

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2015

Buffalo Canoe Club, Ridgeway, Ontario, Canada

**Attendance:** Meeting Chair/President Debbie Probst, Esko Aalto, Julian Calvin, Bill Clausen, Jim Crane, Steve Davis, Ian Edwards, John Faus, Josh Goldman, Peter Hall, Lauri Hemming, Gary & Joan Hurban, Pablo Lorca, Victor Lobos, Rob Ruhlman, Ryan Ruhlman, Alfred Sherman, Matthew Schon, Valerie Tardif, Todd Wake, Richard Walsh. Quorum met with Proxies submitted by: Kimmo Aromaa, Will Brown, Bill Cabrall, Ryan Flack, Brian Hayes, Eric Heller, Patrick McGinity, Jack Mueller, Clarke Newman, Glenn Reitingner, Nelson Schmitt, Mark Schneider, David Stix, and Mike Welch.

President Probst called the meeting to order at 8:36am. She began by asking everyone to introduce themselves. With the Worlds only held every other year, this is a good opportunity to get to know each other better.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Bill Clausen made a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as posted on the website. Ryan Ruhlman seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

**Presidents Report:** President Probst reported that we have a lot going on and this is nothing new! She believes overall we have made some progress in harnessing volunteers and allowing them to focus on their areas of expertise. Many have taken ownership of their positions and used Laura as a resource—this is the way it needs to work. The VPs are in their position because they have some expertise, experience or at least enthusiasm. We need to rely on you to direct the position and do the job first!

Probst main goal coming into the Presidency was to maximize the cost-effectiveness and timeliness of our communication with the membership with the hopes that we can stay better connected with our existing members and attract past and new members. Many distractions (The A-Sail, Southern Circuit Dates, Pan Am Status, Legacy Program and others) have interrupted that focus, but we have done some analysis and are very close to making some alterations. VP reports will explain in more detail the other activity in the Class.

**Treasurers Report:** Jim Crane reported good news, the Class is doing well. The profit and loss report through July 9th shows we are up by about \$16K, however we anticipate some scheduled expenses to be booked (Yearbook and Flashes printing/ mailing and expenses associated with the Worlds, Intl Masters and NA's) and that should bring us closer to figure slightly above break even. North American member numbers are still on a slight decline as they have been for a few years, but sailing in general is overall down as well. We really need your support to encourage members to renew and new people to sign up. We are down in member numbers but up about \$3K with revenue. This can be attributed to the dues increase that took effect this year. South American and European dues are also on a slight decline. Last year we changed the membership period from a yearly cycle to a 12 month cycle. There will be no significance to report with this change until next year. We may see a timing difference on renewals depending on when memberships are renewed. Additional highlights: in 2014 we saw a high number in Sail Royalties, 2015 is not trending as high right now. Class Merchandise sales are down about \$3800 from last year. On the expense side, we are spending less than we did last year. Merchandise sales are down but we are not buying as much inventory either. Overall, some of this is just a timing difference. Flashes and Yearbook are down expense wise, but this is just a timing difference. The Funds are doing well, totaling about \$350K. With the recent sale of the donated J70, that will bump us up to \$400K. President Probst added that Larry MacDonald, Mark Schneider and Bill Cabrall have all offered to help with some membership projects starting this fall. These projects will hopefully increase membership revenue. It was suggested that the Class look into membership auto renewals.

**Chief Measurers Report:** Bill Clausen thanked the Measurement Committee here at the Worlds for doing a great job. There weren't many issues with measurement but the common issues we saw were centerboard angle of dangle, weights in boats and water in boats. In accordance with the Class Constitution a Technical Committee consisting of the following individuals: Jamie Allan, Tom Allen, Bill Cabrall, Greg Fisher, Ryan Flack, Neal Fowler, Tito Gonzalez, Ched Proctor and Chief Measurer, Bill Clausen has appointed. The Executive Committee has approved these appointments and recommends the Governing Board does so as well. Todd Wake called for a motion to ratify the committee as appointed, Victor Lobos seconded. All approved. Motion approved. The Technical Committee is designed to support the Measurement Committee as requested for support pertaining to the Official Plans and Specifications.

**Secretary's Report:** Victor Lobos noted that North American Skipper member numbers are slightly down in actual member numbers compared to this time last year. Europe and South America is down by a larger percentage. We need to encourage non-US Lightning sailors to be part of the Class. We also need foreign VP's to help support this effort.

**Executive Committee Member Report:** Todd Wake reported that we recently sent out an information survey pertaining to information/publications. This input will help guide us in an effort to focus on time and money being spent on how we communicate with our members. We spend \$32K per year on media. The website is the number one place people go for information on the Class. The Executive Secretaries position is changing and it is hard to manage all areas. Members need to step up and help with articles. To aid in this effort the incoming Executive Committee Secretary will help to oversee media, assist in gathering information while will result in more timely publications. A third of what we spend is on the Annual Yearbook. A lot of time and effort goes into this publication and it ends up being a dated piece but important for historical documentation. We are looking into maybe moving to a 4 year cycle with the yearbook with more articles rather than reports. This will help to free up time for the Executive Secretary to focus on more revenue generating tasks such as membership. Discussion ensued. In summary, going forward the yearbook needs to change and we need to move forward with a plan sometime soon. This plan will need to focus on what is working best for our members while also keeping some type of historical record. This record may not be in the current Yearbook form.

