



# GREAT LAKES SINGLEHANDED SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 263 • Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043

## 1982 Mackinac Solo Race Synopsis

Despite the longer distance to Mackinac Island with the added Goderich leg, eleven out of twenty four of the singlehanders veterans were able to post their best ever elapsed times for this event. This includes new elapse time records for the Huron, Erie, Superior, Georgian Bay Divisions as well as overall. It appears that those boats that were able to round the Goderich mark before the winds really died, continued to get the more favorable conditions all the way to Mackinac which allowed them to maintain their record pace. However, this is only trivia since the winners for this race are those that finished.

The feedback so far on this years course (discounting the frustrations at the Goderich turn) appears favorable.

The number of groundings or freighter encounters has been significantly reduced compared to previous years. Skippers have found that being out in the middle of the lake does provide less anxiety than running along the shore.

Our apology for the early lifting of the Goderich mark. Next year we will rely more heavily on our own dedicated race personnel, rather than on local help.

There were other race related frustrations such as fog, self steering failure, bowsprit failure, shifting bulkheads, a beaconless Specticle Reef light (again), more fog, cold, persistant Island maintaining its' rights over a persistant skipper, more fog and colder yet. But when it was over, 38 out of 44 starters made it to the other end to be in the winners circle. Congratulations gang - let's all do it again next year.

To quote the infamous

"There's no reason to do it, I don't know why I did it. I didn't enjoy doing it. ....I'm damn glad I did it"