

Shields Class Sailing Association - Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

The Monthly meeting of the Shields Class Association was held pursuant to notice via Google Meet on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Copies of the meeting agenda, meeting minutes from the July 9, 2024, meeting, and the monthly treasurer's report were distributed in advance by SCA President Steve Mettler, Secretary Jonathan Krumeich, and Treasurer Jay Dayton respectively.

The meeting was attended by SCA Members:

- Steve Mettler, President;
- Jonathan Krumeich, Secretary;
- Jay Dayton, Treasurer;
- Richard Robbins, Webmaster;
- John Gronberg, FC;
- Ted Slee, VP;
- James Wirtz, VP;
- Matt Hays, FC;
- D. Ronan, VP;
- Ron Oard, VP;
- Ken Deyett, Measurer; and
- Eric Anderson;

The meeting was attended by a majority of the Governing Board. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was called to order by S. Mettler at 20:00.

Treasurer's Report:

J. Dayton delivered the Treasurer's Report. The Association account balance was \$24,473.89. There were deposits of \$1,245.00 in dues from Fleets 1 and 10. No withdrawals. Fleets having paid dues in 2024 are 21, 19, 7, 12, 10, 9, 8, 3, 1. T. Slee made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by K. Deyett. All in favor, no opposed.

Fleets 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, and 21 have paid dues.

Secretary's Report:

J. Krumeich delivered the Secretary's Report with minutes of the July 9, 2024 meeting having been distributed by J. Krumeich in advance. T. Slee moved to accept the Secretary's Report. Motion seconded by J. Dayton. All in favor, no opposed.

Technical Committee:

Wendy has found a mast extruder. We will have more information in the fall. The Nationals waivers deadline is 2 weeks prior to registration day. If the winch proposal goes forward it needs to go to the class 30 days before the meeting. Technical is leaning towards not proposing.

President's Report:

The Shields Class foundation is a good thing and is doing well. We need an OGLC host for 2025. Newport is interested, would host in early June. Monterey is interested.

Foundation:

E. Anderson delivered remarks on behalf of the SCA Foundation. A copy of E. Anderson's report is detailed below, including a request for \$3,500 from the SCA to support SCA Foundation Operations:

Dear Officers of the Shields Class and Fleet Captains-

On behalf of the Shields Class Foundation, a 501(c)3 Non-profit registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I come to you tonight with a funding request.

Our foundation, whose mission statement is "To preserve authentic one-design yacht racing competition and culture through the introduction and education of new adult and youth sailors to Shields Class sailing everywhere" was started by a group of five Shields owners who were dissatisfied with the trend of existing Shields hulls and the potential sunseting of the class at some point in the near to intermediate term.

With only 259 Shields ever produced, it was estimated there were around 150 boats known to exist at that time. Of this subset, an even smaller number competed regularly in racing fleets. There were stories of boats which went to Canada or Mexico, one which was featured on an internet blog, had been converted to a cabin cruiser in the San Juan Islands. Hulls would disappear from their last known fleet without a trace. Beyond, this drip by drip attrition, was the reality that a large number of fleet boats were not competitively maintained, which made them unattractive to many aspiring potential owners as "project boats" and also uninteresting as competitive loaner boats for visiting crews at regattas.

In summary, the founders of the Shields Class Foundation, saw the need to become the owners of last resort. Not permanent owners, more like foster parents until a permanent and motivated new fleet member could be identified. We decided to only make our boats available to existing or new class members who would earnestly campaign them in an existing or fledgling new fleet. During our 4 year history we have endowed youth crews, supported female crews, focused on the identification and incubation of small fleets and approved grants to disadvantaged young sailors wanting to compete in Shields. To date we have received via donation or purchased a total of 5 boats. Within the past month we have had to turn away a sixth boat which was offered to the foundation.

Our funding during 2021 and 2022 was sufficient. However as our fleet has during 2023 and 2024, our financial resources have been outpaced by our spending realities.

Within the past two years alone the SCF has spent \$9,200 on #183

\$14,200 on #191

\$15,349 on #123

There is an expected \$10,000 of investment needed on #89 and an undetermined amount for our newest boat #210

A short resume of our impact around the class

We have made a Shields available in Fleet 1 for the past 2 years at no charge to the youth crew campaigning it

We have made a Shields available to Fleet 12 for the past 2 years at no charge and we have paid their fleet racing fees and entry fees for 2024 OGLC

We have made this same yacht available as a loaner at the 2024 OGLC

We made one yacht available for last year Nationals in Marion as a loaner for an all female Shields crew

We have offered two SCF boats as loaners for this year's Nationals in Larchmont

We approved a grant in the amount of \$1,000 for participants registered in SailMV

We provided transportation and towing of a Shields from Bristol, RI to our new fleet at Daniel Island, SC

We sponsored a Shield Racing seminar at Daniel Island YC

We sponsored the new Shields Class Ambassador Program, to honor lifetime contributors to our class

For next year, we hope to have 2 to 3 Shields available as loaners at our National Regatta in Edgartown, an historically challenging venue to travel boats to/from.

We expect to require around \$16,000 in order to complete the remaining work on each existing boat and to store these for the winter

Our current treasury for the SCF is \$10,000. We have decided to place a mandatory floor balance of \$5,000 in our account.

We are hopeful that we will raise between \$4-\$5k during our 60th National Regatta in Larchmont next month.

If that is the case, when combined with the available \$5k from the SCF treasury, we still project a shortfall in the neighborhood of \$7,000.

I would now request a voting member of this Governing Board to make a motion in the amount of \$3,500 tonight, and prepare this board for an additional funding request at the October Class Meeting, pending the outcome of fundraising efforts in Larchmont.

In closing, while we would have preferred to not require this outreach, it does point to the fact that our efforts have yielded fruit and that our mission statement is being fulfilled. I ask that the class help us to retain, refurbish, and to redistribute Shields yachts where they are needed - to racing fleets, as we extend the runway for Shields sailing out another 30-40 years into the future.

A Motion was made by S. Mettler to approve the \$3,500 disbursement to the SCA Foundation. The motion was seconded by K. Deyett. All in favor, no opposed.

2024 Nationals:

M. Hays delivered a report on the 2024 nationals. They have good numbers and half their fleet hasn't registered. They are looking for more registrations. Ken and Rich reported they will register. Jay reported another Oxford boat will register.

IHYC Classic:

To promote the event registration is included in the LYC Nationals fee.

New Business:

T. Slee raised a new issue for the technical committee. T. Slee circulated an image of a Shields with modified composite bow handrails sailing in Fleet 9. T. Slee reported that there are several boats modified by the same individual appearing in the fleet. J. Krumeich reported that his handrails had been modified the same as these boats. A discussion was had. The technical committee advised that they will review the issue and make a recommendation.

R. Oard reports that the Navy is thinking of selling their boats. There is nothing that anyone can do. They will have to be auctioned.

Having no further business, T. Slee made a motion to adjourn.

-S. Mettler adjourned the meeting at 21:00-

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan A. Krumeich
Secretary