

Race Calendar Town Hall Notes

Attendees: Ray Shull, Steve Pervier, Cheryl Pervier, Linda Donovan, Danny Lien, Jorge Maritine de Nicolas, Ed Pierce, Fred Schroth, Claudia Bartlett, John Bartlett, Thomas Young, Ed Taylor, John Maddaloza, Tom Groll; Hosted by Terry Schertz (RC)

Fleets Represented: Ensigns, PRF A&B, J-PRE, J80, Laser, Melges-15

After a presentation describing the 'formula' for creating the annual race calendar, there was a good discussion about what to tweak in the current formula to make it even better. The discussion was not just with me, but amongst the whole group about ideas.

Series racing-

- General series design: Naturally, some wanted shorter series and some wanted longer series.
- All were OK with the length of the series not being restricted to 6 to match the number of fleets so each fleet would have just one RC duty day.
- All were OK with filling in the calendar instead of having as many empty weekends.
(Terry: *I did this on the draft calendar*)
- Most were good with a suggestion that there not be an EOS meal after every series, just heavy hors d'oeuvres * and beer and wine is fine!
- Most were OK with the summer racing break in August through Labor Day that was introduced last year.
- One bigger change that was introduced in this discussion and seemed to resonate with many in the room was making the Summer Series a Saturday evening start with less formal courses (fewer RC required). The thoughts were that this would encourage more social / family hanging out at the club without quite the demand for volunteers. Encourage picnics. Make the grill and refrigerator available to anyone who wants to use it. Etc.
- Suggestion for a weekend day for Centerboard Series on the opposite day of the Keel Series Racing. More like Wednesday night racing – all RTB, Start/Finish in the middle.
(Terry: *Most growth in the club is in the dinghies, so well worth it to put some attention on this kind of support.*)
- Concern raised about the number of RC that it takes to run the RTB and LD courses. No specific solutions offered, but just that it takes a lot. Fleets racing RTB do not want to race LD courses and vice-versa. Supporting both on the lake at the same time takes more RC.

Beer Can – The Friday Beer Can Racing was supported by all. It is a good tradition!

- Suggested that the burgers on the grill part be updated with some variations. Felt it had grown stale and not that many people stayed for it anymore. *

- Suggested putting an emphasis on ‘the crew bench’ and taking out new members.
(Terry: *Maybe some kind of bonus in time if a boat has a new member on board?*)

Regattas –

- All were supportive of Regattas that stay put on the Calendar.
- Instead of a ‘formula’ weekend (i.e. – between two series), it might be better to use a set weekend like ‘the second weekend in May’. That is more in keeping with other regattas like Wurstfest that everyone can count on.
- One preference was that the weekend before a big regatta not be a series race weekend. Reason was to provide time for boat work, etc.
- Desire to include circuit stops for the J22 and J24 fleets in conjunction with Gov Cup. The current time slot of early May for Gov Cup may not work well for those fleets, so some negotiation needed. Lake Travis will always be on-again, off-again due to the water level, so it will be hard to get this to be a routine circuit stop like it was in the past.
- Might be able to include a J80 State Championship in the Gov Cup and get some travelers to join us.
- Desire expressed for a spring Centerboard Regatta. The Lucky Charm was started two years ago for a March date near St. Patrick’s Day. That has been a bit difficult to get settled due to other events near there. One suggestion was to change it to a one-day regatta the Saturday before Mother’s Day and call it the Lucky Mom Regatta. (Terry: *maybe a Friday evening + Saturday regatta?*)
- Another suggestion was to make Gov Cup a two-weekend regatta like Wurstfest with Centerboards one weekend and Keel the next.
- Comment: One-day regattas do not have the ‘regatta’ feel. It’s just another day of series racing. Make regattas more unique and focus on marketing them.
- AYC should be very welcoming to travelers leaving their boats at the club for multiple regattas (Easter Laser, Lucky Charm or whatever this becomes). We have the room to be accommodating and do not need to make extra money to do this.
- Several people wanted to reconsider TurnBack now that the lake level is up. Requires coordinating with Lago Fest for both date and our participation.
- Might want to consider adding a Women’s Regatta.
- Terry: *Might be best to return the Multifest Regatta to just Multihulls. The attempt to blend the Monohulls into the event has not been a success.*

***Food** – although not the topic of this town hall, it has a strong connection to the participation in series and hanging out at the club. Suggestions for more ‘fun’ options were a pizza machine, popcorn machine and a more ‘designed’ bar.