Sound Rowers Annual Meeting

Saturday November 9, 2019

Lake Washington Rowing Club

# Meeting opened at 10:12am

President Peter Turcan presiding

# Introductions

# Minutes Approval – 2018

Some discussion about items from 2018:

Safety Bag? Theresa finalizing one (not three)

No iPad purchased (see Timing section for discussion and resolution)

Michael Lampi did not update online photography formatting license; will investigate for 2020

Motion to approve minutes: Michael Lampi

Second: Jeff Wong

Unanimous in favor

# Boat Stickers – Peter Turcan

Discussion of effectiveness. Ordered 200, shipped around 110-120.

Smaller for 2020?

Vinyl cling for car windows?

Amber to investigate cheaper alternatives

Plan to issue again for 2020, then re-assess

# Press Coverage – Peter Turcan

Peter contacted local press before/after each race. Labor intensive.

* La Conner: photo and article in La Conner weekly news
* Bellingham Bay Rough Water: listing in calendar only
* Lake Sammamish: article and results published (mostly interested in winners)
* Commencement Bay: article in Suburban Times
* Rat Island: Peninsula Daily News included interview with Steve Chapin

No coverage for other races.

Peter would like to offload. Make responsibility of Race Directors? Peter has established contact list, that could be leveraged by local knowledge.

# Incident Reports – Peter Turcan

Steve Chapin provided excellent report for Rat Island. Jon Harwood provided writeup for Elk River.

Peter would like an incident report for each race, even if the writeup is only “no incidents”

Amber to provide location for reports

# Finance – Jeff Knakal

State of club finances is good; approximately $2000 increase in balance from last year.

Membership dues are up

Race income is up

Insurance fees also up

New sound system only new expense for 2019

Some race directors are personally financing some or all the expenses of their races. This is generous but not required, there are club funds available. Please feel ok to utilize.

PayPal for membership working well, but only about 50% of membership received online

Online payments for races? Webscorer? PayPal? Kevin Olney will look into this. Propose Rat Island as test case for online race registration plus payments.

# Insurance and Permits – Greg Gilda

Insurance for 2019 $2800, up from $2660 in 2018

Coast Guard permits – communication is poor, often not confirmed by Coast Guard until day before race. Attempt to get better response in 2020.

Waivers: one per year? One per race? Paper vs electronic? Greg will check with insurance company for their recommendation. Current recommended procedure: printed waiver for each participant, keep for one year.

# Race Review 2019

Overall note: the fall season saw racing five weekends in a row - this is a bit much and the desire is to spread them out a bit in 2020.

## La Conner

Popular, cold, good food

Start delayed due to congested launch site… no real solution

Question about running with (and against) tides? Basically one direction is usually going to be against the tide, nature of the race

Did we turn around wrong buoy this year? Check with Rod, location of safety boat

## Bellingham Bay

Good race, good food, could have promoted Sound Rowers membership at this early race in the year.

## Lake Sammamish

Well run, not well attended (cold, wet)

Retire race? Alternate location? (Lake Tapps?) incentive to build some flat-water races to draw youth/sprint boats

2020 last year for Michael Lampi

## Lake Whatcom

Popular, well run, good food (ran out!)

## Commencement Bay

Record number of entries (58 boats) – lots of outriggers turned up

Video of finish was VERY HANDY

## Rat Island

Super popular, delay for fog

Two incidents reported

Eights were taking up much needed parking spaces. Volunteers attempting to police the parking area

May need new special event permit with price-per-head. Yikes. Work with Greg and permitting to see if this is actually required.

Some discussion of alternate site, no traction

## Elk River

No incidents, 10 short course racers, 25 long course racers

State late due to bottleneck in restroom

2 safety boats (no radios)

One racer didn’t finish and didn’t check in; they need to do so! Fortunately Jon saw and took note

Brady’s still supportive (thank you Brady’s!)

## Shaw

Ferry is extremely expensive

Decent entries, tighten timing issues

Consider two starts, 10am for slower boats, standard 11am for all the rest

Require PFD? Long, exposed race. Emphasized again the race director is empowered to require PFD’s to be worn

Some discussion of conditions, rips and wakes. More text on race page/website to emphasize?

Peter Turcan brought up suggestion of a Sound Rowers sponsored trailer to pool ferry costs. Possibly SCKC trailer. Scenario to load Friday night, trailer is driven Saturday morning, boats unloaded Saturday evening. Worth investigating.

Discussion of safety boats for long races (esp. Shaw, Bainbridge). Coast Guard? Coast Guard Auxiliary? Sheriff’s department? Sea Dory group? SR rent equipment? Issues of liability and operator training.

## Great Cross Sound

Good race, light attendance, open water swimmers an issue (they were alerted, some chose to ignore)

Is it still the “Great” Cross Sound race if minimally attended? Yes.

## Bainbridge Island

Good race overall, not enough volunteers (timing)

Short course went up west side this year

Legitimate campers on site, not given respect by racers. Please note: while there have not normally been campers in the past, these ARE park campsites for hike/bike users. We do NOT have exclusive rights to the area.

## Budd Inlet

Went well; attendance was light; Jeff a bit distracted due to family health issues, but race went on as planned. Food excellent, weather cooperative this year.

Emphasize importance of proper parking, north side of boathouse. Launch area can be used for drop off and pick up, but do not park there. Jeff to double check that Amber has proper language for website. Shane suggested signage on race day.

Port support is good

Race includes a short course as of 2018

## Lake Samish

Popular, massive, timing good. Food this year not up to standards

No awards (???) except prizes to kids

As in prior years, association with Sound Rowers is loose at best

Incidents with kids in the water?

