

Shields Class Association – Meeting Minutes

January 13th, 2026

Held Via Google Meet

Attending: Jon Krumeich, Wesley Bemus, Ken Dyett, Mike Toppa, Richard Robbins, Jay Dayton, Ted Slee, Steve Mettler, Ron Oard, Daniel Goodwin, Jerry Stratton, John Gronberg.

Call to Order: 8:04 PM Jon Krumeich.

Treasurer's Report: Treas. Dayton reports the Shields Class Association balance stands at \$12,349.76 with no recent transactions. Some discussion was raised around the potential to move a share of the class funds into an interest-bearing account, with the resulting consensus being a desire to maintain convenience and prevent locking up assets.

Minutes: Previous meeting minutes were accepted with two adjustments: Jim Wirtz was misspelled and the dates of the 2026 OGLC were updated. Apologies to Mr. Wirtz.

Secretary's Report: Sec. Bemus acknowledged that, in the coming months, he would work with Mr. Rajacich from the Oxford fleet to coordinate trophies for the 2026 Nationals.

President's Report: The makeup of the Executive Committee was clarified to include Pres. Krumeich, Sec. Bemus, and Tech Comm. Chair Dyett. One of the leading initiatives for the ExCom in 2026 will be to work with the Boothbay fleet in order to help them get established.

New Business: Sec. Bemus presented an updated 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. Additionally, by clarifying and formalizing some elements of Nationals compliance, the form intends to remove the burden of tracking compliance of previously unreported elements (such as Group 3 sailors) from regatta volunteers at the nationals OA.

Substantial discussion took place around the nature of the class's restrictions on Group 3 sailors and how their participation should be tracked and reported upon. Ultimately, the form does not request that sailors do any additional tracking of Group 3 sailors beyond what the class rules already require – rather it centralizes the reporting for tracking information which skippers must already track in order to be compliant with class rules.

The friction around requiring every participant in the National regatta to obtain a World Sailing Classification was raised as a concern. General agreement was found that this requirement should be communicated to the fleets early and expectations should be made clear that World Sailing ID Numbers will be a requirement at the 2026 Nationals. This is in order to allow skippers to identify and track their Group 3 sailors early in the season, as well as to prevent a logjam of classifications in the weeks before the National regatta.

All present agreed that the Technical Committee would continue to refine the form into an operational document, clarify the signatories to be included from the Skipper's fleet, and prepare language which would allow for its incorporation into the Class Rules at the next National Class Meeting.

Old Business: The winter edition of the Masthead is scheduled to go out January 22nd. Content authors are appreciated and are encouraged to send photos and articles to Eric Anderson for future editions, planned for May/June and Dec of 2026.

Technical Committee: The Technical Committee reports that they are working on a solution for sourcing new Shields masts. Existing suppliers for these masts are in short supply, with many exiting the industry. Boats are currently relying on used masts to meet any needs which arise. Ken Dyett agreed to make further progress on the matter over the next month.

Some class members requested that a heavy air spinnaker be studied by the Tech. Comm.

Shields Class Foundation: The Foundation announced that Carol Swift was added to the Board of directors and represents Fleet 9. The fleet remains at 5 boats, with all intended to be sailing in 2026.

Donations are gratefully accepted and will be put to good use in maintaining and fielding these boats for youth and women sailors nationwide.

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 23rd to 26th. A notice of race was published on January 10th and registration has opened.

Future Nationals: Ted Slee gave a brief update on planning for the '27 Edition. Future National regatta locations were briefly discussed. The overall urgency is to identify a host for the '28 event.

Adjourned: 9:20 PM by Jon Krumeich.

Submitted: Wesley Bemus, Secretary