Sound Rower Annual Meeting 12/6/14

## Attendance

Tyler Peterson

Todd Silver

Peter Hirtle

Steve Bennett

Vern and Janet Heikkila

Jeff Wong

Bill Jaquette

Shane Baker

Terrie Ragins

Traci Cole

Kim George

Skip Johnson

Steve Wells

Steve Chapin

Tom Kreyche

Michael Lampi

Greg Gilda

Debbie Natelson

Al Mackenzie

Paul Rollinger

Steve Bennett passed around the minutes from last year.

Meeting called to order by Tyler at 10:05.

Motion to approve minutes. Addition – Shane Baker was to hit his 300th race at Budd Inlet, and he indeed did so. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s report.

Question: what are overhead expenses. A: bullets at the top – website, stipends, insurance.

Expenses slightly higher this year, so was the revenue.

Lake Samish did pay last year, delay in processing, sent to wrong address. Payment for this year in process.

Motion to approve the financial summary. Approved unanimously.

Insurance report. Same insurance company as last year, no rate change.

## Race reports:

LaConner: 91 participants, staggered start, mostly positive feedback on that. One participant hard on hearing. Starting sequence will be on the web site to accommodate. Sequence template will be on the LaConner page. Will be good to standardize our starting sequence.

 Bellingham: Well run race, rough water, people pealed off early (1 lap instead of 2) due to conditions.

Jetty Island: Peter raced it himself, cold water, calm at first, then a wall of wind developed, some paddle boarders needed to be rescued. Search and rescue people handled it well.

Lake Whatcom: Typical wind. Peter Hirtle: not a fan of staggered start. Same to Tyler. It’s up to the race director what’s the safest. Steve Bennett: can always request to be moved to a different group. Traci cole motion to have racers request a week ahead of time the same. Motion passed. Hirtle: Race announcements on website to make the option available. Cole: Tag races on Facebook as to which races will have staggered starts.

Commencement Bay: Biggest expense: Portapotties. Parks fee may Increase to $150. $89 fee currently covered by T Silver.

Sammamish. Smooth . Two safety boats. Discovery pass is a barrier to the entrants. Construction in progress. Dock may be in place by race date this year.

Rat Island: Popular race, great site. Problem: organizers take a long time before awards, people need to leave. Steve hopes he will be able to speed it up this year, complicated by the addition of the short course this year, staggered start may help. Cool race, great organization. Locals want staggered start, paddlers want mass start. Slower people can stay behind at the start to minimize interference. Two collisions last year – Mercer involving a dragon boat. Bottom line – it’s up to the race director whether to do mass or staggered start. Race director should tell racers to stay clear. There is a skeleton of race director pre-race speech, if people have updates, send them to Traci.

Greg Gilda will modify the speech for this year.

Drafting: Peter – kayakers need to learn how to draft, and be allowed to draft off other types of boats. Rowers like drafters on their sterns. SteveB – race directors should not be allowed to prohibit drafting. Not known why Samish does not allow it. Samish is uniquely different, but all races are different. Drafting should be allowed as a baseline rule, restricting drafting is an additional rule.

T-shirts – can Rat Island sell them at the race? Or include in race fee? Suggestion to keep fee low, t-shirt additional, have them made of tech material, not cotton. SR logo should be on the shirt. Maybe offer hats.

Elk River: Sunshine coast of WA, good weather, no entry fee for members, tide is a challenge, this is the last year – 20th year of the race. Few rules, free camping at Hiekkilas, oyster shooters after the race, not a good idea to have shooters before the race.

Ross Island: Well run, race will be on Sunday rather than Saturday, will still keep it early for power boat related safety. The race should continue as a SR race. 4 safety launches.

Motion to approve Ross to be a permanent race. Approved.

Round Shaw: Good race this year. SUP in it for the 1st time, finished w/o incident. Weather good but slow. One shell rescue resulted in boat damage. Race talk at the beginning should warn about rip tides around points. Joost will direct this year, but this is his last year. Peter would like know what ferries to take. Two campsites were reserved, confusion whether people needed to pay for camping. Refunds were made for people who paid, park ranger was very supporting and accommodating. Will continue this year as before.

Cross-Sound: Race went well, was fairly calm.

Bainbridge: went better than last year, everyone finished, negotiations with the new park director, who wanted us to reserve the shelter, was upset we did not, is concerned about parking. Steve put $26 down for parking, the park director was satisfied. Longer short course was a more pleasant experience. Don’t want a choice of course for the short course.

Budd Inlet: Peter is looking for more support, help with iPad, will direct again this year, good conditions this year.

Samish: Great race, not clear when the start was going to be, no audible signals, new race director this year.

Mercer Island: rough this year.

