

Lightning Fleet 50 (Alexandria, VA: <http://lightningfleet50.org/>)
2017 AGM & Awards Banquet (recapping the 2016 sailing season)
4 March 2017

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 2016 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 10-12 boats were out racing on any given Sunday, with more participating in our 2-day regattas. We were pleased to welcome 21 boats from around the Dixie District and beyond to our annual Doc Gilbert Potomac Cup regatta in May 2016.

Locally, Lightning Fleet 50 had a great racing season, with a total of 54 races completed as part of the Potomac River Sailing Association's spring and fall racing program. Twelve boats were active and 11 qualified for the 2016 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 Nabeel Alsalam on *Shadowfax* (15142) for winning the 2016 Fleet 50 Championship Series. Aaron Boesenecker on *Beedobeat* (14592) took 2nd place, moving up 8 spots from his 2015 finishing position. Bobby Astrove (7603) moved up 5 spots from his 2015 showing to take 3rd place overall in 2016. John Van Voorhis on *Shamrock* (15117) finished 4th and Bob Gotthardt finished in fifth place on *Blind Squirrel* (14627).

Fleet 50 was also pleased to welcome another new boat owner to the fleet, with Will Summers purchasing #14532 in the Fall of 2016. We were excited to see new boats on the water in 2016, and look forward to building on this momentum in 2017.

Complete 2016 season results:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dghk_UZc1sZ_0ObzITYGiSPZXnfLoE3tJ6rDGk15r7k/e/dit#gid=686132554

A complete listing of our Fleet 50 boats and skippers can be found here:
<http://tinyurl.com/7h85agj>

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	3024.08
2016	Beginning Balance	3024.08
	End Balance	4130.08 (including \$1715.19 for Doc Gilbert Print Sales)

- Came out ahead on Doc Gilbert in 2016
- Fleet 50 donated \$300 to the Dave Thompson Memorial (contribution to the ICLA Boat Grant Program totaling \$900 in member and Fleet 50 contributions)
- Fleet 50 purchased a stack kit for \$394.30 in 2016

Potomac Cup (May 13-14)

- Park Cleanup Day: Saturday, May 6.
- Regatta Chair needed!
 - We need lots of additional volunteers to help. 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, and we had 21 in 2016. 25 should be our goal for 2017!
 - Lindsay will be sailing so we need a new plan for food/BBQ.
- Jim Dillard will work on beer/permits and the Oyster boat. RC will be supplied by the PRSA I-20 fleet (and we are mostly set).
- PRO: Bruce Bingman (confirmed)
- Entry Fee remains at \$125. Cater food? We came out ahead in 2016.
- To do list
 - Set up Regatta Network page for regatta
 - Advertise to other clubs!
 - 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 2017

Many thanks to the Officers who served Fleet 50 in 2016:

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

2017 Proposed Slate of Officers:

Fleet Captain: Lisa-Marie Lane

Lieutenant for Racing: John Van Voorhis

Treasurer: Bob Gotthardt

Secretary: Geof Fuller

Scorer:

Webmaster: pending (may reorganize w/ PRSA website)

Potomac Cup Regatta Chair:

Special Olympics Coordinator:

2016 Fleet 50 Awards

Best New Crew: Christian Camacho

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.

Christiam Chamaco. He came over from to fleet 50 from SCOW and brought with him a tremendous amount of experience and enthusiasm. In addition, he has the ability to keep Team Lane focused and working well together!

Christiam Camacho - by far - the best new crew we have ever had. He jumped in from skippering the SCOW Scots - he quickly learned the boat, and not only helped us get some of the best finishes we had all season, but also quickly integrated into the fleet - participating in the after sailing BBQs and coming to the PRSA annual meeting and dinner.

Christiam Camacho - the Lane's new crew this fall. The combination of adding Chris as new/steady crew and the Lane's natural progression has resulted in their becoming consistently more competitive.

Most Improved Crew: Ryan Huttar (honorable mentions to Leigh Boyle and Jess Harrington)

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.

I would like to nominate Ryan Huttar. Ryan joined Fleet 50 with experience sailing Lightnings; but somewhat limited racing experience. He has been a valuable crew member from day one, and his racing skills continue to improve. He has now suffered through a second year of crewing for me (Bob Gotthardt), and remains my most reliable crew member. Although he is not well known by many Fleet 50 members; I'm sure those who know him will agree that he is very committed, a pleasure to sail with, and has the same passion for racing as many of us. I can't think of a better choice for this award.

