

50th Anniversary Bluenose Regatta
Harbor Island Yacht Club – Fleet 262
Nashville, Tennessee
November 7–8, 2015

Photos by Andy Griswold

Photos by Brian Smokler

POS	SAIL#	SKIPPER & CREW	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total	Nett
1	15296	Geoff Becker, Mike Mann, Madeleine Schroeder	6	2	1	2	1	1	13	7
2	15172	James Taylor, George Auer, Stan Cummins	2	1	16	13	3	2	37	21
3	15364	Gerry Paoli, Roselynn Hazzard, Marc Schillebeeckx	3	8	4	23	13	7	58	35
4	15470	George Sipel, Mike Scott, Jim Thompson	1	5	23	1	6	25	61	36
5	15555	Dick Hallagan, John Steiner, Tom Shroeder	13	4	2	10	11	19	59	40
6	15332	Patrick Considine, Tim Corkell, Steve Diaz	12	3	7	29	16	4	71	42
7	313	Ryan Flack, Kevin Morin, Josh Hevron	19	17	3	17	5	3	64	45
8	15146	Gary Sowden, Grant Hilger, Cara Longshore	11	19	5	28	4	8	75	47
9	14533	Robert Mattix, Jan Mattix, John Coolidge	15	27	6	8	7	13	76	49
10	15430	John McCree, Julie Crane, Maureen Ferries	4	15	9	12	18	15	73	55
11	15265	Steven Davis, Jan Davis, Laura Jeffers	23	22	22	5	2	5	79	56
12	15078	Duane Hatch, Denis Colby, Bruce Richards	22	12	8	3	26	12	83	57
13	14176	Becca Hofmeister, Kevin Bradley, Karl Allen	16	28	14	4	14	9	85	57
14	15308	Bill Killebrew, Mike Osborne, Molly Leitch	10	9	11	20	15	16	81	61
15	15206	Mandy Hofmeister, Pauline Kaiser, Don Kaufman	18	23	20	7	10	10	88	65
16	15309	Brad Wagnon, Dave Corcoran, Bryan Bahler	14	14	10	16	17	11	82	65
17	15515	Bobby Flack, Jody Kjoller, Brian Goldberg	8	7	15	18	21	20	89	68
18	15512	Mark Allen, Beth Groesbeck, Stephen Valenzuela	5	6	25	25	9	24	94	69
19	13719	David Young, Ross Young, Leif Asgeirsson	7	13	21	14	19	21	95	74
20	14952	Tom Varley, Jon Varley, Matt Buchanan	21	24	31	9	12	14	111	80
21	15513	Trey Rose, Mike Garza, Allison Frantz	17	18	12	11	22	22	102	80
22	15125	Bill Ziegler, Kevin Ziegler, Joel Hofman	24	20	26	27	8	6	111	84
23	15406	Sarah Somes, Marcie Levey, Amy Simonsen	9	11	24	31	24	17	116	85
24	15201	Robert Bernhardt, Tori Strut, Mark Ardnt	20	10	17	6	DNC	DNC	131	92
25	14933	Terry Hart, Jamie & Kiel Vanderhoval	25	21	19	19	20	27	131	104
26	14007	Hans Graf, Jonathan Means, Kierra Randall	DNC	16	28	21	23	18	145	106
27	14065	Carl Panetta, Joshua Panetta, Keith Councell	26	25	29	15	25	28	148	119
28	15180	Pam Burke, Jim & Joshua Burke	28	26	13	26	27	29	149	120
29	15206P	Anthony Passafume, Caleb Hart, Laura Twiggs	32	31	18	30	30	23	164	132
30	11241	Ben Murphy, Chandler Hill, Ian Coyne	34	29	35	32	29	26	185	150
31	14969	Chandler Owen, Julie Barringer, Carol Owen	30	32	32	34	28	30	186	152
32	11386	William Baxter, Jr., Rich Hall, Cherry Cherry	33	30	27	24	DNC	DNC	192	153
33	14433	David Samanich, Joe Christopher, Don Fagguy	31	34	34	22	DNC	DNC	199	160
34	14666	Crit Currie, Clair Halahan, Tim Ryan	27	35	33	35	DNC	DNC	208	169
35	14338	Lynn Jones, Guy Loe, Sarah Gridner	29	33	36	33	DNF	DNC	209	170
36	14191	Mark Florian, Colin Florian, Bryan Burke	DNC	DNC	30	36	DNC	DNC	222	183
37	15477	M. Tim Grady, Ania Gorska, Andrew Bouganski	35	36	DNF	37	DNF	DNC	225	186
38	15100	Brad Currie, Anna Linn Currie, Alexander Lavelle	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	234	195

