

**US SAILING  
SPRING MEETING  
Newport, RI  
March 16, 17, & 18, 2007**

**Report to I-LYA:**

**I. Reports**

**A. House of Delegates Meeting, Friday, March 16, 2007 – Deb Schaefer**

1. **US SAILING President, Jim Capron**, reported on the major activities of US SAILING this winter. He described the strategic planning meeting of the Board of Directors in which they adjusted the Mission and the Vision of the organization. He listed four priority goals for this coming year: 1) Meet the FY2007 budget, 2) Increase membership by 6% net, 3) Grow non-Olympic Fundraising to \$75,000 in 2007 and 4) Make the US SAILING database more accurate, relevant, and effective.
2. **Executive Director and Sailor, Charlie Leighton** highlighted significant events of 2006 using nautical terms. **"US SAILING had a lovely hull, but it needed tuning"** He introduced the **new US SAILING brand, "YOUR PASSION, ORGANIZED"** and the new **Mission, "Providing Leadership for the Sport of Sailing in the United States"**, and the **new Vision, "US SAILING will be the recognized leader in training and certification, in support of the racing sailor, and in facilitating access to sailing."**
3. **Past President, Jim Muldoon** presented and discussed the **Strategic Plan of the US Coast Guard's National Recreational Boating Safety Program for 2007-2011.**
  - Jim reported that boating deaths have declined since the passing of the Natl. Safe Boating Act in 1971, with the establishment of the Natl. Safe boating Safety Council which has 21 members, 7 from Boating Organizations.
  - Deaths have been reduced from thousands to hundreds, but creeping back up.
  - Objectives:
    1. Increase Life Jacket wear on Open Motor Boats by 3% -2/3 of deaths due to drowning  
The Increased Life Jacket wear on Sail Boats can be attributed to training early on in junior sailing programs. It becomes habit.

2. Create awareness of Safe Boating practices – track this and create programs.
  3. Advanced Boating Education
  4. Reduce Deaths to Navigation Rules violations from 24% in 2005 to 19% in 2011
  5. Reduce number of casualties due to use of Alcohol, direct or indirect, by 5% by 2011
  6. Better Recreational Boat Manufacture Compliance
  7. Better Boat Accident Reporting and Data Base in every state
  8. Determine Participation Denominator
4. **Racing Rules: Dick Rose** reports that this your last chance to make submissions for the new rule book. They need your ideas by July. They are working with the British on a new Mark Rounding Rule.
5. **Safety at Sea Comte:** This committee made several submissions to ISAF Special Regulations Comte:
- That lanyards connecting life-lines to stanchions be replaced annually. They are subject to sun damage and fraying which can cause failures.
  - MOB(Man Over Board) recommendation for the 2008 rulebook and required in Jan 2012: Recommend that Yachts be Equipped w/EPFS (GPS) at the helms station.
6. **Junior Big Boat Sailing Program: CSA** submitted an Action Item to Develop and implement this program, with the Goal of retaining and developing interest of 14-18 year olds in offshore type boats. 1) Teach teamwork and multiple position skills. 2) Keep Juniors involved in sailing and develop skilled bigger boat sailors. This program has met with success in several yacht clubs.
7. **Multihull Council:** Just 4 days before the USSAILING meeting, Multihull Council Chair, John Williams, learned that the Olympic Sailing Committee (OSC) had submitted to ISAF, with US SAILING Board approval, a list of equipment for the 2012 Olympics. There are no boards or multihulls included on the list – just dinghies and keelboats. This appeared to be a move by the OSC ExCom without any input whatsoever. And it appeared that the Tornado rep on the OSC (Jay Glaser) was left in the dark as well. In response to the OSC Submission, John Williams charged the MHC Members who were attending the US SAILING Meeting, with the job of putting an Action Item before the HOD so that it would be considered by the Board of Directors on Saturday or Sunday.

Past MHC Chairman, Bill Doelger, put forth the **Action Item, "To charge our delegates to ISAF to support the selection of at least one**

**multihull event in the 2012 Olympic Games."** The motion was tabled due to lack of time.

8. **Other reports:** There were many other reports given over the course of the weekend meeting. These can be found in the Minutes of the House of Delegates, and Board of Directors, on the US SAILING Web site at [www.USSAILING.org](http://www.USSAILING.org). Reports from all the other Committees and Councils may be found on their respective web pages.

**B. Multihull Council Meeting, Saturday, March 17, 2007 – Michael Grandfield, Tornado Class**

1. **BACKGROUND:** Mike laid out the background for the 2012 Olympic Regatta Events and he reviewed the 2-stage process laid out in the ISAF Regulations. 2007 is the year when the Events will be decided for the 2012 Olympic Regatta.
  - First, a list of possible events is produced by the Events Committee at the May Mid-Year Meeting.
  - Then, the final slate of Events is decided by the ISAF Council at the November Annual Conference.
  
