**Minutes of the Sound Rowers Annual Meeting 2013**

In attendance: Tyler Peterson, Peter Turcan, Don Kiesling, Traci Cole, Shane Baker, Terrie Ragins, Vadim Kin, Bill Jaquette, Steve Bennett, Steve Wells, Greg Gilda, Alex Parkman, Jonathan Spencer, Xander Spencer, Michael Lampi, Tom Kreyche, Liz Longworth, Greg Spooner, Jordan Hanssen, Jen Butler

True to his promise Tyler started the meeting on time.

1. Reading and Review of the minutes: Approved without comment.

2. Treasurers report: We are down $300 from a year ago. We have $10,732.32. Tyler and Jeff are generally happy with the balance sheet which offers flexibility.

* Short discussion about Lake Samish’ s compliance with procedures, vs. race director independence. Nothing large. Tyler will work at communications

3. Insurance report: Vadim will be working to change the term to better reflect our season. He will cancel the current policy which runs until July 30, and start a new one starting the first of the year.

4. Vadim will be sending out permit requests again. All applications were permitted this year. The process remains crazy and inconsistent as the Coast Guard lends a tin ear, and regularly changes its policies. No permits will be required for inland races.

* Do we SR have it documented what permits are required for each race? Vadim will put this together.

5. Race reports:

LaConner: Greg expressed concern about expenses; looking for someone to take over the race. Thank you Skagit Bay Search and Rescue; you have helped make this race easier. Regarding the staggered start, Greg gets complaints either way – is inclined to continue with a staggered start.

Bellingham Rough Water: Per note from Peter: Went well despite the roughest water ever. Plenty of safety and Whatcom rescue people.

* Discussion – is it too limited for rowers? Different course for rowers possible? Questions raised none resolved.
* Could/should a race be cancelled? It is perfectly fine to cancel a race if there is a concern that safety is not covered. Race Director have that discretion, and Sound Rowers encourages them to use it.

Jetty Island: The Port of Everett continues to be difficult to deal with. Thank the Sammamish Search & Rescue and the Snohomish County Sheriff or great coverage. Start time is very dependent on the tides at this venue.

Lake Whatcom: Good turnout. Good profit.

Commencement Bay: Profitable because Todd pays for the Porta-Potties. Liked the Web Scorer.

Lake Sammamish: Attendance down. The number of safety boats required by (the Sheriff?) continues to be a pain.

* Discussion- Optical illusion or not, the finish seems lopsided. Could it be flagged or buoyed.

Rat Island: Steve wanted to know if there is a demand for a short course. Yes, we encourage it.

Manchester: Smooth pulling this year. Participation down. Vadim and Martine will not be continuing as RD’s.

* For new race director: The logistics have been easy. The parks have been easy to work with. Finding safety support has been hard. Recommend moving the date to late May or June.

Elk River: Was special as it always is. Despite earlier rumors,Vern and Janet aren’t talking about giving it up yet.

Shaw Island: Tyler commented that it went well. Thanks to Joost Zeegers for taking over, doing the necessary permitting. Thanks too to the parks who were very cooperative this year. So

Great Cross-Sound: The chase boat issue was resolved this year. Thanks to Tyler for help with that.

Bainbridge Marathon: Steve was disappointed in his own performance. Had a breakdown getting to the race, and was thankful to Shane Baker for starting the race without him. No fees were taken. Nonetheless, the participants all seemed to have a good time. There was a problem with the park ranger (this is no longer a state park) who believed that we had reserved the shelter (for about $80) which we have never done. He is very concerned about parking , which has never been a problem. Steve will work with him before next year’s race to see that everyone is happy. Kristian Tollefson is considering helping/taking over this race.

Budd Inlet: Peter would like some help/relief.

Mercer Island: Went well. A dragon boat ran over a kayak. Good finish dukeout between Greg Barton and double surfski.

Lake Samish: No Issues.

6. Race Schedule: There will be a few changes from the schedule on the Agenda.

7. New Races:

Migration of the Minke: Kristian Tollefson proposed a 50 mile ultra marathon around Orcas Island, to be scheduled for August. Discussion considered relay possibilities, choice of direction, 40 miles without the Eastsound loop. Also question if this was the best possible San Juan 50 mile course. Consensus was that we support, but not endorse or include in our official schedule. It was voted to accept the race as a provisional race without SR insurance.

Ross Island Race: Portland on the Willamette River. This race had been planned and discussed for some time. It was approved as a Provisional SR race including SR insurance.

8. OAR NW: Jordan Hanssen and Greg Spooner were by to thank us for past support and to let us know that they are still active, currently working on an adventure education program, and slated to be featured on Dateline NBC.

9. Ski-to-Sea: Our flier promoting SR and the Lake Sammamish race, was included in the Ski-to-Sea packets. It did not result in an overwhelming turnout at Lake Sammamish.

10. Web Scorer: Traci is very happy with how it works, and how it makes her web mastery easier. We still need a paper back up for registration, but it has eased registration for those RD’s using it.

* Discussion . Will they accept an on-line waiver for insurance?
* Vote passed: Raise the race fees $5.00 and reimburse that raise by offering a $5.00 discount to all who pre-register.

Traci will be transitioning (the website?) to Word Press which will make site maintenance easier.

11. Publicity Manager Needed: Terrie Ragins accepted the position. Thank you, Terrie.

12. Ribbons: Vote to approve Shane to spend what is needed.

13. Washington Water Trails: Vote to approve $150 donation.

14. Facebook Page Renew: Terrie will do.

15. Meet-up: Voted to drop our membership.

16. Membership: Our total is 111 members, 19 of whom are RD’s, 4 are seniors, and 17 are family.

* Discussion: should we publish something promoting benefits of membership?
* Should RD’s post the Membership List at races. The list is on the website it is said.
* Is there a problem with people claiming membership?
* Do we care?

17. Photography: Mike Lampi asked “are there too many pictures?” Discussion included appreciation for stroke coaching possible with Mike’s multiples. General consensus – not too many.

18. The Box: Steve said that he had passed the yellow binocs to the Goodwill. He would find another pair to replace them.

19. Election of Officers: The current Officers were re-elected without opposition. New Directors are Peter Hirtle and Steve Wells.

And I believe Tyler came remarkably close to achieving his promise to complete this meeting in under 4 hours. That was no small achievement, and we thank him.

Steve