



THE COCKTAIL CLASS WOODEN BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION

Executive Team Meeting Minutes Sept 10, 2024 7:15pm

Attendance: Fred Allerton, Commodore; Tara Carew, VC, Jeff Weeber, Treasurer; Keith Carew, Past Commodore, Ray, National Fleet Captain, Chris Norman, Member at Large; Todd Steffes, Past Commodore

July Meeting Minutes: Motion to Approve, Jeff, 2nd Keith

Treasurer's Report: \$7,113.20 WF account, \$3,638.33 PayPal account. Jeff reported that these balances are calculated after recent annual premium payments for the 4 insurance policies through The Gowrie Group. The total of premiums this year (Aug 15 renewal) is \$3,156, a 10% increase over last year, which should be a relief to everyone for what are insurance cost trends this year.

2024 Race Calendar:

- 9/21 Nationals
- 10/12 TK Walker Memorial Tennessee Cup

2024 Shows & Festival Events:

- 10/31-11/3 Sultana's Downrigging Festival, Chestertown, MD

Pending Events:

- (10/5-6) St. Michael's Mid-Atlantic SCF: (9/10/24) All agreed that St. Michael's MASCF has great potential for CCWBRA outreach, and we should make a great effort to be an exhibitor in 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bylaws - 2024 Update:

- (9/11/24) Tom Kerr reported via Fred that the attorney at the law firm Fitzpatrick Lentz Bubba, who is working on our Bylaws has submitted a draft of a revised Bylaws that reorganizes the document into an updated and recommended version. The Bylaws Committee will meet to mark up the FLB version before meeting next with the attorney, in order to facilitate their efforts and try to limit costs.

2024 Handbook/ rule revisions: Update

- (5/14/24) The FINAL DRAFT, as proposed by the Rules Committee, includes elimination of the European CE 1385 Standard developed for white water canoeing helmets. That revision would be effective beginning with the 2025 racing season.

During the meeting strong objections were raised by Todd S. and Keith C. regarding the elimination of that standard. As a result of the ensuing discussion, the CE 1385 helmet issue was put on hold pending further review of CCWBRA's position on protective gear for personal safety and on liability. Also, an investigation was suggested for possible alternatives to the CE 1385 standard that could address not only the concerns raised at the meeting, but also compatibility with speeds related to Cocktail Class racing. Refer to separate email memo from Atty Iliff to Execs regarding helmets, compatibility of standards to use, and liability.

Exec Team also spent time reviewing other FINAL DRAFT revisions overall and provided additional edits which Tara recorded. Tara will forward revised DRAFT with those modifications to Execs.

- (7/16/24) The ongoing helmet rule discussion resumed. Keith made the argument for broadening the range of approved helmet certifications; with parameters based on racing conditions other than racing speed; Pete offered thoughts on not just helmets but other safety issues that deserve attention. Notes on Pete's points will be sent separately. The Exec Team agreed that a separate committee should work off-line to investigate and provide a recommendation regarding the appropriate helmet parameters, research optional helmet certifications, and report back.
- (7/17/24 Post-meeting Update) Fred assigned the Safety Committee, as the Standing Committee for issues of PPE, to be tasked with the helmet rule issue. The Safety Committee will investigate our options regarding: helmet performative parameters, optional and applicable certifications. They will deliberate and recommend revisions, if required, to the helmet rule. The following have been assigned as de facto members of the Safety Committee. After the helmet issue is resolved, they may remain as members of the Safety Committee, if they so choose, to participate in other upcoming safety matters. Chris Norman, Safety Chair will organize and schedule the helmet meeting(s):
Keith Carew, Todd Steffes, Ray Crowley, Peter Urbani, Charles Iliff, Fred Allerton, Tom Kerr.
- (9/10/24) **CE 1385 Standard: The Safety Committee met on July 25. Members of the Exec Team were emailed the Safety Committee's report, which included the Committee's recommendation for Rule 7.2.1.1.2 - to change the status of CE 1385 Standard from "Permitted but not recommended" to "Permitted"; and which also included a revision to the cautionary sentence, warning members as follows: "However, these helmets are not specifically recommended by the CPSC for power boating. These helmets are designed and marketed for Canoe and Kayak paddling."**

The Exec Team members were also previously emailed a memo by Fred A., which outlined reasons to eliminate CE 1385 Helmet Standard from Rule 7.2, going beyond the Safety Committee's recommendation.

