

MINUTES

Ensign Fleet 70

Meeting April 18, 2004

Meeting called to Order at 1p.m. by Fleet Captain Samuel.

Boat Owners Present: Gary Nicholson, Bruce Vanderlaan, Michael LeHay, Tom Sturr, Jack Patterson, Tony Sisson, Larry Best, Arnie Samuel, Dave Roseman, Phil Arnold.

The minutes of the last meeting which were approved without reading and the agenda for this meeting were presented.

1. Five-Minute Race Start Procedure - Both discussed and explained by Jack Patterson and Dave Roseman, who designed the program. It was stressed that each boat participating in the race insure that the boat name and sail number are given to the race committee to be entered on the racing sheet for that race in order to be scored.
2. The Protests by Bruce Vanderlaan were reported to have been denied in all particulars. A written opinion was received from the Protest Committee to the Fleet Captain. Dave Roseman expressed the hope that the turmoil in the fleet and the inordinate amount of time committed to these protests was finally over. Mr. Vanderlaan advised the fleet that he has already appealed the decision to the next level.
3. Dues of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) were established. The dues are to be paid by May 1st with checks written out to Gary L. Nicholson, the fleet Treasurer. The following members paid their dues at this meeting; LeHay, Sisson, Best, Arnold and Nicholson. It was also determined that one boat had one vote in fleet matters even if there were multiple owners. The boat owners have to determine among themselves who gets to cast the vote. The dues are \$15.00 per boat. If anyone else wants to contribute, i.e., co-owners or crew members, they are welcome to do so but not required.
4. It was stressed that the bands on the mast and boom are required to be painted as opposed to taped. The proper location of the bands is described in the rule book.
5. Rule changes - Dave Roseman proposed rule changes regarding electronic equipment and roller furling to clarify the language. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.
6. Sailing instructions - The sailing instructions were reviewed by Fleet Captain Samuel and passed out to all present. General discussion was held and comments and questions were answered.

It was suggested by Roseman that each skipper take responsibility for an individual race so that responsibility for race organization can be passed around to the fleet. No action was taken at this time.

7. Social activities - Tony Sisson, Social Chairman, reported that the first potluck dinner would be held May 21st at the Sisson's home. Tony reports that 75-80 people are active in the fleet. The Muskegon Yacht Club has invited the fleet and its members to dinner at their club which is served Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Sisson is also organizing Sunday evening "rafting parties" and more information will be provided.
8. Lake Michigan series on Sundays - Bill DeHomme! is organizing and will furnish further information about Sunday Lake Michigan races. They will start sometime after July 4th. The Point Sauble race is scheduled for Sunday, July 4, 2004.
9. Things for the good of the fleet -
 1. Tom Sturr presented a mission statement for the fleet to review and it will be taken up at the next meeting.
 2. Jack Patterson asked to approach the PYC Board to request that the Ensign fleet numbers be listed in the yearbook. It was determined that it was too late for this year but will be considered for next year.
 3. Larry Best raised an issue regarding Bruce Vanderlaan's "disruption of the fleet" including the filing of what he terms "harassing and unnecessary protests" involving matters easily resolved by discuss and/or simply inspection of boats. Sisson discussed one of his crew's refusal to participate in races with Vanderlaan because of conduct on the course. Also mentioned was the detrimental effect Mr. Vanderlaan is having on the fleet's morale and the fleet's reputation with other fleets. It was suggested that some sort of discipline be considered. It was reported that after conversations with the rules committee at the ECA, that if there are no bylaw provisions regarding discipline, the only remedy is to deny an individual membership in the fleet if the fleet felt that was appropriate. Motion by Best, seconded by Sisson, to reject Bruce Vanderlaan from consideration for membership in the fleet for the 2004 racing season. A secret ballot was taken without objection; counting supervised by Al Docter, resulting in an affirmative vote of nine (9) in favor and one (1) against. Motion carried. Bruce Vanderlaan will not be allowed to participate in Fleet 70 races for the 2004 racing season.