

February 2007

NCWSA Racer

Happy New Year Everyone! Better late than never! Here is your February Racer.

HERE IS WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR OUR FIRST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007 AT 7:30:

Get Fit For Sailing!

Denise Messerman, a sailor and fitness instructor, will be here at EYC to help us wake up those muscles that may have been dozing since winter set in. This is a great time to start your fitness regime and get ready for spring — it's just around the corner! Denise suggested that each person bring an exercise mat or large towel, as well as 4 or 5 pound weights and stretch bands, if you have them. She will lead us through a series of stretch and strength moves to help get us ready to raise the sails, tack and gybe, and hike way out!

By racing season, we'll be strong and ready! Come join the fun!

Before Denise's program Dave Zarzour will talk to us about the new membership options EYC is offering. It promises to be a fun and informative evening!

Commodore's corner

Happy New Year Everyone! Well, February marks the hump of winter...we are getting closer to sailing season! Now that we have had a little time off, it's time to come back together and get ready for our 2007 season. The 2007 Board has met and is busy planning all of the activities for this year.

Our first General Membership Meeting is Tuesday, Feb 6th at 7:30 pm.

We will welcome Dave Zarzour, Edgewater Yacht Club's Membership Chair, who will share the great deals and incentives for membership at EYC.

Following Dave's presentation we'll have NCWSA Member Denise Messerman get us on track for "Getting Fit For Sailing". It'll be an active workout session...be sure to wear comfy clothes for working out and don't forget your mat or towel, water, weights and/or exercise band!

We will also present the proposed changes to the By-Laws which we will be voting on in March.

I look forward to seeing everyone there!

— *Connie Aguero*
Commodore

Competition Fund

The NCWSA Board budgets \$1,000 annually for the Competition Fund. One \$250 grant may be issued each quarter. To be eligible, a team must complete the **Competition Fund Award Application** (available on the NCWSA website) and return it to the Competition Fund Committee (CFC) by one of the following dates: March 15, June 15, September 15, or December 15. The CFC will make recommendations to the NCWSA Board, and award recipients will be announced at the following general membership meeting. If you are planning to travel to a Regatta this quarter you may want to apply!



Boat-show followup

NCWSA was well represented at the Boat Show this year. A big thank-you goes out to David Zarzour and all of the volunteers at the EYC booth, along with the Highlander and T-Ten fleets at the One-Design display. NCWSA will also be promoted in the new printing of the EYC brochure! This is a reflection of the contribution we have made to the club. Lets continue to show our appreciation by supporting the club in ways such as volunteering for race committee, cleaning up the patio after our races, or becoming a member.

— *Bobbi Sundman*



Share your announcements



Do you have any tidbits you'd like to share? A job promotion, birth announcement, engagement? Did you travel to a regatta recently? Let us know. We want to spread the word for you!

E-mail your announcements and comments to ncwsaracer@yahoo.com, attention Bobbi Sundman.

Survey sheds light on womens' boating skills

News from BoatUS
Boat Owners Association of The
United States

A recent online survey of over 400 women by BoatU.S. shows that parents play an important role in teaching their daughters recreational boating skills. But when girls grow up, many women believe there aren't enough boating educational opportunities, especially those that are tailored for women.

The newly released results of the BoatUS "Boating Learning and Education Survey for Women" showed that nearly half of all women respondents (47%) said it was a parent who they first remember teaching them boating skills, and 47% also said they had first gone boating before age 10.

"What the survey essentially tells us is that families play an important

part in introducing boating to young girls, but as adults they want to learn more in relaxed settings, perhaps away from a well-meaning spouse," said Elaine Dickinson, Executive Editor of DIY Boat Owner magazine (a BoatU.S. publication for do-it-yourself boaters) and the leader of the BoatUS Women in Boating initiative.

Over two-thirds (67%) of women said they had taken some type of formal classroom boating training and 73% had some hands-on instruction, but there was clear support for more all-women courses (59%). Forty-two percent said that there aren't enough opportunities for girls and women to learn how to operate a boat, and when asked what kind of learning opportunities are needed, 80% said more hands-on events for women.

Also of interest was that three times as many women found a women

only course, seminar or training "effective" as those who didn't (33% to 11% respectively). "While there is much debate on whether women-only instruction is better, there is no doubt that women boaters prefer to learn in an environment that doesn't have the pressure associated with co-ed instruction," said Dickinson.

The topics that female respondents said they want instruction in include boat systems such as engines or electrical (71%); navigation (62%) and upgrading boat-handling skills (52%).

The respondents to the survey were not just first mates. Over three-quarters (78%) currently own either a powerboat (55%) or sailboat (53%). To see full survey results, go to BoatUS.com/women.

NCWSA By-Laws Amendment

Occasionally NCWSA finds that its By-Laws need to be amended. Our By-Laws state the following regarding amendments:

Any amendment to these by-laws, election of Board members, and questions of policy shall require a majority of votes cast by members, with at least ten days published notice in advance.

