

**International Lightning Class Association**  
**Winter Meeting of Members - March 19, 2015 Minutes**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Probst at 9:22am.

**Roll Call** by Executive Secretary Jeffers. In attendance: Fleet 5, 12, 36, 51, 54, 85, 109, 126, 129, 151, 154, 173, 187, 196, 216, 226, 228, 253, 266, 329, 335, 429, 430, 488, 501, 511, 516, 519, 521 and 526. Proxy ballots were submitted by Fleet 3, 9, 16, 24, 34, 42, 47, 50, 62, 90, 112, 121, 164, 192, 194, 215, 233, 262, 270, 273, 274, 279, 283, 301, 332, 338, 391, 415, 435, 462, 493, 506, 508, 509, 510, 519, 522. Quorum achieved with those present and proxy ballots.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Bill Clausen made a motion dispense the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes of both the March and Aug 2014 meeting minutes as posted, Georges Peter seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

**Presidents Report:** President Probst thanked everyone for coming. There is a lot going on in the Class and we are in need of new volunteers to step up and help out. There are many different areas of need. Please talk to (Debbie) if you are interested or know of someone who is a good candidate.

**Treasurers Report:** Jim Crane submitted a written report with an overview of the 2014 Financials and 2015 Budget: I am happy to report that the Class's operating income statement for 2014 is at breakeven or very close to breakeven. We are still fine tuning the statement but all indications are that we had a successful year matching the income and expenses of our Class. This is noteworthy achievement as all one design classes in the United States are under intense pressure from declining participation. This is our greatest challenge and the metric that best reflects this is our Class income from dues; skipper, crew and fleet. For 2013 our total dues income was \$47,709. In 2014 the number was \$46,853, a decrease of \$856. While we are still showing a decline in membership, we have staunched the rapid decline of prior years and we are rejoining our efforts to increase Class membership. Laura has been devoting a great deal of time promoting the benefits of Class membership and we are beginning to see results.

Many factors allowed us to balance the budget this year, but most notably the Class office expenses were \$6,762 less than the prior year. They totaled \$99,799. On the income side, a notable surprise was an increase of \$6,062 in sail royalties and a decrease of \$1,300 in boat royalties. We seem to be keeping older boats going fast by buying sails rather than purchasing new boats. Whether this trend will continue we don't know.

Budgeting for next year, assuming that we continue with all our projects and Class benefits, we will see a probable increase in expenses tracking the inflation rate, or roughly \$2000 to \$3000.

The dues increase that was approved in 2014 effective in 2015 will help us to keep a balanced budget. However, you never know what surprises you may encounter. We are confident that 2015 will be another successful year.

Over all the Class is in terrific shape because of our three funds. These are the Limbaugh Fund, the ILCA Fund and the History Fund. These three funds are defined benefit funds that support specific aspects of our Class. You will note that the ILCA Fund had a loss of \$26,149 this year. This reflects two things. The Class made a commitment to build fleets in Greece and Australia and used ILCA funds to do this. The ILCA Fund subsidized shipping and partial boat purchases. Total expenses were reflected in 2014 but will be reduced over time as the boat purchasers' pay for the boats. Additionally, through the generosity of John Faus the Class now owns a J70. We are planning to charter the boat for the next few years and the ILCA Fund funded the outfitting costs of the boat. In the future the ILCA Fund will benefit from the charter. These three funds have a total value of \$231,781. In addition to the remarkable value of these funds, the Class also owns six Lightnings that support the boat grant program and have a book value of \$51,462.

Total assets of the Class are \$311,777 and total liabilities are \$8,351. We are in good shape.

In addition, he reminded everyone that we really need local Fleet support. We are encouraged that we can have a successful year.

**Secretary's Report:** Member numbers were covered in the Treasurer's Report.

**Chief Measurers Report:** Bill Clausen reported that he is still getting comments on how smoothly and efficient measurement went in Sheboygan, they did a great job. David Starck and the Worlds team are putting together a similar plan and we have had good communication. Assistant Measurer Bill Cabrall will be in charge of measurement at the WJM's in Tawas and (Clausen) will be in New Orleans at the NA's to assist in measurement.

**Executive Committee, Todd Wake:** We are currently looking at all of our publications and how we communicate. We are planning to send out a survey in April. We are looking to be more efficient at maybe a lower cost. Please take the time and complete the survey when you get it.

**Boat Grant:** Will Brown reported that our 2014 recipient, Ben Spector, qualified for the Worlds and the other, Whitney Kent, is looking to purchase a boat. This is what this program is all about and it's working! We are always looking for more applications. The best way is to encourage local kids at your home club to apply. The committee is pleased to announce that the ILCA Fund has granted permission for the Boat Grant Program to use one of the Disette boats which results in 3 grant recipients this year! We plan to announce the recipients with a big media splash in a few weeks separate from the Southern Circuit to help get better coverage of the program. We will have recipients from the Detroit and Annapolis areas. The third recipient is still being determined.

