# Sound Rowers 2016 Annual Meeting, December 3, 2016

Meeting called to order by Tyler at 10:04.

Attendance: Steve Wells, Bill Jaquette, Skip Johnson, Kim George, Alex Parkman, Shane Baker, Terrie Regins, Vadim Kin, Greg Gilda, Bela Kovacs, Mary Harper, Steve Bennett, Kevin Olney, Jeff Wong, Jon Howard, Peter Hirtle, Todd Silver, Jeff Knakal, Rod Sturnagel, Carrie Weiss, Tyler Peterson

Went around the table with introductions.

Financial summary was distributed.

Minutes from 2015 were distributed.

Motion to approve the minutes carried.

## Treasurer’s report:

Overall good year. Jeff Knakal explained how per race overhead was calculated, works out to be $139.57 per race.

Not all races need to make money. Guano Rocks sent the club a $180 donation, which is appreciated but not necessary. The races need to target breaking even.

Shaw Island expenses were the park department fee, the rest of the expenses were absorbed by the race director.

A lot of people paid their membership dues through PayPal, which seemingly resulted in higher membership numbers. It is easier for the Treasurer if people renew through PayPal.

A new race director last year was not entered as a member, he needs to contact the membership chairperson to correct that.

Total membership count is TODO.

The club iPad has been found. Peter Hirtle has an iPad with WebScorer on it, race directors are welcome to it when the club iPad is not available. Jeff Knakal has one as well. Also, results can be entered from the web site, an iPad is not required for that.

Our license limits us to 5 devices. If one has the login, one can boot an inactive device.

## VP for Legal and Insurance report:

Vadim is resigning this year.

Duties of the VP include insurance and Coast Guard permits.

Insurance has been renewed for 2017, no changes.

Discussion about alternate race dates. It was recommended that race directors submit alternate dates to the VP, and the VP will apply for CG permits for alternate dates in addition to the primary dates. Race directors will need to contact CG when a race is not run on a given date and let them know that.

## Web Site and Tech Report:

Running smoothly. Most race directors are using the web scorer.

Shane: annual meeting does not show up on the race schedule when using a mobile device. Tyler to raise the question with Traci.

Discussion about an annual race entry fee. One time annual fee would allow one to race in every race. Not much of a financial incentive for the club. Tyler recommends not to do it this year. We will collect the data this year, and consider it in the future. Michael Lampi will be in charge if this.

## Recruiting new volunteers:

People at the table have all contributed. How do we involve new people? Not a complicated club, commitment is relatively low.

We need a mentorship program. Need someone like a volunteer coordinator or a new race director coordinator. We lost a race in Portland because they did not have enough help from us. Need a place on the web site to sign up as a volunteer.

Race directors need to find people willing to take over, this seems to be one successful way. Race directors need to make announcements at award ceremonies to recruit volunteers or new race directors.

Race descriptions need to include announcements to recruit volunteers for the races.

Most races do not have umbrella clubs sponsoring those races to draw volunteers from.

## Races:

La Conner – have to rent Pioneer Park $100 for restroom, as well as Shelter Bay pavilion. Attendance slightly lower, Skagit Bay S&R wonderful, town support has been great, still looking for 2017 Race Director. Asking Traci to make search for RD prominent on race announcement web page. Possibly ask OARS to take over. Wave start (paddle boards 15 min early, rowers, then the rest a minute or 2 after rowers) seems to work. Racers somewhat less enthusiastic (want to race against everyone at once). Web scorer worries due to infrequent (once a year) use, but absolutely required for scoring waves and early starts.

BBRW – Rescheduled due to weather, race was well managed, went well. One racer was on a wrong course (collision course), chase boat told him to change the course. He did not want to comply, Peter (RD) does not want him at the race again. The race will be on the 18th next year.

JI – Peter will run it again, possibly a modified course. 2016 race was good. The problem with the course is mud flats – will tide be high enough to clear them.

LW – Heather and Brandon emailed, will run the race next year. Mass start, plenty of room for it.

CB – Went well. Metro Parks increased the fee ($250). Conditions were good.

LS – Went well. A bunch of construction in the park, launch area changed, may be a change of start. New shelter area is great. Water was a bit rough. One chase boat did not make it.

RI – Wow. Well managed, huge, managed by the local club, the water was rolly.

ER – Went well. 30 boats, 35 people, good tides. Will move it 1 week due to tides. Cannot do it in the afternoon, Brady’s Oysters close early.

Shaw – Need a spreadsheet next year, no Internet on Shaw. Next year is the 40th anniversary of the race. Herb wants to do t-shirts, but will need to charge for the race then. Impossible to have safety boats. Maybe have an announcement on the web site for someone to show up with a power boat, to go around the Island in the opposite direction. Have Traci promote it on social media. Have info on the web site on places to land and call for help. Discussion about buying more smoke flares. Perhaps make it a requirement to carry smoke flares.

Peter Hirtle offered help with WebScorer, for this race and others.

Discussion about online wavers. Traci was not sure about those.

CS – The night before the forecast was OK, race day was S wind, flood tide, rough around the island, some people turned around. One newby went despite RD’s recommendation. Jeff wants this race to not be your first SR race, or to prove to him that they are capable. Faster racers finish in 1hr, slower people take 2hrs. People spread out over the width of the channel, making chase boat coverage difficult.

