

# 2010 USSCA Midwest Regional I

June 26-27, 2010

Wolf Lake Yacht Club, Jackson, Michigan



**2010 Midwest Regional 1** - The first regional event for the Midwest was hosted June 26-27 by Wolf Lake's Fleet 522 and the participants were treated to challenging racing conditions, warm hospitality and great food. Every year the Sunfish competition seems to get tougher and this year was no exception with the entry list including many past winners of the regionals. Sailors took to the water after a quick brunch and they were met by partially cloudy skies and light and shifty Westerly conditions (4 to 9 knots) which made for a nice sized windward-leeward course down the length of the lake.

**Saturday Race 1**— Four of the regatta favorites were caught over early in race one but the cream quickly rose back to the top as Rich Chapman led at the first mark followed closely by Derrick Fries, Dan Norton and John Butine. Derrick and Rich had a private two boat battle around the course and Derrick's triathlon cross-training (combined with his spot-on tactics, blazing speed, boat handling, etc) must have helped him as he took the lead as extended around the course. Fries never looked back as the chase group of Chapman, Norton, Butine and Josh Kerst worked through some thicker than normal weed beds near the windward mark. Derrick won the race hands down followed by Chapman, Norton, and Kerst.

**Race 2** – The second race started clean as most sailors played what appeared to be the favored breeze up the right side up the first beat. Lake Bluff's Scott Schappe and Detroit's Steve Kraft proved everyone wrong by working the left side to perfection as they rounded 1-2 followed closely by Chapman and Fries. Derrick once again found his groove quickly and used his exceptional downwind speed and played the downwind lanes to impressively pass the top three by the lee to go on to the win followed by early leaders Schappe and Kraft.

**Race 3** –Derrick must had enough of this come from behind stuff as he put on a clinic for the next race as he, Dan Norton and Fritz Hanselman were so far out front that it was hard to see the sail numbers. The three finished up the race in those same positions nearly a full leg ahead of the bulk of the fleet. Shifty conditions played havoc during the race as many sailors kept their morale up by thinking "oh this will be be my throw out race". Tom Katterheinrich ended up with the best finishing position in the main peloton but Wolf Lake had more "chutes and ladders" sailing in store for the weekend.

**Race 4** – The last race of the day saw a slight increase in the breeze but little change in the results. Derrick finished the day with yet another win over Chapman, Norton and then Schappe.

**Day One Recap:** Day one results (including the throw out) showed Derrick with an impressive 3 points, followed by Chapman and Norton tied at eight points and Schappe and Kerst tied in fourth with 14 points followed closely by Fritz Hanselman. After the racing everyone really enjoyed Wolf Lake's amazing roast which included all the trimmings. Very special thanks go out to Thelma & Howard Denney and Kathy Cyphers who made this awesome dinner something truly special.

**Sunday Race 5** - The threat of afternoon rain and severe thunderstorms got the fleet out on the water bright and early for Sunday's concluding three races. Our ace race committee, Pat Olney provided a fair course which resulted in another clean start that saw the majority of the fleet work the left side early and the right side late due to slightly better pressure and angle. The light (4- 7 knots) Southerly breezes created shorter legs given Wolf Lake's geography but the RC compensated by adding more "laps" that kept the fleet bunched up except for one person, Dr. Fries. Derrick must have felt like the Maytag Repair Man because he was lonely up front and he went on to win the race as numerous battles continued through the rest of the fleet. The results of the battles showed Chapman, Schappe, Norton, and Butine to round out the top 5.

**Race 6** – The fleet got off another clean start and continued to work the left side early during race 6 and Derrick showed his tactical skills as he rounded first mark well ahead of Norton, Hanselman and Schappe. Derrick extended again for the win followed by Dan Norton who put two important points between himself and Rich Chapman going into the final race.

**Race 7** – The breeze died as heavy clouds moved in and the fleet waited for the breeze to fill in. A quick check of radar from the RC showed there was time to get one more race in to complete the scheduled races. Patience paid off as race seven got underway only to once again see Derrick get the jump on the fleet at the final start while Dan Norton and Rich Chapman had their own private duel for second in the last race. Dan made some strong moves down the second downwind leg to lead Rich at the leeward mark and they were neck and neck on the second lap when a quick moving storm was spotted in the area by the RC. Three horns were sounded accompanied by code flags N over H which indicated the day and the regatta was over and Derrick Fries was pronounced the overall winner for the 2010 Midwest Regional I regatta champion. It is always a pleasure to compete against Derrick as he selflessly shares his knowledge with other sailors and consistently raises the bar with amazing boat handling techniques and unequalled attention to detail that produces top results.

Regatta photographer, Kathy Ziegler was very busy with the camera, taking more than 1300 photos throughout the two day event. The links below are to the photo gallery. Note: If you would like any of these photos at the original high resolution, please email [jffenton@mac.com](mailto:jffenton@mac.com) with the file name of the photo.

Set 1 - <http://gallery.me.com/jffenton/100172>

Set 2 - <http://gallery.me.com/jffenton/100175>

Set 3 - <http://gallery.me.com/jffenton/100182>

## Results – 2010 USSCA Midwest Regional I

Place	Skipper	Sail #	Club	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	total
1	Derrick Fries	11070	DYRA	1	1	1	1	1	4	5
2	Dan Norton	78829	Douglas Lake	3	6	2	3	4	2	14
3	Rich Chapman	59541	Lake Bluff YC	2	4	6	2	2	6	16
4	Scott Schappe	79620	Lake Bluff YC	8	2	4	4	3	5	22
5	Josh Kerst	4909	WLYC	4	5	4	5	6	4	24
6	Fritz Hanselman	5744	Lake Bluff YC	6	8	3	6	9	3	26
7	John Butine	50493		5	7	7	8	5	8	32
8	Tom Katterheinrich	75417	St. Mary's BC/WL	9	9	4	7	7	4	36
9	Steve Kraft	78570	GDSC	12	3	5	12	10	4	42
10	Matt Heywood	79306	WLYC	7	4	9	11	11	7	45
11	Shapoor Guzder	33090	Lake Bluff YC	10	12	8	4	8	9	47
12	David Travis	79690	Douglas Lake	11	10	14	10	12	4	57
13	Holly Hanselman	78744	Lake Bluff YC	15	11	13	9	4	13	61
14	Andy Zeigler	59544	WLYC	13	13	12	13	16	4	67
15	Kevin Considine	62485	Lake Bluff YC	14	14	15	4	13	15	71
16	Gretchen Seymour	80361	Lake Bluff YC	17	16	16	4	14	10	73
17	John Fenton	79960	WLYC	4	17	17	15	17	16	82
18	Charlie Butchart	62525	Wolf Lake YC	16	18	18	19	19	4	90



(L-R) Winners: Derrick Fries, Dan Norton, Rich Chapman, Scott Schappe, Jost Kerst



Derrick Fries (R) with a downwind lead followed by Scott Schappe (L)