

Sound Rowers Annual Meeting
November 12, 2022

The meeting was held at the Lake Washington Rowing Club with an option to join using Zoom.

Attendance (in person):

Peter Turcan	Rainer Storb	Hugh Owen
Michael Lampi	Kevin Olney	Shane Baker
Steve Bennet	Carrie Weisse	Kelly Johnson
Tyler Petersen	Greg Gilda	Rod Sternagel

Attendance (via Zoom):

Marc Blake	Jon Harwood	Don Kiesling
Steve Chapin	Jeff Wong	

The meeting was called to order about 10:10am.

2021 Meeting Minutes

The 2021 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Presidents Report

Peter gave his observations about the past season.

- Overall, he thought it was a good year
- Having a 2-week separation between races seemed to work well
- Attendance was up for some races, down for others
- He noted a couple of action items still need to be complete
- There was discussion about awarding ribbons for special categories such as oldest paddler and youngest etc.

DECISIONS and ACTION ITEMS:

Shane will work with Peter to get a memorial message on the website for those that have passed recently.

The group confirmed their support for awarding ribbons to overall winners. Everyone to get back to Shane if they need more of these ribbons.

Shane will investigate suitable ribbons for special categories.

Treasurer's Report

Club Treasure, Jeff Knakal, could not attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting, he submitted his report to Peter. Peter gave the report.

Some of the highlights:

- Sound Rowers still in good financial position
- There is about \$15,900 in the bank
- Expenses were about \$800 above income for the year

- Calculated total overhead cost divided by the number of races was about \$225 per race.
- \$600 stipend paid to Michael for his race photography work
- \$600 stipend paid to Theresa Knakel for her webmaster work
- \$200 stipend paid to Don for his membership work
- \$250 donated to the Water Trails association
- Sound Rowers did not receive a race accounting report from the Salmon Row race.

There was a discussion about the relationship between the Salmon Row race and Sound Rowers.

There was a discussion about the average overhead per race number. The consensus seemed to be that this is more of a financial planning number than an income requirement for race directors.

Decisions and Action Items

Continue the stipends and donations for 2023

Peter to contact the Salmon Row race director

Insurance Report

Greg gave the report.

- The cost of insurance was up \$900 this year, which was about a 14% increase across the board.
- Overall he felt this reasonable given the small cost increases in previous years and the increased requirements.
- There is a \$300 learn-to-row provision he thought we might consider dropping
- There is a \$250 non-owner automobile provision that he thought we might drop.

There was a discussion about dropping the two insurance provisions. Mark thought the auto provision was required by the state parks department.

Decisions and Action Items

A motion was made and approved to drop the learn-to-row provision.

Greg to check on the state park requirement for the auto provision.

Race Reports

La Conner –

Kevin gave the report.

- He used zoom for a pre-race meeting the day before. He thought that worked well
- 99 entries, 80 participants
- Good weather
- He tries hard to start the race on time (GPS time) and encourages others to do the same.
- A short course was added this year
- He hoped to do more promotion next year

Bellingham Rough Water –

Kevin gave the report.

- Peter Marcus had to give up as race director due to illness. Kevin stepped in as race director.
- The race conditions were somewhat challenging at the south end of the course
- There were 4 safety boats to cover the long and short course.
- 52 participants in the long course, 16 in the short course
- Next year consider a cut-off time for the long course
- A highlight was the gray whale that showed up to eyeball everyone on the starting line.

Lake Whatcom –

Marc gave the report.

- 35 participants in the long course, 36 in the short, which was down from 112 last year.
- All kinds of weather, including hail, but no safety issues
- Struggled to get the awards done quickly
- Next time consider starting awards before the stragglers finish

Commencement Bay

Peter gave a report.

- Nice calm day
- Good entry
- No safety issues, but some parking issues with ongoing construction
- Some comments about the food and what the Parks department allows

Squaxin Island –

Rod gave the report.

- Bad wind forecast required rescheduling race from April to June
- 17 entries, probably lost some due to date change
- Some boats encountered a sand bar
- YouTube video of race course available prior to race day. Seemed to work well
- There was too little respect for the start line. Address this pre-race meeting next year
- Considering a short course around Hope Island for next year
- “Catered” food worked very well, along with the sheltered eating area

Rat Island –

Steve Chapin gave the report.

- Successful race but numbers/revenues down a bit from last year
- 45 boats and 84 racers, several multi-person boats such as dragon boats
- Waited for final finishers and encountered troubles tabulating results
- Due to these troubles, award ceremony took some time to start
- Some troubles registering individuals in multi-person boats
- Next year start awards earlier, before stragglers finish
- Hope to work with Pacific MultiSports to resolve registration problems
- No early start this year simplified race logistics but led to stragglers
- Consider making race guide available before race
- Consider holding a pre-race meeting the day before
- Some near-portaging required, safety boats not as helpful as they could be

Budd Inlet –

Jeff Wong gave the report.

