



NCESA Annual Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2009

Oshkosh, WI

The NCESA annual meeting was called to order Thursday September 10, 2009 at 9:45 AM by Commodore Rick Turner. Current Officers were introduced: Art Brereton (Vice Commodore), Toby Sutherland (Rear Commodore), and Lon Schoor (Secretary-Treasurer).

Report on the regatta indicated 46 boats were registered.

There was a motion by Ted Beier and a second by Tom Burton to approve the 2008 annual meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Old Business

Rick mentioned the failed membership vote on restricting the use of electronics. Devices like the Velocitek can therefore be used. No discussion on this topic.

Rick indicated the vote to allow a second asymmetrical spinnaker to be carried while racing passed. It can only be used if the primary asymmetrical spinnaker is destroyed. Initially one spinnaker was allowed in an effort to hold down cost. However, a year later people wanted to carry a second spinnaker for use in an emergency so they could continue to compete if they destroyed their primary spinnaker. No discussion followed.

Rick reported the Board of Directors passed a change to allow up to 9 races at the national championship regatta. It was expressed by members that if we had ideal racing conditions people wanted to sail. With a limit on the number of races we could have an issue on the second to last day because a sixth race had to be saved for the last day. Even if conditions were ideal and we had time – we could not race. A scheduled race on the last day is required so that competitors stay at the event and attend the dinner party that night. The host club relies on these parties to have a financially successful event. The Easterns were pleased with their 8 race series. It seems most sailors have embraced the idea of shorter races, and downwind finishes, to have more races completed.

There was a suggestion to tighten the scantlings on the asymmetrical spinnaker now that people were only getting spinnakers from North Sails, with the closing of Quantum. There was a motion by Tom Burton and a second by Jeff Solum to tighten the asymmetrical spinnaker scantling and grandfather the Quantum spinnakers. The objective is to have scantlings so that the foot remained high for visibility. Also, the mid-girth measurement difference between the North and Quantum spinnakers were very significant and the motion included adding mid-girth measurement to the scantlings to tighten up the measurements. Currently there is a 6" tolerance on the edge dimensions of the asymmetrical spinnaker. Motion passed.

Rick indicated the associations need had to get all the approved scantling changes into a pdf document on the website where they can easily be printed out.

There was a discussion about the blind spot that exists with the asymmetrical spinnaker. Rick asked about the use of windows in the spinnaker. The Melges24 class allows windows and they seem to be working. About 80% of people buy the sail with a window. They are a little harder to handle out of the bag because the material is stiffer. Tearing does not appear to be a problem. The sail costs the same with or without a window. The window is about 2x3 feet in size. Our rules allow the use of windows. You could get a window in the spinnaker, but there would have to be some experimentation with placement and size.

Committee Reports

Art Brereton reported that the Regatta Committee was directed to be more involved with the Race Committee selection. Improving the quality of RC work at the National Championships was the association's highest priority. We were fortunate to have Blake Middleton agree to be the PRO. 46 entries were on the low side for the regatta but considering this was the worse financial crisis of our generation, it was respectable. Oshkosh Yacht Club has done a great job to organize the event. The exceptional participation by the Eastern boats was noted with a thank you for coming so far to make this a better event. The National regatta has been awarded to Little Egg Harbor in 2010, Torch Lake in 2011, and we are accepting bids for 2012 and beyond.

Toby Sutherland, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, reported that the association had a strong balance sheet. The operating budget for this year will be a little in the red because the regatta attendance was less than planned. It was noted earlier that regatta participation was probably affected by the overall poor national economic climate. The association has been trying to have a balanced operating budget from year to year. The class has done a good job to build a balance and the funds that have been accumulated over the years are in a safe money market fund. There was a discussion about how the association could best use available funds. Suggestions were: more subsidizing of the fees for younger sailors, reduce youth skipper (25 years old or younger) membership fee to \$25, raise the youth age limit from 25 years old to 30 years old, and consider support of a boat loan program (Island Heights or similar program). Other suggestions were for: more financial support for the Race Committee for quality racing, complete the 50th anniversary book, and class promotion.

The stipend to the host club for the National Regatta was increased to \$3000 plus additional money if the host club can attract a larger number of boats to the regatta. This is money the host clubs uses to offset expenses to run the event.

The fiscal year ends on October 31st so the final financial report will be available after that.

Rick Turner gave the Publication Committee report for Chairman Steve Andersen. Steve said that he had not received supporting material for the anniversary publication. Rick indicated that we need to involve clubs more in the gathering of information. The latest idea was to have clubs focus on key people in their club that have been responsible for the success of the E-Scow locally. These people are probably the people most important to the development of the class and the success it has had over our 50 year

history. People liked that idea. Others suggested that the website should have a mechanism for people to upload documents and pictures to the website for use in the anniversary publication. People wanted to see every club represented - "no club left behind". Another suggested the website should have a plan outlined for the creation of the anniversary publication. The plan should include an outline of what would be expected in the material sent in – maybe even a form that could be filled out. Also, it would include a schedule with target dates for clubs to have their information ready and uploaded to the website.

It was also noted that the E-Scow is coming up on its 100 year anniversary and maybe we should do something special at that time to recognize how special that milestone is.