50th Anniversary Bluenose - By Geoff Becker

Not many classes have been around long enough to have a 50th Anniversary Edition. The Lightning Class’ Bluenose Regatta, which got its name from a 1900’s Canadian Racing Workboat, was first held in 1965 making the 2015 event the 50th running of this longstanding regatta. Competitors from all over the country converged at the Harbor Island Yacht Club in Old Hickory, TN to compete in the nearly 40-boat fleet for the final regatta on the 2015 Lightning Class Schedule.

This was my first time attending the historic Bluenose Regatta, and I wish I had attended one sooner. My team included fellow Annapolis Fleet members, Mike Mann and Madeleine Schroeder. This was their first big Lightning regatta sailing outside of Annapolis. Mike and Madeleine own an older Lippincott and are enjoying getting their feet wet in the Class. It was great to sail with them and look for them more out on the race course.

The hospitality of the local members and sailors was second to none and everyone in attendance was made to feel like part of their family. We sailed 6 races in two days in great sailing conditions, but the weekend would have been as enjoyable just being around the clubhouse and all the other sailors and club members. If you are a Lighting Sailor and have not yet attended an Annual Bluenose Regatta, you need to attend next year!

Per the forecast, sailors were expecting a somewhat chilly weekend but one that also included good wind predictions on both Saturday and Sunday. Racing began on Saturday and the sailors were met with cloudy skies and excellent 8-14 knot Northerly winds. With the wind from the North, parallel to the direction of the lake, the normal shifty and puffy conditions gave way to a more stable breeze than what others had warned me to expect. Of course there were wind shifts, big and small, which can only be expected on a small lake in the middle of the country. In the end, Saturday’s conditions allowed Captain Hof (Bill Hofmeister) and his team to complete 4 races in both fair and challenging conditions.

Saturday evening after racing, the regatta participants were treated to an excellent feast of bacon wrapped filets and all the fixings! The clubhouse was filled with the smoke of the meat cooking on the grill outside making the anticipation grow for this outstanding meal. Club members and volunteers made feeding this large hungry group look easy and no one in attendance left hungry. A more than perfect way to warm up and recharge after the long and a little chilly day on the water.

Because the Bluenose attracts so many out of town sailors, Sunday started and ended a little earlier so drivers could be on the road by the early afternoon. Sunday morning brought similar chilly temps, but nothing but sunshine in the sky. Sailors also arrived to 10-16 knot winds from the North-East, which meant we might see a few more shifts than the day before. Big puffs and even bigger shifts were the story of the racing, but Captain Hof was able to run two good races in the more challenging conditions to complete the 6 races on the schedule. Nicely done Captain Hof and all the HIYC Volunteers!

Nashville 2015 - By John McCree



The 50th Bluenose regatta started with an invitation from my old friend Bruce, connecting his journey to Tawas to sail with William Hofmeister (Hof) and my friend John Dent, to the memories of classic fall sailing at Harbor Island on the Cumberland. And it worked. Thirty eight boats travelled from Florida, Colorado, Annapolis, Chicago, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York and Michigan, including past class presidents and secretaries, and new champions, to join old friends from Nashville. Travelling from BCYC, Gary Cara & Grant; Terry Jamie & Kiel; John Julie & Maureen.

