

THE COCKTAIL CLASS WOODEN BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION

Executive Team Zoom Call December 12, 2023 (REV 1/8/24)

Attendance: Lena Cantera, Secy; Fred Allerton, Cmdr; Tom Kerr, Vice- Cmdr; Jeff Weeber, Treas; Ray Crowley, Fleet Capt; Curt Bluefeld, Past Cmdr;

November Minutes: Jeff moved to approve; Tom seconded; Motion carried

Treasurer's Report:

Jeff reported:

- Current balance is \$1,471 in Wells Fargo checking and \$6,060.51 in PayPal.
- The expenses from SYC Governor's Cup have not been provided. Jeff will remind RD Lisa Merilson to send expenses so the end of year accounting can be completed.

2024 Race Calendar:

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

2024 Non-Race Events:

- 3/22-24 **Sunnyland Boat Festival**, Tavares, FL, Ray Crowley, Coordinator
- 4/27 **NNSPS Spring Boat Show** Kilmarnock, VA, Art Gilbert, Coordinator
- 6/23-25 **WoodenBoat Show** Mystic, CT, Coordinators: Kim Granbery, On-Water & Fred Allerton, On-Land
- 10/4-10/6 **St. Michael's Boat Festival** (Dates & details to be confirmed)
- 10/31-11/3 **Sultana's Downrigging Festival**, Chestertown, MD, Tom Kerr, Coordinator

*Notes regarding 2024 WoodenBoat Show:

1. Fred mentioned that, Kim Granbery will confirm MSM and WB's interest in a 2024 WoodenBoat Show rumble rematch. w/ Shannon McKenzie (MSM) and Ray Clark (WB) in January.
2. Fred also mentioned we should have 5 boats with Tohatsu's, for the Mystic Rumble, ideally. Kim, Ray, Rick L. & Fred makes 4, Curt volunteered his boat & Tohatsu, if needed and if transportation can be arranged.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website:

Update 12/12/23:

- Website updates have been completed for:
 - New and renewal of membership
 - “Leadership” in “About Us”
- “New Boat Registration” and “Racing Number Transfer” functions are operational again thanks to Connie. However, the data input process should be streamlined with less steps for data input and less duplication of effort between the “Ship Shop” and “About Us” pages. Lena will contact Connie to explain.

Membership renewal announcement & reminders:

- Membership renewal announcement was sent via MailChimp on Dec 4
 - Website renewal functioning well. Jeff reported that there has been good activity in membership renewals. Two of the renewals were for the non-racing category.
 - Lena mentioned that there have been 4 “unsubscribe” requests.
- Connie also updated the renewal reminder emails that will be auto-triggered via WordPress
 - 5 days prior to expiration
 - Upon expiration
 - 45 days after expiration

2024 Handbook/ rule revisions

Status 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. Upon discussion, there was agreement that no rule should be added to modify tethers.
- 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.

Update 12/12/23: Pending

Legal consultation:

Status 11/19/23:

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

Update 12/12/23: Pending

AV Plates & Skua Plans

Update 12/12/23:

Keith reported via Dec 7 email that he spoke with Ed Wigglesworth, and CLC is pleased to retail the AV Plates and Skua Plans. They will add these items under their CCWBRA kit page product list.

1. Regarding boat plans, CLC will create a hidden page on their website, and CCWBRA can link to that page from our website.
2. Regarding AV Plates: When CCWBRA was selling directly to customers, certain actions were taken before shipment. Fred will check with CLC if similar procedures can continue with CLC as seller. Pre-shipment actions included:
 - Confirmation that buyer is a current CCWBRA member
 - Purchase Agreement/Liability Release was “signed”
 - Serial Number is assigned to buyer and filed
 - Hardware and installation instructions are included in the shipmentAlso discussed: If necessary to simplify the process, CCWBRA might continue to handle shipping with CLC as the point of purchase.
3. We will need to update CCWBRA website to direct customers to CLC for both items.

Special Membership Meeting:

Status 11/19/23:

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.
- Announce meeting in Jan/Feb The Happy Hour

Update 12/12/23: Pending

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Elections –

1. Tom K., reporting for the Nominating Committee (Tom, Keith, and Capt. Peter), mentioned that possibly two Director positions will be open for the 2024 Election:
 - The first Director position is a 3-year term starting Jan 31, 2024 to fill the seat opened by Art Gompf rotating off the BoD. The Nominating Cmte vetted and interviewed a few candidates and nominated Cameron Walker for that seat. The Exec Cmte endorsed the nomination.
2. Fred A. reported that Tom K. signaled recently that he would be supportive of the Exec Team finding a suitable replacement to take his place as Vice Commodore to serve in 2024. And that person would then be on deck for the Commodore post in 2025-26. Respecting Tom’s preferences, an Ad Hoc Nominating Cmte (for Vice Commodore) comprised of Todd, Tom,

and Fred assembled to gauge interest and vet several prospects. Fortunately for the association, Tara Carew, a longtime CCWBRA member, easily checks all the boxes in the Commodore job description. And after a brief contemplation, Tara embraced this opportunity to serve. The Ad Hoc Nominating Cmte nominated Tara Carew for the Vice Commodore on the 2024 slate, and the Exec Cmte heartily endorsed.

