats on the starting line for four races in great conditions.

The main goal surrounding the 50th C Scow Blue Chip was to bring back as many of the 30 Past Champions to Pistakee to compete in yet another Blue Chip. I wanted them to come back and join our annual qualifiers and celebrate 50 years of the C Blue Chip with old and new friends. Well, we had 20 Past Champions join us for the weekend, and 17 of them actually took to the tiller and mainsheet, and sailed the regatta. Combining those 17 boats with the 24 qualifiers and our Mystery Guest, we sailed a fleet of 42 C Scows out on Pistakee (WOW).

The fun started on Friday afternoon when our Principal Race Officer, Sandy Sundberg and his Team set an interesting course for a Past Champions Race. We were able to get 11 of the Past Champions in the water for the racing, and our Mystery Guest, John Kolius joined

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them. The race was a two part event. The first part took the sailors from a start line off the end of the PYC pier and upwind around one side of the island that separates our bay from the main sailing area. Once around the corner of the island, they sailed further upwind to finish well up the lake. Much to everyone's enjoyment, John Kolius, sailing with a large question mark on his sail to designate him as our Mystery Guest, put an exclamation point right next to it by winning this leg of the race in Impressive fashion (WOW). The top five was rounded out by Past Champions Dave Koch (1984), Jack Strothman (1967), Bill Allen (1978, 1982, 1983 & 1986) and Tim Fredman (1977). The second part of the race put an interesting twist to the start. Sundberg and his Team released the sailors one at a time in roughly 10 second intervals from the starting line, in the reverse order of their finishes from part one of the race. Our friend John Kolius had quite the uphill battle in front of him. After sailing a 1 ½ Windward/Leeward on the main lake the sailors once again rounded the island and went back into the bay. From there they sailed around a mark deep in the bay, to finish on a windward leg with the line being right off the PYC pier once again. Past Champion Bruce Rosenheimer (1988) took the gun followed by Tom Frank (1979 & 1980), Bob Henschel (1974 & 1975), Kent Haeger (1985, 2001, 2004 & 2005) and Jim Gluek (1995 & 1998). In the end the Past Champions Challenge was won by Dave Koch our 1984 Champion (WOW). Well done Dave!!

Once back on shore, the excitement was building. Many more competitors had arrived and were getting their C Scows rigged, and the charcoal was heating up for our 50th Annual Pork Chop and Corn Roast. This time honored tradition has been spearheaded for many years by our great friends from Cedar Lake led by Ed Eckert. Well before Cedar Lake's involvement, there was a very special Pork Chop Committee that manned the grill for many, many years. That Committee reunited for the 50th C Blue Chip, and jumped right in out at the grill to take up their stations just as they did in the early days of the Blue Chip. What an honor and thrill to have Lou Morgan our 1976 Past Champion, Pete Veum, Wally Schmidt and Tom Frank (1979 & 1980) join us for this very special night. The meal was fantastic. In fact, I have never before heard so many people pay homage to Roasted Corn, so whatever they did to the corn, it needs to be captured in some top secret document somewhere! The entire evening was a great time to reconnect with so many friends of the C Blue Chip at Pistakee. By the way, if you didn't do a live minnow shot, I hope you at least got to watch others (Yes me too!) and wonder what the hell we were thinking!! WOW!

Saturday began with beautiful blue skies, comfortable temperatures and absolutely zero wind. After the Skippers briefing, Sandy pulled the competitors out to the course to see what might develop. What happened, was those tied up at Castaways (Alternate launch site with a bar and grill) remained on shore and looked down right brilliant, while the rest of the fleet drifted about until they made a statement by heading back to the PYC for lunch. Plenty more storytelling and catching up ensued. but around 2:30 a glimmer of hope appeared and

the lake began to fill. Sandy and his Team managed to squeeze off two afternoon races in good moderate breeze that swung around a bit, but all in all was consistent.

The first race was particularly fun as our Past Champion Tom Frank (1979 & 1980) was in the lead or part of the lead pack for the entire race, ultimately finishing sixth (WOW). This race presented many shifts late in the windward leg each time up the lake so you were never quite sure who was going to pull it out and stay on top. Jim Tews with crew Jenny Jaessing maneuvered the final few hundred yards the best and squeaked out a victory over their fellow Cedar Lake team of skipper Dave Baldus and crew Peter Kerr. The top five was rounded out by Kurt Mihelich and David Wierdsma in third; Kent Haeger and Mike Gleeson in fourth and Steve Schmidt and Tim Schmidt in fifth. Race two followed immediately in very similar conditions and direction. This too was a challenging course and race. Sandy's Team kept things pretty true, shifting the mark location a few times at the leeward and windward end of the lake. There were several really good battles going on at different times during the race, and positions hopped around quite a bit, but in the end Augie Barkow and Jeff Niedziela prevailed. Chris Pinahs and Bob Prange gave him a good run to finish in second. They were closely followed by Paul Reilly and Aaron Mann in third, Jim Tews and Jenny Jaessing in fourth and Kent Haeger and Mike Gleeson in fifth. With the first day of racing under our belt, Jim Tews enjoyed the regatta lead... but wait a minute, who's that back in last place for the day...it's none other than Bill Nicolas...I wonder where he'll be later in the evening??? WOW!