There was a motion by Richard Beers and a second by Ted Beier that we should try to move forward on the project to create a publication.

Toby gave the Membership Committee report and indicated membership was down in 2009. However, 2008 was the highest membership year ever because of the 50th anniversary regatta and items put before the membership to vote on. However, 2009 numbers are higher than the average for the previous 10 years (499).

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Regular	224	220	149	136	208	263	296	348	358	261
Associate	283	349	283	194	265	224	185	176	300	294
Total	507	592	412	330	473	487	481	524	658	555

There are 261 Regular members and 294 Associate members. In 2009 we had 201 members from the ILYA, 196 from the ECESA, 115 from WMYA, and 43 from the At-Large region.

Rick Turner gave the Judicial Committee report for Chairperson Bob Cole. He indicated there has been consideration to put some of the things that are in the Sailing Instructions into the By-Laws.

There were no issues reported by the Measurement Committee.

Chairperson Tom Burton gave the report of the Nominating Committee and put forth a slate of officers for 2009:

- Bill Wyman, Rear commodore
- Toby Sutherland, Vice Commodore
- Art Brereton, Commodore

Ted Beier moved and Ed Vienckowski seconded the slate of nominees and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Ted Beier gave the Rules Committee report. Ted said that he would like a motion to move the bow sprit use language from the Sailing Instructions to section VII of the By-Laws. Robby Wilkins moved and Art Brereton seconded. There was discussion about the current language with questions on how exactly it should be interpreted. Yes, you can put out the pole on the first weather leg of the course if the wind changes and the spinnaker can be flown. The bow sprit out and the setting of the spinnaker should be one continuous motion. Language should be added to say the bowsprit must be retracted in

one continuous motion as the spinnaker comes down. What if the tack line goes under the boat while going upwind, can you pull out the pole to fix the problem – yes. Can the bowsprit be extended between the weather mark and the offset while waiting for an opportunity to set the spinnaker – yes. Consensus was to clean up the language for a membership vote. Motion passed.

Ted recommended that the part of the Sample Sailing Instructions (old section IX) be moved to Article VIII.1 in the By-Laws. Will Demand moved, Dave Bargar seconded the motion and it passed.

Rick would like to see a major tab on the website be 'Rules' and include all the sections that were in the old 'Rulebook'. There are some changes (like crew substitutions) to the By-Laws that did not get into the By-Laws on the website. Ted will get those to the Secretary to be corrected.

New Business

Rick Turner indicated that we needed clubs to bid on the E Nationals for 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Jeff Solum gave the ILYA (Inland Lakes Yachting Association) regional report. At the ILYA fleet meeting people said that the 'time-based' race course setting was working well, sailors wanted to have regattas on Friday- Sunday, on-the water lunches are better when you have any distance to sail to get to the course and back. Jeff was re-elected to the committee.

The ECESA (Eastern Class E Scow Association) identified their director terms: Bill Nolan (2010), Bob Cole (2011) and Will Demand (2011). There has been growth in the Eastern fleet and it has been coming from the younger sailors. This year's Easterns emphasized the racing a little more than the social and they agreed on an 8 race format, with a number of downwind finishes - it was well received by the sailors. *[But I am sure there socials were outstanding too.]* They also like an 11:00 start time. There was a ceremony and banners at their championship regatta to honor and retire the race numbers for two East coast E-scow greats: Runyon Colie and Brit Chance.

This year the Island Heights Sailing foundation was created to support youth E-Scow sailing by making competitive boats available to two young members. A silent auction was held to help start the effort and they received a total of \$3500. An essay competition was held and the boats were awarded to Chase Hillyer (22 years old) and Eric Horrocks (20 years old). Will Demand said people can donate to the Sailing Foundation at <http://www.ih sailing foundation.org/>. He also made a request to the NCESA to help support this program.

Art Brereton reported for the WMYA (Western Michigan Yacht Association). They had 22 E-scows at their Championships at Torch Lake. Overall there were more than 200 boats competing. Enthusiasm is strong in the region and there were a few new boats this year.

Robbie Wilkins, the At-Large region director, reported young sailors were showing more interest in the E-Scow and that Augusta now has 5 boats. Fleets were growing.

Planning for the 2010 E Nationals at Little Egg Harbor is under way. There were strong words of encouragement to all the sailors to attend and that the 2010 regatta was going to be a very big event. They want to have 70+ boats! The event will be on a Fri, Sat, Sun. The host club will house everyone that wants it. New cheap flights on Air Tram will get you to Atlantic City for \$100.

Augie Barkow suggested the NCEA organize a "Points Championship" by combining regattas during the season and make an award to the overall best sailor of the year. Rick Turner said this had been talked about and everyone really seemed to want to do something like this, but it just didn't get done. He said we would have a 'Points Champion' for next season.

Augie Barkow then told us about his involvement with the Champion of Champions regatta. He said they would like to hold this regatta in E-Scows in either 2010 or 2011. It would be after the Blue chip, the first part of October. 21 boats would be needed and he hoped many of those would come from contestants at the Blue chip and neighboring clubs.

Rick Turner asked for a motion to accept the new directors for the term ending in 2011. Ed Vienckowski moved to approve regional directors and Will Demand seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.