

International Lightning Class Association

Governing Board Meeting

March 18, 2017

St Petersburg Yacht Club, St Petersburg, FL

Attendance: Meeting Chair/President Victor Lobos, Thomas Allen, Robert Astrove, Bill Cabrall, Bill Clausen, Steve Davis, Josh Goldman, Brian Hayes, Alfred Hopkin, Gary Hurban, Joan Hurban, Hugh Hutchison, Debbie Probst, Robert Ruhlman, Ryan Ruhlman, Matthew Schon, David Sprague, David Starck, Valerie Tardif, James Taylor – Quorum achieved with proxies. Others in attendance: Norm Jarvis, Jan Davis.

President Lobos called the meeting to order at 3:13pm. He introduced and welcomed Alfred 'Chappy' Hopkin to his first Governing Board Meeting. Hugh is a new Boat Grant VP.

Minutes of the Last Meeting. Bill Clausen 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: Victor Lobos reported on the State of the Class. The North America Area is doing great. The 2017 NAs sold out in 1 day with 70 boats and 20 more on a wait list. This is encouraging for participation this summer and into the future. In South America we are seeing a lot more activity as well. There are more regattas, more interest from new people. This is all likely due to the Lightning maintaining its position in the Pan American Games. There are some J24 sailors looking to get into the Class because the J24 is out. BRA, ARG and PER are all generating more interest. Peru started a Boat Grant Program last year and Daniel Mendoza the first recipient already bought a boat for himself!

The state of Lightning sailing over in Europe is not doing as well as North and South America. Finland has remained solid with activity in Greece. Activity in Italy and Switzerland is not promising. Hopefully with the Worlds rotation to head that way in 2019 activity will begin to pickup. Asia, Africa and Oceania will have representation at the Worlds in November.

This year will bring big changes for the Class. We are transiting to a new member management system called Club Express and we are looking to launch on May 1st. This system is more flexible and allows for web base page changes for easier updating. The goal with this is to give more members access and ability to update the website without special software and to ease some of the manual membership processing done by the Executive Secretary.

With this being Lobos's last scheduled meeting as chair, he closed with points to continue to focus on for the future. We are on the right track with youth sailing. Our overall age is heading in the right direction. Looking around our parking lot you see all ages actively competing. Our Boat Grant and Mentor Programs are successful and working. Our Youth World Championships have good representation and are well organized. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Chief Measurers Report: Bill Cabrall added to Victor's comments on AAO - he visited Ian & Lindy Edwards in Australia and reports that Lightning sailing and activity is getting underway 'down under' this summer. There will be a lot of measurement this year with the WJM's in August, NAs in Sept and the South American, International Masters and Worlds in November. It will be a tight schedule with timing in August and September. He has been in contact with both locations and is beginning to work up plans for these events.

Treasurers Report: Hugh Hutchison submitted a written report (see below).

Secretary's Report: Todd Wake was attending via teleconference, after Victor and Hugh's reports he had nothing further to report at this time.

North American VP: Josh Goldman the 2017 NAs will be held at the Carolina YC, Wrightsville Beach (Sept 21-24). Due to the size of the parking lot and docking facilities at Carolina YC we are proposing a Temporary Amendment (A) specific to the 2017 NAs to limit participants to 70 on a first come first served basis when registration opens. Participants can register prior to qualify through individual districts but they still must complete that part of the qualification process. President Lobos asked in an effort to be more efficient, we would like to Vote now, rather than in New Business. Discussion ensued. David Sprague made a motion was made to accept the proposal as presented. Josh Goldman, seconded and the vote passed.

The 2017 WJM's will be held at Metedeconk River YC (Aug 1-4) , 2018 - MBYC, San Diego (proposed July 23-27) , 2018 WJM's Pontiac Yacht Club (MI) August (TBD - likely Aug 3-5) and 2019 WJM/NA's Buffalo Canoe Club August (TBD).

ILCA Fund Report: Steve Davis reported that the ILCA Fund is helping to support the ILCA's new membership software program with a \$10,000 commitment. \$2,000 has been spent on Marketing efforts and another \$2,000 has been approved to help underwrite Lightning Labs for another 2 years.

Classic Boats: Bob Astrove reported that last summer the original mold used by Skaneateles Boat Company was recovered and is now on display at the Fingerlakes Boating Museum in Hammondsport, NY. On June 24-25 we will have our Annual Get Together there and there will be a special event on Friday evening to celebrate the new display. A big thank you to the History Fund for helping to support this effort with a \$2,000 donation.