- 30 boats participated

- SUP boarder in long race, given early start but got lost but eventually made to the finish
- Consider no early start next year
- Had difficulty using Webscorer to produce results and awards
- Consider revising race directions to clarify route

Elk River –

Jon gave the report.

- 33 boats in long course, 11 in short course, 47 participants
- Good turn out
- Manually entered race data in webscorer to calculate results

Round Shaw –

Carrie gave the report.

- 19 boats
- Tides and ferry schedule dictated an early 8am start and 11 AM start
- Consider a bigger penalty for day of race entry next year
- Abandoning two separate start times (only 3 boats at 11 AM)
- Consider alternative start and camping locations, for example from Lopez Island due to better ferry service/larger camping site
- Some issue with the anchored buoys moving

Great Cross Sound –

Jeff and Theresa could not attend the meeting.

- 22 boats participated, possibly somewhat due to wrong date on main web page
- Strong winds and rough conditions in some stretches of race
- 3 boats capsized, not all were able to remount boat
- 5 boats turned around
- Videos taken during the race were helpful to convey the conditions
- Jeff and Theresa plan to retire from this race. A new race director is needed.

Discussion about Coast Guard small craft warnings. A good tool for race directors.

Bainbridge Island –

Kelly gave the report.

- 10 registrations, 5 boats finished long course, 1 finished short course
- Poor air quality due to heavy smoke, some concern for racers and race volunteers
- Zoom pre-race meeting day before
- Used Webscorer for day of race registrations

Discussion about canceling the race due to poor air quality. It is best to cancel the Thursday prior if it needs to be done.

Salmon Row -

Steve Scoggins was not present. Sound Rowers has not received a race accounting report. People that participated in the race reported good participation but some confusion at the start due to last minute, on the water, changes to the wave starts.

- Two photographers covered the race (1 on bridge, 1 on course)
- T-shirts provided to entrants

- No salmon served at lunch this year
- Abbreviated awards ceremony

Sausage Pull –

Rainer gave the report.

- 71 boats participated, including 3 dragon boats
- Several starting times (early, long, short)
- Arranged for 3 safety boats but one backed out at last minute
- Hope to improve start/finish markers next year
- Encountered problems tabulating results, had to skip award ceremony
- Wildfire smoke built up during the day

Discussion about giving ribbons to every member of a multi-person boat.

Decisions and Action Items

Sound Rowers should give ribbons to every member of a boat.

Race directors need to re-evaluate their ribbon supply based on this decision and let Shane know if more are needed.

Guano Rocks –

Hugh reported the race was canceled the Thursday prior due to the thick smoke in the valley.

There was discussion about poor air quality due to smoke. Wildfire smoke seems to be getting worse. Perhaps an alternate location or date might help avoid canceling the race.

Webmaster Report

Peter gave the report in Theresa Knakal's absence. Theresa will continue as webmaster for 2023.

There was a discussion about the Sound Rower Facebook presence. It appears there are two sites, one is a public group and the other is a community organization. Need to eliminate one of them.

Decisions and Action Items

Document procedure for canceling a race.

Tyler will delete the one Facebook account registered in his name.

Member Report

Don gave the report.

- 122 Sound Rower memberships
- He proposed Sound Rowers accept only on-line membership to cut down on workload.

Decisions and Action Items

Mark and Don will look into integrating the Sound Rower membership information with race registration and make a recommendation.

2023 Race Schedule

Don led the discussion.

Although there was a discussion about moving the Guano Rocks race to June, no changes were made to the proposed schedule.

Decisions and Action Items

Hugh will let Don and Peter know if Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club wants to hold the race in June rather than October.

2/4: La Conner

3/18: BBRWR

4/15: Squaxin

5/6: Whatcom

5/13: Commencement Bay

Budd ?

6/24: Rat Island

7/29: Elk River

8/8: Round Shaw

8/26: GXS

9/9: Bainbridge

Samish ?

10/7: Mercer Island

Guano Rocks ?

Photography

Michael reports that the club camera seems to be working well, and the batteries are holding their charge. The club web server is currently serving the last couple of years of photos, and earlier years are currently hosted on Michael's web server. As the club's server fills its file allocation older photos are offloaded to the other server.

There was some discussion about getting a drone, but this requires someone devoted to its operation, possibly on a safety boat.

(Forgot to add during the meeting but there were several requests for photos during the year by various boating-related organizations as well as a couple of individuals.)

Posters/Posters

There was a discussion about continuing the tradition of making and printing a hard copy poster.

Decisions and Action Items

Decision to make an electronic poster that can be downloaded and printed by the board/race directors as needed.

Ribbons

Shane proposed Sound Rowers purchase some special category ribbons. They could be used for special awards such as oldest and youngest racer.

Decisions and Action Items

Shane will investigate ribbons suitable for these special category awards.

Safety Boat Discussion

There was a discussion about how difficult it has been for many race director's.

Election of Trustees

Don Kiesling and Shane Baker were elected to trustee positions.

Washington State Non-Profit Annual Filing

Tyler reported he filed Sound Rowers annual nonprofit report with the state.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:20 pm.