

International Lightning Class Association

Governing Board Meeting

March 17, 2016

St Petersburg Yacht Club, St Petersburg, FL

Attendance: Meeting Chair/President Victor Lobos, Thomas Allen, Bill Cabrall, Bill Clausen, Ian Edwards, Josh Goldman, Kip Hamblet, Terry Hamilton, Lauri Hemming, Debbie Probst, Matthew Schon, Valerie Tardif, James Taylor, Todd Wake

President Lobos called the meeting to order at 10:16am.

Minutes of the Last Meeting. Tom Allen made a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as posted on the website. Bill Clausen seconded. All approved.

Motion passed.

Presidents Report: President Lobos began by announcing that he will be going to the Youth Worlds in Salinas and will act as the Class Representative aboard the Committee Boat. He continued and began to talk about membership. When looking at our numbers, even though our budget is balanced, thanks to Laura's and Jim's work, our member numbers keep getting lower. Less people are staying in our sport, and we are not a stranger to this phenomenon. We need to take action and find new ways in which we can keep our members and hopefully grow. I believe we need to take a look at what else we could do for the club racer, the guy that does not attend our big events and might not see firsthand how much work the class does. Tim Scanlon is working on a data project that will certainly provide us with good information towards coming up with new ideas for the Class.

International growth is also taking strength in countries where the Class had disappeared. Peru, with the help of ILCA International Development Initiative, is putting together a couple of containers with boats from the US. In December (2015) they sailed their first National Championship in decades. Following their great Pan American Gold Medal, Lightning's in Argentina are also slowly growing.

We had a great meeting with Bill Mauk and Tito Gonzalez in Miami regarding the upcoming Pan Am Games in Peru. Bill made some great suggestions that we should implement in addition to what we are doing. Right now we have a really aggressive program to help Peru get boats and get that fleet active again, but we need to complement this with spreading news about the Class to PASAF and World Sailing so they can post them on their website. The Snipe Class is doing this and it is getting attention. We need the decision makers to see that our class is very active. In addition we should contact and lobby key people. John Bennett, the Peruvian rep. (Coco Barreda), US, Canadian, and Argentinean representatives.

Treasurers Report: Todd Wake read the written report Jim Crane submitted (see attached). In addition Wake added that memberships start at the Fleet level and a strong membership base helps to maintain our boat value. The yearbook (\$9,000) was removed from the 2016 proposed budget. Debbie Probst added that Larry MacDonald is working on an Membership Initiative with the District Commodores that encourages membership support from the local District Level. Discussion ensued. Ian Edward suggested we evaluate lower membership levels, like a "Friend of the ILCA".

Chief Measurers Report: Bill Clausen submitted a written report, see attached.

Secretaries Report: Todd Wake stated that the member numbers was fully addressed in the Treasurers Report. He did add that we are working on keeping publications updated and generating new content. We will also be doing an advertising review soon. Please continue to submit articles and reports!

Nominating Committee: Debbie Probst announced that the nominating committee is looking for new blood! Any interest in volunteering please see Debbie, John Faus or Rob Ruhlman.

International Development: Ian Edwards began by reviewing the previous developments in Greece. The amount of Lightning activity is very high, not only in Voula, but in all of Athens. A full listing of 2016 regattas are posted on the event calendar and overall this was a very successful initiative. There are still payments due back to the Class. Victor commented on the developments in Peru and that is very exciting. There are some sparks and talk from Italy but we don't have enough "legs on the ground" to make it take off yet.

VP Europe: Lauri Hemming announced that Italy (Marsala) was hosting the 2016 European Championship. When they hosted the Worlds there were 7 active boats, this includes an Italian that is living in London. We expect to have 2 FIN, 2 GRE and maybe 10 ITA boats. With the currency controls in GRE it is hard for them to travel outside of GRE or make payments outside of GRE. Finland is business as usual.

