

# Shields Class Association – Meeting Minutes

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Held Via Google Meet

Attending: Jon Krumeich, Wesley Bemus, Ken Dyett, Jay Dayton, Ted Slee, Steve Mettler, Ron Oard, Daniel Goodwin, Jerry Stratton, Jan Slee, Eric Anderson, Dan Ronan, Lee Reichart, Scott Brubaker, Robert Scribner.

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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 \$12,349.76 with no recent transactions.

Minutes: Previous meeting minutes were accepted with one adjustment: Jay Dayton's name was misspelled. Apologies to Mr. Dayton.

Secretary's Report: Will be provided under Old Business section.

President's Report: Pres. Krumeich identified that he was in the process of selecting a number for the fleet being established in Maine and that he would work with Ken Dyett to select one.

New Business: An update from the Technical Committee was provided by Ken Dyett. The Tech Comm. Has been working in multiple thrusts simultaneously: mast suppliers, heavy air spinnakers, and forms/reporting. Mike Toppa has taken point on identifying a future mast supplier because, as in recent years, Cape Cod no longer has the capacity to build new masts. Not only has the Die for the Shields mast extrusion worn out, but their supplier for extruded aluminum will no longer produce tubes in the length of a Shields section. Their only option would be a 2-piece tube which is not sustainable. It was noted that Booms and Spinnaker Poles are still available through Cape Cod.

Until a new supplier is identified, Shields owners who are aware of existing masts are requested to inventory and report on their location/condition/availability. This will help in the event that a boat is dismasted before a new source can be found.

Old Business: Sec. Bemus provided an updated version of the compliance form to be used as standard in future National Regattas. The goal of this form is to improve compliance in the areas of 1) boat measurement and setup, 2) crew makeup and reporting, 3) sail declaration, and 4) class and fleet membership dues.

The latest iteration clarifies signatories, provides direct links to classification resources, and now provides a tool for those skippers who race with Group 3 sailors to track the dates on which they sailed.

Discussion was had around the class rule stipulations on sail qualification for charterers, as it seems that strict interpretations of the class rules are contradictory at this point. This discussion was moved offline for further study and potential future action.

Those present agreed that this form would be used at the 2026 TAYC Nationals. Feedback from 2026 will be incorporated into a final version of the form for use in future regattas.

Shields Class Foundation: Eric Anderson provided an update that the Foundation has accepted their 6<sup>th</sup>, #199, currently located in Point Richmond, CA. This boat was graciously donated to the Foundation in honor of its deceased owner and will be added to the roster of the MPYC fleet with the expectation that it will sail in the 2026 OGLC.

A boat, currently located in Orient Point, NY, was discussed as potentially being a target for donation to the Foundation and use in the Boothbay fleet.

Shields 89 is expected to be raced in the Marion fleet for the 2026 season with a young woman at the helm.

As always, the Foundation is grateful for any financial or equipment donations. Funds and hardware are directly applied to upkeep and maintenance to ensure that Foundation-owned Shields are able to be raced by young and interested parties around the country.

OGLC '26: The Ocean Great Lakes Challenge is being held by the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club on May 29-31. Interested parties should contact Jerry Stratton and Jim Wirtz.

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>. The TAYC fleet now has 13 boats in their fleet, with expectations that number will grow to 14 or 15 by the Fall of '26. Registration is open and all interested teams are encouraged to enter early.

Future Events: Pres. Krumeich noted that the Chicago fleet is working diligently to assemble enough boats to host an event of some form or fashion, perhaps in concert with other fleets, however nothing detailed was planned as of yet.

Future National regatta locations were briefly discussed, and the class is requesting expressions of interest for the 2028 and 2029 events.

Adjourned: 8:46 PM by Jon Krumeich.

Submitted: Wesley Bemus, Secretary