



Wind Forecasting: A Workshop for Sailors

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Overview

No aspect of weather is more important to sailors than the wind. It dictates when it is safe to leave port and whether your journey will be fast or comfortable. On the race course, properly predicting the wind separates the winners from the losers.

The Wind Forecasting workshop is designed for sailors of all experience levels and interest. Accurately forecasting the wind promotes safer, more enjoyable outings and improves performance on the race course. Whether you are a Trans-Superior racer, day sailor, beer-can racer, long distance cruiser, or serious competitor, the skills learned during this workshop will enhance your understanding of the wind and improve your sailing experience.

What you can expect to learn at the workshop:

- Why the wind behaves the way it does
- How to translate the confusing symbols and meteorological shorthand on forecast graphics
- The basics of lake breezes, land breezes, thunderstorms, clouds and other dynamics that produce localized and short-term changes in the wind
- Ways to judge the likelihood, strength and duration of headers/lifts
- A methodology for observing the wind and using on-line resources to develop your own forecast
- Strategies for using your wind-forecasting knowledge to your advantage, whether you are a day sailor, cruiser or serious racer

The workshop combines traditional classroom instruction, Great Lakes case studies, and hands-on exercises to create an engaging learning experience.

Seminar Outline

- Section One:** Introduction
- Section Two:** Building A Solid Foundation: A Meteorological Primer
- Section Three:** Decoding and Interpreting Weather Forecasting Graphics
- Section Four:** Dissecting the Forces Controlling the Wind
- Section Five:** Understanding Large-Scale Wind Patterns
- Section Six:** Tackling the Challenges of Small-Scale and Short-Term Wind Patterns
- Section Seven:** Resources for Observing the Wind
- Section Eight:** An Examination of Wind Forecasting Resources.
- Section Nine:** Putting It All Together: Creating Your Own Forecast

Location: Wayzata Yacht Club
1100 Eastman Lane
Wayzata, MN 55391

When: April 11, 2015
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Fee: Until March 1, 2015: \$50
After March 1, 2015: \$60
Lunch is included.

Workshop website: <http://www.lakeeriewx.com/Seminars/WYC/WYCWind.html>

Please contact **Doug Milroy** (WYC) at doug.milroy@gmail.com to register for the workshop.

Presenter

Mark Thornton has been sailing on Lake Erie for more than 20 years and currently owns *Osprey*, a C&C 35. His interest in weather forecasting grew from his experiences cruising and racing on the lake. Mark is a 2006 graduate of the Penn State University *Certificate of Achievement in Weather Forecasting*, a two-year program that develops skills in general, tropical, and severe weather forecasting.

He is the president of LakeErieWX LLC, a company dedicated to providing marine weather education and forecasting resources for recreational boaters (www.lakeeriewx.com). He served as race meteorologist for the 2014 Bell's Beer Bayview Race to Mackinac, and is the past president of the Cleveland chapter of the American Meteorological Society. Mark is employed as the Vice-President of Administration for the law firm of Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg, and as a Teaching Assistant in the *Certificate of Achievement in Weather Forecasting Program* at Penn State University.