



SORRENTO YACHT CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1925

Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 26, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
Sorrento Public Library

In Attendance: Steve Schley (Race Committee), Jock Crothers (Race Committee), Patrick Wilson (acting Vice Commodore), Steve Tall (Commodore) on speakerphone, Brian Gamble (Head Instructor), Rich Mayzel, Alison Mayzel, Lisa Ballard, Oliver Waldner (Instructor), Hugo Smith, Hetty Smith, Jessie Smith (Instructor), Karen Mayzel, Harriet Smith, David Daniels, Robert Daniels (Instructor), Trina Wellman, Steve Younger (Past Commodore), Anne Tall (Secretary)

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.

I. Commodore's report

- Steve's last year as commodore.
- List of changes that have taken place:
 - 3 new 420's from Bucks harbor (3 others to Hancock). Boats are privately owned – Talls willing to sell at least 1.
 - Class schedule opened to encourage all ages to participate and go deeper into curriculum with more time on the water.
 - New Chart in digital form, can easily be updated and downloaded; available on website
 - Swim/Capsizing test at pool on one designated day
 - Posting results to website
- Priorities for new commodore:
 - Increase numbers of sailors of all ages
 - Now that we have kids in interclub racing, we need to focus on increasing competitive/team- racing skills.
 - Encourage more family participation
 - Equipment
 - Motor for Shark
 - Inflatable Dinghy and dinghy motor
 - Replacement Mercury sails
 - Mercury spinnakers
 - Opti sails and spars

- Thanks to everyone who helped during his tenure as commodore:
 - Vice commodores: Pru Younger, Karen Mayzel
 - Head instructors: Becca Smith, Elizabeth Ralph, Brian Gamble
 - Race committee: Steve Schley, Jock Crothers, Dick Davis
 - Scoring committee: Diana Gazis
 - Equipment Committee: Jock Crothers
 - communications: Dede
 - great ideas committee: Pru, Karen, Anne, Lisa
 - past commodores: John, Rick, Steve Y
 - main man this year: Patrick

- Reminder of upcoming events
 - August 9th – Hancock Point Regatta
 - August 10th – Round the Rock race
 - August 15th – ff nationals

- Patrick opened floor for comments/questions:
 - Steve Tall highlights need to survey/inventory equipment at the end of each season and make shopping list for winter.
 - SJT commented on purchase of new committee boat
 - Q: how much do we have to spend on equipment needs? Rich Mayzel says we have about \$6000-8000 to spend.
 - Sailing program benefits from rubber dinghy w/motor and would like to own one
 - Yacht club doesn't have a dinghy – where's the Philly? Donated to SYC
 - Should rowing be re-introduced to the instructional program?

II. Head instructor's report

- Brian is working with Jessie Smith, Robert Daniel, Oliver Waldner, Elliot Smith arrives today, Mac Lee
- Class stats: over 50 students participants in July, avg class size is 30, largest class to date 37, oldest student: 60 (Nick Smart)
- DEJSA has 6-7 participants
- # of boats racing in Saturday races: 8, 12, 22
- Pros/cons of new schedule
 - Class sizes so big with open format, he's been encouraging older kids to come in afternoons, limiting younger/beginner students to morning session
 - At least 80% of kids are 8-10 so they all come in the morning (not much relief)
 - More time on water is great, but not as much teaching going on because of group size.
- Long term equipment needs:
 - new engines on Leon & Horizon/Shark.
 - Recommend selling Leon Phelps to buy inflatable & 2 new Honda 4-stroke engines (quieter to aid in instruction).
 - Dinghy.
 - Bigger float out by Preble for all optis and 420s, big enough to teach from to reduce congestion at main dock.

- Very long term – yacht club house with phone line for interclub communication and teaching. [Anne suggests but doesn't say out loud: library could be equipped with voicemail at VIA expense so people could get leave message for library staff –press 1; yacht club – press 2. That would enable messages to be retrieved remotely by cell, etc. Appropriate outgoing messages (time changes, cancellations) could also be updated as needed]
- Next instructor should be experienced college sailor with team racing experience. (Comment from Jock: coaches don't want their racers teaching, they want them racing.)
- Open Comments:
 - Rich Mayzel – observing that kids are being divided again due to class size – unforeseen based on last year's numbers
 - Lisa Ballard cautions against dividing by age, but to focus on skill level. Mornings for beginner/intermediate & afternoons for int./adv? Need to staff to younger crowd. Big population swell last two weeks of July and first two weeks of August.
 - Steve Tall comment on staffing: no housing for non-sorrento instructor. Assistants limited to family attendance, difficult to force family vacation plans to accommodate staffing needs. Maybe we should consider sharing staff across activities/pool to help.
 - Jock says safety is big issue and we should consider limiting attendance – advance sign-up required for class participation like other yacht clubs.
 - Trina asks: Bring float from pool to harbor? SJT: Buddy Trundy didn't think it was capable of withstanding harbor conditions.
 - Yacht club "house" – Instructors want enclosed space for teaching/demonstration but without ferrying so many kids to library & back during limited class time. Can shack be enclosed? Upgraded?

