

1980 MUTINEER NATIONALS

Central Ave.

If you were to sit back in a comfortable chair and daydream about an ideal day for sailing, you would have a mental picture of the conditions that dominated the three day National Championship Regatta held last July. Hosted by the North Shore Yacht Club; (Highland Park, Illinois) and Mutineer Fleet 39, 432-9800 the three day, six race series was blessed with calm seas, fair winds, and sunny skies for all but one of the three tune-up and 6 championship races. 15 skippers from four states provided some thrilling heats with close competition and few protests. The pace was set early in Thursday's three tune-up races by Doane "Beetle" Bailey, from Sharpsville, Pa. with Mike VonGodanyi crewing. Their flawless tactics and consistent boat speed prevailed throughout the entire series. Friday morning brought more of Lake Michigan at her best, with steady southwesterly breezes and light chop. With the momentum from Thursday's tune-up races, Beetle and Mike took an early lead in the first of five championship heats held Friday. Never seriously challenged they took the win for 3/4 points. Inspired by Bailey, his fellow sailors from Fleet 9, Tony and Ginny Fuger, from Chesterland, Ohio, scored the second race with Dave Weglicki and Al Verele, from Garfield Heights, Ohio, following up with a win in the third. The fourth race proved to be the wild one with Dave Sakata and Laura Barnett from Des Plaines, Il. breaking through the eastern Ohio contingent, after a knock down, drag out tacking duel with Bailey on the final windward leg. With ideal conditions prevailing, the Race Committee, headed by former Mutineer National Champ and T.M.I. representative, Jim McCreary, decided on holding the fifth race of the day. Showing the consistency necessary to be a National Champion, Bailey and VonGodanyi came in first, giving them a 5 1/2 point edge for five races over Weglicki and Verele. With Lake Michigan weather being as inconsistent as it is, Saturday morning was as dismal as could be, with 15 skippers looking as depressed as the weather while waiting for the wind to blow after a one hour start postponement. The starting line was a parking lot in extremely light air filling in from the northeast. Finding yourself in the right spot was a matter of luck, and being in somewhat of an opening in the confused air at the line. Those who

did break away barely made it to the first mark within the 30 minute time limit to qualify it as an official race on the greatly shortened course. Tony and Ginny Fuger earned an untouchable first with the wind increasing slightly right after they rounded the first mark. Back at the Clubhouse, the final results were tallied and as expected, Bailey and VonGodanyi had clinched an overall first with 8 1/2 points. 7 1/2 points back was Dave Weglicki with 15 3/4, followed by the Fugers with 19 1/2. Dave Sakata and Laura Barnett, with their aggressive upwind sailing, were awarded a close fourth with 22 3/4 over newly elected National Commodore, Milt Leech, with shanghaied Interlake (you should see one of these) skipper Tom Minnick, who was only 1/2 point behind with 23. In the spirit of one-design competition, the final outcome was always in doubt. Two skippers had two firsts each, but second overall went to a consistent series with but one ace and the point spread between first and fifth was only 14 1/2 points. The entire three day event was an outrageous blast thanks to the hospitality of the North Shore Yacht Club and Jim McCreary's Race Committee. And with a little co-operation from the weather bureau, you can see for yourself at the same time, same place in '81.

1981 Mutineer Nationals

The North Shore Yacht Club and Mutineer Fleet 39 are, again this year, proud to be the hosts of the National Championship regatta. The event will be held on Thurs. Fri. and Sat., July 16, 17 and 18. This scheduling will leave Sunday as a traveling day for those who have a long trip home. Measuring and weigh in will take place on Wed. evening and Thurs. morning. We will try to have as many tune-up races as possible on Thurs. afternoon with prizes for the winners. The six championship races will be held on Friday and Saturday with a minimum of two per day depending on weather conditions. Lunchees, dinners and a victory banquet are planned. More details and the entry form will be in the next Cannonball.