Boat Grant: Matthew Schon announced he made a presentation at the US Sailing Summit in February on the Boat Grant Program and it was a big hit! Over 50 people attended and this program is still very well received. The J22 Class is looking to adopt this program. This year applications were down. The committee needs to work on a new marketing plan to help solicit more applications and spread the word on this program. The Committee will be voting on the 2016 applicants in the next few weeks. 2016 is the 10th Anniversary of the Program. We will be looking into how to best celebrate this milestone.

North American VP: Josh Goldman stated that in 2015 we held the NAs in two different venues at different times (Tawas (Aug) and New Orleans (Oct)). Overall this plan was successful as it was a busy sailing summer with the Worlds at BCC in July. The New Orleans NAs brought out at least 15 first time skippers at a NAC. This year the NAs will revert back to our regular schedule with WJM held just prior to the NAs in August. We are looking forward to the hospitality at Rochester Yacht Club. We are still reviewing bids for 2017. We have interest from San Diego for 2018 with dates in July, the Buffalo Canoe Club for August 2019 and Hyannis YC fall 2020.

Southern Circuit: Terry Hamilton announced that we have confirmed dates for the car races in St Pete for the next two years. This helps in planning future events. The logistics in Miami this year were a little different from years past. Coral Reef YC is offering more value to their membership and it is changing how they can accommodate hosting regattas like ours. The new logistics at Regatta Park worked out well for the most part and we need to thank Bill Mauk for helping to arrange all of the logistics between CRYC, Regatta Park and the Lightning Sailors. If these pressures continue in the future alternative venues might be considered at Sarasota Sailing Squadron (currently have 3 days Fri-Sun available) or Pensacola. 17 teams are participating in the Mentor Program and a special Thank you to Nick Turney for organizing the program and to all of the volunteer mentors! Sponsorship was tight this year. Harken and Windrider Nickels Boat Works both stepped up as new sponsors! Thank you! The Deep South in Savannah was originally scheduled for a one day event just prior to racing in Miami, but that was canceled at the last minute. After 5 years of chairing the Southern Circuit, Terry announced she was stepping down. The group gave her a hardy round of applause.

Southern Circuit Review Committee: Bill Cabrall was tasked by the Executive Committee to reignite a Southern Circuit Review Committee to make sure we are continuing in the right direction after recent changes to the format and increased pressures from host schedules and timing. The committee has been meeting prior to the Circuit and will conduct a survey at the completion of the circuit.

Limbaugh Fund Report: Kip Hamblet commented that the committee hasn't been aggressively active but that it will look at how we advertise or market some of the opportunities available.

Other reports: see written reports attached from Lightning Labs: Joan & Gary Hurban, World Championships: Rob Ruhlman and Youth Worlds: Ian Jones

Ian Edwards added that there is potential interest from AUS to host the 2019 or 2021 Worlds. 2019 would be a normal EUR rotation (FIN). We need more discussion and direction from the Governing Board. Ian will help by providing more information and costs on hosting in AUS. Other considerations to consider is that EUR does not want to get skipped in the rotation. FIN are OK with AUS hosting in 2019, but would prefer that after that EUR gets the opportunity to host in 2021.

Charters Ratified or revoked

The re-activation of Fleet 52 - Rochester Yacht Club has been proposed. Jim Barnash: Fleet Captain, John Newell: Co-Captain, Mark Sertl and Robert King are all current active boat owners. Todd Wake made a motion to approve reactivate Fleet 52, Bill Clausen seconded. All approved. Motion approved.

Ratifications

The Executive Committee has called for a 1:1 ratio for the 2016 NAC. Rochester YC can accommodate a large number of boats and we want to encourage as much participation as possible. Todd Wake made a motion to ratify the EC decision, Bill Clausen seconded. All approved. Motion approved.

Unfinished Business:

NOR and SI's Template - Darryl Waskow and David Sprague
Constitutional Clarifications

These items still need further work before final considerations can be made.

New Business:

Bill Cabrall has been working on a new initiative to potentially help out with our membership goals. He reported on a Youth Sailing Pipeline and that at the end they are left standing with no real direction on next steps. With the help of Greg Fisher, Bill has sent out a letter to all college coaches and collegiate sailors communicating what the Lightning Class has to offer and welcomed them to come and try a Lightning.