3. Anticipating Tara's move to the Executive Committee, it will be necessary for her to vacate her director role - which began in 2023 and has 2 years remaining in its term. Per the Bylaws, the BoD vacancies can be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Cmte. Or in this case, the 2024 election schedule would allow the vacancy to be filled by vote of the general membership, as a second Director position on the slate. Upon further consideration, the Exec Team agreed to postpone a decision of whether to fill Tara's director position by election or appointment until after receiving possible responses to the "Call for Nominations" in the MailChimp announcement (scheduled to be emailed shortly.) Response deadline is December 31.
4. A tentative election schedule was distributed (and attached below).

Commodore's note:

We all recognize Tom sets the bar for the rest of us with his exemplary sportsmanship and leadership. The Exec Team benefits immensely from his encyclopedic knowledge, parliamentary smarts, and his unmatched grammarian's skills! What some may not know- besides his many contributions over the years to Cocktail Class, Tom has managed to serve in other vital roles - and has become irreplaceable - to three important non-profit organizations as well, in Eastern PA. His move to limit his CCWBRA role must not have come easily, but no doubt a wise decision. We are grateful for Tom and his endless contributions to CCWBRA. And we can be confident to can count on him to be right there when needed as an excellent resource – starting with assisting in Tara's transition to the Executive Team.

Board of Directors – Discussion of BoD's Role

Since the Nov meeting a series of emails circulated among the Exec Team, taking up the topic of the BoD, and touching on:

- BoD role per the Bylaws
- How well are the BoD's obligations for oversight being achieved per the Bylaws?
- Should the BoD's meetings and Exec Team's interaction have more regular order to facilitate oversight and overall function?

Upon further discussion, Exec Team decided to arrange a combined Director/Exec meeting to discuss the BoD role, clarify functions and duties of each body, and contemplate a more defined process and schedule for oversight activity. Fred will send email to Directors and Execs, w/ an invitation to a mid-January meeting.

Trailer:

Curt B. confirmed that Fred B. wishes to donate the Fred Bluefeld family's "Race in a Box" trailer and two of their Cocktail racers to CCWBRA. Fred B. would like to freshen up the trailer tires before the transfer.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Promotion/Marketing Committee: Ray Crowley, Lou Linden

1. Ray reported on his visit with Doug Jackson, the originator of the YouTube video blog for SV Seeker, a 74 ft origami junk rigged motorsailer. The 3 yr old “Welcome to SV Seeker” video has 157,000 views. Ray drove his Cocktail boat #407 out to meet Doug onboard at his Gulfport mooring. Ray and “#407” appear in the December 15, 2023 post:

‘Boat Stuff – Getter Done,’ here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0gs8_y1EI8

2. Ray reported that he is arranging a phone or Zoom call with Connie Ranney for Rick Loewen and himself to discuss “how to” obtain analytic data with the WordPress website.
3. Ray also mentioned that Rick L. would like to have a few (long time) members help him review the MailChimp subscriber list and cull inactive/invalid addresses.

Rules Committee: Jim Schmicker, Tara Carew, Ray Crowley

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Update 12/12/23: Ongoing

Other Standing Committees:

Safety Committee:

Chris Norman, Chair (No updates)

Appeals Committee:

Capt. Peter Urbani, Chair (No updates)

Design Committee:

Keith Carew, Chair

Ship Store:

Ray Crowley, Manager

Engine Committee:

Charlie Iliff, Chair

Members: C. Bluefeld, S. Wearly, R. Bowler

2024 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE: 2nd Tues of the month, 7:15pm (unless otherwise announced)

January 9, 2024	July 9, 2024
February 13, 2024	August 13, 2024
March 12, 2024	September 10, 2024
April 9, 2024	October 8, 2024
May 14, 2024	November 12, 2024
June 11, 2024	December 10, 2024

Monthly Meeting Schedule:

- 2nd Tuesday of the month
- Next meeting: Tuesday Jan. 9 @ 7:15PM.

PROPOSED 2024 ELECTION SCHEDULE

12/12/23 EC mtg – approve nominees, pending and member responses to 12/14 email -
(plus other business)

12/14/23 MailChimp – “Elections are soon!” & ask members if interested in serving in
2023 as Dir or on Exec Bd or other Committees. Stipulate deadline 12/31/23 for
response
--- (14 days)

12/31/23 Deadline for any member response to 12/14 MailChimp

12/31/23
to Provide time for EC to react to member offers to serve, Nom Cmte to contact
1/9/24 proposed nominees for adjustment as appropriate, to shuffle, etc.

1/9/24 EC mtg – Final decision on nominees (considering any member responses)

Mon
1/15/24 Election – Announcing nominees, voting starts, deadline stipulated 1/30/23
--- (15 days)

Tue
1/30/24 Election deadline

Fri
2/2/24 MailChimp Announcement - Election results