2. **THE OSC SUBMISSION:** The submission has put forward a slate of 6 dinghy events, 2 keelboat events, and no multihull events. He contends:
  - By approving this submission, the Board has failed in its responsibility to reasonably represent the views of US sailors in this fundamental policy decision; and it has disenfranchised multihull sailors. Approximately 25% of the racing in the world is done in multihulls. A slate that reduces multihulls to zero is not 'representative'.
  - The 'medal winning' rationale for the submission cannot be supported by any available facts:
  - 1 of the dinghy events does not yet exist (Women's Skiff)
  - 1 of the dinghy events has yet to produce an Olympic medal for the USA (Men's Single-handed Dinghy)
  - 1 of the keelboat events has yet to produce an Olympic medal for the USA (Women's Keelboat)
  - However, the multihull event has produced Olympic medals for the USA in 4 of the 7 Olympic Regattas attended by the US Team.

**C. House of Delegates and Board of Directors Meetings, Sunday, March 8, 2007 – Bill Doelger, Bob Merrick and Deborah Schaefer**

Bill Doelger resubmitted the Action Item: "To charge our delegates to ISAF to support the selection of at least one multihull event in the 2012 Olympic

Games." to the HOD and BOD for consideration. Dean Brenner, Chairman of The OSC, told us that the OSC ExCom voted on this methodology. He stated that their Mission is to put together the strongest team possible, for the team that has the best chance of medaling. They wanted an equal number of men and women events, that they were purposely silent on the last two events. Apparently, this was a move to protect the Women's Keelboat Event.

We all took our turns making arguments. We talked about the negative perception that this submission would have on Multihull Sailors. I talked about the **2007 Sailing Industry Report** which was distributed to the Membership at the US SAILING Meeting on Friday. In this report, I quoted the statistics as follows: Multihulls comprised 23% of all Imports in 2006. And (Although North American Sailboat Production in 2006 was down by 7%) Multihull production increased steadily by 11%. Multihulls account for 19% of total production. The biggest increase was in the 0-19 foot range.....the very boats we are talking about excluding from the Olympics.

I asked them to consider the negative impact this decision might have on Membership and I asked them to consider their Mission Statement.

The action item had strong support of HOD, but not enough to send it to BOD with their support. The BOD voted it down.

#### **D. Special Meeting of the MHC ExCom and Multihull Council – Conference Call**

MHC Chairman, John Williams convened a Special Meeting of the MHC ExCom, which include all Area Reps and officers, followed by Special Meeting of the full Council. He will distribute an agenda to keep us focused, and we set a course of action which is apart from the filing actions being taken against US SAILING with regards to the Ted Stevens Act.

- 1) MHC will create a position paper for presentation to the US SAILING BOD for purpose of addressing the issue at hand.
- 2) MHC will lobby those individuals at US SAILING who might help us get a multihull on the equipment list at the ISAF Meeting in May.

#### **E. Reaction to OSC Submission to ISAF:**

1. A new website was created: [WWW.USMULTIHULL.ORG](http://WWW.USMULTIHULL.ORG) . The creator of this website contends that the US SAILING's "2012 Olympic Events Submission" is not acceptable and " needs to be amended or withdrawn. His site further contends that US SAILING is in violation of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (ASA). This website allows visitors to sign a petition to the United States Olympic Sailing Committee with a grievance against US SAILING. This petition further contends:

- ASA §220524(1) states that a national governing body shall "... be responsible to the persons and amateur sports organizations it represents".
- ASA §220524(3) states that a national governing body shall "... reasonably reflect the views of the athletes in its policy decisions".

The "2012 Olympic Events" submission fails to reflect the views of US multihull sailors.

- The multihull class representative on the Olympic Sailing Committee was excluded from the discussions that resulted in the slate of events that was submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
  - The US SAILING Team multihull athletes, coaches, and other personnel were not informed or consulted; and learned of the submission only after it had been forwarded to the ISAF.
  - US multihull sailors have won Olympic medals in 4 of 7 Olympic Regattas attended by the US Team
  - ASA §220522(a) states that an "amateur sports organization is eligible to be recognized, or to continue to be recognized, as a national governing body only if it" §220522(a)8 "provides an equal opportunity to amateur athlete... to participate in amateur athletic competition, without discrimination".
2. E-mailed Grievances against US SAILING to the US Olympic Sailing Committee totally locked their web site. 655 Grievances have been filed so far. They said they have never seen anything like it.
  3. The USOC will need to convene a Hearing Panel, consisting of a panel of five (5) persons appointed by the USOC Chair. Are required to address each complaint individually, but since all the complaints are the same, may be able to address this complaint as one.
  4. If the hearing panel determines that US SAILING is not in compliance, the USOC Board then shall
    - place US SAILING on probation for a specified period of time not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days

- or, revoke the recognition of US SAILING as a National Governing Body.

## **F. U.S. YOUTH MULTIHULL CHAMPIONSHIP THIS WEEKEND**

The Multihull Council worked hard to create **the U.S. Youth Multihull Championship** which up until now was held separate from, but not equal to the other Youth events. Our juniors were not included in the other youth Events. Our kids did not get the coaching or the other benefits of participating with the youths in the National Junior Events.

This announcement appeared recently in the e-USSAILING news:

US SAILING kicks off its 2007 Championship season this weekend with the U.S. Youth Multihull Championship taking place at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (ABYC) in Long Beach, CA. Nearly 20 teams from across the country will compete in the event, which will be raced in SL16s provided by Performance Catamarans. For the First time in History, the U.S. Youth Multihull Championship will be held in conjunction with the club's Olympic Classes Regatta.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah K. Schaefer  
US SAILING Multihull Council