

## International Lightning Class Association

Annual Winter Meeting

March 20, 2017

St Petersburg Yacht Club, St Petersburg, FL

Treasurer Hutchison called the meeting to order at 11:25am.

Chief Measurer Cabrall took a roll call of Fleets. Fleets Represented: 6, 12, 36, 42, 50, 51, 52, 54, 70, 85, 109, 126, 146, 225, 226, 228, 253, 262, 279, 303, 318, 329, 430, 488, 501, 511, 521

**Minutes of the Last Meeting** Debbie Probst made a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as posted on the website. Ryan Ruhlman seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

**Presidents Report:** In President Lobos' absence Treasurer Hutchison reported on the two amendments that passed at the Governing Board Meeting on March 18. The first is a [Temporary Amendment](#) to the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships effecting the 2017 North American Championship. Due to space constraints at the venue and projected attendance, this amendment will limit the event to 70 participants on a first come, first serve basis. Participant still need to qualify through their District Championship. Registration will open on June 15. Skippers can register before their individual Districts, but entry will be pending until completion of individuals Districts.

The second amendment that passed is a [change to the Plans and Specifications, specifically Article V - Sails, Section 75](#). This amendment changes the Main Sail number, letter and emblem layout. This amendment is scheduled to go into effect June 1st, pending ratification from World Sailing.

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Women's, Junior and Master North American's at Metedeconk River YC the beginning of August so we can vote on the 2017-2018 Slate of Officers prior to our required September 1st requirement. We plan to hold a special meeting during the World Championship in Ecuador.

In addition to Hutchison's report, Ryan Ruhlman read a report from President Victor Lobos:

As president of the Lightning Class I would like to report that the past year was a very good one. Even though participation at some events did not see the numbers we were used to in the past, we must keep in mind that the sport as a whole is suffering in participation, and our class is no stranger to this phenomenon. Nevertheless, things like the PAN AM ratification and the Caribbean Games invitation, are opportunities that are already rendering increased interest in our class especially in Central and South America.

Last year the Class was very active in participation and membership numbers have been very steady. Something that I would like to highlight, since most classes cannot say the same thing. Events like the Youth World's in Salinas, Lightning Labs, the Boat Grant Program and our fleet development support to Peru are all things to be proud of.

This year we are very excited to announce that in May the class will change the current web platform. After a lot of work from many class members, the Class has contracted the services of Club Express. This company will host our new website, which will, among other things, permit us to have automated membership dues payment, ease in updating contents, and a lot of flexibility to adjust our webpage without the need of specialized IT professionals.

Lastly, I would like to mention that our class attracts a lot of young people, something that many other classes cannot say. Initiatives like the Boat Grant Program, or the support we give to organizing the Youth World Championships and NA's Under 30 participation are all excellent examples. I believe that the more young people we get involved the stronger the Class will be. So I take this opportunity to ask you to please make an effort at your local fleets to get more young people to join us.

Thank you, and have a great circuit!

**Chief Measurers Report:** Bill Cabrall reported that measurement at many of our major championships this year will have a similar measurement procedure to Rochester last August. The goal is to keep the process quick and efficient without compromising the reason we do measurement. Cabrall attended the California District Championship and the event went well and we should all be looking forward to the 2018 NAC out in San Diego. Cabrall will be attending many regattas around the country (Colorado to the East Coast) this summer and he will have the class scale with him. If anyone wishes to have their boat weighed that may not be at the actual regattas please contact Bill. He would be happy to stop along the way to assist.

**Treasurers Report:** Hugh Hutchison reported that for FY 2016 the Profit and Loss Statement showed a net income of about \$8,000. Revenue was down but so were expenses. South American Memberships were of notable increase and we anticipate this will continue into 2017. Overall the Class is on sound footing. The Class budgets for a break-even financial plan and continues to approach its finances from a conservative perspective. All restricted funds (ILCA, Limbaugh and Huntsman Funds) and boats owned are valued at \$365,000. To keep our finances strong please encourage everyone who owns a Lightning or participates in local Fleet activities to support the Class with payment of dues. See attached written report for full details.

### **Vice Presidents and Committee Reports**

**North American Championships:** Josh Goldman gave the floor to John Sawyer. Carolina YC in Wrightsville Beach will be hosting the 2017 NAC Sept 21-24. We are well into the planning stage. It's a great place to sail. September will bring lower humidity and good breeze. There is another event that Saturday on the Island, please book your lodging in advance. The website will be up soon.

Mark Allen talked about the 2018 WJM NA's at Pontiac Yacht Club in MI, August 3-5. The Fleet is excited to host the event. Charters will be available. In addition there is an excellent opportunity for our Youth sailors. US Sailing is hosting the Junior triple handed Championship at North Cape YC (1 hr away from Pontiac) Aug 5-8 and that will also be sailed in Lightnings.

In addition to these events Goldman reported the 2017 - WJM NA's will be at Metedeconk River YC Aug 1-4, the 2018 NAC at Mission Bay YC, San Diego with proposed dates July 23-27 and the 2019 WJM/NAC's will be hosted by the Buffalo Canoe Club in August (TBD).

