

## **Spring 2006 Junior Sailing and Fleet Minutes**

On Monday, April 3, John Everitt called the meeting to order at 19:30 at the Bellport Bay Yacht Club. In attendance was Mary Ann Deering, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Roger Baker, Optimist Fleet Captain in 2005 and now Vice Chairman of US Sailing's Youth Council; Wayne Hulse, Moriches Yacht Club (Optimist Fleet Captain for 2005); Dave Hulse, Moriches Yacht Club – Junior Sailing Coordinator; Kent Picken, Commodore of Bellport Bay Yacht Club, V-15 Fleet Captain; Neil Lamens, BBYC Junior Sailing Coordinator; John Evans, Westhampton Yacht Squadron; Kevin Lambert, Long Island Yacht Club, Junior Sailing Coordinator; Maureen Fogel, LIYC and Bayberry Yacht Club – parent; Stephan Kelley, C420 Fleet Captain and Sayville Yacht Club Junior Sailing Coordinator; Tom Conlin, Sayville Yacht Club, parent C420 and Chairman of the C420 North Americans to be held in August at BBYC.

The following was discussed.

### **GSBYRA Junior Chairperson**

Roger Baker was appointed as the junior sailing chairperson for GSBYRA for 2006. Roger has a great deal of energy and experience. He has been elected Vice Chairman of US Sailing's Youth Council. We have been looking for someone to step up and take this position for five years. Thanks Roger! Roger will report to Mary Ann Deering and John Everitt.

### **Schedules**

The JY-15s and the Narrasketuck Class sent information to Mary Ann. The V-15 schedule was set. Scots, Sunfish and Lasers were MIA. Laser District 8 events were available but we need to focus on the Bay events to be established the GSB Fleet Championships. We are in the process of contacting the other fleets. The C420 events are now set. Steve has worked hard to get agreement on dates. The Optimist class needs to get its the schedule sorted out. Wayne Hulse, Moriches Yacht Club will be the Optimist fleet captain along with Orest Baransky, Narrasketuck Yacht Club.

I need to reiterate that the GSBYRA established a format of Fleet Championship events to replace the Season Championship that was based on qualifying for the Season Trophy by sailing Invitational events. The purpose of the change was to get sailors to determine the format of their Championship and thereby create more focus on the events that fit the needs and wants of the fleet members. This would help build fleets and increase participation. We expected some diversity. For example, the JY-15's select a couple of events while the Narrasketuck Class selected all invitational events this year. The need is to get greater involvement of the class sailors to develop the interest in competitive sailing. The GSBYRA wants to encourage more decision making from the sailors as opposed to the executive committee.

We agreed that one mid-week junior event should be tried this year.

## **Communication**

We ask that each Club identify a parent or parents of juniors who sail Sunfish, Optimists, C420 and Lasers, to help the fleet “captains” and Roger communicate with the fleet about sailing events, social events, etc.

Mary Ann would like each club to send her the name and e-mail address of the head instructor or instructors of each Club’s sailing program.

The GSBYRA will be making an initiative to further advance the website. The website will have the official schedule but also should be used for keeping its members informed on a range of other activities.

John Evans of WYS suggested that at regattas the host Club should have someone who can easily be identified by wearing a tag or hat to whom participant could ask questions about the event. He says you often arrive and have no idea where to put the trailers or what is going on. He and others suggested that something be done for parents. What might parents do in the area while they are waiting? Many would like to go out on a spectator boat.

## **Education and Professional Development**

Everyone agrees that we need to run a sailing program management seminar. If we can get an outside speaker we will but we will run a seminar using GSBYRA expertise at the minimum. A lot of new people are running programs and are very interested in sharing experiences and asking questions about critical areas. This will be run in the middle to late May.

We want to get head instructors together early in the year. You need to get the names and e-mail addresses to Mary Ann.

Mary Ann has been disseminating information about several seminars and will continue sending e-mails out. If you want to be on the e-mail list please let her know.

## **Social Aspects of Sailing**

This year we want to add more social content to the junior regattas - even if it is only a half-hour tailgate event. We think that it is important to emphasize the social aspects, not just the competitive aspects of the event. There was general agreement that this was a good idea.

## **Race Week**

This year is GSBYRA’s 100<sup>th</sup> year and we hope Race Week will have a great turnout and a special social event. We want the fleets to really push for a turnout. Each registrant

will be eligible for a door prize drawing. We will have tickets available and hope past sailors and friends of GSBYRA will turn out for the barbeque scheduled for Saturday, July 29.

We also will be asking for volunteer help and we will be interested in some special after the race activities for our junior sailors before the barbeque starts at about 5:30 pm.