

Lightning Fleet 50 (Alexandria, VA; : <http://lightningfleet50.org/>)
2015 AGM & Awards Banquet
12 March 2016

Meeting Agenda & Reports

Overall State of the Fleet (Commodore)

Established in 1943, Fleet 50 is proud to carry on the tradition of the Lightning as the longest enduring, most competitive and fun one-design racing class in the Washington DC metro area. We currently have about 30 active and semi-active boats. Our competitive racing schedule runs from early April through the first weekend of November each year. The 2015 racing season included an 8-week Sunday Spring Series and an 8-week Fall Series. In addition, we hold a number of 2-day weekend regattas each year, including the Doc Gilbert Potomac Cup in early May, the Memorial Day Spring Regatta, and the President's Cup in September. As many as 8-10 boats were out racing on any given Sunday, with more participating in our 2-day regattas. We were pleased to welcome 16 boats from around the Dixie District and beyond to our annual Doc Gilbert Potomac Cup regatta in May.

Locally, Lightning Fleet 50 had a great racing season, with a total of 65 races (20 throwouts) completed as part of the Potomac River Sailing Association's spring and fall racing program. Fifteen boats were active and 11 qualified for the 2015 Championship Series. This season, we continued a regular practice of gathering around the BBQ grill after the racing to trade stories about starts, mark roundings, and other tall tales from the racing.

Congratulations to Frank Welch on *Resistance is Futile* (15384) for winning the Fleet 50 Championship Series. Bot Gotthard on *Blind Squirrel* (14627) took 2nd place in his best showing yet since joining the Fleet. John VanVoorhis (15117) continued his string of improvement each year, moving up 6 places overall to take 3rd place this year. Will Phillippe and team *No Call Now Show* (14376) finished 4th and Lindsay Bach finished in fifth place on *Lil' Lightning Bug* (14221).

Fleet 50 was also pleased to welcome another new boat owner to the fleet, with Fleet Captain Aaron Boesenecker purchasing #14592 in the Fall of 2015. Geoff Fuller purchased #14395 and joined Fleet 50. We were excited to see new boats on the water in 2015, and look forward to building on this momentum in 2016.

Complete 2015 season results: http://lightningfleet50.org/?page_id=24

A complete listing of our Fleet 50 boats and skippers can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/7h85agi>

Financial Report (Treasurer)

2013	Beginning Balance	3983.54
	Ending Balance	4391.00 (+407.46 from start of year)
2014	Beginning Balance	4391.00
	Ending Balance	3795.45 (some costs for engraving new large plaques)
2015	Beginning Balance	3795.45 (best estimate)
	Ending Balance	3565.73

Potomac Cup (May 14-15)

- Park Cleanup Day: Saturday, April 30.
- Lisa-Marie will serve as Regatta Chair. We need lots of volunteers to help her. Our job is to host and make sure others can sail! We need to make sure we get visitors, and put on a great regatta. The Doc Gilbert was one of the best attended Dixie District regattas in 2015 and we saw a great jump in our attendance (+7) to put us back over 20 boats. 25 should be our goal for 2016!
- Jim Dillard has already secured park; beer/permits and the Oyster boat are in process.
- PRO: Bruce Bingman
- Raise entry fee from \$100 to \$125? Cater food? Relates to financial report, above. We came out about \$135 below our entry fee receipts in 2015.
- To do list
 - Set up Regatta Network page for regatta
 - Advertise to other clubs!
 - Organize RC
 - Organize boat/equipment transportation
 - Organize food (need to make sure we can get dinner served a bit earlier this year; having a shore crew would help)

Officers for 2016

Many thanks to the Officers who served Fleet 50 in 2015:

Fleet Captain: Aaron Boesenecker

Lieutenant for Racing: Chris Kozel

Treasurer: Bob Gotthardt

Secretary: Will Phillippe

Scorer: vacant

Webmaster: Lindsay Bach

Potomac Cup Regatta Chair: Aaron Boesenecker

Special Olympics Coordinator: Frank Gallagher

2016 Proposed Slate of Officers:

Fleet Captain: Aaron Boesenecker

Lieutenant for Racing: Frank Gallagher

Treasurer: Bob Gotthardt

Secretary: Geof Fuller

Scorer: Will Summers

Webmaster: Lindsay Bach

Potomac Cup Regatta Chair: Lisa-Marie Lane

Special Olympics Coordinator: vacant / handled by Lieutenant for Racing

Training & Development Coordinator: vacant / handled by Lieutenant for Racing

2015 Fleet 50 Awards

Best New Crew: Karen Grefe Jones (also nominated for other crew awards)

Recipients of the Best New Crew award must have completed their first season of racing for Fleet 50 skippers in Fleet 50 racing events. Winners will be determined based on strength of nominators' citations, for commitment to racing; sailing skill; and support of the Fleet. The winners may not also receive awards for High-impact Crew; Most Improved Crew; or Fleet Helper.

By far the main reason 'As You Wish...' has been improving competitiveness - and having fun to boot! Vastly improved our ability to sail - from boat trim through tactics and strategy. Impressive!

Sailing on As You Wish-between Lisa-Marie & Jim. That alone deserves an award...

