USSCA 2017 General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Sayville Yacht Club,  
Blue Point, New York  
June 30th 2017, 7:30 PM

Reports:

President’s Report  
The following topics were discussed:

LP Agreement- Rich has working with the ISCA board members to review the agreement that LP brought forward. This have been an ongoing project that has involved several conference calls with World Council members, attorneys and the executives at LP. More information will be discussed in the ISCA president’s report.

Overall regatta experiences. Three of our last few major events (Worlds, Int’l Masters and Midwinters) have not lived up to the class's expectations. Rich has been working with the Class Office to assure that future events are much more sailor friendly.

Standardization of NOR’s. Rich has been working with the Class Office to create a template for an NOR to be used by all world qualifying events. We have found that many of the NOR's being released are lacking in some very important information. To avoid this in the future, the class would like to provide a template for regatta organizers to fill out and have approved by the class. A templated format should be used as an incorrect NOR is a protestable item. Please ensure that NOR’s for the regionals are sent to the Class office for distribution. The bidding form for the major regattas is being revised as well. Regatta Guidelines are also being developed to provide consistency in format and conduct.

A new positon is proposed by Rich – Social Media Coordinator. The person filling this would be responsible for coordinating Instagram/Twitter/Facebook etc. This might not be an ad hoc positon instead of a formal board member. Anyone interested please let Rich know

Renewal of Class Office contract – this will continue with Eduardo and Gena

Treasurer’s Report  
It was discussed that the class has engaged an attorney to help guide discussions with Laser Performance and this is quite expensive with fee’s running into the $1000’s.

The below summary was provided in writing post meeting:

USSCA annual calendar from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 shows a net income of ($1,464), which is a decrease of $161 from the prior year.

The class revenue derives mainly from membership dues, web advertising and Sunfish Bible sales.

In 2016-2017 total revenue was $37,559 - a decline of $6,555 or 15% from prior year. This is due to a 13.4% decline in memberships.
The class increased the annual membership from $12 to $15 to cover the class expenses due to the decline in membership revenue.

In 2016 – 2017 total expenses were $38,243 - an 11% decrease from the prior year. The class reduced administration expenses in response to the declines in membership and revenue.

Annual expenses $38,243:

1. $20K class office administration
2. $14K ISCA members fees
3. $3K Webpage, email service, advertising
4. $1K Marketing kits to reps

Net Income ($1,464) or ($161) vs last year

Measurer’s Report
No request for changes to our current rules have been made in the past year. A challenge to the rules was made last Fall pertaining to substantial modifications to the daggerboard trunk to change the angle the board makes with the hull. The ISCA World Council voted to agree with the chief measurer’s interpretation that this type of modification is not permitted under class rules and was considered to be a manufacturing defect that should be addressed by the selling dealer/builder. Photos and discussion of this challenge can be reviewed on the class website under Rules & Measurement, challenge #8

Advisory Council report
Discussions have been ongoing with Laser Performance on many topics. As noted above an attorney has been engaged to help with negotiations with Laser Performance in order to keep the Sunfish a One-Design Class.

Regatta Coordinator Report
The 2018 North American’s will be sponsored by Lake Bluff with the launch venue in Waukegan. The Jr NA’s will run July 30th – August 1st and the Championship will run August 2nd – August 4th

Regatta dates be forwarded to Margeurite or the regional representative as soon as they are known for inclusion in the on-line schedule

It was noted that the International Masters would now be named the World’s Master’s Championship. This would result in 3 ‘World’s’ events – the Juniors, Open and Master’s.

Regional Representatives Reports

New England
2 regionals are scheduled

Mid Atlantic Region
3 regionals have been held with low turnout at each. Hampton VA – 9. This was held the first weekend in May. Lavallette had 27, 20 were from the club, this was held the 1st weekend in June. Rehoboth had 6 with only one junior participating.
Florida Peninsula Region
Provided in writing:
Our regional participation is growing, primarily due to the use of Sunfish by seven women’s sailing groups in the Florida Women’s Sailing Association. There is a lot of interest in and demand for Sunfish boats, racing opportunities and coaching and/or clinics. The visibility of the Sunfish Fleet 651 at Davis Island Yacht Club has drawn others into the fold, building the buzz for fun, one-design racing. The presence of many excellent Sunfish sailors in the state also helps draw others to our events, knowing that the racing will be competitive yet friendly. The races are competitive at all levels, from novices to champions. Newer sailors learn quickly that Sunfish sailing is challenging and rewarding and their interest and enthusiasm grows.

At the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, the women’s sailing group, the Luffing Lassies, teaches a week-long introduction-to-sailing class in Sunfish to 15-18 women who can charter one of the 18 club boats for their first year of sailing. After that, they are expected to buy their own boat.

Weekly Sunfish racing occurs in the various women’s sailing groups in southwest Florida. At the annual FWSA regatta, 44 women raced Sunfish in a one-day event. As the women’s experience expands, more are coming to statewide events. The sailors are seeking more skill building opportunities. Currently, I have 130 Florida Sunfish sailors on my e-mail distribution list. Once the list approached 100, it became more difficult for me to send out through my gmail account. Currently, I write monthly reports, send them to Eduardo and he distributes through MailChimp, the same software used for our class correspondence. At the bottom of each report is a plug to join the class association.

Newer members are helping to build enthusiasm for the boat. Everyone loves the stickers, “Best Boat Forever.” We are building our identity as “Team Florida” through shirts, hats, towels and other regatta favors and trophies.

FL Regional Championship, Nov. 2016 at DIYC - 36 participants
FL State Championship March 2017 at DIYC - 25 participants (Joel Hurley won so next year’s regatta will be at his home club, Halifax Sailing Association, Melbourne)
FL Women’s State Championship April 2017 at DIYC - 23 participants, inc. 2 juniors

Upcoming Events
FL Regional Championships - Nov 4-5, 2017 at Sarasota Sailing Squadron

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynne Randall, FL Regional Rep

All other regions – no comments

Special Event Coordinator Reports

Youth Coordinator
The Sunfish Youth Foundation (SYF) has been set up. The purpose of this foundation is to support and encourage youth sailing in the Sunfish Class. This will be used primarily to sponsor entry fees and coaching. Any donations can be sent to the USSCA with a note to direct the funds to the SYF. This is not a tax-deductible contribution fund. Youths interested in support should contact the class office.
Master Events Coordinator
Provided in writing:

Three of the past four US Masters Regattas have seen participation numbers in the upper thirties to low forties. In reverse order they have been held in the Gulf Coast, New England, Midwest, and Upper New York. Going forward we are probably looking at 2018 in Upper New York and 2019 may be on Long Island Sound.

Our highest participation is and has been for years in the 60's bracket. The 50's until just recently has been our second best attended, but now we are seeing that the 70's bracket is equaling the 50's and occasionally surpassing it in participation numbers.

With many regional and weekend regattas struggling to equal HALF the participation numbers as the Masters Regattas, I believe it is important to continue to pay particular notice to our older sailors. These are the ones that most often are encouraging others to participate in the Sunfish Class! They are often the ones that have good connections, help others find boats, and are concerned about new sailors having fun. With this in mind I believe we should continue to make sure to offer GRAND MASTERS awards at our National Championships (NA's and Midwinters).

This BY FAR is our largest membership category and maybe the most important and yet we to a great extent ignore them in our recognition of sailors at our Regattas!

Fritz
Masters Coordinator

Women's Events Coordinator
The Women’s NA’s will be held the last week of September in Fairhope Alabama. The trophy has been renamed the Linda Tillman award, an effort led by Vicki Palmer. The 2018 Women’s NA’s will be in Austin, Texas.