

# SMBC Racing Committee

## MINUTES

11/6/2011



***In Attendance:*** Kate Anderson, Bryan Retterbush, Loren Schafer and Jan Adams, excused absence Linda Meyers and Jim Heppe.

A historical perspective was provided to Kate by the others on the Club's racing rules and races in the past. This included:

- Open races (open to the public) on Memorial Day and Labor Day
- Consolation Race - Where the top finishing racers crewed for the bottom finishing racers on a second race
- Turnaround Race - Where the boat to round the mark first goes to the end of the line.

The Committee reviewed some of the problems and issues from the 2011 racing season.

- 1) Everyone agreed that the Racing Committee and the Club should make a greater effort to help Jim with the Committee Boat. There have been times when Jim was alone and had to do it all.
- 2) Most of the problems this past season was during light air so the Committee came up with the following rules regarding light air days:
  - A. The Committee Boat will go out on the lake 30 mins. before the race starts and evaluate the wind conditions on the lake. (There have been times when there was more air on the lake than appears at the club.) If the wind speed is less than 5 mph and it appears there will no change then the Committee Boat will abandon the race. If the sustained (not gusts) wind is 5 mph or more, the Committee Boat will radio back that the race is on and all racers should come out for the race. With this process, racers will not have to prepare their boats for racing with the wind isn't suitable for racing.
  - B. In light air, particularly if the wind is dying down, the course will be shortened at the next mark prior to any racer rounding the mark before. For example, if the race is NWS and the wind starts dying the course can be shortened to the west mark prior to any racer rounding the north mark.
  - C. A race should take between 45mins to 1.5 hours. Due to the unusually long races in 2011, the following rules are recommended:
    1. If a racer has not reached the first mark within 30 mins., the race will be shortened to the second mark.
    2. If a racer has not reached the first mark in 45 mins. then the race will be abandoned.
    3. During light air the Fleet Boat Captain can decide to change the race format to a windward/leeward course to expedite the race.
- 3) A race will be abandoned if the sustained winds are 25mph or more.
- 4) Races will be abandoned if the sustained winds are less than 5mph or more than 25 mph. It will be up to the captain of the boat to decide if they want to race or not.
- 5) A race will be abandoned immediately at the sighting of lightning.
- 6) All racers should obtain a copy of the racing rules and abide by them. The US Sailing website has the rules.

- 7) During the triangle races, only the Gib and Main are to be used. Spinnakers can be used on the Rock Piles races.
- 8) Before a race, each captain must declare their sails. Also, during the race nothing larger than the declared sails can be used, however, a captain can use a smaller sail. A racer may declare a sail for the entire season.
- 9) Before the 2012 racing season begins, captains must supply the Fleet Boat Captain with detailed description of their boats. This is to ensure that the correct handicap can be assessed to the boat.
- 10) Committee recommends opening the Labor Day race to the public.
- 11) Committee recommends that all racers attend the racing clinic.

### **SPECIAL RACING CLINIC**

**Bryan Retterbush**, two-time Catalina 22 national champion, will be conducting a weekend racing clinic May 19-20 to prepare for the Memorial Day Regatta. The SMBC Racing Committee encourages all SMBC racers to attend and to have your boat in the water for some of the on-the-water exercises. **The clinic will discuss the new racing rules for 2012, register your boat for racing, skills in negotiating the start of a race (taking the intimidation out of it), racing tactics and the Hula Hoop Challenge.**

Saturday, May 19, 10:00am – **Rules, Boat Registration, Racing Starts, Practicing Race Starts**

Sunday, May 20, 10:00am – **Racing Tactics, Practicing Tactics, Hula Hoop Challenge**