

HCA Division 16 Report 2010

Division Chair: Theresa (Fluffy) White

Division 16 encompasses New York State and Lower Ontario. It is home to six fleets (119, 183, 204, 238, 295, and 298), two of whom did not host points regattas in 2010 (238 and 298). During this past summer, our Division held five points regattas (Madcatter, Flying High, Hobie Kenobie, the Rohrbach, and the CMOR). One of the points regattas was held in conjunction with Canandaigua Yacht Club's annual open event, the CMOR with the approval of the HCA Race Director. Our Division was host to the North Eastern Championships this year, in conjunction with Fleet 295's annual Rohrbach regatta. A non-points event was also held (Beachin' Cats) by Fleet 238.

Now, the exciting news! At every Division 16 event this year, our regatta attendance was slightly *increased* over last year. It is worth pointing out that this is the first time that this has happened in 5 years. Some of this increase seems to have been due to F-18 and wave inclusion, but perhaps the recession is easing somewhat and people are travelling again. Fleet 204 actively instigated a membership committee this year, and there have been a fair number of new faces there this year. There may also have been an element of youth inclusion driving the increase in regatta attendance, as this year has seen an increase in both the number of youth sailing and in youth achievement. We're proud to be the home of the Youth National Champions and thankful for the youth grants that helped them to travel to the event. Whatever has caused the increase in attendance, we're happy about it. Getting in "new blood" is critical to continuing our sport, and we hope it will continue.

We continue to struggle with diminishing numbers of volunteers to run the regattas. At least two of our fleets have been hosting regattas for more than 30 years, and many of the same people have been involved for all that time. As a result, many people are just plain tired. At least two of our points regattas almost didn't happen, simply because key people had lost energy. So, our Division faces the challenge of reinvigorating the fleets with new voices, hands, and ideas.

We are looking forward to planning the dates and details of the 2011 calendar. We continue to try not to overlap with events held by our friends in Divisions 10 or 11, and are attempting to also consider the F-18 calendar for some of our events. We hope that next year will continue our slight growth trend into the future.