Peter Turcan to follow up concerning awards and incidents

## Guano Rocks

Cancelled due to winter storm. Considering alternate dates/venues for 2020

## Mercer Island

Good attendance, had chase boats, a couple flips

200+ sausages

Considering starting short course one hour after long course in 2020 to have finishes closer together; also timing crew on duty far too long

Early start for SUPS

Suggest carpooling to dragon boat participants; limited parking is overrun

# Race Schedule 2020

## La Conner: February 1

## Bellingham: March 21

## Lake Sammamish: April 25

## Lake Whatcom: May 2

## Commencement Bay: May 9

## Rat Island: June 13

## Budd Inlet: June 27

## Elk River: July 18

## Shaw Island: August 8 (Carrie Weisse to check on campsite)

## Great Cross Sound: August 22

## Bainbridge: September 12

## Lake Samish: September 21

## Mercer Island: September 26

## Guano Rocks: TBD, possibly July 11 or October 10. Location change also being considered

# Website/Webscorer/Social Media – Amber Zipperer

All working well

Updates for 2020: contact race directors to check/verify/update information on their race pages. Loop in Greg G for insurance purposes, Shane for print calendar

Facebook: Kevin Olney

Instagram: was set up by Michele Knowles, currently getting minimal attention

# Timing

More accurate timing is desired – indications aging club iPad is becoming sluggish. Discussion that licenses can be assigned to any individual device – iOS, Android, and new Windows 10. Up to five concurrent licenses available with our current license.

Discussion of whether club should continue to provide device, or if each race director should just use own. Decided it is of benefit for club to provide.

Decided to retire old iPad, Don Kiesling to research optimal device and protective case for replacement.

Webscorer results are currently stored on Webscorer server. We are vulnerable to losing data if this should go away. Don Kiesling to research if/how we can copy data; Traci C will look at hosting on Sound Rowers webserver.

# Membership – Don Kiesling

146 members in 2019

PayPal working well, but free memberships currently require paper form. Traci C will look at providing an online form for free memberships (juniors under 18yrs, seniors 70+)

# Photography – Michael Lampi

Camera is working well, except in group shots where focus is iffy. Individual shots are fine. Michael will look into settings.

Discussion of drones… limited battery, more hands-on than a single shot camera. Not likely.

# New Business

Bela gifted a sculpture/trophy to Michael in appreciation for many years of race photography. Thank you Michael!

Ribbons – we’ve gone to the simple ribbon for all places; suggestion of “fancy” ribbon for first place overall. Discussion of races with long and short courses, decided all distances are fiercely contested races, so first place overall for each distance. Type of ribbon… check in with Paul Clement for possibly providing laser cut wood award.

# WWTA Membership

Current membership at $150. Sound Rowers gets recognition on website, etc. Question to renew? If so, at current level or increase to $250? Vote to renew membership at $250.

# Safety

Once again, access to safety boats at some races is problematic. Apparently Peter Marcus in Bellingham has a list… Kevin Olney will check with him.

Steve Chapin had once racer go AWOL. Knowing who is on the water is critical, and even if race director requires a check-in if racer leaves the course, we are at the mercy of racer actually doing so. Emphasize contacting race director if abandoning race. Noted that the Bainbridge race provides a laminate map which includes contact info for each racer… this is helpful…

Race numbers on boats: duct tape fails miserably if wet. Alternatives? Numbers on PFD? Vinyl stickers? Packing tape? No clear solution.

# Officers

Trustees retiring this year: Peter Hirtle and Kevin Olney

New trustees serving 2020-2022: Terrie Ragins and Don Kiesling, voted in unanimously

Slate of existing officers nominated by Traci Cole, seconded by Michael Lampi, voted in unanimously

# Stipends

Existing stipends extended for 2020, modified as below:

Photography – Michael Lampi – increased from $500 to $600 for 2020

Website/Social Media – Amber Zipperer – maintain at $600 for 2020

Membership – Don Kiesling – increased from $200 to $300 for 2020

Unanimous vote in support of 2020 stipends

# Miscellaneous

Reinstate award for racers attending every race in the year. Peter Hirtle sole achiever for 2019; Kevin Olney will check with Paul Clement for suitable award.

Snohomish race? In November? Some discussion, nothing decided.

Tech support for Amber? Traci will continue to provide behind the scenes support; Theresa Knakal has also volunteered to help.

# Action Items

## Kevin

* Safety Boats
* Online race fees: Rat Island as prototype
* Awards for first place overall
* Awards for racers attending all races in the year

## Don

* Research new device for Webscorer
* Research backups for Webscorer results

## Traci

* New form for free membership
* Update discussion group memberships (trustees)
* Renew Webscorer account for 2020

## Amber

* Race director information email loop
* Website updates for 2020
* Race incident form

## Jeff

* WWTA membership

## Theresa

* Safety box
* Cards with race director phone numbers

# Meeting Adjourned: 1:15pm

# Attendance

* Traci Cole
* Don Kiesling
* Peter Turcan
* Jeff Wong
* Jon Harwood
* Alex Parkman
* TJ Owen
* Hugh Owen
* Rainer Storb
* Steve Chapin
* Bela Kovacs
* Barb Kovacs
* Terrie Ragins
* Theresa Knakal
* Michael Lampi
* Jeff Knakal
* Kevin Olney
* Amber Zipperer
* Shane Baker
* Greg Gilda

*Submitted by Traci Cole, November 12, 2019*

*Edited with feedback from Peter Turcan, November 13, 2019*