

The following summary of the JY15 20th Anniversary North American Championships is written by Rochester Canoe Club member and winner of the event, Mike Ingham (with crew Claire Brodie).

JY15 NAs

Rochester Canoe Club (RCC)

Sept 17-19, 2010

The Rochester Canoe Club did a fine job hosting the 2010 JY15 North Americans. Ralph Simpson and Kevin Loftus co-chaired the event and we all appreciate the effort they both put in.

We were lucky to have a full team come from Mexico (Camilo Hernandez Giraldo and Juan Pablo Hernandez DeBedout) with one additional crew member (Tere Schroeder) that sailed with my daughter Liz. Out of town teams included JY Class president Mark Allen from Michigan, the Gillman's from DIYC (CT), Justin Nolf & Kristen Connell from FBYC (CT), John Potter & Tiffany Skinner from BYSC (SC), Joe Healey & Mandy Merritt from SMYC (NY), the Nightingales from SYC (CT), and Chris Vann with Amy Williams from CT.

After a rainy week, Friday cleared nicely for the long weekend. Day 1 the wind was from the North East making it tricky sailing as the wind came over the hills at the right edge of the course. The lifts would typically come from the right, but often there was some more wind out away from shore on the left. It sure was hard to tell which would work best and since the course was close to the hills, by the time the wind showed its ripples, it was often too late to get to it!

After getting stuck on the right in a big hole once, Claire and I decided to play the left side of the course away from land. John Potter/ Tiffany Skinner tended to like the shifts on the right and when all was said and done, we were 1-2. Which proves that either way worked? It was a tight pack with Joe Healy/ Mandy Merritt just a few points behind John and Tiffany and Doug Kaukeinen with son Brit just a few behind Joe and Mandy.

Bill Dexter, John Fortunato and team of volunteers cooked up a great RCC tradition of 8 turkeys prepared in buckets covered with coals on the lawn. Mmmm. Ralph organized 2 groups where we had the day's leaders discuss go-fast tips, tactics and give feedback to our RC. It was well received. Speaking of our RC, long time Thistler Jim Tompkins with wife Patty were PROs with help from our regular RC Sunday chair Phyllis Kaukeinen, my wife Delia, Kathy Bello, Deirdre Santos and a few others helping too. The bonfire went well into the night while we swapped stories and enjoyed wine donated by Constellation Wines (thanks Kathy)!

Day 2 races saw a southerly which is a good relatively steady direction on the bay. Then the wind started going right and the further it went, the more random it became. Bill and Julie Nightingale on a romantic get-away weekend from the kids had a spectacular morning posting 4 excellent finishes moving them well up in the standings after sitting in 5th the day before. The RC put up a flag with a hot dog on it so we headed in for some turkey sandwiches and refreshments. Mmmm. After lunch, we went out again. The afternoon breeze had shifted right and we got 2 light and fluky races in then it turned really light and bogus, so the RC mercifully called it quits and our crashboat crew of Mike Conklin, Rich and Chris Connelly, Gary Skillman, Bill Bradburn, Steve Powers and Joe Kaukeinen pulled the marks for the day.

At the end of Day 2, the Nightingales had moved to 2nd. John and Tiffany were in 3rd but by a tie-breaker over Joe and Mandy. Local Sunfish phenomenon Doug and Britt rounded out the top five. Kevin and Birgit Gillman were in 6th. Dinner was catered by the local "Dinosaur Bar-B-Que" and it was delicious! Another evening of good food, wine, beer and smores at bonfire capped off another great day.

After Waffles for breakfast, Sunday's forecast was terrible. We tried going to the lake to see if it was any better and it was not. As the time limit approached, finally the RC called the day. The choice proved to be correct as the bay became reflecting pond calm. John Fortunato had made soup from the leftover turkey, so we continued eating our way through the weekend. Mmm.

In the end, Bill and Julie Nightingale were 2nd, and John and Tiffany 3rd, Joe Healey & Mandy Merritt 4th and the RCC Kaukeinen team 5th. My daughter Liz Ingham sailing with Mexican Tere Schroeder won the Jr. perpetual trophy. The top female skipper/crew award was shared by Liz and Brianna Gammons. Kevin & Estella Loftus took the top Parent Child award, the Gillman's were the top Husband-Wife team and Ralph Simpson brought in the top Master Skipper award sailing with daughter Rachel.

Many thanks to all the volunteers from the Rochester Canoe Club who helped organize and run a great event. Thanks also to all the participants who came from out of town especially the Mexicans for flying in from Mexico City. They are from Valle De Bravo, a spectacular place they promise to invite us to for a NA's or Midwinters in the near future. Sounds good to me!

Mike Ingham, 27Sep2010