

## **2018 WJM North American Championships**

### **Welcome Message**

On behalf of Pontiac Yacht Club, welcome to the 2018 International Lightning Class Association Women's, Juniors' and Masters' North American Championship. As the home of the largest Lightning fleet in the world, we are proud to host this prestigious regatta and are pulling out all the stops to make this a memorable event for all those who attend ... and a sail bag full of remorse for all those who don't!

If you long to bash through a three-foot chop on your way up a 1.5 mile windward leg while you battle tidal currents and dodge barges and container ships, well, you'll be disappointed with our venue on Cass Lake. And nature lovers who are attracted to red tides, jellyfish, kelp and algae blooms will be equally disappointed. On the other hand, if you look forward to flat, crystal clear water, a moderate breeze with enough oscillations and persistent shifts to put a premium on tactical decision making, this is your place.

We welcome all qualifying participants to this year's WJM NA Championships. But we want to particularly reach out to junior teams across North America. At PYC we have seen the many benefits that our vibrant junior sailing program brings to our club and we want to encourage junior sailing however we can. To that end, our club members and educational foundation have teamed together to sponsor the first 20 junior teams to register for the regatta. Their regatta registration fee will be covered. Please help us by encouraging any rising junior sailors to make the effort to join us this year.

PYC has placed a request with the powers that be for fair winds and sunny skies during the regatta. We have arranged for professional race management, have upgraded our race equipment and club facilities, and are ready to host an outstanding sailing regatta. But we also know that what happens off the water can be the icing on the cake for a great sailing experience. You can expect great food, daily social activities, plenty of refreshments (are you familiar with Michigan's vibrant craft beer industry?) and a number of entertainment options for your shoreside enjoyment.

Through the various links on the website you should find all the information you need to plan your trip: the Notice of Regatta, a detailed daily schedule, information on the racing venue and

club facilities, housing information for hotels, campgrounds and private homes, charter boat contacts, and of course a link to the online registration system. If you have any questions not answered here, please feel free to contact me directly per the information below, I will be more than happy to answer your questions and fill in any blanks.

With the wind at my back,

Karl Aavik  
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