

This was my third try at Lake Winnebago. I did ok back in 2013 with a #12 finish. 2014 a most unnecessary rounding error at Long Point knocked me out of contention. Since the race would run into the deep of night I took it easy and tried to finish on DCs. This time around a super fast ice boat would allow two laps in just over two hours. Basically a big high stakes practice race.

Here I have to say a bit about practice races. I like the hands on approach that I am missing in ocean racing. Also one has to make a number of quick decisions on wind shifts, performance and obstacles in a very compressed time frame. This and the convenient evening schedule makes them a good way to keep my skills sharp.

My strategy was simple. First to avoid my mistake from two years ago and take no risk at the intermediate marks. Second to go for tight roundings at the top and bottom mark. Third to get any short tacks done ASAP to get a clean approach on the next mark. I did not really watch the competition. It took me a while to move up the leaderboard, and Lou (who dominated last year's Sprint Cup) held the top for a while, but I edged him out eventually.

outlaw /February 2016