

THE COCKTAIL CLASS WOODEN BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION

Executive Team Zoom Call

Nov. 19, 2023

Minutes

Attendance: Fred Allerton, Cmdr; Tom Kerr, Vice- Cmdr; Jeff Weeber, Treas; Ray Crowley, Fleet Capt; Chris Norman, Member-at-large; Tara Carew, Dir; Art Gompf, Dir; Art Gilbert, Dir; Todd Steffes, Dir. and Past Cmdr; Curt Bluefeld, Past Cmdr; Keith Carew, Past Cmdr; Capt. Peter Urbani, Past Cmdr

October Minutes: Jeff moved to approve; Keith seconded; Motion carried

Treasurer's Report:

2024 Budget:

Jeff reviewed: 2024 proposed budget assumed \$2,000 added for product liability insurance. There was consensus to put a hold on purchasing PL Insurance at this time, and reallocate \$2,000 as a Contingency Expense instead.

- Issues revolving around the sale of AV plates and Skua building plans were discussed. Refer to "AV Plates and Skua Building Plans removed from website" under "NEW BUSINESS."
- Next a discussion of 2024 race fees centered on: (1) establishing higher registration fees, based on careful budgeting of race expenses and an insurance allowance of \$35/driver; (2) but also realizing each race has a unique set of circumstances and cost variables (site fee, awards, food, etc.), and RD's have discretion to manage these; and (3) the goal is to plan an event that will foster participation and support growth.
- For 2024 budgeting purposes Jeff mentioned that to project race incomes \$75 was used conservatively as a minimum registration fee. And he suggested that fees for 2024 races probably need to be in the range of: \$75 to just under \$100.

Tom moved to accept the 2024 budget with changes discussed (\$2,000 moves to Contingency) and Todd seconded. Motion carried.

2024 Race Calendar:

- 3/16 SYC Governor's Cup (confirmed)
- 5/18 Urbanna Cup (confirmed)
- 6/1 Skuas on the Lehigh, Allentown (confirmed)
- 6/15 Camp David Cup (confirmed)
- 7/13 Kent Island (Keith just confirmed)
- 7/27 Commodore Cup (Keith just confirmed)
- 8/17 Nationals (confirmed)
- 9/21 Great Oaks Landing (confirmed)
- 10/12 (Columbus Day Wkend) TK Walker Memorial Tennessee Cup (confirmed)

2024 Non-Race Events:

- 3/22-24 **Sunnyland Boat Festival**, Tavares, FL
- 4/27 **NNSPS Spring Boat Show** Kilmarnock, VA (Art Gilbert has volunteered to lead)
- 6/23-25 **WoodenBoat Show** Mystic, CT (Kim and Gretchen will confirm w/ Shannon McKenzie and Ray Clark if MSM and WB are interested in a Rumble Rematch)
- 9/30-10/2 **St. Michael's Boat Festival** (Dates & Participation to be confirmed)
- 10/25-27 **Sultana's Downrigging Festival**, Chestertown, MD

****Notes:**

1. Regarding **2024 WoodenBoat Show**, the Granbery's will confirm w/ Shannon McKenzie and Ray Clark if MSM and WB are interested in a rumble rematch.
2. Fred will gather names of interested 2024 WBS visitors via email, and potential BnB guests.
3. The July 13 date for **Mahogany and Steel Boat & Car Show** in Bristol, PA conflicts with Kent Island race. So, Bristol will be removed from the CCWBRA schedule.

OLD BUSINESS:

Boats/Motors in "Classifieds" Website

11/19/23: 3 boats and 1 CLC kit are now listed.

Website:

Update 11/19/23:

- Two Tier Membership – Racing / Non-Racing Categories:
 - Connie Ranney completed website changes. See "New Business" for upcoming membership renewal actions.
- Updates in "About Us/Our Leadership" page have been completed, except for a few photos in Executives section
- Racing Number Transfer function was inadvertently removed from Ship Shop. We are working with Connie to add it back - to mirror the 2-step Boat Registration process in the "About Us" page and "Ship Shop."

2024 Handbook/ rule revisions

Update 11/19/23:

- Tara C. & Ray C. scheduled to meet regarding rules update in early December.
- There was a discussion about kill switch tether length, prompted by an incident at Nationals. The tether did not disengage from the kill switch even after a boat had capsized and the driver was standing alongside in shallow water. At issue: Whether to require or recommend modifying the length of the commercially manufactured tether. Upon discussion, there was agreement that no rule should be added to modify tethers. By doing so CCWBRA would take on liability for establishing an alternate length and modifying this manufactured safety product.
- It was recommended that the 2024 Racing Handbook edition's rules and its inspection form should reflect that tethers should be checked for wear and control cables should be checked for excessive length or looping that could hinder cockpit exiting.

Legal consultation:

Update 10/10/23:

- Jeff W., Tom K. & Fred A. reported on an Aug 31 Zoom mtg w/ Atty Peter Schuchman re:
 - Burgee Program Insurance
 - Sales of AV Plates and Boat Plans being restricted by Gowrie/Chubb

Update 11/19/23:

- We are reminded that Atty Schuchman offered to further review, as needed, the following:
 - Liability Waivers
 - By-Laws

AV Plates & Skua Plans - “Products” removed from website:

The Gowrie Group directed the association to remove two “products” from our website sales page, due to potential product liability risks not aligned with the Burgee Program: The Building Manual & the AV Plates.