Most Improved Crew: Chris Moore (honorable mentions to Karen and David Fehrle)

Recipients of the Most Improved Crew award must have completed their second or subsequent season of racing for Fleet 50 skippers in Fleet 50 racing events. Winners will be determined based on strength of nominators' citations, for improved sailing skill, commitment to racing; and support of the Fleet. The winners may not also receive awards for High-impact Crew; Best New Crew; or Fleet Helper.

Chris sailed with me several times in the 2014 Fall Series and sailed with me more regularly in the 2015 Spring Series and became steady crew on Lightning Bug in the Fall 2015 Series. Chris has only been sailing about two years but he had demonstrated a commitment to mastering the sport and is a quick study. Chris has also sailed with Bobby Astrove several times since coming on board as crew.

High Impact Crew: Liz Williams (honorable mentions to Jim Lane, David Keto, and Karen)

Recipients of the High-impact Crew award must have sailed for one or more Fleet 50 skippers in Fleet 50 racing events. Winners will be determined based on strength of nominators' citations,

for making a significant difference in the racing performance of the boat or boats, commitment to racing, and support of the fleet. The winners may not also receive awards for Best New Crew, Most Improved Crew, or Fleet Helper.

Liz demonstrated a keen sense of boat position relative to other boats and the effects of this position on tactics. She made timely but low-key suggestions to take advantage of position, wind shifts and boat and sail trim. She managed the second crew effectively for the skipper, allowing him to focus on driving the boat fast and assessing the situation vis-a-vis other boats. She was a pleasure to sail with this past fall and I highly recommend her for the High Impact Crew award.

When I sailed with her on 14395 she was so focused that she didn't know that we had won a race in the Spring Regatta until well after we crossed the finish line and were debriefing the race!

Team Spirit Skipper: Lisa-Marie Lane

The recipient of the Team Spirit Skipper award will be the skipper that makes racing/regattas a fun experience and does a great job fostering a team spirit on board, improving skills, encouraging participation. This has to do with competitive spirit but also patience on board and ability to make it a pleasant rather than stressful learning experience for the team as a whole, regularly attending races/going out there and doing their best regardless of performance.

She is contagiously fun. Nuf said!

Congeniality Award: John Van Voorhis (honorable mention to Red Fehrle)

The recipient of the Mr. Hospitality/Congeniality award will be the Fleet 50 skipper who always seems ready to share a smile, some advice over a beer, makes people feel especially welcomed in the fleet, at the marina, and on their boat - and even better if they provide great lunches/refreshments/beer for their crew, or something to share on the grill after racing.

Outstanding performance this year - and great addition as an active skipper! And one of the nicest skippers out there!

Most Improved Skipper:

The recipient of the Most Improved Skipper award will be the skipper who has improved their cumulative score in the Championship Series from the prior year by the largest number of positions.

1. **John VanVoorhis (again!) from 9th in 2014 to 3rd in 2015 (+6)**
2. Lisa-Marie Lane – from 10th to 7th (+3)
3. Bob Gotthardt – from 4th to 2nd (+2)

Skipper of the Year: Bob Gotthardt (honorable mention Chris Kozel)

The recipient of the Skipper of the Year award will be a Fleet 50 skipper who has demonstrated exceptional instances of support of the fleet, bravery, good judgment, and commitment to racing. The nomination has no correlation to how good of a skipper they are. This has to do w/ personality, fun, skill -- basically a popularity vote.

Always a pleasure to sail with!!!

Love this guy! He is extremely helpful, supportive, and generally awesome to be around.

Fleet 50 Helper Award: Will Phillippe (honorable mention to Lisa-Marie Lane)

Awarded to a fleet member who helps the fleet in a unique, special, or selfless way.

Above & beyond! / All I can say is - wow. He is a powerhouse behind the scenes - bedrock for getting stuff done throughout!

Lisa-Marie Lane: Since joining Fleet 50 several years ago, Lisa Marie has become one of the mainstays of our organization, taking on a variety of organizational tasks with a smile and genuine warmth. Our organization is fortunate to have her as a member.

Bungle Bucket: No nominees / not awarded

The recipient of the Bungle Bucket award will be the Fleet 50 skipper who has demonstrated exceptional instances of lapses of sailing judgment that resulted in humorous or entertaining outcomes.

Bloody Rudder Award:

Awarded to the skipper who travels to the most qualifying traveling regattas in the season.

- 1. Lisa-Marie Lane: 5 regattas (Moonshine, No Gas, Districts; PA Gov Cup, Hampton) plus 2 as crew (Poquoson & Frigid Digit)**
2. Nabeel Alsalam: 3 regattas (Districts; Duck; PA Gov Cup)
3. Rick Welch: 3 regattas (No Gas; Districts; Frigid Digit)
4. Bob Gotthardt: 2 regattas (Moonshine; Digit)

All Weather Sailor Award:

Awarded to the crew who sails the most days on a Lightning.

1. Jim Lane: 21 race days (but can't win two years in a row!)
2. Laura Lake: 16 race days
3. Jess Harrington: 14 race days

Iron Skipper Award:

The recipient of the Iron Skipper award will be the skipper who has had the most race days on the water, including local and out-of-town events and days on the water serving on Race Committee.

1. **Bob Gotthard: 22**
2. Lisa-Marie Lane: 21
3. Frank Gallagher: 21
4. Lindsay Bach: 21
5. Nabeel Alsalam: 17