



SORRENTO YACHT CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1925

Annual Meeting
July 25, 2009, 10:00 A.M.
Sorrento Public Library

Meeting called to order at 10:00 A.M. In attendance were: Hugo Smith, Jock Crothers, Rich & Allison Mayzel, Prue & Steve Younger, Becca, Jessie, and Susan Smith, Rob Mygatt, Diana Gazis, Rick Wellman, Lawrence Milner (of Hancock), Trina Wellman

1. Mock Disaster

Presented by Joey Clark, Dwayne Clement, Ken Monroe, and Brian Clement, was described as an opportunity to share with the summer community, which has provided strong financial support to the Fire Dept., just how well prepared and versatile their team is. It's also great practice for the rescue workers of Sorrento and the surrounding towns. If all goes well, allowing room for some mistakes, they hope to enact a Mock Disaster each year. Details are as follows:

- Saturday, August 15th, 8-10:00 A.M. at the Town Dock
- Simulating a boat crash with casualties, where boat rams the dock and leaves
- Need 8-12 volunteers to serve as victims and lots of spectators
- Volunteer victims can sign up at the Town Offices with Esther
- Volunteer victims will need to arrive at the Community House at 7 A.M. for make-up and assignments; may be occupied until 11 A.M. and need a ride home from Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth (following ambulance ride and "treatment")
- Victims may be prodded and poked to determine injuries; symptoms/injuries of all types (compound fractures, unconscious, screamers, in water, etc.) will be assigned to each victim
- Students who are looking for community service hours can get these verified if they've volunteered and submit their paperwork to be filled out by the SFD
- Spectators and others are asked NOT to park at Town Dock so that area is somewhat open for rescue workers and vehicles and the fisherman can continue to work
- Dinghy owners should move their boats from the dock or put a sign on them if they DO NOT wish to have victims in them
- Lifeline helicopter may buzz by; not likely to land on Town Green but could
- Parents of "victims" are encouraged to react dramatically
- Parents of all children should prepare them that this is a drill, as it will appear authentic
- This disaster will NOT be a cold water rescue; hope to do one in the future
- Responders will come from several towns, including Millbridge, Harrington, Blue Hill, Ellsworth, EMA, and maybe County Services
- Maine Forest Service will provide command vehicles; radio equipment will be set up so that the emergency frequency for Sorrento remains open

There will be a meeting at the Community House Thursday, June 30th, including the ambulance companies and hospital representatives, to discuss the particulars of the Mock Disaster. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

2. Head Instructor's Report

Becca said things are going well after a slow start (1-2 sailors) followed by a rapid increase in numbers (23 sailors recently). Her staff of 5 (Elliott Brennan, Jessie Smith, Allison Mayzel, David Daniel, and Cole Younger) has worked most mornings. They have reinstated the lanyard system, including re-teaching skills that have been rewarded with colored tape but apparently not remembered.

Morning classes have included new games, capsizing drills, and rowing -- with the percentage of capable rowers having gone from roughly 35% to 70%. Becca has worked to match more experienced sailors with less, so that kids are teaching kids, too. Every day starts with knot-tying.

Afternoon classes have seen about 8 sailors in 420's, and Elliott Brennan and Jock Crothers have been working on teaching team racing and 420 sailing skills. Some of these classes have joined with Hancock 420 sailors, too.

- Tuesday afternoon Mercury races have seen record numbers, with 7-8 Mercs out per week from Sorrento alone. Only have 3 sets of racing sails currently.
- Wednesdays have been 420 clinics with Jock or connecting with Hancock 420 sailors; Midgets is this coming week in Sorrento (see notes below)
- Thursdays have been Down East Jr. Racing (DEJR) including visiting Bucks Harbor and Castine coming to Sorrento
- 15 sailors (10 from Sorrento, 5 from Hancock) attended the Barton Edison Race in Northeast Harbor, where they sailed on IOD's and Luders and had lots of fun.