Saturday evening was just short of fantastic (Another WOW moment). We really wanted to embrace the character of the regatta that was so coveted back in the 60's, 70's and 80's and bring that forward to the present C Blue Chip format. Well it worked far beyond my expectations. Everyone looked very dapper in their coats and ties and cocktail attire, the dinner was outstanding and the live music was a welcomed return from days gone by. I think a few folks actually danced a few numbers. It was great stuff to be a part of all night long. During the evening we paused a few moments to recognize each and every one of the Past Champions seated in the room for dinner. One of my favorite moments was welcoming our first two C Blue Chip winners to the stage: Jim Laughlin (1960) and Steve Hancock (1961). Jim flew in from Texas and Steve came in all the way from California. Don Delaria (1967) came in from Colorado as well. Each of these guys, along with so many others said they weren't going to miss this event for anything. To me it just speaks volumes of the amazing level of camaraderie there is and has always been in this most special fleet of C Scow sailors. WOW!! Even after all the introductions of the Past Champions were complete the best was yet to come. My most favorite part of the night was giving special recognition to Ralph Pomierski. Ralph is not just a long time member of the Pistakee Yacht Club. Ralph is one of the three founding fathers of the C Scow Blue Chip. Along with his brother Alex Pomierski and John Looze, the idea was hatched for having the Pistakee Yacht Club host the Blue Chip Regatta. The rest is history

and here we are celebrating the 50th Annual C Scow Blue Chip. I had the honor of presenting Ralph with an original 1960 Blue Chip burgee (Donated by Steve Hancock) mounted in a beautiful frame with a simple dedication that read:

As a Founding Father of the C-Blue Chip, We simply say thank you....Thank you for the Vision...Thank you for the Inspiration...Thank you for the Support...With Gratitude, From Past, Present and Future C-Blue Chip Sailors...Presented to Ralph Pomierski, September 19, 2009.

It was a truly special moment and I sincerely hope Ralph enjoyed the moment as much as I did. As the evening wound down, one last tradition needed to have an exclamation point slapped on it; the Annual Bar Walk. Remember poor Bill Nicolas finishing the first day in last place overall, well he jumped to the front of the pack with a spectacular, personalized version of the traditional striptease...While certainly not too revealing, the moon has never shined so brightly over the PYC Bar!!! Thank you Bill! WOW!

As we arrived at the PYC on Sunday, the breeze wasn't exactly stellar, but true to form, Sandy had everyone on the water and in the starting area by 9:30 A.M. The breeze was actually building nicely during the starting sequence and by the beginning of the second race those that could grab their thirds did so. In the first race (A shameless plug here) my dear friend and former skipper, Mr. Bob Biver with Bill Stearns on board, was simply dazzling. He popped off the line quickly and for a good stretch of the race was either leading or threatening to lead and in the end finished a very strong third (Oh, if only he had a crew that could keep him awake and on course)!! Martin Barr and Ben Porter took the gun in one of the best races of the weekend. The ever dangerous Barkow/Niedziela combination finished second. Our four times Past Champion Bill Allen (1978, 1982, 1983 & 1986) and crew Rick Evans came in fourth, with Past Champion Art Larson (1999) and Scott Blanchard completing the top five. Augie Barkow now held a slight 3 point lead over Jim Tews going into the final race. With the breeze up in the mid-teens, the fourth and final race started really well for Past Champion Cam McNeil (2002) and crew Joe Rotonda. They jumped out to a nice lead and lead all the way around. A fun scenario was also unfolding as you had Augie and Jeff, the current C-National Champions, and the recently crowned ILYA Championship winner, Tim and Bre Krech with Anne Scheuerman on as third, both lurking at the first mark in the high end of the top ten. As those two rounded the final leeward mark, they were right next to each other in second and third chasing the leader Cam. As it turned out, the left side of the course paid nice dividends and Team Barkow/Niedziela ground down McNeil/Rotonda to finish one / two respectively. The Krech Team landed in third, with Past Champion Bruce Rosenheimer (1988) and Tom Rolfs in the fourth spot, followed by Steve Schmidt and son Tim Schmidt as his crew in the fifth position (My apologies to Wendy

Schmidt if you were on as third crew, but I honestly can't remember).