#### **Vice President and Committee Reports:**

**Pan American Games:** Victor Lobos reported that he has been working on contacting PASAF officials continue to support the Lightning in the Pan American Games. He continued that the Lightning involvement in the Pan Am Games is very important to the South American Countries and the continued success of Lightning activity in South America. The games just ended in Toronto and we had a great fleet of 7 countries represented. ARG won the gold medal, USA the silver and BRA the bronze. CHI, CAN, ECU and COL were also represented. The next games (2019) will be held in Lima, Peru. Peru is one of the countries we have targeted for assistance with fleet development. This is perfect timing to get activity going in Peru. Lobos laid out a strong development package to Peru and these discussions have been going well. This will not only help assist in helping to secure a Lightning slot in the next games but will get more people sailing Lightning's in Peru. It is also fortunate that the Peruvian Custom Laws are good or beneficial to importing boats. ARG is also a good candidate for development, especially after just winning the gold medal. They have a lot of activity, but it is hard to get boats into the country. Lobos will include Ian Edwards in future discussions regarding boat acquisition/shipments. Peter Hall had attended the PASAF meeting in Toronto and gave the group an overview of happenings. John Bennett from Brazil was voted in as the new PASAF President. There was discussion and likely a favorable opinion of having a split fleet in the future with some Olympic and some non-Olympic classes. This is good for the Lightning. In the games we are sailing as a mixed division and this is also favorable for us as it encourages more women participation. Discussion ensued. We need to continue to encourage our National Sailing Authorities to support the Lightning in the games.

**VP Europe:** Lauri Hemming reported that Finland is getting ready to host the European Championships, Aug 6-9. We are expecting representation from FIN, GRE, SUI, AUS, USA and maybe Italy. Out of our local fleet of 25 boats, 6 are being chartered for this regatta to get additional representation. The Finnish sailors have a good relation with the Greek sailors and we are working on strengthening those bonds with other countries, but we need more participation and boats in ITA and SUI. After the 2017 Worlds in South American, the normal rotation would come to Europe and Finland. This could very well help to save Lightning sailing in Europe. We hope that if another Area such as Australia, submit and is awarded the bid that Europe will not be skipped over in the rotation; meaning that the 2019 Worlds could be hosted in Europe before going back to the traditional rotation of North America, South America and Europe.

**International Fleet Development:** Ian Edwards reported that our efforts in Greece last year continue to do very well. The Greeks are sailing against themselves and activity has significantly increased. We are hoping to do this same type of thing in Italy, but we are looking for local support to take the lead and we are having difficulty finding this person or group of people. With the developments that Victor Lobos has laid out with Peru, we should focus on them like we did with Greece.

**Boat Grant:** Matthew Schon reported that we have three teams in the program this year. The two Boat Grant boats and a third boat from the boats that were donated to the Class from Joe Disette. Sarah Somes, Chris Segerbloom and Alex Cox have all been out sailing and are representing the program well. Alex Cox is sailing out of Thunder Bay YC in Canada and we are going to try and sell 15406 in Canada before the end of the sailing season. This will be the first of the two upgrades we will make on the boat grant equipment. If you know if anyone looking to apply, please help them. We have noticed that this results in much stronger applications.

**Lighting Labs:** Joan & Gary Hurban reported that so far this year we have hosted the Mentor Program in Miami during the Southern Circuit and labs at the Moonshine Regatta in Virginia and Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis. A special thank you goes to Nick Turney, Allan Terhune and Geoff Becker for helping with these labs. Our main focus or goal for this year is to get video of previous labs up on the website. We have identified a young person that can help assist us with this project. President Probst added that we are working on a lab type event for February 2016 in San Diego. This "Rock Star Regatta" will bring sailors in from outside the San Diego area to team up with local fleet members. Boats will be provided with two crew members; the third team member will be someone from outside the San Diego Area. This three day event will include a training day, racing inside the bay and outside in the ocean.

**VP North American Championships:** Josh Goldman reported that the WJMs will be held in Tawas, MI Aug 7-9, 2015 and the NAs will be held in New Orleans, LA at Southern Yacht Club October 8-11. Please register if you are planning to attend! Rochester YC in Rochester, NY will host the 2016 WJM's (Aug 11-14) and NA's (Aug 13-19). We will announce bids for 2017 NA's open on September 1<sup>st</sup> and they will be due by December 31, 2015.

**World Championships:** Rob Ruhlman began by thanking the Buffalo Canoe Club for hosting a fantastic event! We had 63 International Master Teams and the strength of the field and the number of competitors is not going to get any easier in the future! We have another deep fleet starting this week for the Worlds and we are looking forward to that as well. The 2017 Worlds will take place at the Salinas Yacht Club in Ecuador, most likely the week of November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as this week corresponds to the American Thanksgiving holiday and is also a good time for the Salinas YC to host the event. Ian Edwards added that AUS may be looking to put a bid in for the 2019 Worlds. He is looking at potential locations now and was looking for input on whether people wanted to sail inside or outside of Sydney Harbor, if anyone has any thoughts please contact Ian.