Update 10/10/23:

- Fred A. questioned the Gowrie rep. again about website sales, this time with reference to comments of Atty Schuchman. Regardless, the rep. maintained Gowrie’s initial stance on their restrictions regarding website sales of “products.”
- Jeff W. will explore feasibility/cost of Product Liability Insurance

Update 11/19/23:

- Regarding AV Plates:
 - The Team discussed a PL Insurance Proposal for AV Plates that Jeff received from Ryan Turner Specialty, Philadelphia.
 - It appears that the policy would exclude claims involving any AV Plates sold prior to the policy inception.
 - Jeff will ask if Atty Schuchman can provide an opinion on the PL insurance proposal relative to CCWBRA’s context.
 - Keith will also contact Charlie Illiff regarding PL risk and options.
 - Keith will contact CLC to see if they might be willing to sell the AV Plates on their website, due to our overlapping promotional interests.
 - A member-to-member sales option was also mentioned.
- Regarding Skua Building Plans:
 - Fred will ask the Granbery’s to check with their contacts at WB Magazine/Store and at Mystic Seaport Museum to see if either organization would be interested in selling the building plans.
 - Another option mentioned was websites that sell wooden boat plans.
 - A member-to-member sales was another option mentioned.

Survey - for Membership Outreach/Marketing/Promotion/:

In a Sept 28th email sent to Execs and Directors after the Kent Island race, Lou Linden suggested that we should conduct a member survey to explore ways to increase member participation. Upon discussion, the Execs reached consensus to table the survey for now, not wanting to convey any concern that is out of proportion. However, it may be helpful to conduct a survey at some point to gain member input, and engage, project a positive message and transparency to the membership.

- **11/19/23: No update**

National Championship Perpetual Award

This award would utilize the antique motorboat trophy figurine found by Russ Bowler & purchased by the association for \$100.

- **11/19/23 Update:** Continuing a discussion that began with a string of emails a week ago, the Nationals “Perpetual Award” was proposed to be awarded to the driver with the best accumulated score, counting all classes entered by that driver for one entire year of racing that begins with the race following the previous year’s Nationals, and ends with the current year’s Nationals. For the 2024 award, the counting would start with 2023 Kent Island. All present agreed with this award concept. The brass name plate needs to be large enough to contain several years of recipients’ names.

Dedicated motor for safety boat:

Jeff W. mentioned that he has a spare 8hp OMC that is available for use on the safety boat, but its tiller has been removed. Ray C. thought he might have a spare tiller.

- **11/19/23 Update:** Ray found and will ship tiller to Jeff. (Closed item)

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership fee renewal announcement & reminders

- CCWBRA to issue a membership renewal announcement via MailChimp – around Dec 1
 - Including introduction of the Racing & Non-Racing memberships
- Also, reminder emails are being updated in WordPress by Connie R. to integrate with 2-tier membership and preset to auto-send:
 - 5 days prior to expiration
 - Upon expiration
 - 45 days after expiration

2024 Elections - One Director – 3-year term starting Jan 31

- Art Gompf expressed his preference to not be on the slate for an additional term as Director. This will provide churn on the Board and allow for someone else to participate. Kudos to Art for his years of CCWBRA involvement (AND his illustrious racing achievements!)
- The Nominating Cmte has been assigned: Keith C & Tom K. Capt. Peter volunteered to complete the 3-person committee per the By-Laws.

Newsletter:

- Fred mentioned that Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb are combined *The Happy Hour* issues.
- Lou Linden is looking for material, stories by CCWBRA members, or just topics that can be developed into features of interest! Have something? Write or call Lou!

Merchandise:

Ray updated on current merchandise inventory and re-ordering plans:

- We have been able to sell a few shirts at events, but there is still a large inventory - 2 bins of shirts.
- Someone proposed having custom Race Committee shirts available for sale to volunteers.
- There was consensus that we should rebuild the inventory of hats, which appears to always be an item that attracts sales. Hats can be ordered individually and directly from Creative Designs of VA. Or we can place a bulk order for better pricing and for maintaining inventory for impulse hat buying at events.
- Ray will check Hi-Def Embroidery (Team Loewen) for pricing as well.

Special Membership Meeting:

Tara suggested scheduling February's Zoom meeting (Feb 13) as a general membership meeting, Feb. would be a good time (winter doldrums) to get everyone psyched up for the 2024 Cocktail Class season! We can keep the business portion short. And make the main focus of meeting: The Team providing updates, and gathering members' feedback and fresh ideas. The topics can be divided among Team members. And we can announce the meeting in the Jan/Feb Newsletter.

- Tara will work on topic suggestions.
- Fred will invite Markus Schmid, CCWBRA Germany, although the meeting will start at 1:15 AM.

Monthly Meeting Schedule:

- The Team agreed to continue w/ 2nd Tuesday of the month meetings.
- Next meeting: Tuesday Dec.12 @ 7:15PM.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Promotion/Marketing Committee:

Ray Crowley, Chair

Engine Committee:

Charlie Iliff, Chair; Members: Curt Bluefeld, Sam Wearly, Russ Bowler

Design Committee:

Keith Carew, Chair

Safety Committee:

Chris Norman, Chair (No updates)

Rules Committee:

Jim Schmicker, Racing Rules Chair (No updates)
Tara Carew, General Rules Director

Appeals Committee:

Capt. Peter Urbani, Chair (No updates)

Ship Store:

Ray Crowley, Manager