In addition Cabrall will begin working on a census of all 13,000+ boats. He wants to find the boats and see if they are being used or not. If they are not, then he hopes to try and match up new homes or owners for them so they can be used.

Finally Cabrall would like to engage with other Fleet Captains to collect best practices or offer help to help strengthen local fleets.

Kip Hamblet commented on the nice job of the RC work in Miami. He feels everyone there had a good experience and we all feel good and had fun. As a group how can we help the RC in a more productive way? Do we need more influence on the RC or a better set of ILCA Standards or Guidelines? Discussion ensued. Talks of arbitration and penalty turns were discussed. Encouragement of adhering to rules out on the water.

President Lobos reported with regards to advancements to our boat specs, I think the A-sail evaluation was great, we got a lot of participation and it was a great marketing tool. But, I believe we need to continue on looking at ways we can make our boat better. It's pretty clear that an A-sail would have split our class in two, mainly because of the modifications to our boat, but modifying just the sails is easier. Everybody changes them, so why not look into modifying them. On this regard, I had a great meeting with Ched, Allan and Bill Faude in Miami to look at ways in which we could modify our current sail plan in order to get better performance from our boats. Both sail makers coincide in that a main with more roach is a logical change that we must test. Also a taller jib could also be tested. Another matter to consider is that cost. Laminate sails would probably be about the same cost as Dacron. We should maybe consider opening up our rules to laminate or other materials that could give our sail makers more room to innovate and adapt to future changes.

Another modification that has is in the concept stage is our number and country code layout, I propose we change into complying with the international configuration (lower than the current one) including the possibility of having the flag also. And open this alternative for our 2017 World's. This could be a good marketing for the Class.

Discussion ensued on the parameters of changes pertaining to the evaluation of current sails and other design changes to the boat. Influences could include society changes, weather, other classes, etc. Financial repercussions are important, but we also must continued to be forward thinking.

Bill Cabrall made a motion to adjourn, Bill Clausen seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 12:49pm.

ILCA Governing Board: Written Reports

Treasurer's Report: Jim Crane

First, I would like to apologize for not being present at the meeting. Believe me in that I would much rather be in Florida than in Connecticut in March.

Here is a quick review of the financial performance of the Class for 2015. The Class, not including our three funds, finished up with a profit of \$3,300 for the last calendar year. At first glance this looks like a good result but there are some clouds on the horizon. This performance was almost entirely due to Laura's diligence in managing our finances. For 2015 we budgeted \$111,000 in revenue and \$110,000 in expenses. In fact we experienced a 16% decline in revenue at \$93,182, and only through good stewardship, Laura matched our expenses to this revenue decline.

For 2016 Laura and I have set a budget projecting \$87,515 in revenue and \$87,400 in expenses. What we tend to do is try and forecast our revenue and then adjust our expenses to balance the budget. There is always leeway in what we spend but our revenue, for the most part, is beyond our control. The salient points of this budget deserve some discussion. First, I would like to point out that our projected total revenue (from all sources) is the lowest it has been since before 2010. This is my primary concern. What is happening is we have a decline in almost all forms of Class membership. It is not a dramatic decline but persistent. In 2015 we were worried about our declining revenue so we increased our Class dues for almost all forms of membership. The result was our membership revenue stabilized but our membership count continued to decline. Hand in hand with this trend, our Fleet numbers declined by 19 in 2015. Additionally, mast, boat and sail royalties declined. These numbers tend to bounce around, but boat and mast royalties were the lowest since before 2010.

We should all recognize that the lifeblood of our Class is our membership and we should all, every one of us, do everything possible to support and promote our Class. It is our membership revenue that allows our Class office to do all the wonderful things that make our Class special. I personally think we are doing a very good job as a Class in a very difficult environment. Just think of our boat grant program, European fleet initiatives, training seminars etc. It really is remarkable.

