

ILCA Invitational @ Deep Creek

July 13-14, 2024

Mid-July brought the annual [ILCA Invitational Regatta, hosted by the Deep Creek Lake Sailing Association on Turkey Neck](#) (Swanton, MD). Forty-three sailors gathered to enjoy the lower humidity and the squirrely winds we have come to expect from this great little lake.

Two very light-wind races on Saturday and four gusty races on Sunday offered something for every kind of sailor in the junior and open fleet. You mastered the lake if you had a decent start, could stay in the pressure and kept your bow pointing towards the weather mark. The occasional odd puff kept you on your toes. Regardless of your finishes, lunch breaks and the reggae dinner with live music on shore at Deep Creek Lake Sailing Association's new clubhouse was an added pleasure to an excellent regatta!



The view from Deep Creek Lake Sailing Association.



From left to right: Charles Graham (regatta chair), Len Guenther (5th), Thomas Hutton (4th), Friso Kramer (3rd), Scott Williamson (2nd), Dave Waiting (1st) with Baby Emilia!

Top Masters - Legends, from right to left: Nabeel Alsalam and Dan Miller!



[See more pictures from Deep Creek!](#)

First Time

While sailing out to the course on Sunday I briefly met James Hillyer (age 10), the youngest sailor at the regatta. James was one of two competitors in the junior fleet sailing the ILCA 4 rig. I took this quick picture after learning this was James' first time in the boat.



Back on shore, I followed up with James at the awards ceremony to ask a few questions. Here's a bit of our discussion:

How did it go, James?

I'm a little too light for the boat, but it was fun and I finished second overall!

Not bad for your first ILCA regatta, congratulations! What do you normally sail?

I sail Opti White Fleet at Annapolis Yacht Club each week, skipper with my mom on our Flying Scot every weekend, and sometimes crew on an E Scow with my uncle.

This was your first time in a Laser. What did you learn?

Wrapping the traveler block with electric tape is important. My traveler block would kink and lock

up sometimes. And Lasers are much faster than Optis!

Thanks for taking a moment to share your experience, James! Good luck at Opti Nationals and I hope to see you at another ILCA regatta soon!



From left to right: Charles Graham (regatta chair), Kobe Lion (1st), James Hillyer (2nd), Graham Boison (3rd)