

CAT Fleet Meeting Minutes

4 March 2017

In attendance: Karen Pauls, Galen B & Carol Galbraith, Tom & Mary Paoli, Joe Leonard, Julie and Scott Stevenson, Charlie & Michelle Stauffer, Dave Leimbach, Della Klenke-Field, Jeff Marquart, Dave Waugh, Pat O'Donnell, Latham Souther

Meeting began at 7:07 p.m.

Karen welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She began by noting Dave Stahl's passing since the last meeting and noted that more information will be forthcoming re: a memorial service. Pat mentioned there had been a Facebook post stating that the service should be in 4-6 weeks.

Update: memorial service on March 26th at CSA in the Observation Bldg 2pm

Action Items included discussion of the Fleet Captain's Meeting, with the major item being dates to assign for hosting weekends. Charlie & Michelle have graciously accepted to head up Muddy Waters, whose date has changed to the 23 & 24 September 2017. Karen says she will talk with Charlie & Michelle more about organizing MW. Scott said the Atlanta CAT group may be in attendance, which would really raise the numbers. He suggested more money could be put into MW to make it worth it for the people making the trip to Carlyle – perhaps a nicer dinner on Saturday could be arranged. Dave L. introduced Jeff Marquart (Hobie 18), and gave a brief explanation of MW, and its importance.

Karen will be updating scores, etc. on the Fleet web page

Dates that have been assigned to the CAT Fleet are as follows:

14 May_Pro Jim Disano. Crew: Pat O'Donnell, Sebastian Bautz, Latham Souther, Bob Monaghan, Karen Pauls, Craig Lincoln

11 June_Pro Tom Paoli. Crew: Scott Stevenson, Dave Leimbach, Della Field, Brock Tuffli, Sue Dudek

2 July_Pro Joe Leonard

20 August_Pro Scott Stevenson

10 September_Pro tbd

23-24 September_Muddy Waters. Chair Charlie and Michelle Stauffer

15 October_Pro tbd

Karen continued with items from the Fleet Captain's Meeting with the big topic of increasing participation. There are three big dates for regatta weekends, which are two-day events (Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day). There has been a lot of pushback, as there is already a lot going on those weekends outside of sailing. Saturdays will be a pursuit race or more fun event, and a race committee will not be needed for that. Sunday will be buoy races. Cabin boats will be allowed in pursuit races, and longer marks for buoy race(s) on Sunday to allow for the longest course possible. The Saturday race will be based on the wind direction (aka Ted's way), not Hare & Hound.

There has been some unhappiness about the buoy races with the downward mark, which will result in the mark being moved directly in front of the Committee boat, 50-60 yards away, instead of on the Start/Finish line. The Race Committee will also be able to decide to have two races prior to lunch, allowing for upwind finishes.

On a trial basis, a Competitor's meeting held at 10:45 a.m. at the committee boat. Bob Winston has suggested putting up a white board with extra crew available, providing the advantage of people being able to grab a ride with those sailing.

Another topic brought up was that of an automatic timer for the race committee; this frees up the race committee, allowing for better participation from them.

Dave L. brought up the topic of using catamarans for Junior Sail Camp and beyond, as the Jr. Sailing Program is now being stretched to cover the full season. Mark Hood is willing to sell a **Hobie 16** for \$2,000.00, and has asked the CAT Fleet to purchase it, use it as a rental boat, and allow the Juniors to use it during their season. The discussion included asking CYSS to purchase the Hobie, then donate it to CSA. The CAT Fleet would maintain and store the Hobie, while CSA would insure it. It would become part of the rental fleet. An imagined discussion with Ted put forth the possibility of the CAT Fleet giving CYSS some money to put toward the purchase, then CYSS would finish the purchase. There were questions about the year of the Hobie (86?), and how many sets of sails it had (unsure); it does have a trailer, but no wheels. It was determined that club wheels can be used. Bob Winston is capable of determining who can rent and take the boat out on the water, and he also ensures that it gets to the water. Currently the Wave is the most popular boat in the rental fleet, and the question was asked if the Juniors will be more inclined to use the Wave or the Hobie? Dave L. thought the Hobies might energize the more adventurous teenagers, but it was stated again that sailors must be qualified to use them, and must meet minimum weight, which was speculated to be 285 pounds. It was thought that it might be hard to convince kids to get out on a cat, instead of a Bic. Karen said based on last year's Sail Camp, there is an interest in Hobies, but more of a pairing of an adult and junior. Final points included the rationale of not wanting to lose the opportunity of buying this boat, but there is the possibility of getting more money from it as a rental. Scott will have a conversation re: buying with Ted, and will also reach out to Mark Hood to find out the overall condition of the boat. It was unanimously agreed that the CAT Fleet will maintain the boat (if purchased), NOT the juniors. The topic of how much money to put toward the purchase was tabled at this point.

Karen moved on to the idea of encouraging people to kayak, by opening up the CAT Fleet beach to a broader market, i.e. kayaks. There has been discussion of a one-day event in May or June, "Get Acquainted with Kayaking Day". There is hope that this could expand into a broader version of alternate memberships at CSA, thereby tapping into other people's interests in sailing, and getting people onto boats and sailing at CSA. This could drive more people to CSA for ALL events, especially those who love the water. This seems like an easy and logical transition, and would be an opportune time to create a kayaking membership at CSA.

Karen is a member of the STL Canoe and Kayak Association, and is getting the word out about CSA. She feels there is a real synergy between river and lake people, and this opens CSA up to so many more people. Karen will continue to pursue this with Shirley & Bob. Dave W. was wondering if a date with the STL Kayaking Club could be set up for an Open Water Day at Carlyle, highlighting our terrific facilities as a benefit. Scott offered that with a membership, storage lockers and racks could be installed at CSA to store equipment and kayaks. The racks could be similar to what currently exists at CSA. There could also be the possibility of a lease program, as discussed in The Marks (which has had great participation this year).

Karen asked for a progress report on Muddy Waters. John Falwell has always been the Pro for MW, and Karen will ask him to continue this year. Karen will circulate the duty sign-up. Pat volunteered for Registration and Race Committee, with the help of Dave W. Scott will be the overall coordinator for Saturday night dinner, including contacting Diane & Steve at the campground store about possible catering options. Scott also suggested that burgers, etc. could be the Saturday night option, and Latham, Tom and Jim D. were volunteered for grilling help.

There were no more items from Karen. Dave W. asked about Instructor Training, which is scheduled for April 23 & 24, and 27 & 28 for Junior training. Level 1 will be taught by John Sepanski. The first class is almost full at a maximum of 12, so Dave L. and Scott will put together a second class with an instructor other than John S. The swim test will be at a different time/place. It was clarified that the Instructor training was different from the Rule Clinic taught by Ted, which is more of a course for skippers.

There was a question about the Junior Sail Camp, specifically the average age, which is 10 or 11 years. The ages last year ranged from 10 – 16. Karen asked if anyone would be available for a Skipper/Youth race during camp, perhaps on a lower wind day. There was also some loose talk about a Crew Day (need more information).

The final comment was a push to read and participate in The Marks, which is a great source of information. Dave W. was even able to publish something that he stole!
The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Leonard