

1998 North American Championship

September 24-26

Lake Carlyle, Illinois

Lake Carlyle hosted the North American Championship with 34 teams from 3 countries vying to win the Birney Mills Perpetual, named after SCIRA's former Executive Secretary. Bahamian and Canadian teams traveled to join the large US crowd on the shores of Lake Carlyle.

The first day of racing proved to be light, with the predicted thunderstorms never materializing. Hal Gilreath and Alex Stout figured out the lake and led at the end of the day with a 4-2. Greg Fisher and Yumio Dornberg won the first race, and added a 4th to their scores while Argyle Campbell and Jerelyn Biehl rounded out the top 3 with a 5-6. Pedro Lorson and Mimi Berry had 3-11 but there was a 3-way tie for 5th place between Craig/Mimi Beardsley, Lee Griffith and Lisa Griffith and Steve Stewart and Graham Biehl. Knowing the scores were early, the sailors ate a great dinner, provided by the local fleet, and headed out to the golf course to do some damage without water. Sailors and putters usually don't mix, and the theory was right with just a few seasoned duffers able to actually complete the 9 rounds. The rest of the group learned new golf cart driving skills and compared golf prices to sailboat prices. Luckily, no one was injured by stray golf balls, and the club let us return for the trophy dinner at the end of the regatta.

Friday morning greeted the sailors at the 10:30 start with winds of 18 gusting to 20. The fleet raced a double windward-leeward and George Szabo and Jeff Baker got a borrowed Lillia in gear to win the heavy air race. John and Maggie Manderson also were moving in the breeze followed by Michael Lenkeit and Nelson Wingard of Seattle. The fleet came in to the YC complex for a leisurely lunch, and the wind started to slowly drop in velocity. By the start of the 2nd race of the day, the breeze was 10-12 knots. Robin Gales and Rosalind Corper led off the start line and never looked back. The places behind them changed throughout the race with the Beardsleys finishing 2nd, Manderson's 3rd, Szabo/Baker 4th and Campbell/Biehl rounding out the top 5. The RC herded everyone back down to the start for another race, as heavier winds were predicted for Saturday. Back on land, the beer truck was flowing and another great dinner to feed hungry sailors was served followed by a local dance band.

The final day (and final race) once again served up some good wind and 90 degree weather. With Szabo/Baker and Gilreath/

Stout locked into a fight for first/second, and already having pre-qualified for the 1999 US Worlds team, 3rd place could have been won by 6 teams. The fleet got off, after a general recall, to an Olympic course in 18 knots. The top 6 boats arrived at the weather

mark at the same time, with the Mandersons rounding first followed by Lorson/Berry and Szabo/Baker. The group rounded and headed off to the gybe mark on a full plane with places changing on each leg. By the 2nd weather mark, it was Szabo/Baker, Mandersons, and Campbell/Biehl. The downwind leg found light spots as the wind seemed to have lulls, but it was a heavy air final beat to the finish. At the finish, Jimmie Lowe/Gavin McKinney of the Bahamas found their own private shift on the right side to bring



Photo: Pedro Lorson/Mimi Berry-28044, cross the finish line 2nd in race 5 followed by Steve Stewart/Graham Biehl-29108.

them into 5th, while Lenkeit/Wingard crossed in 4th, Beardsley's worked into 3rd, Lorson/Berry 2nd, and Szabo/Baker crossed with the gun.

The trophy dinner found some of the competitors had options to drive home but the bar was kept busy celebrating a great regatta with wind and social events balanced just right. The Carlyle fleet and Sepanski family did a great job in organizing. The Race Committee, protests, and the nice hand drawn Snipe trophies all added the personal touch.

Results

	Skipper/Crew	Country/Sail #	Finishes	Total	Boat
1.	George Szabo/Jeff Baker	USA 29672	9-(12)-1-4-4-1	18.5	Lillia
2.	Hal Gilreath/Alex Stout	USA 29324	4-2-7-7-1-(11)	20.75	Persson
3.	Pedro Lorson/Mimi Berry	USA 28044	3-11-4-(15)-2-2	22	Jibe Tech
4.	Greg Fisher/Yumio Dornberg	USA 29151	1-4-(12)-9-7-6	26.75	Persson
5.	Michael Lenkeit/Nelson Wingard	USA 28686	(20)-1-3-11-11-4	29.75	Persson
6.	Craig/Mimi Beardsley	USA 29148	7-8-11-2-(12)-3	31	Persson
7.	Argyle Campbell/Jerelyn Biehl	USA 29015	5-6-8-5-(16)-8	32	Persson
8.	Lee Griffith/Lisa Griffith	USA 29204	2-(13)-5-6-8-13	34	Persson
9.	John/Maggie Manderson	USA 28065	6-(31)-2-3-19-9	39	Jibe Tech
10.	Steve Callison/Andy Bartz	USA 27092	15-9-9-(20)-5-7	45	Nickels
11.	Charlie/Michele Bustamante	USA 27872	12-3-(21)-8-17-14	54	Jibe Tech
12.	Steve Stewart/Graham Biehl	USA 29108	10-5-(dnc)-17-3-22	57	Persson
13.	Terry Timm/Mark Spicknall	USA 28714	(19)-7-15-10-14-12	58	Nickels
14.	Robin Gales/Rosalind Corper	USA 28225	16-10-13-1-(21)-19	58.75	Persson
15.	Bill Kelley/Monique Gaylor	USA 28050	11-(26)-17-13-9-10	60	Jibe Tech
16.	Jimmie Lowe/Gavin McKinney	BAH 28811	14-(28)-22-14-6-5	61	Persson
17.	Scott/Robert Lindley	USA 28687	13-14-6-21-(22)-15	69	Persson
18.	Jerry Thompson/Allen Capellin	USA 24702	(21)-20-10-12-20-17	79	Nickels
19.	Jeff/Julie Evans	USA 24682	(24)-17-16-19-18-18	80	McLaughlin
20.	John Sepanski/Chris Stahl	USA 29017	(24)-19-14-19-18-18	88	Persson
21.	Pierre-Oliver Roy/James Sauter	CAN	23-23-16-(26)-13-16	91	McLaughlin
22.	Doug/Ginger Day	USA 25950	8-17-25-(27)-26-25	101	McLaughlin
23.	Jim Richter/Buzz Levinson	USA 28672	(25)-24-20-16-23-21	104	Persson
24.	Jeff/Tommy Clark	USA 26336	18-18-(dnf)-28-15-27	106	Mueller
25.	Bill/Amy Clawson	USA 25522	29-(32)-24-23-24-23	123	Mueller
26.	Bruce/Annette Kitchen	USA 27004	(33)-21-28-22-27-29	127	McLaughlin
27.	Cecilie/Monica Irgens	SUI 28470	22-25-31-24-(33)-26	128	Persson
28.	Bob Hyland/Suzanne Steffen	USA 27904	27-22-23-29-28-(30)	129	McLaughlin
29.	Jay/Shirley Carey	USA 25420	31-15-30-32-25-(dnc)	133	Mueller
30.	Lou Dixon/Troy Tolan	USA 24681	28-29-18-30-30-(dnc)	135	McLaughlin
31.	Cliff/Minde Browning	USA 28370	(32)-27-29-25-31-28	140	Eclipse
32.	Andrea Sepanski/Mary Geiger	USA 27094	30-(33)-26-33-29-24	142	McLaughlin
33.	David Whyman/Alex Nelson	CAN 27103	26-30-27-31-(32)-31	145	McLaughlin
34.	Bill Flack/Jamie Gilhooley	USA 24272	34-34-32-34-34-(dnc)	168	McLaughlin