High Impact Crew: Christy Chen (honorable mentions to Lisa-Marie Lane, Jeff Witten, and Jess Harrington)

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.

Christy Chen! She has not only been great crew, but has also been a great teacher and team player! She was the reason team As You Wish went to the Women's NAs this year and added another great level of experience to this skipper!

Team Spirit Skipper: Bob Gotthardt

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.

Bob Gotthardt- he excels at bringing new sailors aboard and makes sailing very fun and enjoyable- and shares the passion for sailing freely.

Congeniality Award: Aaron Boesenecker (honorable mention to Jim Lane)

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.

Aaron Boesenecker – our perennial cheerleader, outstanding communicator, and excellent organizer - not only shares his knowledge and passion for sailing freely, he also willingly shares advice, coaching, and experiences.

I nominate Aaron Boesenecker for this award. Though he has probably won it many times in the past; Aaron continues to go out of his way to recruit and welcome new fleet members and share valuable advice with others. I was fortunate enough to sail with him in this year's Dixie District Regatta; and have the weekly pleasure of sailing with Aaron aboard the S2 7.9 Too Many Cooks - and it always is pleasure. I think Aaron should be recognized for continuing to be a strong force keeping Fleet 50 active and fun for all.

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. **Aaron Boesenecker (again!) from 10th in 2015 to 2nd in 2016 (+8)**
2. Nabeel Alsalam – from 6th to 1st (+5)
3. Bobby Astrove – from 8th to 3rd (+5)

Skipper of the Year: Lisa-Marie Lane

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.

Lisa-Marie Lane - her enthusiasm is contagious, and she has brought her tenacious focus to her boat and the fleet. She gets everyone excited about sailing - she excels at reaching out and expanding- she is often "matchmaker" - finding new people rides and expanding the fleet crew. She even coordinated the fleet in getting a discount buying new sails, and generates excitement and interest to participate in other Dixie Regattas. She also led our Doc Gilbert Regatta, doing an outstanding job!

Fleet 50 Helper Award: Lindsay Bach (honorable mention to Lisa-Marie Lane, Will Phillippe, and Frank Gallagher)

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

Lindsay Bach. Lindsay deserves this award for all that he does for our signature event Doc Gilbert. The amount of time and energy he spends to not only plan a great menu, but shop, set up and cook for everyone is amazing!

Bungle Bucket: 2 nominees!

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.

I really don't want to personally embarrass anyone, but there is no close second place here. It all took place at the Poquoson Challenge near Jim Dillard's family place in the tidewater area. It begins with capsizing 20 feet from the dock in about 7 mph of breeze. I jumped off of my boat and helped Red right the boat & swim it back to the dock, while Sue was nursing her bad knee and was busy getting herself back to the dock. They pulled the boat out on the ramp w' their truck, got it drained and up to the race course in time for the third race....

After the races we sailed back to the ramp (about 2 miles), and pulled out boats before heading back to Jim's for crabs. Red and Sue had a little more trouble than we did, pulling the boat out, snagging the mast on an overhanging tree limb, and pulling the boat partially off the trailer. Red, Brian and Kirsten Burke and I got it back on the trailer. It all happened at pretty high speed and words don't do the situation justice. Red and Sue were damn good sports after a long day of mishaps. But definitely there is no second place in this year's bungle bucket competition.

Aaron Boesenecker – for flinging himself out of his own boat while skippering. At least he let go of the main sheet, unlike Jim Lane the previous year who pulled the boat over on top of him by the main...

Definitely Aaron... Not sure I have ever heard of the skipper falling out of the boat during a race ;)

Bloody Rudder Award:

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

1. Lisa-Marie Lane: 5 regattas
2. Jim Lane: 4 regattas
3. Nabeel Alsalam: 4 regattas

All Weather Sailor Award:

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

1. Jim Lane: 16 race days
2. Tom Hutton: 16 race days
3. Jess Harrington: 15 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. **John Van Voorhis: 23**
2. Nabeel Alsalam: 23
3. Aaron Boesenecker: 17
4. Lisa-Marie Lane: 17