Lightning Labs: Gary and Joan Hurban reported that there has not been many requests for Labs. Some of the Videos from last year's Mentor Program have been posted on the ILCA YouTube Channel and are getting a lot of views. Clinics during regattas seem to be popular (like the Mentor Program) and we are going to try this format at a regatta at SSA and will match up sailors with mentors sailing in the regatta. This would be a good topic for an article.

Southern Circuit: David Starck reported that he and Bill Mauk are SC Co-Chairs and have been working with Laura. Kathy Ahern and Bill Mauk are the two regatta organizers. In looking towards the future, 2018 and beyond we are seeing more constraints on dates with the St Pete car races, Bacardi and other regattas. Participation numbers are trending down and we would like to reconvene a Southern Circuit Evaluation Committee to take a broader look at the Southern Circuit. This is an opportunity to look at the circuit from a fresh perspective. We are interested to hear from sailors about things they would like to see with these events, or sailing at other venues.

Atlantic Coast Championship: Brian Hayes reported that the ACC's will be held at the Mallets Bay Boat Club in Burlington, VT on July 29-30 . The regatta website is up. This regatta leads right up to the WJM's many sailors could make it a week of sailing.

80th Anniversary: Brian Hayes reported that there is an attachment with more information. They are looking for some Friday ideas, please see Brian if you have any comments. This will not be a "sanctioned" event allowing it for 1-2 people to sail together and have fun.

Other reports: see written reports attached from Treasurer's Report, Past President's Report/ Restructuring Committee Report, Lightning Labs, 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:

Bill Cabrall presented Amendment (B) a change to Plans and Specifications; Main Sail number/letter/emblem layout. The ILCA Technical Committee has studied and revised the sail change proposal sent to it following the Governing Board meeting at Rochester Yacht Club in August 2016 and recommends the following NEW amendment to the Lightning Plans and Specifications, Article V-Sails, paragraph 75:

75. For sails built after 1 June 2017, sail numbers, national letters (when required), and the class emblem shall be on both sides of the mainsail. The class emblem shall be located just below the top batten, back to back above the national sail letters, with the tip up and pointing forward, positioned as per plans. The national letters (when required) shall be located just above the middle batten, starboard side above port side. The sail numbers shall be located just below the middle batten, starboard side above port side.

The country flag (when required) shall be located below the bottom batten. The size and orientation of country flags may be defined by the Organizing Authority and the ILCA Executive Committee for a specific event. (March 2017)

Numbers and national letters (when required) will be 300 mm (12") minimum height and 200 mm (8") wide except for the numeral one or letter 'I'.

Sail numbers with an optional class emblem will be on the outside of the spinnaker or may be placed on both sides within the area designated by World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing.

Appendix G1.3 (d) of the RRS is amended so that national letters on the spinnaker are not required. (March, 2007)

Appendix G.1.1 (b) of the RRS is amended so that national letters on the mainsail are not required for events other than the World Championship unless the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions specifically requires them. (March 2017)

Discussion Ensued. This Amendment is helping us to comply with World Sailing Rules as closely as possible given our design and will look more modern. David Starck made a motion to accept the amendment as presented, Victor Lobos seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Cabrall will submit the amendment to World Sailing for final ratification.

New Business:

Next meeting date: The Constitution states that the Annual Meeting of members and election of officers must take place before September 1st. With the North American's in September we will need before then. Discussion ensued and it was decided that the Annual Meeting of members would take place during the WJM's in Brick, NJ.

No other new business was proposed.

Meeting adjourned 4:48 pm.

ILCA Governing Board: Written Reports

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.

Past President's Report/Restructuring Committee Report: Debbie Probst

After a number of phone calls with Laura, I have compiled a few documents describing in better detail the duties conducted through the ILCA office. Some opportunities for increased efficiency have been identified and further documentation of tasks will improve continuity as Governing Board members and office staff rotate. The new website implementation will affect quite a few of these tasks, thus this endeavor cannot be completed until we see the ramifications of such. I encourage each Governing Board member to keep organized records and implement methods for easier transitions.

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 so that they can compete and enjoy events that they otherwise would not have attended.

Lightning Lab Update: Joan & Gary Hurban

Joan and Gary are writing an article encouraging/explaining how to do a good post race debrief with links to videos as examples. They have no current fleets interested in a stand-alone lab.

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 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 80th 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 (80th Anniversary Lightning Regatta) and the 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 70th 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 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

Cordially,

Mike Yates, Lightning 378

80th Anniversary Organizing Committee Chairman

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