The Board has recommended some amendments to our NCWSA By-Laws. The By-Laws Amendments were attached to an email you should have received this week. These amendments have been highlighted by strikeout- items that shall be removed and inserts are highlighted in red text. In general, these By- Law Amendments are not significant but necessary at this time. Please read them over so you will be informed to vote.

We will present the proposed By-Laws Amendments at the February 6, 2007 General Membership Meeting. The mailing you have just received will be your published notice and we will vote on the By-Laws Amendment at the March 6, 2007 General Membership Meeting.

If you have any questions regarding these amendments, please feel free to send a note to the NCWSA general email.

NORTH COAST WOMEN'S SAILING ASSOCIATION

Cleveland, Ohio

~~Proposed~~ By-laws ~~amendments~~ approved December 7, 2003 ~~January 2007~~

ARTICLE ONE-NAME

The name of this organization is "North Coast Women's Sailing Association", which may conduct business as "North Coast Women's Sailing Association" or as "NCWSA".

ARTICLE TWO-MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of NCWSA is to encourage women to become more actively involved in sailboat racing through regattas and clinics, and to create a spirit of good fellowship among members.

ARTICLE THREE-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

Membership is defined as:

a. Full Member - Women, age 18 years or older, who plan to participate in all offered by NCWSA, pay the full annual membership fee, and fulfill the volunteer service requirement. An application for general membership shall be completed.

Volunteer Service Requirement

I. At the discretion of the Board, service may be required of Full Members in order to ensure the execution of all tasks necessary to maintain the organization.

II. Any such requirement must be communicated to applicants on the general membership application.

b. Junior Member - Women under the age of 18 years, who plan to participate in all programs offered by NCWSA and pay a reduced membership fee. All Junior Members must submit a general membership application as well as written permission from a legal guardian and a statement of release of liability from NCWSA, the sponsoring yacht club and the boat owner.

c. Honorary Member-Those who have rendered important service to the organization. There is no membership fee. Honorary membership will be reviewed on an annual basis by the NCWSA Board.

d. Limited Member-Men who participate in any activities, except as skipper or crew, in the NCWSA race program, with a non-voting status.

Section 2.

Membership can be revoked at any time by a majority vote of the Board. All membership, rights, and privileges shall be forfeited when a member fails to pay the annual fee.

Section 3.

NCWSA annual fee term will be ~~one year from the April general Meeting~~ ~~January 1st through December 31st~~ and will be set according to the year's budgetary needs. Any change in the annual fee requires a majority vote by the membership at the general election meeting. ~~Members who join after the last race of the season will carry their membership through to the next racing season.~~ Any returned check fees will be billed to the responsible party.

Section 4.

Rights and Privileges of Full Membership

- a. To vote on any motions.
- b. To participate as a member of any of standing or ad hoc committees.
- c. To run for any NCWSA Board position.
- d. To participate in any NCWSA function, including the summer race program.
- e. To request the addition of any agenda item to a scheduled meeting.

Continued ...

ARTICLE FOUR - BOARD MEMBERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1.

The elected Board shall consist of a Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer, Racing Chair, Assistant Racing Chair, Education Chair, Social Chair, Membership Chair, Newsletter Chair, Public Relations Chair, and Board Member-at-Large. Their duties may include those listed below.

The Commodore shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Board and general membership.
- b. Oversee all NCWSA activities and guide the group toward fulfilling the NCWSA mission.
- c. Act as liaison to the hosting club and its management.
- d. Guide the budgeting and financial process.
- e. Organize an Audit Committee to perform annual year-end audit which shall include the Commodore, Secretary, current Treasurer, past Treasurer, and one general member.
- f. With input from the Board, appoint a Nominating Committee Chair.

The Vice-Commodore shall:

- a. Preside at meetings in the absence of the ~~President~~ Commodore.
- b. Act as liaison to the US Sailing Association and any affiliated sailing/yachting associations the NCWSA chooses to join, and to maintain/renew membership to those organizations.
- c. With the Commodore's, approve the implementation and planning of fundraising events and appoint an Event Chairman.
- d. Act as liaison with insurance carrier; apply, renew and report policy information to Board and members.
- e. Be responsible for merchandise sales.

The Secretary shall:

- a. Record and distribute minutes of all NCWSA and general membership meetings.
- b. Maintain a file for NCWSA correspondence, newsletters, flyers, news articles and promotional material.
- c. Serve as custodian of all official documents of the organization.
- d. Participate on the Audit Committee.

The Treasurer shall:

- a. Serve as the custodian of all funds and maintain records of all transactions, including fundraising activities.
- b. Be responsible for the collection and distribution of ~~money~~ dues.
- c. Prepare annual budget with input from Board, initiate budgeting process, and prepare annual financial statements to present to general membership.
- d. Oversee completion and filing of tax returns.
- e. Participate on Audit Committee.