**ILCA FUND:** David Starck reported that the committee has supported the following initiatives this year, the International Development Shipping support, Lightning Labs, Marketing efforts and the new website/membership management program. The committee is open to hearing new ideas on how to better the Class.

**Southern Circuit** - David Starck reported that the 2018 schedule was mostly set with our two current venues, St Petersburg YC and Coral Reef YC. With attendance slightly down this year we are looking towards the future. An evaluation committee has been assembled and we will look at all potential options for the Southern Circuit. Please give any feedback as to what you would like to see to (Starck) or fellow co-chair Bill Mauk. We are open to all ideas and suggestions.

**Atlantic Coast Championship:** Brian Hayes reported that the Mallets Bay Boat Club in Burlington VT will host the ACC's July 29-30. The website is up and the NOR, information on lodging and Registration can be found there.

**80th Anniversary Regatta:** Brian Hayes reported that the event will take place July 6-9, 2018 in Skaneateles, NY. There will be lots of things to do for the Family, clinics, match racing - maybe. The committee is in the process of organizing these events, so please let Brian know if you have any ideas. There were 238 boats at the 60th can we beat that for the 80th? See additional written report by Mike Yates.

**Boat Grant:** Adding to the written report submitted, Matthew Schon reported that the committee has 3 female finalists for the 2017 program and an announcement will be made soon. The committee is looking for more applications from the local Fleet level. Please encourage and help young adults aged 19 and older to apply.

**Lightning Lab's:** Joan Hurban reported that they are looking to do more labs in conjunction with regattas - more like the mentor program here at the Southern Circuit. Any Fleets or Districts with interest in a lab please contact Joan or Gary. Some additional videos from pre and post race talks have been posted on the ILCA YouTube Channel.

**World Championship:** Rob Ruhlman reported that the US and South American Slots are will all be filled, with many of these countries looking for additional slots. We are all looking forward to traveling to Salinas in November. Europe participation is projected to be down but that is likely due to costs involved. Finland is looking to send 4-8 boats, which is terrific. The NOR's will be posted soon. Event dates are South American and Intl Master Championships Nov 17-21 and the Worlds Nov 21-25.

**Additional Written Reports Attached:** Treasurer's Report, Limbaugh Fund Report, Marketing Report, Boat Grant, 80th Anniversary Regatta

#### **Charters Ratified or revoked**

None at this time.

#### **Ratifications**

None at this time.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

None at this time.

#### **New Business:**

None at this time.

Hutchison called for a motion to adjourn. James Taylor made the motion, Bill Cabrall seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 12:14pm.

#### **Written Reports Submitted -**

##### **Treasurer's Report: Hugh Hutchison**

The finances of the International Lightning Class Association remain on a sound footing. The year-end 2016 Profit and Loss Statement showed net income of just over \$8000. The Class budgets for a break-even financial plan and continues to approach its finances from a very conservative perspective. The year-end Balance Sheet showed total current assets of \$77,774 and total assets, including fixed assets (6 Lightnings) net of depreciation, and restricted assets held in the ILCA Fund, the Limbaugh Fund and the History Fund, of \$365,764. Current liabilities total \$2,019. Attached to this report are the year-end Profit and Loss Statement and the year-

end Balance Sheet.

Certain entries deserve comment. Skipper and crew dues from North America, our largest single source of income, held steady for the year. We saw a strong resurgence in Skipper, Crew and Associate dues in South America, rising 65%, 72% and 237% respectively from the prior year. We are hopeful that the trend will continue with the World's scheduled to be held in South America this year. European dues were off slightly from the prior year.

Boat, mast and sail royalties fell notably from the prior year. We will watch this closely, and particularly sail royalties, to determine if this represents a trend or a single year phenomena. Other material changes reflect and can be explained by specific events such as the absence of a Yearbook and advertising revenue and certain regatta income (non-Worlds year). Overall, Class income fell by \$15,500, or 16%, from the prior year. Expenses, however, fell by \$28,483 or 29% from the prior year. The largest single reduction in expense was the decrease in the Yearbook expense.

The Class finances are somewhat complicated by the fact that the Class maintains several charitable funds that are directed to specific programs and overseen by separate committees. Nevertheless, the financial reports failed to fully separate the specific financial interests of each of the funds but accounted for them on a consolidated basis. This year we have revised our statements to provide a more accurate view of the financial interests of each of the separate funds. The current detailed report will allow us to more accurately track our overall financial picture.

For the current year, we expect to incur increased costs associated with the upgrade of our website and membership management system. The ILCA Fund has approved funds to help cover the initial investment of this the new system. However, the plan certainly is for the upgraded website to provide functionality that will enhance the collection of dues and provide other long-term benefits that will recoup at least a part of the anticipated investment.

We continue to encourage everyone who owns a Lightning or participates in our fleets or other Class activities to support the Class with the payment of dues. The income derived from this primary source will keep our finances strong for the benefit of all.