**Classic Boats:** Bob Astrove submitted a written report: Interest in Classic Lightnings continues to be strong. I continue to receive a high volume of emails and phone calls with questions about working on the older boats, and interest in the old fiberglass boats / restorations appears to be on the uptick over the year. Traffic on our e-group continues to be strong with new people coming in at a steady pace. We continue to have some success in finding homes for older boats as their owners age. However this trend is growing as our country ages, becoming a bigger challenge for us. Available boats exceeds demand.

I must note that we have 4 Woody's registered for participation in the St. Petersburg championship regatta, which is probably the most in over 40 years. One of the boats is a new construction and three are restorations.

Planning is well underway to again have a Classic event held concurrently with the Champagne Regatta in Hammondsport NY in July. Last year this was a great success. This year we are trying to team up with the Finger Lakes Boating Museum to shorten our races on Saturday Afternoon and take people out for rides, and run this as part of the Museum's special program that weekend. I must also share that this summer the Museum apparently will take possession of the Skaneateles Lightning mold upon which their boats were constructed.

**ISAF Report** - David Sprague submitted a written report: ISAF (International Sailing Federation):

I am sorry to say but notwithstanding the few things that ISAF does well for sailing such as develop the Racing Rules of Sailing it continues to become less and less relevant to the ordinary sailor and less and less recognizing of the need for growth of sailing as a beacon for good ethics and non-political actions.

ISAF in January 2015 signed a partnership agreement with the Russian Government's effective subsidiary Gazprom for a five year term in-order to get sponsorship money from Gazprom. I expect that it will have been done "legally", at least according to their paid lawyers, but it seems to me to be completely counter to the international sanctions being put upon Russia by the rest the world. See for details: <http://www.sailing.org/news/39619.php>

It puts sailing as a sport willing to bow down to the highest bidder no matter what the source of the money is. It may not put ISAF in the league of the Soccer Association's FIFA with its shenanigans but it certainly is counter to the ideals that we try and instill into sailors at the grassroots level and what our class was built on.

I believe that the Lightning Class should review its commitment to ISAF

**Lightning Labs** - Joan & Gary Hurban submitted a written report: Last years' clinics took many forms. Some were coached by our NA and World champions, some by championship crews, and some by our top local skippers and crew. Many had lectures and boat handling demonstrations on the shore, with critiques on the water followed by video critiques on shore. Many had panel discussions by the top skippers and crews after racing to discuss what they did on the water that day.

The following Lightning Labs were held during the 2014 season:

- 1 SPYC , St. Petersburg, FL, and Miami, FL, coached by Nick Turney and Class rock stars during Southern Circuit
- 2 NAVA, Voula, Greece, coached by Kimmo Aromaa
- 3 SSA, Annapolis, Md, coached by Allan Terhune at No-Gas Regatta
- 4 MBYC, San Diego, Ca, coached by Todd Wake

- 5 NBC, Nyack, NY , coached by Justin Coplan
- 6 NBYC, New Bedford, Mass., coached by David Stark at ACCs
- 7 DLYC, Delta Lake, NY, coached by Bob Wardwell, John Steiner, and Clay Murphy
- 8 SYC, Sheboygan, Mich, coached by Greg Fisher at the WJMs Championships

Labs requested for the 2015 season are as follows:

1. CRYC, Miami, FL, coached by Nick Turney and Class rock stars during Southern Circuit
2. Virginia Island Sailing Assoc., Moneta, VA. , Fri April 10th before the Moonshine Regatta, Coached by Allan Terhune, Contact: Randy Beauchamp
3. SSA in Annapolis, MD. (Dixie District) Fri May 8th before the No-Gas Regatta with briefings during the regatta. Coached by Allan Terhune and Geoff Becker Contact: Joan and Gary Hurban
4. CAD Districts Districts, June 26th at CAD Districts, Requested to be coached by Greg Fisher Contact: John Faus
5. Denver, CO. Requested a Lab. Waiting for Fleet to pick a date
6. Nigeria, Requested a Lab. Skip Dieball ran the last one there, and is considering going back.

Please direct any additional requests directly to Joan & Gary: [jghurban@gmail.com](mailto:jghurban@gmail.com)

We are very fortunate to receive a lot of Class support in leading these labs.

**North American Championships:** Josh Goldman reported that the 2015 WJM's will be held at Tawas Bay YC Aug 7-9, the NAs at Southern YC in New Orleans, Oct 8-11. The 2016 NAs will be held at Rochester YC - Aug 11-14 for the WJM's and Aug 13-19 for the NAs. NEW TROPHIES: We will be awarding 4 new trophies starting in 2015 for the highest placing Corinthian skippers aged 65+ and 75+ in both the Southern Circuit and the North Americans. The Grand Master Southern Circuit Trophy is being named after Jack Mueller and the Great Grand Master after Dr. Georges Peter. The cost of the awards has been generously donated by a long standing member of the Lightning Class. We may be adding additional recognition awards in the very near future.

**Special Projects (ACCs):** The Atlantic Coast Championship will take place at Southampton YC on July 11-12. The NOR is pending approval and will be posted soon. Those that are not going to the Worlds should do the ACCs instead! The target is 50 boats. There will be a lot of housing with local club members. Make reservations early!