There was talk of making this the last Bluenose regatta, and Bruce welcomed competitors with an opening ceremony that was part eulogy of the long history and traditions that have become this regatta. HIYC was my model for the YiP program, and I spent more time this year talking with the young Molly Leitch, HIYC social director, learning about their Vanguard 15 program which continues to attract enthusiastic young sailors—with events like Super Sunday, un-regattas without formal scoring and trophies, and 17 teams that range from first-timers to 30-year veterans and club commodores. But at the same time, Nashville reflects many Midwestern Lightning fleets—a small core of traditionalists that have kept events going for a decade or three, but are slowly aging or passing, to be remembered one day as names on trophies. The regatta ended with Hof attempting to engage participants in a discussion about changing the timing of the Bluenose to better reflect the new demographics and class regatta schedule, but by Sunday afternoon, all we wanted to do was bask in the glow of one of the finest Bluenose regattas in many years.

There’s always a long drive through Indianapolis, or Cincinnati, this time the back-up was on I-65 so we took a little detour through Franklin and Edinburgh, arrived Nashville in the early darkness of “standard time” for fine hors d’oeuvres and a finger of Kentucky bourbon or Tennessee sipping whiskey, then down to Legends on Broadway for one beer with Julie and Maureen and Terry and Caleb. Back at the Richard’s home, Isaac’s electric car race track was the entertainment for the evening for Trey and Mikey.



Early start on Saturday, to rig a boat for a 9:30 harbor gun, scrambled up to the club to catch Bruce’s ode to the Bluenose and the traditional intentions for the day from William. Followed by the launching of the fleet, and four races, in an overcast NNE 5-12 with long oscillations and occasional puffs. Somehow a clearing tack in the first start of the day worked better than it usually does; a couple of tacks to cover the fleet and round top mark in first, which is generally a good thing, but in this fleet we’re vulnerable to showing our inexperience as a team. Held off a fleet full of District champions and this year’s World Champion for a run, gave up George Sipel with a poorly timed split halfway up the final beat. Other than that, just another day at the races, ran over the offset mark, launched a twisted chute, gybed away to re-round a weather mark after coming in too low on a hugely crowded layline, tacked on old friends as we struggled to squeeze through a starboard-favored finish line that was a touch short for a closely matched 40-boat fleet. We ended the day in a respectable 6th place, made a few comebacks on the run and final beat, and completed the day without any 20+ finishes on our score line, which turned out to be a rare accomplishment.

Jim Milliman’s steak dinner was better than ever, and Duane, Bruce’s long-time crew, occasional helmsman, and proud new father was one of several with a birthday, so there was super chocolate cake with the ice cream. Took a while to settle the dinner and work up to a second walk up and down Broadway and an evening at the Blue/Second Fiddle, and our team humored me by giving up on the entertainment after the first set.

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Another early start on Sunday, I was up at dawn, which isn’t all that difficult in central time zone in November. Only casualty of the evening was the Ninja shifter, but Mikey assured Trey it was repairable. We arrived at a crowded parking lot in sunshine and cool—and wow was it cranking in the harbor, a day that was to become a bit of a trial-by-fire for our young team, with puffs into the 20’s. Put away the light-air jib and pulled out the practice spinnaker, made famous by shrimping Pymatuning and swimming Bayview, and after a mediocre start we twisted it up tightly in our first attempt at the gybe set, on a course with much starboard on the beat and port on the “run”—but somehow we still kept 20 boats on our transom. Struggled to find a lane, after three attempts at the final race of the 50th running of the Bluenose, another nice comeback at the top near the finish, but we fumbled the last chance to score a “keeper”, and conceded a few places to our friends who were able to put up pairs of good scores—a not uncommon reversal of fortune on day two.

Kind words at trophies, with the usual gentle Southern humor from Hof. Packed and on the road by early afternoon on a beautiful fall day, split the team so Grant wouldn’t have to drive home alone, chose poorly in a lane split for construction watching a sunset over Kentucky hills with engines off while crews cleared the wreckage, pushed the arrival in Bay City back to 2:06 am, with a short detour through the Bridgeport commuter lot to say a quick goodnight to Julie and Maureen and Grant, clearing frost from the windshields under a clear cold Michigan sky.