Becca shared a list of hopes and changes:

- AM sailing class stays as is, with all ages (6-16) and abilities welcome; goals are to have fun, to learn to sail, and to be safe on the water; have had 2 kids/Opti
- PM sailing class on Wed. and Fri. is for those capable of racing 420's and, from now on, Optis (1/boat); class will be split, and attendance is by invitation
- Complete repairs and replacements for Optis so they have 6-7 to use, rather than the 5 they've had so far (Rick Wellman found a missing rudder and flotation bag in his garage last week)
- Mistral has a split boom; needs repair; Wendy Gamble thought it had been
- Need more float space, especially for the 420's; current set-up is dangerous.
- Need bailers (Jock might be able to get some)
- PLEASE have kids practice shooting moorings when out sailing with adults; this has been a huge problem this summer; need LOTS of practice
- Need help with take-down: hands, trucks, Steve's trailer, etc. on 8/23; will do Optis, etc. ahead of time; boatyard does dock box now; 420's have gone in library basement -- this may need to change when we get more than 3!

Suggestion was made to build/buy a 420 dock for 6 boats (planning proactively, rather than reactively, as has been the trend); may use current 420 float for more Optis; Hugo Smith, Rich Mayzel, and Becca will research this.

Current age groups with large numbers include 13 sailors aged 10-11 who are excited to sail 420's; 3 is not enough. (Jock said Wendy has one.)

Becca has lots of sailing photographs that she will put on a website (possibly *SmugMug*) with a link on the Sorrento website.

3. Commodore's Report

Hugo thanked a number of key people:

- Yacht Club Staff/instructors, who spent two days taking inventory and setting up program and who have re-energized the sailing program - his "Dream Team"
- Steve Tall, in absentia, for his constant and continuing support
- Jock Crothers for sails, knowledge, time, repairs, parts, etc.
- Diana Gazis, for 9 years of doing race results
- Prue Younger, for organizing Midgets again this year

What's New:

- 420's: the Talls donated their 2 to the Yacht Club; the 3rd belongs to the Schleys
- Obtained used 420 sails from NE Harbor free of charge through Jock
- Bought two new engines for Shark and Leon
- Bought rudders and tillers for two Optis
- Moved swim tests back to harbor
- Continue to encourage Mercury racing and use of spinnakers (Hancock has just 1 spin.; we have 2 total. Others in town have spinnakers, including Diana, the Nerods, the Flying Fish, & the Brennans)
- Repaired sails and added battens to Mercuries (inventoried, too)
- Get younger kids out with an instructor as crew; avoid T-boning

Out of Town:

- Elliott and Jessie sailed in Bemis in Castine; came in 6th
- Elliott raced w/a NE Harbor skipper in 420 Junior Olympics; came in 3rd/43 boats (Jock wishes we'd sent more boats; hopes to do so in three years. Next year is the Jr. Hospice Regatta, which will be the Friday before the Hospice Weekend Series)
- Allison & Jessie registered to sail Girls 420 Invitational August 2nd, Bucks Harbor

Midgets:

- 7/29 Sorrento's hosting the Eastern Regionals; in Mercuries
- Prue is in charge of land responsibilities; Hugo the water (including borrowing Mercuries and sails from Hancock) (Hancock is sending its own team)
- Winners go to Boothbay Harbor the following week; just one sailor, Optis
- Sorrento's been asked to host Midgets every other year; discussion about it being a BYO Opti so preliminary races AND finals are in Optis; Sorrento doesn't have the launching space for this set-up
- 7 teams signed up so far; not Blue Hill, who usually does; may be 8 teams
- 9 A.M. Skippers Meeting; will be run by Rob Mygatt
- Lunch & bathrooms at Tootin' Hill
- Becca needs to designate a team of 2 aged 13 and under
- Run 5 races and switch boats for each race
- Spectator boats could include Wheatlands', Ralphs', Lees'
- Wilsons' Merc, Taffy II, will be available as a back-up/extra; are Sorrento boats rigged in a standard way? Not really.... (Don't use Cardinal! Mistral's boom might be an issue)

Saturday Races:

Handicap Numbers:

- Discussion about handicap #'s & using USYR's #'s that are used for Portsmouth #'s
- Diana said we have data on over 60 races for Mercs, but less than 10 for 420's
- Portsmouth #'s are WAY higher than National #'s
- If we use Portsmouth #'s then have to have a rule that fits everyone; be consistent
- Until we have 30 races per boat, we'll revise the #'s as we go
- Alarions, Leuders stay the same
- Rhodes 19 is all over the map, even with same skipper
- We'll go with the average
- Since we started using the Portsmouth #'s, there's a more even chance of winning
- If we change to a different system, there are no #'s for some boats
- Perhaps we should adopt a system that reacts more quickly to summer results?
- No, we want #'s the same over time, especially since the #'s of skippers and conditions in Sorrento need to be considered over the long-term
- Current system works for classes that have many of the same type of boat; issues only for those who race rarely or when there are only a few boats
- Decided to stick with current system
- Rob M. suggested we begin report our numbers to US Sailing for each so they can start to calculate the #'s, and then eventually we move to the US #'s

Postponement:

- Have had complaints and questions about why we have and have not postponed races
- Hugo recently decided that if the sailing instructor could see to set the line and conditions were NOT dangerous, then the race would happen; wanted feedback/thoughts
- Decided we would try to stick with Saturdays (since some cannot sail Sunday when they go home), cancel when dangerous, and postpone only if there were repeated Saturdays when races couldn't be held

Needs:

- SYC has no rowboat! Currently borrowing the Smiths', the Mayzels', the Sgouras', etc. as needed.
- What happened to the *Filly*? Hugo will check w/the boatyard again
- Yacht Club needs its own rowboat; see if anyone has one they're not using (Gambles, etc.)
- Should we be getting a coach's boat (small 13' Whaler or an inflatable? Not a priority right now)
- Should be able to find a \$50 rowboat somewhere
- Priorities currently are: 1. a rowboat; 2. 420 float - larger, that drains; 3. 1/2/3 new 420's; 4. a coach boat (3 HP engine that is made for this type of use and won't put so much wear and tear on the new *Leon* and *Shark* engines
- If we get a larger 420 float, can we use the current 420 float for more Optis?
- SYC tradition has been to buy boats and then try to figure out where to keep them; need to get our floats first this time and plan for the boats to come; Hugo, Rich, and Becca will work on a serious proposal for the VIA and do some more research. We'll have one shot to get the Capital Campaign funds, so do it right the first time
- May have to keep paying lots to keep up Mercuries; they're a Sorrento thing and a great option for those who are too big for Optis and not experienced enough for 420's; also great for adults and provide keel boat experience
- 420's may not end up being the best boat for Sorrento (water temps., kids without appropriate gear: wetsuits, etc.), but 420's are the way other club are going, along with Optis

- Remember it's important for the SYC to be nimble and deal with the ebbs and flows of our constituents; next age group may not want 420's, and we'll need to be flexible and switch again
- Need to move forward with the 420 float issue now
- 420 Float Committee: Rich and Hugo, w/Becca getting pictures of Hancock's and writing down her thoughts and suggestions

4. 2010 Calendar

- July 4th race will be on Sunday, July 4, 2010
- Instructors should set up 7/2-3
- Classes start 7/6 (Tuesday)
- 7/17 2-Race Saturday
- 7/24 Frenchman Bay Regatta and SYC Meeting
- 8/7 Hancock Regatta
- 8/13 (Fri.) Flying Fifteen Nationals; Steve Schley runs; needs YC instructors & Whalers
- 8/14 2-Race Saturday
- 8/21 Labor Day Regatta
- 8/22 Take down day

5. Committees and Officers

- Patrick Wilson (July) and Trina Wellman (Aug.) as Vice Commodores again next year
- Be sure we're getting involved parents of 10-11 year olds to do these jobs; we are!
- Race Committee this year was Dick Davis, Steve Schley, Jock Crothers, Hugo Smith, and Becca Smith; add Patrick Wilson for next year

6. Other Discussion

- Trina can help with take-down before 8/23; can use Mayzels' truck; hope to get Steve Schley to bring his trailer again and Jock
- How will we store 6 420's if and when we get them?
- Someone expressed concern about the late date of the SYC Awards Night (7/31); can we move it earlier?
No
- Any interest in another 'Round the Rock Race? May be Aug. 10, 2009 with an overnight at Frenchboro first followed by race next day
- Since we have such a great group of instructors this year, it's hard to know whoshould NOT be working when #'s are low and how to rotate fairly; suggestion was made to put in writing parameters for # of kids to # of instructors ratios;this will give the Head Instructor a fall-back plan when some cannot work. Becca should start working on a document that outlines reasonable ratios.

Adjourned 11:55 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Smith, 7/29/09