**Legacy Program:** Clarke Newman submitted a written report: The forms for the Legacy Program have been created and the web site work is being done. Otherwise, we are looking forward to having this program up and running.

**World Championships:** Rob Ruhlman announced that David Starck and his team are doing a great job getting everything in place for the 2015 Worlds at the Buffalo Canoe Club. The PRO will be Jeff Borland and he will be the assistant PRO in Miami and will also be the PRO for the Canadian Open. The 2017 Worlds will be held in Salinas, Ecuador and will likely have November dates.

**Youth World Championship:** Ian Jones reported that at the South American Championship Meeting, the countries determined that Colombia would host the 2016 Youth World Championship in Tomine. We are trying right now to determine the exact dates. It has been proposed to be the beginning of 2016 - January 1-3. As a reminder the US Qualifier for this regatta is the 2015 Junior North American Championship.

**Southern Circuit:** Terry Hamilton announced that we have 47 boats sailing the full circuit. 67 in St Pete, and 50 are registered so far for Miami. The mentor program, in its 3rd year, remains very popular. We have 19 teams and 10 coaches assisting these teams. A special thank you to Nick Turney for organizing the program and to all the mentors volunteering their time. We also have had tremendous support from many sponsors! Thank you to APS, Coral Reef Sailing Apparel, North Sails (trophies), Dieball Sailing (circuit glasses), Quantum Sails (bow numbers), Speed N Smarts, Sperry Topsider and Zihk! Next year we are looking at 3 days of sailing in Miami and either 2 or 3 days of sailing in St Pete.

**International Fleet Development:** Ian Edwards reported that last year we had a lot of support for Greece. The first 4 containers we sent created a lot of interest which resulted in 7 more boats being sent in a second shipment. This was a great effort and we appreciate everyone's efforts!

### Other Reports:

Florida District Commodore Bill Mauk announced the Triple Crown details and encouraged people to bring their boats down to Florida next winter. The Florida District is in the process of scheduling 4-5 regattas from December through March.

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

### Unfinished Business:

A. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution.

**Item A** - Constitution Amendments/Changes 1-34 were proposed for vote at the August 2014 meeting. The vote was suspended and the changes were sent back to committee for further review and edits. As a result a Resolution to Change the ILCA Constitution has been proposed and incorporates many of the proposed amendments from August 2014 and some additional changes to update the language to conform with current practices. A special thanks to VP of Rules Darryl Waskow, VP Clarke Newman and VP David Sprague for their help in finalizing these amendments.

Bill Clausen made a motion to accept these changes as posted, Ian Edwards seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

In addition to the Resolution, there are four items that will be voted on separately. These four items are of importance because they are substance changes.

Change 1:

Proposed Amendment in bold:

ARTICLE TWO - EMBLEM

The emblem shall be the symbol of a "flash of lightning," in accordance with the Lightning Sail Plan. **(Delete: , and of contrasting color with sail.)**

Bill Clausen made a motion to accept this change, Jeff Schmahl seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

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Change 2:

Proposed Amendment in Bold:

ARTICLE EIGHT - MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Existing language:

3. A member cannot belong to more than one fleet at a time, nor can a boat be registered in more than one fleet.

Proposed new language:

**8.6 An ILCA Member may belong to more than one Fleet at a time. A Lightning may be registered in more than one Fleet. A Member shall only attempt to qualify for sanctioned regattas through one fleet.**

Todd Wake made a motion to accept this change, Bill Clausen seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

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Change 3:

Proposed Amendment in Bold:

Add the following **NEW** Article:

**ARTICLE EIGHTEEN - Electronic Meetings**

**18.1 Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, the Board of Governors may, from time-to-time, elect to meet via either video-conference or audio-conference.**

**18.2 Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees may, from time-to-time, elect to meet via video-conference or audio-conference.**

**18.3 Such meetings shall be considered meetings in executive session.**

**18.4 Such meetings shall use an appropriate technology that ensures compliance with quorum, debate, and voting.**

Todd Wake made a motion to accept this addition, Georges Peter seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

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Change 4:

Proposed Amendment in Bold:

Add the following **NEW** Article:

**ARTICLE NINETEEN - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

**The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the ILCA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the ILCA Articles of Incorporation, this constitution, the ILCA bylaws, or any State or Federal statute applicable to the ILCA.**

Todd Wake made a motion to accept this addition, Bill Clausen seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

B. The Legacy Program Committee is looking to identify more volunteers to help with this program.

**New Business:**

A. **A-Sail Exploration Evaluation:** We had a well attended round table discussion in St Pete. Thank you to Matt Fisher for moderating this discussion. There were a lot of suggestions and ideas that resulted from the meeting. The MI District has scheduled a discussion in Detroit like this and we encourage you to discuss this with amongst your fleet as well.

B. **Pan Am Game Status** - The Class is looking for a VP of the Pan Am Games for the Lightning Class. Victor Lobos explained how important it is to the South American Lightning Fleets to keep the Lightning in the Pan Am Games. There will be a vote in July in Toronto regarding equipment for the next games in Lima, Peru 2019. Bill Mauk offered to help with this effort.

Jim Crane made a motion to adjourn, Tom Vickers seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 10:09am.