**Fleet 70 Skipper’s organization meeting minutes 2021 season**

**May 28, 2021**

Attendees: Regatta Chair, Mike Bass, Fleet Captain, Bob Steen, Rear Commodore Sean Coughlin, Doug Nelson, Mike McKearnan, Tom and Lindsay Marriot, Jim Bennett, Al Burmester, Mary Sue Richar, Beth Alderman, Dick Johnson, Larry and Chris Conroy, Nick and Tish Stoyanoff, Pete Zangara and Brad Davis. Apologies to anyone not listed!

Bob opened the meeting to talk about a tentative 2021 race schedule. **The traditional format of Wed. night and Saturday with a 5:00 and 11:45 start was agreed to with the first beer can race to be 6/9 and first championship race to be 6/12.** Although not specifically discussed I am including the original last race date of 8/14 as part of these minutes. There was discussion about the 4th of July and whether to have any race at all given that the lake is likely to be busy. The proposed three-day regatta originally submitted was scrapped for that reason but a Saturday championship race was retained. The originally submitted Tuesday night ride alongs was affirmed and boat skippers were urged to be available to participate to the extent they could. With no changes discussed the originally submitted **start date for Ensign ride alongs remains 6/15.**

**The Fall series was discussed later in the meeting and the conclusion was to wait and see before committing as the club demolition may necessitate the early removal of the docks. More to come as this develops.**

Rain/postponement/cancellation alternatives were discussed in detail. Three options were identified. Double up the following week, run on Sunday, throw out the entire race. Sunday was discussed but concerns about crew reliability for Sunday dismissed this idea. Larry liked the double race the following week alternative, to the extent he offered to buy race committee drinks on those days! Much laughter ensued. Chris brought up the “double whammy” in points if you missed a make up race which others understood and agreed with as a consideration. Larry mentioned that nationals has back-to-back races and if we had any it would be good practice for that. **Ultimately the group settled on the double race format as a make-up for any cancelled championship races.**

Discussion was held regarding racing on Lake Michigan as opposed to Pentwater Lake when possible. Everyone agreed that the big lake would give better experience to those seeking to participate in Nationals. **The conclusion was that PRO’s for each week would be encouraged to evaluate lake conditions and to the extent that Lake Michigan was less the 2’ waves and no stronger breeze than 15-17 to seriously consider holding the race on the big lake.** Discussion on marks being set and working to find a motor boat to set the windward mark was held and hopes that either Schuttlebutt or Jim Bennett might be available ahead of race time to set the mark. In a worst case scenario we could use the offshore fleet race marks alone without a windward mark.

The offshore fleet has decided that they may race some Sundays, possibly three, and there is **hope for Ensign sailors to take the opportunity to crew as they can. Sunday afternoon Sunfish races may cause an issue for some to participate.**

Hosting Nationals 2023 was discussed at length. Chris noted that it would be good for the fleet, good for the PYC and good for the community. She added that she didn’t feel that it had to be run by one single person. Mike Bass agreed noting that there would really be five leaders, each a committee head. A marketing committee for the booklets and advertising, which Nick Stoyanoff headed last time, a social and planning committee that several people were involved with last time including Chris and Mary Sue, a registration/rules/judging/measuring committee that Andy Noble was heavily involved in last time, a Finance committee that Sean volunteered on the spot to head for 2023 and a MIKE, I NEED HELP ON THE FIFTH COMMITTEE?

Much discussion ensued including relating many positive and supportive comments from Board members, new members looking to get involved and this year’s renewed emphasis and focus on sailing in general. Sean commented that “we should do this, we’re a yacht club” as well as that the Ensign fleet is, in many ways, Pentwater Yacht Club. Larry pointed out that Sean will be Commodore in 2023 and his enthusiasm and support will be very beneficial in putting on a successful nationals. It was also pointed out that the club will have a new building to show off by then!

Doug was supportive, emphasizing the need for wide spread involvement and how that will help “divide and conquer” all of the work that will need to be done. His feeling was many folks were willing to help out as needed.

In conclusion, the fleet felt good about continuing with our bid to Ensign National to host the 2023 Ensign Nationals at PYC.

Bob briefly mentioned the September banquet and Mike noted that the banquet would be handled by the Regatta Chair/Committee.

Mike reported on the Sailing Academy and the Crew development class. He shared his plans to build a crew data-base that skippers could access on those occasions that they need crew. Brad noted that we have had several years of crew development class and that including those folks as part of the data base would be helpful. In addition, it might be useful to analyze the prior attendee list to see how many attendees are currently participating as crew. His point being that it is up to us as skippers to take the next step in the development of crew and actually use them as crew. Even if that’s only on a Wed. night race to give them additional experience.

He noted that the Tuesday night ride along idea had been Jodi’s and that she had taken the crew class. She noticed that not many of her fellow participants were regularly participating as crew and felt the Tuesday night would give these folks one additional opportunity to gain experience, confidence and exposure to skippers.

Jordan revealed the new membership directory cover that features Ensigns sailing past the club.

Mike brought up the youth boat and if anyone had any information on whether it was going to be splashed this year. The hope is that youth can be identified that would be interested AND available to use it. The group threw out several names but there was concern that work schedules might prohibit good use of the boat. If participants can be identified the suggestion of using the youth boat on Tuesday nights was made for instruction outside the race environment.

The meeting was adjourned. Minutes by Brad Davis. Corrections/clarifications welcomed/encouraged.