

DULUTH YACHT CLUB
FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
October 20, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: By Commodore Eric Thomas at ~10:00 at the Kitchi Gammi Club

ATTENDEES: 28 members, representing 20 boats

MINUTES FROM LAST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Copies of minutes distributed to each table. The secretary intends to have minutes posted on the DYC website prior to future meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nick D'Aloia provided a comprehensive itemization of all DYC fiscal activity between October 20, 2006 and October 19, 2007. Thank you for a great job, Nick! The DYC spent \$2,700 this year on Committee boat repair. The membership discussed pros and cons of maintaining a Committee boat with no changes proposed in this matter.

OLD BUSINESS: Year-End Review by Committees

Membership Committee: David Turnham reported on overall increase in membership in DYC. The Club appreciates all those who have welcomed new participants in the DYC and have encouraged crew hands to hold memberships as well.

Scoring: Several new boats came out to race this year. The JAM class had the largest number of new boats. Things look hopeful for an even larger JAM class next year. Steve Henry noted that one of the DYC boats actually raced in a different class each series, doing very well in each!

Racing: The membership confirmed the continued existence of problems in race course management. Problems are noted whether we have a paid Committee boat crew managing the course or individual race boat crews alternating in the task of handling the Committee boat or use of one of the sailboats. A lengthy discussion yielded brainstorming about possible strategies which will be listed under New Business.

Social: Krister Mattson noted that it was a good year for Socials for the DYC, within the confines of the space available at our Clubhouse for such events. A hearty thanks to all boats who sponsored socials after races. New "Annual" social events such as the "*Buckley Chili Feed*" and "*SweetWater Gumbo*" are welcomed.

Trans-Superior: Dale Hedtke congratulates Keith Stauber on behalf of the DYC on winning the Trans. Expenses on the Trans-Superior were in two areas; race tracking and the banquet. There were 800,000 hits on the Race Tracking system! The Trans banquet was a great success! We did a little better than breaking even (\$125+) which was the only financial goal of the event.

Short-handed sailing appears to be the direction of the future for the Trans-Superior. Dale reports that there were 22 Trans-Superior hats sold at \$100/each, the value having risen after being signed by the architects of the Trans race, Jack Soetebier and Dr. John Pierpont.

Leading Edge: Extra copies available at this meeting for members.

Ratings: No report.

House & Dock: No report.

Protest: No report.

Newsletter: No report.

Historian: No report.

Website: No report.

DSSA: Jim Sharrow reported on the success of the Duluth Superior Sailing Assn's 2007 season. DSSA taught 41 adults and 28 kids to sail this summer. There were 838 sailing days and 3000 sailing hours on the water. DSSA thanks the DYC for the gift of \$3000 last year. The usual gift of \$1500 was augmented by an additional \$1500 as "seed" money to establish programming to allow for folks who are able to pay for the sailing lessons to do so. A motion to gift \$1500 to DSSA again this year was carried unanimously.

The biggest challenge for the DSSA this season was the low water level. DSSA was unable to participate with Courage Duluth because the accessible boat couldn't get close enough to the dock in the shallow water. DSSA does have a new 26" draft boat coming for next year.

Jim Sharrow and Dale Hedtke (as Board Member of DSSA) report on potential fund raising events for DSSA, such as a "gear exchange" perhaps in conjunction with a "boat auction" at the same site. Such an event would likely occur late April or early May.

Jim Sharrow also provided update on the status of the future Duluth Boat Club building. The sand from the dredging of the harbor this summer has been dumped at the site and is adequate to build upon. The Boat Club is compared to Hartley Nature Center in that it will take years to develop. Several affiliated organizations are involved in this together. Questionnaires will go to the organizations to ascertain the needs and desires of each for the plan of said construction. Major fund raising will commence spring 2008.

NEW BUSINESS:

Issues of Race Course Management:

- 1) To have the committee boat make its' intentions known well enough in advance for faster race boats
- 2) To have the Board review the decision making process regarding when to go out on the Lake and when to stay in the Harbor. The safety of the smaller boats should offer guidance with that.
- 3) What criteria will determine whether a shortened race for the larger JAM class should be implemented on any given night?
- 4) Might a Race "chairman" on one of the racing boats be able to communicate with the Committee boat regarding conditions that warrant a change in length of course?
Would a second boat make the decision making easier?
- 5) Would DYC membership be interested in a "fun" Triangle Race on the Lake ending by the breakwater in which boats would anchor and dinghy to shore?

Brainstorming -- Paid Committee Boat Crew vs. Shared Responsibility for Committee Boat

- 1) There was much discussion surrounding the notion that the DYC might be able to either use the paid staff of the DSSA or conscript the students of the DSSA to man the Committee boat for Race Nights. In summary, Jim Sharrow advises the DYC that he cannot confirm that DSSA staff persons would be interested or willing to agree to such an arrangement. Nor would the students necessarily find that an appealing offer as their interest is, of course, to sail. The DSSA Mission is to teach sailing, not race committee boat handling for DYC.

- 2) Discussion on issue of having a paid Committee boat crew vs. alternating between race boat crew members. More favor seems to be toward having a consistent Committee Boat crew. The problem remains, however, of how to curvy interest in such a paid crew. Sailors want to race, not man the Committee boat. As we are aware, the weekend races do not use a Committee boat at all.
- 3) Might DYC host “Dryland” Clinics during winter months so that sailors become more educated about such things as the flag sequences, criteria for when to shorten the course, when to change course? To ensure consistency, perhaps have a “cheat” sheet in the briefcase that goes on the Committee boat.
- 4) Might we develop an Independent Study program, or Internship for 1 credit, with UWS, for example?
- 5) Might we promote the job of Committee boat crew as an attractive, desirable, even prestigious position with “cool” jackets, etc.? A position that applicants would “try out” for. A job that would appeal to some younger, very responsible person(s).
- 6) Might an organization such as the Power Squadron yield some potential applicants? Perhaps DYC should be looking for motor boat aficionados, as opposed to sailors. Paul Buckley and Tim Buck volunteered to talk to the Power Squadron regarding their level of interest in Committee boat management.
- 7) Steve Townsend volunteered to help provide training for Committee boat crew.
- 8) Whether using a paid Committee boat crew, or race boat crews, the DYC membership present expressed the need to give whoever is on the Committee boat their strong support. We want to avoid making the job of the Committee boat crew untenable such that we cannot keep them.
- 9) We could survey the entire DYC membership with a questionnaire via ZoomerangSurvey.com.

GOALS FOR 2008:

Training for Committee boat crew/Professional Committee boat crew?
 Add boats to the DYC
 Add winter activities to DYC, eg. Christmas party? February party? April/Spring meeting?

Nominating Committee offers the following for the new Board. All were voted in to office unanimously:

Commodore—	Kris Henry
Vice-Commodore –	Tim Buck
Treasurer—	Robin Ketchen
Board Members—	Amy Carlson
	Lauri Shefchik
	Mark Darby
Returning Board Members:	Paul Danielson
	Derron Jones
	Steve Diamond
	Ardys Richards, Secretary

Volunteers for the Nominating Committee for 2008 are:

Paul Buckley, Nelson Thomas, Mark Shefchik, Krister Mattson and Nick D’Aloia

Meeting Adjourned at ~12:15.

Submitted by DYC Secretary, Ardys Richards