

Shields Class Association Governing Board phone conference 5-14-13:

Members present:

Richard Robbins-Marion & Tech Committee
Fred Werblow-Larchmont & Treasurer
Chris Wick-Mason Island
Rick Gibson-North Shore, MA
Andy Segal-Newport

Garth Hobson-Monterey
Mike Schwartz-Chicago & President
Wendy Goodwin-Marion & Secretary
Jay Dayton-Oxford

Secretary Report: There was a motion made & seconded to waive the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Dues are due August 1. All Secretarial correspondence has been answered. Wendy will look into refreshing our memories with Regatta Network.

Treasurers Report: The Oxford fleet should be commended as they sent out a newsletter that was affordable & on time. The cost was \$2,884. Richard Slaughter has great publishing connections & they reduced the size of the document in order to cut costs.

Fleet reports:

Rick Gibson- North Shore, MA-They will start racing in July

Andy Segal-Newport- Racing starts 5-15-13 & they expect 12-18 boats.

Richard Robbins-Marion-Racing starts May 31. Marion started a Fleet 10 Facebook page to encourage communication within the fleet. George Gardner has stepped down as fleet captain to pursue other things & Jason VanInwegen is the new fleet capt.

Garth Hobson-Monterey, CA; Garth reports that they have has 8 Wednesday night races for their spring series & the series is almost done. They don't have any Nationals commitments yet, Garth is unable to attend Oxford.

Jay Dayton-Oxford, MD Jay reports their early spring series is complete as they had 6 races with great wind. They have a late spring series planned with 3 race days. Six Shields are actively racing. Boatyards were delayed getting the boats ready due to weather. Friday night races started 2 weeks ago & they are all looking forward to hosting the Nationals in September.

There were no reports from Martha's Vineyard or Oyster Bay

New & Old Business:

Nominating Committee: The committee has been formed (Robin Monk, HL Devore & Bill Berry). Mike will check in with them to see how they are doing.

Great Lakes Challenge: Mike reports the application is in the works, but he needs to more information.

Masthead: The Oxford fleet needs fleet news so be sure to send them copy for the newsletter. Oxford will touch base with fleet captains. There was discussion about having the fall newsletter printed as opposed to electronic as the costs were so low. Mike Schwartz urges the Oxford fleet to print the fall newsletter & there was discussion that of we do it will deplete some of our savings.

Technical Committee: Richard suggested we consider a change in the class rules to disqualify the winner of the Shields Nationals trophy from winning the JR and SR skipper awards. This will spread the hardware

around. There was discussion of the missing perpetual trophies. All the fleets were asked to comment & all comments were favorable. This change in wording to the class rules eligibility for the JR and SR skipper awards was officially nominated, seconded, voted on & unanimously passed. The membership has 60 days to prevent this change from going into effect. Wendy will assure this news is shared with each of the fleets.

Trophies: There was discussion about the missing perpetual trophies. Newport will ask around to see if they have them.

Fleet Building: The Chicago fleet added a boat. Marion has been discussing taking an unused boat out of storage & having it available for a rental. Newport promotes it's fleet by having a rental boat available for underprivileged kids. Garth says getting younger sailors involved is a great idea & they have a Junior fleet invitational. Rick Gibson reports that there are a lot of boats that are sailing but not involved with any fleet. He posed the question, should the class take a more active role in getting the day sailing Shields more involved. We need to make it easier for them to join in. There is nothing in the blue book that invites non racing members.

Suggestions for increasing membership were:

1. Each fleet create a list of Shields not racing in their harbor
2. Reach out to the non racing owners
3. Some non racers don't get involved simply because they haven't been asked.
4. Not every group has a official fleet
5. Post an invitation for non racers on the Shields Class website
6. It's more important that non racers are valued for their input-contribution-not their \$50

There was a question posed: How do we get ahold of these folks? It's not easy to get their contact info. The Association has to make it attractive for non racers to join. Our e-mail list has over 500 members. We only have 100 members & there are roughly 200 boats that are still OK. 50% is missing. Many are just day sailing. Should we offer a different membership tier for non racers. We offer an associate membership for \$10. There are 12 Shields in Southern CA located in Newport Beach, Alameda Bay, Orange Coast College & Cal State Long Beach. Wendy has the connection with Orange Coast & will forward to Garth. A few fleets seem to be drifting. We all know people who own a Shields but they don't race. REACH OUT! Get them engaged. Should we offer non racing yacht owners a discount on the membership? There were questions about how we should market this new form of membership. It was decided that they could just pay the Nationals dues & not a local dues. We need to have a form for them to fill out & apply for membership-place it in a prominent place on the website & in the newsletter & facebook page.

Shields Nationals 2013: They are close to posting details for ordering personalized Nationals racing gear. Jay will touch base with Richard Slaughter to get that going.

There was discussion about a missing boat #123 as a prior owner would like to know where she currently is. Garth, Andy & Wendy will get them connected.

Reminder:

2013 Nationals-Oxford, MD:

2014 Nationals-Larchmont, NY:

2015 Nationals-Newport, RI:

The next phone conference is June 11, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodwin
Shields Class Secretary