III. 2009 calendar

- Special events:
 - June 28-29 –Equipment set up
 - June 30 -first day of classes
 - July 2 - DEJSA first race (tentative)
 - July 4 July 4th regatta
 - July 7- First mercury race
 - July 18 - 2 race Saturday (comments: need to start earlier & communicate if 2nd race needs to be cancelled; need to be flexible given wind conditions.
 - July 25 – SYC annual meeting & Frenchman Bay regatta
 - August 8 – Hancock Point Regatta
 - August 14 – FF nationals (Aug. 15 as backup)
 - August 15 – 2 race Saturday
 - August 23 - Labor Day regatta
 - August 24 - Take down day
 - Possible repeat of Round the Rock race? Move to July for more participation: July 26th
 - Tues mercury races – make sure calendar reflects 2pm start and that pm class students should show up at 1:00; Also: can we add diversity of location: Skillings river?
 - Need dates on calendar for regional competition opportunities: midgets, prince of wales, etc.

IV. Approval of revised Sailing Instructions

- SJT asks for discussion of proposed changes:
 - Hugo – section 2.2 pfd rule may not be applicable to all boats. State says over 16 not necessary but sets a good example. Section 4.2 - changes need advance notice: is this really feasible? Do common practice/weather changes overrule language?
 - Proposed clauses added: proper vhf radio use & protest resolution
- Agreed: no vote today - race committee will finalize changes and publish revised instructions to be posted on website.

V. Appointment of committees and officers

- Nominating committee consisted of Rich Mayzel, Lisa Ballard, Patrick Wilson
- Commodore – Hugo Smith nominated & seconded, accepted & approved
- Vice Commodore – Patrick Wilson & Trina Wellman volunteered to share the duties
- Racing Committee – Steve Schley agreed to serve as Chair for another year
- Secretary – Anne Tall agreed to serve another year

VI. Open Discussion

- How about 2nd day of racing for FFs/Alerions/Luders/420s in addition to Saturdays so competitive racers have more than one opportunity – possibly Thurs (while DEJSA away) or Fridays after class?
- Dock Bulletin board needs to be reclaimed as SYC only or at least have a section dedicated to competitive sailing information
- Add sign-up sheets at dock for class sessions to limit size.
- Add sign-up sheet for race days – to gauge skipper interest as well as provide crew opportunities – let's try for August.
- Winter sign-up/contact for Sorrento racing teams
- New racing chart –
 - Raise price to \$5 for additional copies - available at golf course.
 - Should we move to official code flags for #1,2,3? (Need to purchase flags).
 - X,Y, Z flags already used in rule book and cannot be used on circular as currently designated – race committee needs to resolve conflict.
 - Need capital investment for flag stand/course points. Agreed to look at other yacht clubs solutions to find usable, durable system.
- Need help for take down –
 - sub-out to Chris @ WCBY -will move the storage shed -
 - Sails – let's look at hiring local help for proper cleaning & storage
 - Optis – start removing optis as class numbers start dwindling in August.
- We should plan ahead for this huge group of 8-10 year-olds for when they are too big for optis. Currently have 5 Mercury's & 3 420's
- Not enough instructors/chase boats to safely monitor different boat speeds, so it's difficult to utilize Mercury's, Opti's and 420's during the same class.
- Richter whaler offered for donation. But needs engine.
- If there is a 2nd race day, (Fri- to accommodate wknd racers?), consider getting the skippers act as mentors and take class kids out with them for instructional racing (teach about tidal factors, spinnakers, chart reading, course strategy, let kids "skipper")
- Put Instructor in boats with students whenever possible to better communicate. Teaching from motorboat is too loud and ineffective.

- Need to acquire and use spinnakers. We should force the issue in Saturday races and in Tuesday Mercury racing when possible. Also, we must teach spinnaker skills in afternoon classes.
- All day sail – It's an Activity program but requires sailing instructors to participate and give up day off. Attendance has been lacking and Lisa wants feedback regarding dropping this activity from the schedule. (Note: Monday All-Day activities have been labeled as "family" activities, but parents aren't participating).
- Teach anchor skills, and other skills used in all-day sail format in an afternoon class – just go to Bean instead of the Hop.
- Lisa Ballard identified 3 distinct sailing groups:
 - students (of all ages) needing basic instruction
 - students ready for advanced instruction (including beginning racing skills)
 - The racing group
 look at staffing for each subset, focus on not stretching/conflicting instructor needs. Identify population of each and then fulfill boat/instructor needs. Accommodate kids who need/don't want to race. Need to re-install curriculum. Hugo wants to look at setting class goals, possibly continuing the lanyard system.
- Class size needs to be controlled.
- Get as many events on calendar as possible, i.e., If everyone is encouraged to participate in Barton-Edison IOD event, make sure calendar reflects no afternoon classes
- Encourage membership to send Emails to commodore with ideas/comments/feedback
- Encourage more kids to crew in races

VII. Close – SJT gives thanks for everyone's support. Appreciation from group to SJT of job well done. Meeting adjourned at 11:36am.
Minutes submitted by Anne Tall, Secretary