

BLACKWATER YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual Membership Meeting

January 10, 2009

The 2009 Annual Membership meeting was held at the Pelican Point clubhouse and was brought to order by Commodore George DeMestro. There were 26 members present which constituted a quorum for conduct of business.

The minutes of the 2008 meeting had been emailed to the members by Secretary Loretta Manning.

George welcomed members as well as prospective new member Mark Swart and reintroduced the 2008 officers and thanked them for their service.

Reports by Officers:

Rear Commodore Bill Hughes said soup would be served following the meeting and there was a round of applause for Bonnie and Bill's excellent social events during the year.

Treasurer Warren Ibaugh discussed the financial report for 2008 and provided handouts. With operating expenses exceeding income it was necessary to transfer \$565 from the Reserve Fund and there was no contribution to the Reserve in 2008. The year ended with \$1,012 in the checking account and \$6,528 in the Reserve fund which is less than the previous year. The incoming Treasurer will discuss the 2009 budget later in the meeting.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Fleet Captain Pete Phillip said he was pleased with last year and the good participation. There were a few more boats in Fleet III. There were some close finishes. He said the evolution of our club was a challenge to do something different. His goal is to encourage everyone to fly a spinnaker and make it competitive for everyone.

Pete provided a new handicap list and said in 2009 there would be a 15 second handicap adjustment in all three fleets for those who do not fly a spinnaker. He noted that it would be necessary to fill out the proper form to request a change in Fleet assignment but that the boat would still keep its original handicap. Any request for a change in handicap must be filed with the Fleet Captain and the Handicap Committee.

Pete handed out the 2009 schedule and gave a detailed explanation for every line, including an all day Rules and Race Committee seminar on March 14.

Pete recommended that everyone who drives a power boat take a safe boating class and receive a certificate. Within a few years the certificate will be a legal requirement for all power boat operators. This means that anyone (including crews) handling club power boats or their own auxiliary powered sailboat must take the course and be certified.

The schedule indicates that there will be Sunfish/Laser races in the summer as well as a few other activities.

The schedule was approved by the members and will be submitted to the Zahns for approval.

A question was raised about racing a Fall race in August. Pete noted that we are at the mercy of the wind gods no matter when we race but it has worked well for us previously.

Pete asked for members to voluntarily sign up for Race Committee.

Old Business:

Pete referred to his handout in which he proposed a change to the Racing Instructions in Section 6, Paragraph D. "Did Not Start". After lengthy discussion the members voted to approve the following change.

Change to: "Boats that were not in attendance on race day will receive no points for that race and the race will not count toward series qualification.

"If a boat is registered and present on the race course prior to the start but withdraws she will notify the race committee and receive a DNS score for that race.

"The DNS score will be equal to the number of boats registered in the series plus two points. That race will count toward series qualification."

Pete again referred to his handout in which he proposed a change to the Racing Instructions in Section 6, Paragraph F, "Race Committee Score". Considerable discussion followed the recommendation after which the members voted to approve the following change:

Add to the existing first sentence the following: "If a boat has sailed in only three (3) races, the Race Committee Credit Score is calculated by adding the finish of the three (3) races plus total number of boats in the series divided by 4."

It may be necessary to make identical changes in the Race Committee Instructions for the above two amendments.

There was a discussion about the annual Wine Tasting event which has been held in August. A suggestion was made to move this event to the fall when the weather was cooler. It was agreed that the Rear Commodores would decide on the date.

There was a recommendation that the paragraph regarding the appointment of a Handicap Committee shown in Article III, Section 1, Item D, of the Bylaws be changed from "spinnaker class and cruising class" to "each fleet". The members approved the amendment.

Election of Officers.

The members approved the following slate of officers for 2009 by acclamation:

Commodore – Gil Miekina
Vice Commodore – David Sweet
Rear Commodores – Paul and Stephanie Triska
Fleet Captain – Pete Phillip
Treasurer – Bob Toone
Secretary – Glenn Cliborne
Member-at-large – Bob Gearhart

Remaining on the Board is George DeMestro, Past Commodore.

George thanked outgoing Treasurer Warren Ibaugh for his many years of excellent service. Complimentary remarks were made by Paul Triska regarding his purchase of Warren's boat. Warren was presented with a gift of his favorite beverage.

At this time the meeting was turned over to the new officers, Gil Miekina presiding.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Manning, outgoing Secretary

The meeting was transitioned over to the newly elected officers and Commodore Gil Miekina requested any new business be brought before the members.

New Business:

Budget for 2009

Treasurer Bob Toone presented a budget for 2009 and highlighted the projected deficit of \$1,785. Discussion followed on ideas to bridge this shortfall. Suggestions included raising dues, cutting expenses, not raising dues to attract new members, making our regattas self-funding, special crew dues, and another club auction.

After much debate, the members voted and approved 19 to 6 to raise the annual dues to \$125 and keep the initial dues for new members at \$100. It was also noted we would keep our past practice of any new members joining mid-year or after could join for half price (\$50) if they elected to do so.

The members continued to review the budget for other potential changes. Dave Sweet asked if it is necessary to pull the pontoon boat out during the winter to avoid this expense. Charlie Manning explained past maintenance problems encounter when we did not pull the boat out and the general consensus was to continue pulling it during the winter.

A motion was made to approve the budget with the dues increase and the members approved the budget.

Other New Business

There was a motion to keep Loretta Manning as Membership Chairman and maintain her check signing privileges for boat maintenance activities. The members carried this motion. Both Bob Toone and Loretta Manning will have check signing privileges for BYRA.

A discussion concerning club boat care and maintenance was next on the agenda. The motion was made to appoint a Quartermaster of Boats and Equipment and Charlie Manning was unanimously approved by the members present. It was noted Charlie has been performing this function for many years for which everyone has been very appreciative.

Club member, Paul Triska agreed to be the BYRA Webmaster for 2009, thus saving the club the expense of hiring someone as was the practice in 2008. The members agreed with this appointment and thanked Paul for taking the responsibility.

To help prepare future Fleet Captain candidates, Commodore Gil Miekina suggested we solicit an Assistant Fleet Captain. Anyone interested should contact Pete Phillip.

There was discussion about setting a minimum amount for sponsoring a regatta. Given the current economic downturn in the national economy, there was much debate on this idea. A motion was made to set a minimum of \$1,200 to sponsor a regatta. The members voted not to approve this motion. The membership did agree multiple sponsors for a regatta should be considered if the opportunity presented itself and requested the Board to consider this during the coming year.

There were other discussions concerning Race Committees for regattas and ways to make membership more accessible to potential new members. No specific motions were made.

After no other new business was proposed, Commodore Gil Miekina thanked Marcie Zahn for allowing BYRA to use Pelican Point Yacht Club to promote the sport of sailing. Gil then accepted a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Cliborne, Secretary