



Cedar Point Yacht Club

Sailboat Racing at its Best



Fall 2006 Frostbiting Week 1: 59 boats, 6 races. Sunny, warm, and not very windy: Scrivan Wins (again! -ed)

Remember when we used to have an average of 30 boats or less on the line? Our fall 2006 season opener revealed boats more than anyone reasonably thought; with 61 registered for the day and 59 on the starting line! Who needs to travel when the Cedar Point Frostbite Series is posting stronger turnouts than most 25-point NA Grand Prix Laser events.

I speak for everyone involved when I say how much we were looking forward to kicking off this season and tearing it up once again on LIS. With perfect weather and just enough breeze from the southwest we were able to pull off 6 very competitive races.

For me it was back to the basics. Start at the favored end, the pin, drag race out left, wait for a decent knock, tack and continue to play the shifts up the middle left. It sounded easy until approaching the weather mark where I encountered boats from the right, middle right, and left. You know it is a super tactical day when time and again the first beat does not have a clearly favored side.

It seemed like at least 40+ different people were in the top 10 at least once throughout the day. The top spots are not reserved; this is a completely open field.

A Few key elements that helped me win:

1. Starting at the favored end. If it is slightly favored, or the opposite side of the course is favored, I shift towards the middle a few boats. If not, I fight hard and win the favored end. I tell myself that by not starting at the favored end I am literally giving others a head start.
2. Always stay in clear air on the first beat. Plan tacks carefully. I always make sure I have a wide-open lane for footing, pinching, ducking other boats, and tacking out if need be. I try not to spend any time, early in the race, in bad air.
3. On the downwind look back at least ½ the time. I look at other boats' angles and speed to help me decipher which gybe was the fastest. I also carry a mast head fly and bow windex, which help immensely.
4. Whenever someone beats me, nails a side or a shift well, or what ever the case may be, I always ask how the person made their gains. People always love talking about what they do or have done well.

See you Sunday. – *Andrew Scrivan*