

BLACKWATER YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting

January 12, 2008

The 2008 Annual Meeting was held at the Pelican Point clubhouse and brought to order by Commodore John Breckenridge. There were 30 members present which constituted a quorum for the conduct of business.

The minutes of last year's meeting had been emailed to the members and placed on the website by Secretary Loretta Manning. The minutes were approved as written.

Reports by officers.

Vice Commodore Bob Boe reported that the Celebrate the Lake race had poor participation with only one BYRA boat competing. He recommended a more casual approach for this year.

Bob said the Pelican Point Open instructional seminar was successful with several members making presentations about race start preparation. He recommended that this year any instructional seminar cover spinnaker racing.

Rear Commodore Sandra Cox thanked George and Holly DeMestro for their assistance. She said that in 2007 the Cinco de Mayo potluck was added as well as the Octoberfest potluck. Both socials were highly successful.

The report from Fleet Captain Pete Phillip was delayed until later in the meeting.

Report by Treasurer, Warren Ibaugh. Warren reported that the reserve balance at the end of 2007 was \$7,088. New trophies were less costly than anticipated but that website management costs were higher. Operating costs were down. Sponsor Jane Sullivan Horne's donation was less than the previous year. Dues cover operating expenses. For 2008 the food budget will be raised as will website management. At the end of 2008 Warren hopes to be able to add \$2,000 to the reserve fund. Regatta sponsor donations pay for some of the regatta expenses such as t-shirts and trophies.

Bob Boe suggested that BYRA purchase an ad in the SM Eagle thanking the sponsors. John said that promotion of our sponsors would be a good idea.

Warren said dues will remain at \$100. The budget for 2008 was approved by the members.

John thanked the 2007 officers for their service.

New Business.

John Breckenridge proposed amending the Bylaws to remove the position of Sunfish Fleet Captain. The Keelboat Fleet Captain will be responsible for any Sunfish or Laser activity. The members approved the amendment.

John proposed creating a new position of Regatta Chairman. This position may be held by a different person for each regatta. The members approved the new position but felt that this should not be a Board position. The Regatta Chairman will be appointed by the Commodore.

John proposed amending the Bylaws to remove the reference to the former newsletter, The Hornpipe, from the Secretary position. The members approved the amendment.

Fleet Captain Pete Phillip provided the racing schedule for 2008. He said a few new items had been added such as the March 22 Race Committee Training Seminar, and an overnight raft up

for July 26. Pete said he felt everyone should help out once a year and asked for members to sign up for race committee.

Sunfish and Laser races shown on the schedule will depend on member interest.

SML Clean Up Day is scheduled for May 3 and is not a BYRA event. Members find it difficult to haul up debris from the water into a sailboat. This event will remain on the calendar for information but everyone is on their own to participate. The Cinco de Mayo potluck which followed last year's event may be scheduled for another day or maybe just a Mexican potluck following a race. This will be left up to the Rear Commodores.

Bill Hughes recommended that a New Year's Day raft up be added to the calendar for January 3, 2009. This event has been taking place for a number of years with some BYRA and VISA members participating.

Alvin Bennett recommended the use of regattas for makeup days. He said he did not like to have races two weekends in a row. After lengthy discussion and the presentation of alternate dates the members voted to leave the schedule as originally proposed.

A proposal was made to move the annual awards banquet up one week to November 15. It was felt that this change would improve attendance as it would not interfere with Thanksgiving week. The members approved the change.

A suggestion was made to move the Wine Tasting event to a cooler date. This will be left up to the Rear Commodores to decide.

At this time Fleet Captain Pete Phillip presented the issues addressed by a special committee formed to study and make recommendations concerning the fleet structure. The issues were: 1. Performance boats sailing in non-spinnaker fleets; 2. cruisers are at a disadvantage against better sailors or prepped boats; 3. new people are sometimes intimidated; 4. older members lose interest because they don't have a good chance; and 5. handicaps do not compensate for faster/better sailors. Pete said that some issues can be solved while others cannot.