BIM – Really good day. Went out of Fort Ward this year. 4 cars in Fay Bainbridge parking lot this year. Steve wants to buy 25 smoke flares. Flares will be wrapped in Ziploc bags and can then be taped to the boats. Steve will introduce a cancellation protocol for the race, will be cancelled if there is a small craft advisory forecasted the night before, and the race will be rescheduled.

BI – Jeff’s first year. Predictions of 11 mph winds, Vancouver Lake did not send the boats out. Jeff will require life jackets. Two DNFs.

LS – Extremely well run, 140 boats, got rid of the hot spots, 50 kids racing in the pond section, Steve Bennett says we need to express appreciation to Steve Hoggins – the new race director. The race made money for the Bellingham club, this fact needs to be transparent. Tyler will communicate with the race director. Wave starts (4 or 5 waves) were good. A lot of Canadian rowers. Not enough mention of Sound Rowers. Not enough shirts. RD from that club does not show up to SR annual meeting. Whatcom Paddlers represents a substantial volunteer base, we need to make an effort to involve them. Tyler will make the calls.

GR – Wind down this year, no safety issues. Rowers were fine this year with the life jacket requirement. Will continue with the BBQ. Had one safety boat. Considering having more boats in the future. A safety boat will tow an SUP.

MI – Would like to have 3 inflatable buoys next year to mark the course. Seattle Parks does not notify Seattle Police about the race, will do next year. Seattle Police stepped up to assist in rescues. Difficulty level 2 can easily escalate to 3, and this needs to be added to the web site. Peter Hirtle – the difficulty level was 3, 2-3 foot chop on the long course through the high rises. The short course was also rough. Dragon boat got in trouble. Perhaps the dragon boat club could have their own chase boat.

## Race Schedule 2017:

La Conner Feb 4

Bellingham Bay March 25

Jetty Island April 1

Lake Whatcom May 6

Commencement Bay May 20

Rat Island June 3

Budd Inlet June 17

Lake Samamish July 8

Elk River Aug 5

Shaw Aug 12

Cross Sound Aug 26

Bainbridge Island Sep 9

Lake Samish Sep 23

Guano Rocks Sep 30

Mercer Island Oct 7

Annual Meeting Dec 2

Schedule approved.

Terrie: Manchester race tentatively July 22, not a Sound Rowers race

## Publicity

Some races were up, some were down. OC participation has been down, don’t know why. Terrie has an email list from PNWORCA. Terrie contacts the local clubs, handles posters, etc.

Discussion about OC participation. Last year PNWPRCA put 97 boats on the water in January. We need to target those people. Steve Bennett will put the list together.

People who have good ideas where to send race invitations or race posters need to contact Terrie or Tyler.

Deadline for the info on the posters is mid-Jan.

## Ribbons:

Shane will be contacting the race directors, and placing an order for new ribbons in January. Samish do their own ribbons.

## WWTA membership

We pay them $100, we feel good about it, and our logo is on their site. We will continue it this year.

## Safety

2016 has been bumpier than previous years, a number of people swimming.

We are asking RDs to collect information when a capsize occurs. Tyler will come up with a form. The purpose is to look for patterns, see what we can improve.

Jeff Knakal suggests that in case of capsize, assistance from other racers, injury, etc, the the RD needs to fill out an incident report. The form is on the web site under RD resources. DNFs should result in incident reports as well.

Tyler will review the incident report form and send it to the board for comments.

Codify that each race can have a safety committee that can raise red flags, take boats out of the race, cancel the race. Good role for board of trustees, they would have the authority to do these things.

Can WebScorer send bulk emails when a race is cancelled? Yes, it can be done, or email addresses can be downloaded.

Add safety committee meeting, incident report, encouraging volunteers bullets to the pre-race checklist.

Steve Bennett handed out a safety writeup, calling for race cancellation in small craft advisory conditions. Discussion followed. Tyler and the board will come up with the language on the club policy on holding, canceling, postponing and altering races in challenging weather conditions.

## Race Gear Review:

Steve Bennett wants to buy 25 smoke flares, for use at Bainbridge, Shaw and possibly others. Steve and Tyler will discuss what to buy. 3 flares are $56.

Jeff will check the CO2 cartridges on the life jackets.

Peter Hirtle has buoys that can be borrowed.

Michael Lampi talked about the camera. The waterproof case is on its last leg, a new one will be $300. He will buy a new case at his discretion. He also described the new technology (HDR) available in modern cameras.

Jeff Wong: will online wavers be sufficient? WebScorer response is that yes, it can be done, participants have to electronically sign in two places. Question, it this legal? USRowing is doing something like that.

Jeff Wong: how long do we keep the wavers? He has them for the past 8 months. Tyler thinks we should keep them for a year.

## New Business:

Masters games in New Zealand next year. Peter Turkan asked about SR sponsorship for it for next year. Steve Wells is concerned that SR will get nothing out of it, we are not an official club, Peter will be listed “unaffiliated”.

Stickers. Steve Bennett wants them to say “Sound Rowers”, not “Sound Rowers and Paddlers”. We have voted on that in the past. Tyler to order more stickers. They will say Sound Rowers.

## Election of Officers:

VP of legal and insurance is open.

Other officers are staying, but are open to other people running.

Greg Gilda nominated for VP of Insurance and legal.

Board of Directors: Peter Hirtle’s and Steve Wells’ terms are expiring, need two new people. Peter Hirtle and Kevin Olney were voted in.

Adjourned at ~2:40.