

# Shields Class Association – Meeting Minutes

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Held Via Google Meet

Attending: Jon Krumeich, Wesley Bemus, Ken Deyett, Jay Dayton, Ted Slee, Peter Neidhardt, Mike Toppa, Eric Anderson, Richard Robbins, Ron Oard, Dan Ronan, Steve Mettler, Dan Goodwin, and Jerry Stratton.

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Call to Order: 8:02 PM – Jon Krumeich.

Treasurer's Report: Treas. Dayton reports the Shields Class Association balance stands at \$12,452.76. Deposits of \$245.00 were made comprising 2025 Dues by Adrian Van Der Wal and Fleet 9 Dues for 2026. One expense of \$142.20 was incurred for ISP charges and paid to HL DeVore. Fleet dues are traditionally expected from local fleets in the months of May-June, and local treasurers are encouraged to begin the process of collecting those dues. Record-keeping processes for dues were discussed with no conclusions reached. The report was accepted unanimously.

Minutes & Secretary's Report: Previous meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

New Business: The venue for the 2028 Nationals was discussed. Enthusiasm was expressed by Boothbay Harbor to be the host at their Boothbay Harbor Regatta at the end of July. However, class rule restrictions tying the regatta to the months of Aug-Oct, as well as difficulties obtaining 10 races to qualify prior to mid-July, were raised as friction points for doing so. Further efforts to organize participation at regattas in Boothbay will be forthcoming. The class is continuing to solicit expressions of interest for the 2028 venue.

Mike Toppa announced that the Sail Newport Regatta, held July 11-12 of 2026, will serve as the Shields New England Championships. This regatta will continue to rotate around New England, and owners are encouraged to travel to Newport for this event in 2026.

Sec. Bemus reaffirmed the class's responsibility to publish waiver requests, and decisions, made during the National Championship Regatta. Waivers are official regatta documents, and it is necessary to publish them on the official noticeboard of the regatta. Waivers requested, and granted, will then be published on the class website for posterity.

Sec. Bemus made the proposal to inaugurate a Corinthian National Championship title, to be awarded to the team comprised of all Group 1 sailors, at future editions of the Nationals regatta. This has been a successful effort in other One Design classes including the J/70

and Etchells and will allow for a broader level of competition during the Nationals regatta. This was vocally supported by Pres. Krumeich and Mike Toppa. Discussion ensued about the name of the trophy, as well as who it would be donated by, which was tabled for a future meeting.

A motion was made to allow for the establishment of the Boothbay Harbor Fleet and to assign them number 23. The motion passed unanimously and will come into effect following the execution of their charter. Congratulations to these owners and we wish them luck in growing and thriving as a fleet!

Technical Committee: Work being done to Shields 249 was raised. The technical committee reviewed this work at a previous meeting and raised this to the larger group for visibility: During the replacement of their deadwood it was discovered that the keel sump area had been compromised causing water ingress and weakness in the bilge area. A remediation strategy was identified to address this while maintaining class rule compliance. The technical committee will provide additional guidance to the crew of 249 and is willing to be a resource for any other party needing similar work or guidance.

Those who own and/or perform maintenance on Shields are encouraged to reach out to the Technical Committee for guidance when performing work on their deadwood areas, or any other work on their hulls or structure which would create or change structural elements beyond what is specifically allowed in the Shields Class Rules. In the Deadwood, the creation of gussets, latticework, stiffeners, stringers, or any structural elements which were not present at the time of original construction are currently prohibited by the Shields class rules.

A brief update was provided on the project to begin building masts by Cape Cod shipbuilding. The project continues but exact costs and timelines are not yet available and will be provided when they are compiled.

Finally, the new certificate of compliance was reviewed, discussed, and approved by the class to be used at the 2026 Nationals regatta. This did not require a formal rule change, as the form exists to codify and document compliance with existing class rules.

Old Business: Ted Slee relayed a message from Jan Slee requesting that folks examine the boat registry and update it with whatever information they may have.

Shields Class Foundation: Eric Anderson requested donations of both sails and hardware to the Foundation for their continued restoration of boats in their care.

Misc: The next issue of the Masthead is planned for e-publication in June. Anyone willing to provide an article, including high resolution digital images, is encouraged to approach Eric Anderson.

OGLC '26: The Ocean Great Lakes Challenge is being held by the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club on May 29-31.

Nationals '26: Jay Dayton presented an update on the planning for the 2026 Nationals to be held by Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford Maryland September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. TAYC is excited to host the regatta and preparations are going well. 11 boats had entered the regatta at the time of the meeting.

Future Events: Dates for the 2027 Nationals are expected to be Sept. 8-11, 2027, and will be held by Fleet 9 in Newport.

Adjourned: 9:04 PM by Wesley Bemus

Submitted: Wesley Bemus, Secretary