

Chapin Captures North American Trophy

Molletts place second as Frederic, flukey winds spice '79 event

Dave Chapin completed his quest of 1979 Snipe titles by easily winning the North Americans with a 2-1-5-1 finish.

The regatta got off to a great beginning with boats arriving from across the country. Friday morning found 53 boats registered and ready to go when the rains from Hurricane Frederic hit. The lake level rose 26 inches in 15 hours, and all races were canceled as the rains poured down. The weather broke in time for the cocktail party, and barbecued chicken dinner, and the Race Committee promised an early start the next morning.

A 9:00 A. M. harbor gun found everyone prepared for a hard day of sailing. For the first time all year, the docks were not too high. In fact, the smaller dock was useable only after wading through 3 feet of water.

After one general recall, the first race started about 10:00 with the winds blowing 10-15 mph. The Levinsons started off well with Harry finishing in first place, and Buzz in third. Dave Chapin placed



Dave Chapin adds the Birney Mills Trophy to his impressive 1979 string. (Gail Colyer photo)

second, Tom Nute fourth, and Greg Fisher fifth. Many boats had a hard time

avoiding the flotsam and jetsam generated by the storm, as well as coping with the choppy seas.

The second race started immediately after the first, found Chapin placing first, Jeff Lenhart second, Fisher third, Fritz Gram fourth, and Sam Mollet fifth. Although the winds were puffy, only a few boats capsized. The sailors then headed for home for a short lunch break.

In the third race, the boats that started on the port side of the line had a definite advantage as they rounded the mark ahead of the others. Sam Mollet was off to an early lead, which he kept. He was followed over the finish line by Bill Buckles, Fritz Gram, Robin Gales, and Dave Chapin.

The winds had dropped by the fourth race, which was started after one recall. Consistency in placing gave Chapin an easy first place for the day as he finished first in the last race. He was followed by Tim Woodford, Bill Buckles, Buzz Levinson, and Sam Mollet. Most of the sailors found themselves with one, and sometimes two poor showings.

By evening, the sailors were hungry and thirsty. The keg disappeared as quickly as the steaks, and everyone slept well after sailing four races.

Sunday dawned warm and sunny and practically windless. After several postponements, the races were finally canceled.

Wayne Soares from Bermuda did a super job of presenting the trophies by giving a brief introduction of each of the top 15 finishers as they were awarded their prize. The trophies of the first five skippers were framed candid pictures taken during the regatta. Since the shots were not posed, they portrayed interesting examples of crews working well, and not so well together.

Everyone had a good time, and felt that although there was only one day of sailing, it was a full one!

*Candy Larson
Chautauqua Fleet 124*

SNIPES NORTH AMERICANS 1979 (Top 25 of 53 entries)

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Club	Places	Points	Finish
23620	D. Chapin/G. Knapp	Island Bay	2-1-5-1	13	1
23624	S. Mollett/B. Mollett	Portage Lakes	6-5-1-5	31.7	2
23619	G. Fisher/R. Gillildud	Hoover	5-3-7-7	41.7	3
23834	B. Buckles/P. Fisher	Cleveland	16-16-2-3	52.7	4
23060	R. Gales/I. Gales	Mission Bay	13-6-4-9	53.7	5
20560	J. Lenhart/P. Lenhart	Mission Bay	8-2-12-13	54	6
22285	H. Levinson/H. Levinson	Indianapolis	1-12-15-11	56	7
23661	B. Levinson/P. Levinson	Indianapolis	3-17-14-4	56.7	8
20707	T. Timm/L. Hersey	Barton Boat	14-7-9-10	64	9
19712	S. Callison/D. Spicer	Severn SA	12-8-10-12	66	10
23963	T. Nute/K. Butler	Mission Bay	4-13-23-6	67.7	11
16699	F. Gram/T. Williams	Cuba Lake	27-4-3-17	69.7	12
22217	T. Woodford/S. Dunlop	Brass D'or	11-18-20-2	70	13
23279	J. Johns/G. Kuizema	Barton Boat	15-14-21-8	83	14
19059	J. Thompson/K. Thompson	ABYC	10-9-28-14	85	15
19714	K. Yellott/S. Yellott	Severn SA	9-22-8-27	90	16
19091	P. Duvoisin/J. Duvoisin	Privateer	23-10-16-19	92	17
23290	G. Soltero/J. McGrail	Dallas	24-15-19-24	106	18
19793	L. Bugbee/R. Schroder	Cuba Lake	7-21-39-16	107	19
19915	E. Purdon/P. Bradford	Severn SA	20-11-33-20	108	20
20004	L. Griffith/C. Menzies	Barton Boat	17-24-27-18	110	21
19721	L. Larson/C. Larson	Chautauqua	32-20-13-25	114	22
20562	D. Hand/J. Herndon	Portage Lakes	18-39-18-15	114	23
21800	I. Brown/D. Maybank	Port Credit	22-34-6-37	122.7	24
18100	J. Bartlett/A. Stout	Severn SA	25-25-17-35	126	25