The Racing Chair and Assistant Racing Chair shall:

- a. Coordinate NCWSA race series including:
 1. Team selection process;
 2. Sailing instructions;
 3. Race committee boats and personnel;
 4. Communication with skippers, boat owners, and coaches.
- b. Attend hosting club's Fleet Captain Meetings and coordinate race committee tasks provided by NCWSA to hosting club.
- c. Appoint appropriate Fleet Captains and Fall Regatta Chair.
- d. Assist in promoting race program, clinics and regatta; inform members of upcoming women's sailing events.

- f. Communicate with hosting club manager and other personnel regarding organization's activities.

The Education Chair shall:

- a. In conjunction with Board and hosting club, coordinate regular sailing and racing education at membership meetings and special clinics, including booking meeting sites.
- b. Formulate and publish schedule of events at the first general meeting of the year and in appropriate publications throughout the year.
- c. Maintain a source of educational materials related to sailing and racing, including Red Cross and other opportunities for new sailors.

The Social Chair shall:

Work with Public Relations and Membership Chairs to coordinate functions that promote NCWSA and encourage membership, including social events, post-race gatherings, and the Regatta awards party.

The Public Relations Chair shall:

- a. Work with Social, Membership, ~~and Race~~ Chairs to publicize functions ~~that~~ —NCWSA— and encourage new and renewed memberships.
- b. Maintain existing external and internal communication vehicles and develop new opportunities to publicize NCWSA. Vehicles may include:
 - 1. Write and distribute press releases;
 - 2. Compile photo album of activities;
 - 3. Post promotional materials on hosting club's website or bulletin board.
 - 4. Maintain NCWSA's website.
 - 5. Write monthly article for hosting club's publication.

The Membership Chair shall:

- a. Maintain database of members and supporters in order to:
 - 1. generate mailing lists and labels;
 - 2. report crew/skipper eligibility for participation in race program;
 - 3. provide demographic and other analytical information.
- b. Work with Social, Member-at-Large, and Public Relations Chairs to coordinate programs which promote NCWSA and improve membership.
- c. Coordinate drive to renew existing memberships.
- d. Maintain sign-in sheets for members and guests at general membership meetings.
- e. Respond in timely manner to requests for information from prospective members.
- f. ~~Collect Membership dues and forward to the Treasurer.~~

The Newsletter Editor shall:

- a. Gather and edit information from Board and members for publication in newsletter.
- b. Be responsible for type, layout, and publishing of monthly newsletter in a timely manner, and for overseeing its appearance on the website.
- c. Obtain mailing labels from Membership Chair and for mailing.
- d. Inform membership of all meetings, races, special events, and voting issues through the newsletter and/or the website.

The Board Member-at-Large shall:

- a. Seek out members with special skills and encourage their involvement with the organization and its activities.
- b. Act as a voice of the general membership to the Board.
- c. Assist with Board activities as needed, including coordinating the Volunteer Service Requirement when applicable.
- d. Assist Public Relations Chair with internal public relations

Section 2.

Board members duties and responsibilities:

- a. Attend and participate in Board and membership meetings and other activities.
- b. Actively promote membership in NCWSA.
- c. ~~Approval of motions requires a vote of 51% of Board, a quorum of one half — Board must vote. One half of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Approval of motions requires a majority of the quorum.~~ Items to be approved by Board include but are not limited to:
 1. annual budget;
 2. creation of new committees and appointed chairs;
 3. expenditures not included in annual budget, less than \$300; (expenditures greater than \$300 require majority approval in a vote by members at a general meeting).
 4. Submit article to newsletter as requested by Newsletter Editor.
 5. Must be Full Members of NCWSA.
 6. Should a Board position become vacant during the term the Board may appoint a replacement or leave the position vacant until the next election.
 7. Involve members as much as possible in the activities of the organization by forming either standing or ad hoc committees.

ARTICLE FIVE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1.

Nominations for Board positions will be held during the October general meeting either through verbal or written nomination. The nominee must accept the nomination and submit a written expression of interest and qualifications to the Nominating Committee prior to the November meeting.

Section 2.

Elections will be held at the December meeting. Each Board member shall be elected by a majority of votes cast for that position. Votes shall be cast anonymously, unless there is deemed a need for absentee ballots.

ARTICLE SIX - GENERAL CONDITIONS

Section 1.

NCWSA will seek to be associated with a sponsoring yacht club that will provide meeting facilities. This relationship may be expanded as the organization grows and changes its needs.

Section 2.

These by-laws, ~~the Notice of Race~~, and the Sailing Instructions shall govern the NCWSA races to be scheduled annually.

ARTICLE SEVEN - VOTING

Section 1.

Any amendment to these by-laws, election of Board members, and questions of policy shall require a majority of votes cast by members, with at least ten days published notice in advance.

Section 2.

Members may request absentee ballots from the Secretary.

Section 3.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the Secretary prior to the vote.

ARTICLE EIGHT - INDEMNIFICATION

NCWSA, its officers and race committee do not accept responsibility for loss of life or injury to participants or others, or for loss or damage of any vessel in any way from any cause during or related to any race.