We will have to keep a close eye on how membership renewal is going as the year progresses. This year membership renewal for the first two months of the year is again down. We hope this is due to a few problems in how we are processing renewals. We will keep you posted.

You should be aware that your Executive Committee is well aware of this trend and is constantly working on new initiatives. Hopefully, a new automatic membership renewal program will come to fruition in the next year. We are optimistic that this will help.

I don't want to be pessimistic but our operation is run with little wiggle room. Thankfully, Laura does an excellent job of staying on top of this and I expect 2016 to be another successful year through good stewardship. While our operating budget keeps our attention we should never forget that the Class is blessed with three charitable funds that provide us with unprecedented strength. I don't know of another Class that has this benefit.

If you have any questions please get in touch with me. Jim

Chief Measurer's Report: Bill Clausen

2015 was a busy year for measurement. We had three major regattas with serious measurement. The crew at Buffalo Canoe Club did a masterful job of preparation for measurement of boats and equipment for the International Master and World Championships. It was a through and efficient measurement process.

In August the WMJ's were held at Tawas Bay and again the measurement crew did a nice job under the direction of Bill Cabrall. In a short period of time all boats were efficiently measured. Thanks Bill!

In October we did a efficient measurement in a small window of time at Southern Yacht Club for the North American Championship. Thanks Cal Herman and the crew from Southern Yacht Club!

Thanks to all competitors who had boats and equipment measured and made corrections when needed!

We are contemplating a change in the specifications for enlarging the area of the window in the jib. This will provide better ability to see boats on the opposite tack and make windward legs safer!

Lightning Lab's Report: Joan and Gary Hurban : jghurban@gmail.com

The Lightning Class is fortunate to have many talented skippers and crew who are willing to donate their time to help others and build the Class. Our job is to assist in lining up a coach, promoting the event, and giving advice to the fleets about how to run the clinic, when requested.

The following Lightning Labs were held during the 2015 season:

1. Southern Circuit Mentor Program - Miami, FL and St. Petersburg, FL - organized by Nick Turney and assisted by 12+ additional coaches.
2. VISA, Moneta, VA - coached by Allan Terhune at Moonshine Regatta

3. SSA, Annapolis, MD, coached by Geoff Becker at No-Gas Regatta
4. Tawas Mich., Post Racing Panel discussions lead by at the Skip Dieball at WJMs Championships

Lightning Labs requested during the 2016 season to date are as follows:

1. Southern Circuit Mentor Program - Miami, FL and St. Petersburg, FL - again organized by Nick Turney and assisted by 12+ additional coaches.
2. Virginia Island Sailing Assoc., Moneta, VA. Fri April 8th before the Moonshine Regatta - Coach to be determined Contact: Randy Beauchamp
3. SSA, Annapolis, MD, Fri May 8th before the No-Gas Regatta - Coached by Geoff Becker Contact: Joan and Gary Hurban
4. Ecuador During May, host location for Youth Worlds and Worlds next year. - Coach to be determined
5. Havre de Grace, MD June 11-12 - coach to be determined
6. Rochester, NY - NA's Post Race Panel Discussion - Leader(s) to be announced.

Fleets interested in hosting a lab are encouraged to submit a request as soon as possible, so that coaches can be arranged. We are also looking for people who are interested in coaching these events. Please let us know.

We are very excited to announce that videos of the talks given during the Mentoring Program at the 2015 Southern Circuit have been posted on you-tube. Thanks to Jeffrey Hayden for his help in editing and posting these videos, and to all of those who helped to run it, and are in the video!

To view them , go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), and search for "intlightningclass" or look for links on the ILCA Website. We will be posting additional videos to this site during this season.

World Championship: Rob Ruhlman

No written report but 2017 dates have been confirmed for Salinas, Ecuador. South American and Intl Master Championships Nov 17-21 and the Worlds Nov 21-25.

Youth Worlds: Ian Jones - please see pdf link below

http://lightningclass.org/membership/meetingMinutes/2016/March_YouthWorldChampionshipReport.pdf