

After a brief welcome and thank you, we began the business:

Calendar:

Lance handed out preliminary calendars based on last year's events. Some updates and changes for this year include:

- June Moon (CYC) is back as the only overnight pursuit race,
- Storm Trysail has committed to another year organizing the Ted Hood,
- CYC Midsummer moves to July 15, M'headYC Clemson moves to July 8, ManchYC Crocker remains on July 14.
- Hull Great Chase moved to Sept 15 to accommodate the tides,
- Down East Challenge is making a comeback and will include Rockport, Boothbay, and GAMORA areas with both double and singlehanded categories! M'head YC is thinking of an overnight start for this event Fri July 27 or Aug 3, Aug 27.
- The Sail-for-Change will be known as the FLIP FLOP once again and still raise funds for Courageous. 12 meter boats have an interest in participating so scheduling is pending more schedule work to accommodate them.
- The Eastern wishes to change the Lambert Ocean race to and overnight and change the date to later in the season to accommodate this. They're working on a new date for the next meeting.
- Jubilee's Phil Small will be a Q along with it's current M and O.

A conversation on Qualifiers (their relevance and additional races wanting a Q) will be tabled until Jan 10 when we have more time for discussion.

Board Members:

Doug announced the board members for the year, mostly comprised of the board members from last year. MBSA is reaching out to interested parties to come ask questions and join the board.

UPDATES:

South Shore Junior Program: The South Shore Junior Group has rejoined MBSA. The two organizations hope to help each other in any way possible. Charlie O'Connor will serve as the representative of this group of south shore clubs. The Finlay Cup was successfully competed for in 2017 for the first time since 2002. One note is that none of the competing sailors were alive the last time this cup was raced for. They will work with MIT to get the Wood Memorial in the 2018 South Shore schedule and see if we can work something out with Courageous to use that venue and R19s to race for the Finlay in the future. The South Shore Juniors will update the junior website page and insert some pages in the yearbook.

Awards Banquet: The 2017 awards dinner enjoyed a good turn out and got good feedback except for the long bar line. Suggestions on changes and improvements are welcome.

ORR-EZ

After years of concerns and complaints, the MBSA board asked what can it do to entertain new ideas that better serve the sailing community. A team from the board looked into several options and look to ORR-EZ as a potential solution to the plethora of growing concerns. It's not a panacea but improvement over previous systems.

ORR-EZ and Regatta Management Solutions (RMS) have been collaborating on developing a program that will bring the best of ORR-EZ and the ease of Regattaman to our organizing authorities and sailors. The two are developing a system that will be easy to use for all—keeping logistics simple.

The board discussed the pros and cons of ORRez vs PHRF. MBSA will support OAs managing races with either handicap system. Russ will lead the effort to update the GSIs, Championship rules and Class Split documentation to reflect either option.

MBSA has agreed to provide governance over this system, with the core technology for ratings being managed by ORA. We will create and elect a board member to be the ORRez representative for the Mass Bay Fleet to handle rating appeals and other boat specific handicap issues. Guidance will be provided to OAs and RCs on selecting wind conditions and courses, and more.

To ease the transition and expense of obtaining a new ORR-EZ certificate, MBSA will provide \$25 per boat getting a first time original ORR-ez certificate in 2018 up to a maximum of \$6,000 (240 boats). The boats owners need not be members of MBSA, although it will be encouraged, and the boats must reside or be active in a local MBSA delegate fleet or Club to be eligible. Any funding beyond 2018 or \$6,000 must be re-visited by the board.

Several local fleets have already elected to make the transition. Others are considering it. MBSA will provide opportunity for further discussion, questions, and information for OA's, Race Committees, and sailors. There are still details to work discuss and finalize. Our hope is to resolve much of it by/at the next meeting, Jan 10th, and have the resolved rules for publication by early February for all to see.

PRESENTATION by ORR-EZ Jim Teeters and Bjorn Johnson of ORA.

The presentation started at 7:30 and continued with lively Q&A and discussion until 10:00. Many stayed later to further discuss and ask questions. For anyone who missed the meeting, information on ORR-EZ can be found through the links below and will be posted on the MBSA web site. A summary of the meeting will be provided via email with an opportunity for further discussion and Q&A leading up to the next meeting on January 10th, 2018.

More information on ORR-EZ can be found at

<https://offshoreracingassociation.org/orr-ez>

ORA rules: <https://offshoreracingassociation.org/images/stories/ORR-EZDraft11.26.2018rulebook.pdf>

The topic on sailing anarchy started as "ORR on Long Island Sound," it's only the last 5 or so posts that are directly related to MBSA, and that thread is here: <http://forums.sailinganarchy.com/index.php?/topic/193512-orr-in-long-island/>