#### **Limbaugh Fund Report: Matt Fisher/Kip Hamblet**

In 2016, the Limbaugh fund granted \$3,967.49 to enable juniors and young adults to compete in events such as the North Americans, Southern Circuit and Junior Worlds in Salinas. In 2017, so far the fund is providing support for a former boat grant sailor to compete in the 2017 Worlds in Salinas. The current balance is approximately \$35,000. Although the fund cannot grant every request, we encourage members to have Lightning sailors under about 30 to contact the fund to that they can compete and enjoy events that they otherwise would not have attended.

#### **Marketing Committee Update: Matt Fisher**

In January Kevin Morin put together an article that was titled "**Checklist of what every District can do**". We all know that fleets and districts maintain or generate activity through the energy of a champion of champions leading members to better participation. The Michigan District is an example of a district that has maintained a level of participation through the last 25 years while adjacent districts have struggled with numbers. Kevin is one of the champions in Michigan and did a great job of putting this list together with the help of fellow Class members that responded to a survey. It was posted it on Facebook and the Class Website and received a lot of great feedback. It was picked up by different users, from small sailing clubs to Scuttlebutt. In early February the editor of Scuttlebutt referred to this list - and the Lightning Class in general - as a great example to motivate members to keep their districts active.

Bill Wiggins responded the following day (Feb 3) with a letter thanking Craig Leweck and outlined some of the upcoming activities and provided a link to a new streamlined domain that he created called

***Learnelightning.com*** . This was designed for the non-member to briefly learn what the Lightning Class is about. We have links to the boat grant program, boats for sale, the calendar and the 'Top 10 reasons to sail a Lightning'. This has been well received and is not at all to take the place of the Class web site but to allow potential Lightning sailors an avenue to find out a little more about the Class. It links to the class website also.

We are also working to try to get the ***Legacy Program*** operational within a couple months. There are 2 boats in inventory, and we need to make the application forms attractive and operational.

### **2017 Boat Grant Update: Matt Schon and Chappy Hopkin**

This year the Boat Grant has taken steps to reorganize how all the processes are handled. We would like to welcome Chappy Hopkin as the new Co-Chair, stepping in for Will Brown. Will is still involved in the boat grant as a committee member. Chappy and I, with the help of Laura have taken a hard look at what is needed to make this program run successful. We are implementing the necessary process and help needed to keep this incredible program growing.

Of note, Mark Schneider has been a tremendous help this winter, storing the boats and helping Chappy get them inventoried. Robert Seidelmann has been hired to go over both boats and get them ready for the upcoming season.

We received several great applications this year and have narrowed it down to 3 extremely strong applicants. We are planning to announce the Boat Grant recipients soon. Interest in the Boat Grant starts on the local level. Please encourage young sailors in your local fleet to apply for the boat grant. We need to start generating interests in the program at the local level. If you are interested in helping the program in any way please feel free to reach out to Matt Schon or Chappy Hopkins. Thank you to everyone for the continued help and support of the program.

### **80th Anniversary Regatta Update:**

The Organizing Committee for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lightning Regatta, the Skaneateles Country Club and Fleet 1 are hard at work on the planning for the July 6 – 8, 2018 celebration of the Lightning Class, in Skaneateles, New York.

Our tentative Agenda is as follows:

July 6, Friday: Arrival and Check-In. Activities for sailors and their families are being planned both at the Skaneateles Country Club and the surrounding community. Sailing related clinics and on-the-water racing and day sailing activities are in discussion. Options are being explored for evening activities with broad appeal.

July 7, Saturday: Racing during the morning and afternoon. An evening reception and banquet is being planned for the evening at the Skaneateles Country Club.

July 8, Sunday: Racing continues in the morning with a family BBQ and awards presentation to follow.

July 9, Monday: The Organizing Committee is trying to organize a charity golf tournament at the Skaneateles Country Club for Monday, should sufficient interest exist. The charity's to benefit would be the Lightning Boat Grant program and the Skaneateles Historical Society (current home of Lightning #1).

This schedule and further details will be posted both on our Facebook (80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lightning Regatta) and the [www.skaneatelescc.com](http://www.skaneatelescc.com) as they become available.

Racing is planned to take place on three courses set on the northern third of Skaneateles Lake; one for the truly competitive racers, one for club racers, and one for the classic fiberglass and woodies. Trophy's will be awarded to each fleet with additional novelty awards to keep it interesting.

We have teamed with the Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce to help our guests arrange for lodging. There are significantly more options available in and around Skaneateles than during the 70<sup>th</sup> Regatta. However, we suggest making reservations early as July is high season in the Fingerlakes area. Camping may be an option and we'll post that information on both Facebook and [www.skaneatelescc.com](http://www.skaneatelescc.com) once we know the details.

While our core Organizing Committee membership hails from the Skaneateles community, we welcome volunteers from throughout the greater Lightning community. Should anyone wish to lead or assist in the organization of a clinic or activity for Friday, we'd love to hear from you. In addition, we'll be looking for plenty of volunteers throughout the weekend. Anyone interested in assisting in any way can contact us at [lightning80th@gmail.com](mailto:lightning80th@gmail.com)

Cordially,  
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