**Youth World Championship:** President Probst reported that the Youth Worlds will take place July 23-27, 2016 at the Salinas Yacht Club in Ecuador. Countries need to begin scheduling qualifiers or team selections as soon as possible. The US qualifier will take place at the Junior North American Championship in Tawas, Michigan Aug 7-9. Each country with active Lightning participation automatically gets two slots.

**Atlantic Coast Championship:** Laura Jeffers reported that the Southampton Yacht Club hosted a fantastic event and really rolled out the welcome mat for us. A special thank you goes to Tim Rumph and his team for organizing a great regatta. We are hoping that the Charleston Fleet may like to host the 2016 ACC's. More details will be announced this fall.

**Southern Circuit:** President Probst announced that we may have a scheduling conflict with the St Petersburg Grand Prix. We are waiting to hear the final data announcement, but we may have to possibly find an alternative venue or location.

**ILCA Fund Committee:** Steve Davis reported that two committee members have resigned, Todd Wake as a result of being elected to the Executive Committee and John Bennett for other commitments at this time. They have been replaced by Past Presidents John Faus and Paco Sola. The committee has approved funds to support the Lightning Lab program and also a replacement program for the Boat Grant Boats. The ILCA Fund has about \$250K in assets, of which \$200K is invested in CD's.

**Nigeria District:** Julian Calvin reported that they have about 20-25 boats in the fleet and it is made up of mostly Exxon employees. These people rotate in and out of Lagos. About 40% come from the US and Canada. We are looking to hold a Lightning Lab again. It is hard to bring boats into the Country; there is a 100% duty. For those that are from Nigeria, it is hard for them to get visas to travel to outside events.

**ISAF Report:** Peter Hall reported that it is good to have different geographical regions represented. Keep these areas growing! In addition make an effort to grow women participation. These areas are of interest to ISAF.

**Limbaugh Fund:** Jim Crane reported that the committee has been mostly quiet this year. It did support a Youth Clinic that was held at Wawasee Yacht Club this past spring. President Probst added, it was well received and now that a framework for this type of clinic has been developed we hope to hold these in other areas in the future. Discussion ensued regarding promotion of youth sailing.

#### **Written Reports Submitted:**

##### **Classic Lightning Report: Bob Astrove**

Classic Lightning activity continues to be maintaining or growing in activity and interest. Just this past weekend (July 11/12) we held our annual "Get Together" in conjunction with the CNY's Champagne Regatta at Keuka Lake (Fleet 252) in Hammondsport NY. We had 13 classic boats attend, sharing the weekend with 14 modern boats. We held races; day sailed and otherwise enjoyed our celebration of Lightnings. 6 Of the 13 boats were of hull numbers under #1000. Of interesting note, our annual award for boat restoration and maintenance went to Rick Guli for his work maintaining # 588. That is Karl Smither's "Thermis Twice" in which he was runner up in the Internationals of 1947 & 1948 among his and it's many other achievements. The boat is rigged "as original" and is nothing short of beautiful.

We continue to provide support and resources for restoration and locating of parts, fittings, sails. Of late, I am observing a particular interest in people looking for original parts from the 40's and early 50's. This is a good sign of interest in restoration and preservation.

**VP/Marketing Report:** Bill Faude

The VP/Marketing mission continues to be to actively combat any notion that the Lightning is 'venerable' or 'traditional' or in any words, 'old fashioned'. It is in the competitive interest of any new class to seek to either convert sailing hours from our members or to convince people who might consider buying a Lightning to relegate us into that mind space.

We will continue to advance the position that the Lightning is a well-managed association with a deep commitment to constant evaluation of new technologies and rigging ideas that will keep the Class contemporary. This will defend the perceived value of all of our boats and help maintain the value of our assets. It will also make the hours we spend on the water in our Lightnings more fun.

We cannot take for granted that because the Lightning has generally been a strong class for over 75 years that it will continue to be so. Equally, we cannot assume our own members will stay committed due to some sense of traditional loyalty. We must continue to manage ourselves so people feel spending a section of their leisure time sailing Lightnings is engaging and challenging and fun and not 'same old same old.'

**Legacy Program:** Mark Schneider

The website needs to be built, than the program can begin. This at this point in time this is the log jam. We need a committee to review applications, but even if we don't put that committee together till after the applications are received, we feel we will be OK for we are not sure how many applications we will get. The boats are Nickels at this point in time. Legal documents are being worked up by Hugh Hutchinson.

**Charters Ratified or revoked:** None at this time

**Ratifications:** Technical Committee Appointment, see Chief Measurers report above.

**Unfinished Business:** none at this time

**New Business:**

Item A: Sanctioning of Regattas – Darryl Waskow and David Sprague see a need to create a standard NOR and SI's for sanctioned regattas. This team will work on coming up with these documents.

With no other new business President Probst asked for a motion to adjourn. Josh Goldman made a motion, Peter Hall seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned 9:25am.