

First Coast Sailing Association (FCSA) 2014 Mid-Year Board Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2014
St. Augustine Yacht Club, St. Augustine, Florida

Board Members Present and Clubs Represented:

- Tom Davis, FCSA President
- Halifax River Yacht Club (HRYC), Daytona Beach, Dave Huff
- Navy Jax Yacht Club (NJYC), Jacksonville, Brian Paul
- North Florida Cruising Club (NFCC), Jacksonville, John Spierre
- Rudder Club of Jacksonville (RCofJ), Kim Brew
- Smyrna Yacht Club (SYC), New Smyrna Beach, Dave Smith
- St. Augustine Yacht Club (SAYC), St. Augustine, Dave Patrick
- Sub-Committee Chair, First Coast Offshore Challenge (FCOC), Guy Anderson
- Sub-Committee Chair, Women's Sailing Network (WSN), Jacksonville, Susan Grich
- Chief, Handicapping Committee, FCSA, Adam Norwood

Others Present:

- Allen Jones, Epping Forest Yacht Club (EFYC), Jacksonville, and also a member of the NFCC and FCSA; acting as assistant treasurer.
- Dan Floryan, SAYC, and FCSA member.
- Denise Smith, NFCC, Secretary; note recorder for meeting tonight; and also FCSA member.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Tom Davis called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Introductions were made and club affiliations were announced. Tom designated Denise Smith as notetaker for this meeting.

Tom thanked the HRYC (Dave Huff) and SYC (Dave Smith) for joining the FCSA as a regional commitment to sailing and racing in Florida and along the U.S. southeastern coast. Membership has grown as a result of their commitment.

Accomplishments

Tom Davis remarked that there is much positive publicity in Waypoints (Bob Seay) about the FCSA.

The SYC Lipton Cup and HRYC Gulfstreamer races were great successes and continue to grow as more clubs along the coast become aware of the racing possibilities.

Tom brought awareness of rules and race management through his racing seminars held at HRYC, SAYC and Rudder Club this spring. Tom stated that more clubs are becoming more consistent regionally by using common rules and procedures. The SAYC has fully adopted the FCSA rules as well as the newly joined Halifax River Yacht Club and Smyrna Yacht Club.

Positive feedback from Dave Huff (HRYC) and Dave Smith (SYC) was received from both clubs and members.

The FCSA has formalized the women's racing series with designated Board representative Susan Grich.

Cruisers now have a spinnaker option and positive feedback is noted via number of boats participating.

The FCSA fleet count for 2014 (93) is back up to 2009 levels (95) from a low of 62 just last year, 2013. Discussion was held pertaining to regional sailing and the fact that the highest participating club is the SAYC and appears to be the center of activity geographically.

Dave Huff continues to enthusiastically support the FCSA in that it has taken the "politics" out of the local clubs and standardized PHRF ratings. SYC (Dave Smith) reports no challenges to the rating and that it is a good system. Dave Huff reports that the FCSA support has been tremendous through Adam Norwood.

Allen Jones reports that the option for cruisers to fly spinnakers has increased number of boats participating in that class. Allen reports it is the fastest growing class in Jacksonville races.

Tom Davis then stressed the mission of the FCSA is to promote regional racing and coordinate schedules of all clubs. The SYC (Dave Smith) has tentatively scheduled the Lipton Cup for April 11 and 12, but will publish finalized dates after consulting with his board. The FCOC should coordinate dates as well. SAYC (David Patrick) mentioned that their club is the only club required to travel and that perhaps arrangements could be made to alternate or rotate club functions to accommodate all clubs.

Tom Davis then suggested that emails be sent out as quickly as possible to finalize dates.

Susan Grich and Kim Brew inquired about boat launch sites for J-24s and Hobie 33s.

Chief Handicapper's Report, Adam Norwood

Adam reported that every boat has a hard copy file of information pertaining to that boat. Adam reports no official appeals have been received and that the spreadsheet is available online at www.sailjax.com.

Adam mentioned that the handicapping committee needs a designee from each club and requested that names be sent to Tom Davis. A Hunter 22 PHRF rating needs to be addressed in such a forum.

Adam mentioned that the website went down, and that he is now working with Network Solutions at a two-year web-hosting rate of \$239.00.

Women's Racing Series – Susan Grich

Susan mentioned that the EFYC Jessie Ball Regatta on June 7th brought out 5 boats and announced the winners. Susan also announced the winners of the Wave Regatta at the NJYC recently held on March 22nd. Five boats raced in that regatta as well. Susan stated that getting more organized has brought out more boats and hopes to increase participation by using a fleet of J-24s out of the FYC.

Kim Brew mentioned that a fleet of Hobie Cats might be a good class of race boats and that they are easier to transport and much less expensive to buy.

Tax Status of FCSA

Susan Grich has volunteered to check into the tax status of the FCSA and will report back to board members.

2015 Calendar

Tom asked each club to submit 2015 race dates as soon as possible to the FCSA. Coordination is key here.

(At 8:18 p.m., Tom Davis announced a short 10-minute break until 8:28 p.m.)

FCOC Proposal to the FCSA

Guy Anderson, FCSA/FCOC Board Representative, gave a detailed history of the running of the First Coast Offshore Challenge (FCOC) as he has been the driving force, chairperson, and volunteer since its inception over ten years ago. Guy discussed charities that have benefited as well as bringing racing offshore. Guy discussed moving the FCOC as a permanent committee under the FCSA.

Lengthy discussions ensued as to how to accomplish this goal. Board member concerns included changing how the FCSA operates from a strictly PHRF rating organization to one that promotes and organizes an annual regional event of this magnitude. This would require committee work, liability insurance coverage, fundraising activities, an assigned treasurer, finding sponsors, possible venues, and more importantly, a change in the By-laws of the FCSA and a vote of its membership supporting this change.

Susan stated it would make more sense to have a regional event sponsored by the FCSA and not any one individual sailing club or organization. Dan Floryan (SAYC) voiced support in that St. Augustine has the facilities and that John Meehan, owner of Meehan's Irish Pub and Seafood House, may provide sponsorships, among other local businesses.

Tom Davis stated the by-laws could be changed.

Guy Anderson stated that if the FCSA would sanction this race that he will continue to chair the event.

Brian Paul, NJYC, mentioned that the situation has changed and that regional support is needed nowadays to increase participation and regional identity.

Tom mentioned that the FCSA is now affiliated with eight clubs and could potentially grow as a result of this change in the by-laws.

Dave Patrick, SAYC Representative, made a motion to amend the by-laws to allow the FCSA to organize racing events. Dave Huff seconded the motion, the motion carried, and Tom Davis called for a vote of the members.

(6 yes; 1 abstention)

Dave Huff, HRYC, yes; Brian Paul, NJYC, yes; Kim Brew, RCofJ, yes; Dave Smith, SYC, yes; Dave Patrick, SAYC, yes; Susan Grich, WSN, yes; and John Spierre, NFCC, abstained.

InterClub Regatta

This regatta is held in November, and Kim Brew mentioned a fleet of Flying Scotts in a one-design contest as a way to increase participation. SYC mentioned that they borrow boats from other clubs to increase participation.

FCSA Long-Range Projects

Tom stated we need to make changes to the by-laws; consider dry sail adjustments to ratings to be implemented in January; consider multiple ratings for boats based on course configuration; and consider terms of office for FCSA board members to increase continuity from year-to-year.

Allen called for a motion to adjourn; Brian seconded the motion; and the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Denise Smith, NFCC Secretary and Notetaker for this 2014 FCSA Board Meeting