



TBYC hosts Wayfarer North American Championship

by John Morris

EAST TAWAS – The 2016 Wayfarer North American Championship was hosted Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10-11, by the Tawas Bay Yacht Club (TBYC).

Competitors came from across the United States and Canada. In all, 13 Wayfarers squared off on Tawas Bay to determine this year's North American champion and claim the Henry Croce Trophy. The young metro Detroit team made their debut to the North American Wayfarer Championship.

A total of five races were sailed over the two days and the winner was the team of Andrew

Lockhart and Grace Pytell, who hail from the metro Detroit area.

TBYC had three teams in the event one of which had a youngster as a crew member. Two other boats had children crewing as well.

Second place was awarded to Marc and Julie Bennett of East Lansing, while third place went to David and his wife, Anne, Pugh from Oakville, Ontario. A tie breaker was used to determine the second and third place finishers as both were in a dead heat after the five races. Fourth place finishers were defending champions Sue Pilling and Steph Romaniuk of Parry Sound, Ontario



Courtesy photo

HOISTING THE TROPHY – Metro Detroiters Grace Pytell and Andrew Lockhart hold the Henry Croce Trophy as winners of the 2016 Wayfarer North American Championship.



Courtesy photo

SPINNAKER OUT – The Tawas Bay Yacht Club entry of former commodore Jennifer Prining and Bill Coberly sails on Tawas Bay during the 2016 Wayfarer North American Championship.



Courtesy photo by Al Shonborn

IN THE LEAD – Wayfarer North American 2016 Champions Andrew Lockhart and Grace Pytell take the lead during one of the five races on Tawas Bay.

while in fifth was the team of Al Schonborn of Oakville, Ontario and Henk Hellman of Holly.

Similarly, the sixth and seventh places were also decided by the same tie breaker - who beat who in the last race that they sailed together. Toronto's Mike Codd and Kirk Iredale finished sixth and Nick Seraphinoff and Chip Cunningham of Detroit were seventh.

Bill Coberly was the top finisher from the host Tawas Bay Yacht Club as he teamed with Jennifer Prining to finish eighth. Jim Best, out of the Detroit Bayview Yacht Club, teamed with young Matt Koch to finish ninth. Ian Pouliot and Jake Wolny rounded out the top 10.

Rounding out the scoring were Dave McCreedy with his daughter, Kathryn, 10, in 11th overall, who edged out Jennifer Prining's husband and 10-year-old daughter, Chris and Jenna, who only sailed the Sunday races, while a trio of Smiths, Erik with daughter, Gabbie, and son, Patrick, were 13th.

The Wayfarer is a wooden or fiberglass hulled fractional Bermuda rigged sailing dinghy of great versatility; used for short "day boat" trips, longer cruises and for racing. More than 11,000 have been produced as of 2016.

The boat is 15 feet 10 inches long, and broad and deep enough for three adults to comfortably sail for several hours. Longer trips are undertaken by enthusiasts, notably the late Frank Dye who sailed W48 'Wanderer' from Scotland to Iceland and Norway, crossing the North Sea twice.

The Wayfarer's size, stability and seaworthiness have made it popular with sailing schools, and led it to be used as a family boat in a wide variety of locations.

The sail plan consists of a Marconi rig with a main, jib, and symmetrical spinnaker. The boat uses a retractable centerboard. An optional Asymmetrical spinnaker and spinnaker chute is available; also available is a "sail patch" which provides flotation for the mast in the event of a capsizing.



Courtesy photo

LOCAL TEAM – Ten-year-old Jenna Prining sailed with her dad, Chris, on their boat named *Partners in Crime* out of the Tawas Bay Yacht Club during the 2016 Wayfarer North American Championship.



Courtesy photo

YOUTH IS SERVED – Youngsters were part of crews in three boats during the weekend's 2016 Wayfarer North American Championship hosted Saturday and Sunday by Tawas Bay Yacht Club. Pictured above, from left, are Patricia Smith, Gabby Smith, Kathryn McCreedy, Jenna Prining and Julie Serphinoff. In the back row is Nick Serphinoff.