The committee discussed many options and decided on the following recommendations which were presented to the members:

- 1) Divide Fleets by handicap based on expected number of participants. Our goal is to equalize number of boats racing in each of three fleets.
- 2) Provide an option for inexperienced owners and owners whose boats historically under perform relative to their handicap rating to petition fleet captain for placement in slower rated fleet.
- 3) Develop Non-Spinnaker handicap adjustment for all boats. Adjustments based on a standard 10 seconds per mile for Fleet I, 15 seconds per mile for Fleets II and III. The committee favors the standard handicap adjustment. This will be reviewed at mid-season.
- 4) All fleets allow spinnakers with the provision that a boat must make an election for the series or a regatta and carry that handicap for the entire series or regatta. A boat may, as an example, elect to sail series races without spinnaker but race with the spinnaker handicap for a regatta.
- 5) Mentor Program. All new members will be assigned an active racing member from their fleet as a BYRA mentor for the first year. The mentor will encourage participation in club activities and host the new member at socials, make introductions, and generally make them welcome. Mentor will also offer advice on sailing tactics and sail trim as needed to improve new member's competitive performance on the water.

Pete handed out the new 2008 handicap list and fleet designations. He said his goal was to try to give everyone an equal opportunity.

A question was asked as to where the committee came up with the 10 and 15 second adjustment. Pete said he wrote to a number of other clubs and received responses that this is what they were already doing. He felt we have a good basis to go forward.

Pete said he wanted to err on the side of encouraging spinnaker use. At first some boats may not race to their handicaps while learning. There may be a variety of spinnaker type and some may have to be evaluated individually.

A lengthy discussion followed with many questions being asked and answered. Pete said this proposal should balance the fleet and will be reviewed periodically to see if changes are working. Glenn said the proposals provide more flexibility and that this is not a change in rules – just a change in fleet structure. The objective is to keep it simple.

In response to a question Pete said a boat's position in the fleet structure will not change whether or not a spinnaker is used. He feels the proposals are for the betterment of the club.

A boat may be moved to another fleet if the skipper petitions the Fleet Captain using the proper form.

Election of Officers.

The members approved the following slate of officers for 2008:

Commodore – George DeMestro; Vice Commodore – Gil Miekina; Rear Commodores – Bonnie and Bill Hughes; Fleet Captain – Pete Phillip; Treasurer – Warren Ibaugh; Secretary – Loretta Manning; Member-at-large – Bob Boe; and Past Commodore – John Breckenridge.

At this point the meeting was turned over to the new Commodore, George DeMestro.

New Business.

Fleet Captain Pete Phillip presented the following four recommendations for amendments to the Sailing Instructions. The first amendment proposed increasing the series races from seven to eight so as not to penalize a boat for serving as Race Committee.

Section 6-H. Qualification for trophies. AMEND TO READ: A boat qualifies if it participated in 5 out of 8 races run, 5 out of 7 races run, 5 out of 6 races run, 4 out of 5 races run, or 3 out of 4 races run.

After discussion the amendment was approved by the members.

Section 6-J. Championship. AMEND TO READ: Scoring for the award will be based on participation in 80% of the series and regatta races run during the year up to a maximum of 16. For example, if 20, 21 or 22 races were run, the best 16 would be scored for the championship trophy. If only 15 were run, 12 would count...

Second paragraph in Section 6-J Championship. AMEND TO READ: When calculating the fleet championship points, boats serving as Race Committee for a regatta receive the score for each race of the regatta they serve as Race Committee which is the average of the 4 best races sailed in the Spring and Fall Series. RC Maximum - For the purpose of scoring RC credit in the Championship a maximum of 5 races may be used. (two Series Race Days (Spring and Fall) or one Series Race Day (2) races and one Regatta (3) races.)

After discussion the amendments were approved by the members.

Section 6-F Race Committee Score: AMEND TO READ: Boats serving as Race Committee for a series race receive the score for that race which is the average of the best four (4) scored

racers for that boat for that series. A boat may receive a maximum of 2 RC Race Credits per Series. (See J for regatta race committee scoring)

After discussion the amendment was approved by the members.

Bob Boe said that if cancelled races could not be made up that Regatta scores could be used. George said he preferred to keep regatta scores separate. The Fleet Captain would make that decision but scores could not be used retroactively.

Bill Hughes asked for ideas for the annual awards banquet. It was felt that moving the date up one week would improve attendance because it would not interfere with Thanksgiving.

The meeting adjourned after which a delicious lunch was served by Rear Commodores Bonnie and Bill Hughes.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Manning, Secretary