The mad dash back to the club was on and the moderately controlled chaos of haul-out went as well as could be expected with twice our normal boat count making its way out of the crane area. While boats were getting tied down and lunch was served, the scoring was being tallied by PYC's own Jim Huemann. With Sandy's final blessing we handed out the hardware. We gave Dave Koch his hardware as the winner of the Past Champions Challenge and we honored Kent Haeger as the highest finishing Past Champion outside the Top Five. Overall, Dave and Kent finished 24th and 6th respectively. As for the top five, Paul Reilly and Aaron Mann finished in fifth; Cam McNeil (2002 Past Champion) and Joe Rotonda finished fourth, Tim Krech, Bre Krech and Anne Scheuerman finished third, and Jim Tews with Jenny Jaessing wound up second. In 1964, 1965 and 1966 Gordy Bowers won the C Blue Chip in three consecutive years and then a fourth time in 1972. Last year Augie Barkow and Jeff Niedziela captured their third consecutive C Blue Chip. They don't have to wait six years for their fourth C Blue Chip win like Gordy did. Our Past Champion from 2006, 2007 and 2008 is now our first four time champion in consecutive years. Congratulations Augie Barkow and Jeff Niedziela on being the 2009 C-Scow Blue Chip Champions

With that, another C Blue Chip is in the books. Of course it wasn't just any Blue Chip. The 50th C Blue Chip should go down as one of the finest sailing regattas any of us have ever attended. Yes, I'm certainly biased, but with over a year of planning I think the event lived up to all the hype. If I didn't mention it enough during the weekend, it is you the C Scow Fleet (Past, present and future) that makes this regatta what it has been every year for the last 50 years. This year in particular you all showed a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and support for this event. It was that kind of encouragement that made being the Chairman for this regatta so much fun for me. I personally want to thank each and every one of you for making this weekend so memorable. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to each and every one of the members at the Pistakee Yacht Club. The planning was extensive and the work was exhausting, but through it all we showed the entire sailing community that little old PYC can go toe to toe with any club, and we know how to throw one hell of a party!! The Pistakee Yacht Club look absolutely spectacular and she stood proud. And PROUD is how each PYC Member should feel about hosting one extraordinary event! Congratulations to all!!

See you next year!

Michael Morgan

50th C Blue Chip Chairman

Beulah Challenge - September 26-27

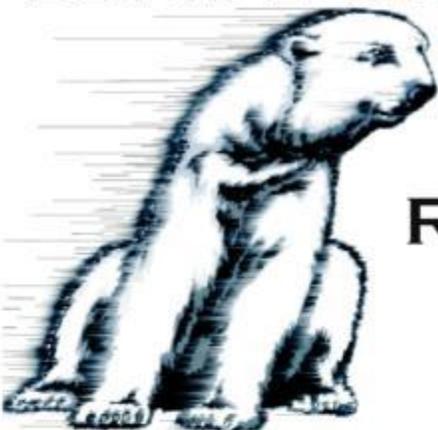


20 boats already registered for the Beulah Challenge. It's clear that people love everything about the Beulah Challenge. They love the free housing, the flip cup races, the low price (\$65), the great hospitality from the Beulah volunteers, and the great breeze that Beulah always has in the fall.

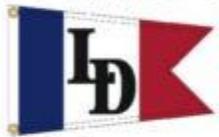
Whether you are an Inland Champ or a beginner looking for some regatta practice, this regatta has something for everyone. If you have never been to Beulah consider this your opportunity to get to know the lake before next years C ILYA Invite which is also on Beulah. Be the first to reserve a housing spot for the ILYA Invite by attending the 2009 Beulah Challenge and Contact [Anne Muller](#) / [Brian Brickler](#) for any additional info. Visit the [LBYC](#) Website for registration information.

Polar Bear Regatta - September 26-27

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Thank you to those that have already joined. We are actively updating the [membership list](#) as people join.

National C Scow Sailing Association

Upcoming C-Scow Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Regatta/Event</u>	<u>Yacht Club</u>
Sep 26-27	Beulah Challenge	Lake Beulah YC
Sep 26-27	Polar Bear Regatta	Lake Davenport SC
Oct 3-4	C-Worlds	Lake Delavan YC

[For the complete 2009 schedule go to cscow.org](http://cscow.org)