Fred made an initial motion for the Execs to eliminate the CE 1385 Helmet Standard. Chris Norman modified the motion and re-entered it as follows: “Regarding Helmet Rule 7.2.1.1, Helmet Std CE 1385 shall not be included as a permitted helmet standard.” Jeff seconded. Comments opposed to the motion were offered by Keith, Todd, and Tara. Comments in support of it followed - by Ray, Chris, and Jeff. The motion carried 4 to 1. Votes “yea”: Fred A, Jeff W, Ray C, and Chris N. Votes “nay”: Tara C.

Next Steps:

- **Racing Handbook (9/10/24):** There was consensus to move on completing the Racing Handbook, revising Rule 7.2, plus any other yet unfinished items. And the Handbook should be labelled as the “2025 Edition” (not 2024.) The issuing process includes approval of the Exec Team and then the Directors.
- **Addenda (9/10/24):** Addenda may be used to amend or supplement the Racing Handbook after its issue date, in order to address any unfinished business, such as: additionally proposed, investigated, and acceptable helmets that may be added to Rule 7.2. Refer to next item:
- **Additional Helmet Options (9/10/24):** Chris mentioned the process for considering approval of additional helmet standard options, as referenced in the recent Safety Committee meeting minutes and more fully described in RULE CHANGE PROCEDURE in the current bylaws dated 2013:

In summary, rule changes are indicated to be proposed to the Executive Committee as follows:

- 1) **Members may submit proposals in writing to the applicable Standing Committee (Safety Committee in this case), c/o the Secretary for distribution.**
- 2) **After considering the proposal, the Safety Committee may present it to the Executive Committee with a recommendation for action, or (the Safety Committee) may take no action, or table it for future discussion.**
- 3) **The Executive Committee’s actions regarding a proposed Rule can be to pass the rule, reject the proposal, or table it for future discussion.**
- 4) **If the rule is passed by the Executive Committee, it shall become effective prior to January 1. Members shall be notified by publication in the next edition of the Racing Handbook, or posting on the CCWBRA website, email, or other suitable means of communication.**

AV Plates & Skua Plans on CLC Website

- (5/14/24) (10) AV Plates were delivered to CLC. Final coordination of CCWBRA link to CLC back door pending.

- **(9/10/24) Update**
 - Fred A reported that CLC recently provided the website link to their backdoor AV Plate sales page.
 - In August an AV Plate was purchased from our website (through a Google search apparently). The purchaser was from Wisconsin, not a member, and buying it for a Tohatsu on a small boat with a cavitation issue – but not a Cocktail boat. We refunded his payment and explained our policy of supplying AV Plates to members only. In order to guard against inadvertent sales to non-members when CLC is handling the sales, Fred suggested that we set up a 2-step link from CCWBRA website to CLC website. The first step would be an email to the secretary to let us obtain the purchaser’s information and verify membership status. The secretary would then reply with either (1) an email providing the CLC link, or (2) an email that informs the purchaser that the AV Plates are for racing members only. There was consensus for this approach. Fred and Lena will work out details.

Merch -

Hats:

- Terry Loewen (Hi Def Embroidery) provided a batch of hats. Fred handed them off to the Carew’s (7/13) to bring to upcoming events. Purchase price (and our cost): \$25.
- Keith mentioned P.O.S. retailers, such as Lands’ End and Team One Newport, where we can set up the sale of customized clothing with Cocktail Class branding via a “Club Store”. Ray will investigate. Our website can share a link to direct members to the P.O.S. retailer.
- **(9/10/24) No Update**

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections 2025:

- **The 2-year terms of officers will expire in January 2025. Election notices will be issued in Nov/Dec. Fred mentioned the immediate need to form a nominating committee, and suggested that anyone interested in serving on it - to help to shape the future of CCWBRA leadership - contact him. Positions needing special attention:**
 - **Vice Commodore**
 - **Member-at-Large**
 - **National Fleet Captain**
- **There are no expiring terms for the Board of Directors in Jan 2025. The Board of Director terms are as follows:**

Board of Directors		
	Start of Term	End of Term
Art Gilbert, Chair	Jan '22	Jan '25
David Cantera	Jan '22	Jan '25

Todd Steffes	Jan '23	Jan '26
Tom Kerr	Jan '23	Jan '26
Cameron Walker	Jan '24	Jan '27

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Membership Committee
(AKA Promotion/Marketing):
Ray Crowley, Chair

Rules Committee:
Jim Schmicker, Racing Rules Chair
Tara Carew, General Rules Director

Appeals Committee:
Capt. Peter Urbani, Chair

Safety Committee:
Chris Norman, Chair

Design Committee:
Keith Carew, Chair

Ship Store:
Ray Crowley, Manager

Engine Committee:
Charlie Iliff, Chair
Members: C. Bluefeld, S. Wearly, R. Bowler,
Art Gompf

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

October 8, 2024
November 12, 2024
December 10, 2024