

## The 2010 Superior Scramble In Review

The 2010 Lake Superior Solo Scramble is in the books and [results](#) have been posted. Thanks to all who participated. This was the inaugural year for the Superior Scramble, participation was great, and we are delighted to have a new annual event on the [GLSS calendar](#) for Lake Superior.

The format for the Superior Scramble was designed to maximize participation and friendly competition with two fleets, one starting from Superior Wisconsin, the other from Bayfield Wisconsin. The destination was the [Silver Bay Marina](#), a great recreational boat facility in Silver Bay on the north shore of Minnesota. The two courses converged on a final leg of about 30 nautical miles due west to Silver Bay which allowed both fleets to make contact via radio and check the progress of boats from each starting location.

The Superior Scramble, like the Lake Michigan Solo Scramble, was designed to be an event that would attract newcomers by providing a 100 mile single handed passage that could be used to qualify for entry for longer GLSS events. Judging by the outstanding level of participation, 11 boats starting in Superior, 5 starting in Bayfield, the sport of solo sailing is very much alive and well on Lake Superior.

### A perspective from the Superior Course

At the skippers meeting in Superior it was obvious the start from this end of the lake would be challenging. Winds in the Bay were strong out of the northeast and had been building much of the day. Those of us that sail out of [Barkers Island Marina](#) and the Duluth Superior area generally knew it would be hard to make progress up the course against a heavy chop and very strong winds on the open lake.

As the race got underway at 5:00 PM outside the Superior Entry, eleven single handed boats struggled to windward under sail working against 30 knots of sustained winds and a steep chop of 5 feet. [This video](#) and [these pictures](#) give some indication of the conditions at the mouth of the Superior Entry as the boats departed. All who made it out into the lake to test themselves and their boats are to be commended.

As the sun went down the prospect of a long night of pounding into heavy seas alone on a boat became real for each of us. During the early night seven skippers from Superior choose a rational course of action and headed back to port. Four boats from Superior stayed out and outlasted the blow as conditions began to ease through the late night and early morning.

The 8:00 AM fleet radio check-in was exciting, it was great to hear the skippers from the Bayfield fleet as they reported their positions. We knew those other boats were out there and it was fun to have contact with them. Many of us have met many times before but only have the chance to see each other and socialize during these sailing events.

For the boats at the back of the course a building westerly wind allowed for direct progress to the turning mark 10 miles north-northwest of Outer Island Light during the day but made for slow progress to Silver Bay, 30 miles west of the mark, during the night. Finally, at 2:00 AM on Sunday, the last of the boats made it off the lake and the 2010 Lake Superior Scramble was history.

### In summary

The event was challenging and fun. We've heard a great deal of positive feedback from the participants and we're looking forward to the second annual Lake Superior Solo Scramble in 2011.