

First Coast Sailing Association (FCSA) 2015 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2015
St. Augustine Yacht Club, St. Augustine, Florida

Introductions and Announcements

Tom Davis, FCSA Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and introduced the 2014 FCSA Board of Directors:

- Chairman Tom Davis
- Vice Chairman Mike Barile
- Secretary Brian Paul
- Treasurer Allen Jones
- Chief Rater Adam Norwood

Tom also thanked the SAYC for hosting the meeting and welcomed approximately 46 FCSA members in attendance.

Guy Anderson, SARW 2015 Chairperson, announced that St. Augustine Race Week Regatta has been expanded to include eight area yacht and sailing clubs to be held April 9 – 12. The Regatta will include offshore racing, in-shore racing, and the SARW Junior Sailing Invitational for Optimists and 420s. Event tents will be at the Downtown City Municipal Marina with live music and food and beverages from area sponsors such as Meehan's Irish Pub and Seafood House, St. Augustine, and Pusser's Rum. The Offshore Awards Banquet will be held at the St. Augustine Yacht Club on April 11th. Details of the races, parties, and other activities are on the website at: www.SARW2015.com.

David Smith, Smyrna Yacht Club, New Smyrna Beach, announced the Lipton Cup Regatta to be held April 17 – 19 and that entry fees are only \$50. Live music, food and beverages will be served as well as presentation of awards and the coveted Lipton Cup Team Trophy. Pusser's Rum is one of many sponsors of the Lipton Cup. Details are posted on their website.

Tom Davis then expressed condolences to the family of Vernon Dean, owner, Jolly Mon Catering, NFCC member, and passionate sailor who passed away January 19th.

Tom then announced 2015 FCSA member clubs and organizational representatives:

- Epping Forest Yacht Club – Mike Barile
- Florida Yacht Club – Lynn Ellis
- Halifax River Yacht Club – Dave Huff
- Navy Jax Yacht Club – Brian Paul
- North Florida Cruising Club – Bill Weinbecker
- Rudder Club of Jacksonville – Kim Brew

- Smyrna Yacht Club – Dave Smith
- St. Augustine Yacht Club – David Patrick

Points of Contact also include:

- Chief Rater – Adam Norwood
- FCSA Chairman – Tom Davis
- St. Augustine Race Week – Guy Anderson
- Women’s Sailing Network – Susan Grich
- Website: www.sailjax.com

Review of 2014

Tom then discussed his Chairman’s Message on the powerpoint presentation to include current 501(c)(3) status of the FCSA, liability insurance, and PHRF certificate holders increasing from a low of 62 certificate holders in 2013 to a high of 103 in 2014; due, in large part, to the increase in PHRF certificate holders from SAYC, HRYC (Halifax River Yacht Club) and SYC. These clubs joined, increased participation in offshore racing, and consistency and fairness in ratings throughout the region improved.

Tom discussed renewed interest in the Women’s Racing Series with Susan Grich and Jodi Weinbecker (Florida Yacht Club) supporting this series and that more boats participated as a result.

Regular meetings of the FCSA Board and bylaws changes in August of 2014 also enhanced participation in racing and sailing in Northeast Florida. These bylaw changes allow FCSA to organize racing events such as SARW supported collectively by the area clubs. The purpose is to promote events that would be difficult to be supported by any one club and to encourage the collective participation of members of all clubs.

Allen Jones mentioned that new PHRF rules were implemented to allow options to fly spinnakers in the cruiser/mixed class which also increased participation in racing events in 2014.

Tom mentioned that all of the documents and features of the www.sailjax.com website are current and useful. Click on “PHRF Rules” for further clarification and specifications regarding current PHRF rules.

Tom Davis went on to discuss Race Management Resources by the FCSA to include support to area clubs for NoRs, SIs, and that additional tips and checklists for race committees will be continuously added and updated. Race Management Seminars were held at area clubs as well as Racing Rules Seminars at HRYC, SAYC and the Rudder Club of Jacksonville.

FCSA Challenges in 2015

Tom then discussed ways to maintain and possibly increase FCSA memberships and how to open up membership through US Sailing in conjunction with FCSA PHRF members.

Adam Norwood mentioned that the cruiser and non-spin classes are still struggling for racing competitors, but that the spinnaker class is growing with new FCSA PHRF certificate holders.

Another challenge is the dry sail vs. wet sail rating issue as well as how to continuously improve race management through seminars and/or website updates.

Treasurer's Report – Allen Jones

Allen reviewed the powerpoint slide and reported a net:

Check to Bank Balance of \$3,695.38.

Chief Rater Report – Adam Norwood

Adam reported that there are 103 current boat ratings and that 53 individual rating actions resulted in five revisions. Adam also reported that 39 PHRF renewals had just been received at tonight's meeting.

Adam mentioned that Time on Time correction versus Time on Distance are items being currently considered by the FCSA board as well as the Dry Sail Rule. Adam also mentioned that having two starts for races would suffice (Spin and Non-Spin boats at the first start followed by Cruisers for the second start) if number of boats participating remains low.

Adam then proposed that a 3-second Dry vs. Wet Sail Adjustment be made to boats "stored differently than expected." Considerable discussion ensued from current members for and against said proposal. Such things as boat preparation, maintenance, skill level of crew, age of sails, and other factors were brought up that might be viable adjustments if this 3-second rule was applied. The majority of the Members present suggested that hard, quantifiable data be presented before any action is taken and that club racing rules and exceptions should be kept to a minimum to maximize fun club racing vs. professional circuits. It was noted that after consultation with the national level U.S. Sailing PHRF organization, the national organization does not support any dry sail rule. Such rules are limited to a few individual PHRF organizations in certain locations. FCSA will continue to collect data during the 2015 season to see if the Dry Sail Rule can be supported by quantifiable data. It was noted that Adam Norwood has analyzed over 100 past races and determined that no significant differences in results would have occurred if the Dry Sail Rule (-3 sec/nm) were applied.

Tom Davis then proposed that the Board look at all sides of the issue, talk to various club raters, and then report to the members for consensus. This will be an ongoing project in 2015.

New Business

Tom Davis then presented the slate of FCSA Board of Directors for 2015:

- Chairman Tom Davis
- Vice Chairman Mike Barile
- Secretary Denise Smith
- Treasurer Allen Jones
- Chief Rater Adam Norwood

Tom opened the floor for any nominations. Stephen Michael (NFCC) made a motion to approve the 2015 FCSA Board of Directors as presented. All in favor responded by saying “aye” and with a show of hands. The motion carried unanimously.

Tom Davis then proposed a by-laws change involving Section 3.1 Membership. Considerable discussion ensued from the floor concerning the actual verbiage of the change, associate memberships serving on committees, voting rights, non-series racing as it affects overall points standings in the ocean series, and other issues.

Jamie Rohrbaugh (SAYC) made a motion to table the by-laws change; Allen Jones seconded it; and the motion passed unanimously.

Annual Series Trophies

Dan Floryan (SAYC), Guy Anderson (FCSA), and Jodi Weinbecker (FYC) presented the Annual Series Trophies for the 2014 FCSA Racing Season.

Tom Davis then thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Notes submitted by Denise Smith, FCSA Secretary