## Race Schedule

LaConner needs some help day of race – partner to transition.

Schedule is on the web site.

Cross Sound is on Aug 22

Commencement Bay May 16

Elk River switching to Sunday July 26, cruise on Saturday.

Motion to approve schedule. Approved.

Shane is frustrated with race schedule. Issue is lack of communication between RDs and Shane.

## New Races

### Lake Wenatchee proposal.

This year it was on Sat 10/4, 5.5 mi long course, 2.5 mi short course. Lincoln Rock State Park, camp there, BBQ to follow. Lake Entiat, state park to Turtle Rocks (short) or to Guamo Rocks (long).

The club there is insured. Trip to there is long. 10 am start. Discover Pass required. Great trail system connecting state parks along the river.

The race have been done for 23 years, club has plenty of experience at it. They now have a rowing program, surf skis, canoes, a typical SR mix. Class 1 race, protected water, minimal current in the fall.

Questions: why do they need SR – short race, far away. Club has had a need to grow, park owners need more participation. 11 would be a better start time for people far away. Can the race be extended? It can be, the weather is quiet, no problem with later start. The venue is 2.5 hrs from Seattle.

Can the date be changed to mid-summer? The weather is not as good (hot), the area is busy with tourists then.

Proposed date is 10/3/2015.

Moved to approve the race. Approved. Will add the race to our insurance. Will be a provisional race in 2015, then will vote on whether to add it as permanent next year.

### Old Cascade Distance race proposal.

Renton Rowing Center, based next to Boeing.

What dates? Mid-summer – too much power boat traffic. What distance(s)? The club has a jr program, kids do shorter races. Do an experimental race next year? Do an off-the books race, come up with a race plan, present it next year.

### Port Angeles proposal.

For the next year a provisional race, not ready for an SR presentation. Tyler will be in contact with them.

## Web Site and Web Scorer

Day of race surcharge seemed to encourage pre-race registration.

Proposal to add a new stipend position of the web scorer specialist. Individual race directors do not use boat classes consistently. People doing scoring once a year do not remember how to correct mistakes. People do not fill registration forms completely, creating data entry issues. Pre-registration makes it easier. Stipend similar to that of the webmaster of photographer. Could define it per race.

Don’t have a person in mind.

Advertise the position, see if we can find a candidate. Start with Jeff Knakal’s daughter. Stipend $40/race. Motion. Approved.

Traci will change the platform to Wordpress, looking to retire after this year. Need a new person.

## Publicity

First year for the publicist. Tried to promote it on facebook, sent out fliers, hard to say where our new people are coming from. Local paper articles are picked up by Row2K, and that is great publicity. Perhaps send a small stock letter / press release to local papers. With Times/PI you get on the weekend calendar. OarNorthwest are having success with the outdoor columnist.

## Race Schedule Posters

Got business cards last year, they go to each race. All posters went out quickly last year. Looking for a variety in the poster pictures. Order the same number of posters and cards this year.

## Ribbons

Shane needs permission to have more ribbons made. Continue with the same ribbons (small 1st place ones).

## WWTA Membership

Renew the membership, request they put our logo on their site.

## Other New Business

### Coastal Rowing

Rowing Federation governing body put their support behind coastal rowing. Dimensions are very different from the North American open water boats – shorter, fatter, heavier. USRowing hired a director for coastal rowing. Coastal rowing involves beach starts and finishes.

Steve Wells wants to propose to USRowing to have a class for SR type open water boats.

Traci will add “Coastal Rowing” to the metadata on our web site.

The goal is to make USRowing aware of us, and permit us to race our type boats.

Steve and Tyler will form a committee and send a letter to USRowing.

### Proposal for new set of class of hybrid sail boats.

Tom Kreyche circulated a proposal to allow pedal boats with sails.

Questions about insurance coverage, the sail boats tacking and creating safety issues.

Will another organization be co-sponsoring this? No.

Objections that our club is a human-powered watercraft class.

### Maybe have one race allowing this class.

Proposal to have Tom investigate this with individual race directors, and see how it goes.

Motion approved.

### Question about a new type race

Adventure relay race – OC1, SUP, Surf Ski, Rowing, every participant has to do all 4 legs.

Yes, there is interest in it.

Steve Wells will work on a proposal.

### Shane wants to unload the race schedule task.

Don Keisling will be taking it over.

## Nominations for Offices

Motion to re-nominate all the officers. Approved.

Board members: Don’s and Janet’s terms expire this year. New members: Bill Jaquette and Kim George. Motion passed.

## Logo

Nothing happened with it since the last annual meeting.

## Member’s death

Dean Williams died this year. The club made up awards in his owner.

## Pat Johnson

Had a successful heart transplant, will be racing again this year.

Adjourned at 1:36.