

Response from Mike Connolly

1.) Your overall opinion of the 2007 season.

A) Overall... A better season than 2006.

B) The addition of the Committee Boat and the enthusiasm and organizational skills of the Race Czar elevated the program to a higher level.

C) The personality conflicts, on the course and off, did temper the season and reduced the competition through the loss of participants in the races (especially in the P Fleet).

The conflict between the two P fleet boats (early in the season) and the race director's decision not to hear the complaint (due to improper protest... no flag flown) did nothing to resolve the issues between the two sailors and provided no learning experience for the rest of the fleet. These two sailors have unresolved issues and did not actively compete the rest of the season. While the committee was within its rights to refuse to hear the protest, hindsight would say the protest should have been heard and adjudicated thus resolving the issue and providing a learning experience. Many sailors still did not know how and the when of protesting and acted upon their own when they felt slighted by another boat.

D) The bickering between J fleet over committee duty reflected poorly on the entire program and nearly ruined the racing program and the BLSA. Lets not do that again.

2.) What changes would you like to see? (for example, number of races, number of regattas, types of races,

Lots of suggestions. Here are a few.

A) Two Seasons. One early and one late season. This would mean more competition. It seems towards the end of a full season there is a large disparity between the top two or three places and the rest of the pack. As such participation drops off and only the top boats are racing to hold onto or improve their top spots (this is especially true in the P fleet). The devotion of time to be competitive and race a full season is more than most can commit to. With a dual season, a sailor could elect to race competitively in only one or both of the seasons. A club champion could be decided by a match race or other similar means (FUN).

B) Alternate weeks or days for P Fleet and J Fleet races. If both fleets are not racing on the same day, then skippers and crew from the J fleet are available to sail in the P fleet and vice-versa. The J fleet is always looking for crew. The extra crew could be pulled from the P fleet. The inexperienced sailors (if any) in the P fleet may be able to benefit from experienced crew from the J fleet.

C) Regattas. Love them! Would like to see more boats from other lakes. Of course this would take some advertising and promotion and probably reciprocation from BLSA to attend their regattas.

3. Your overall opinion of the Committee Boat

A) Great! Big Kudos for those responsible for getting the boat, outfitting and maintenance.

B) Many sailors in the P Fleet (me) seemed incapable of keeping their own accurate time and with handicaps applied many races came down to seconds. With the Committee Boat and the official time, the actual elapsed times are no longer of contention.

C) Likewise, over early and photo finishes are easily decided by those on the committee boat and not those of the racers.

4.) Your opinion of the Committee Duty Selection Process.

I think that the 2007 method for how we selected committee duty was made with due diligence's and no one could have predicted (planned) how this would effect the outcome of the season.

Modifications could be made to the selection process... it is doubtful that this new method would solve all issues or prevent complaints.

5.) New Events you would like to see.

- A) Preseason meeting of the racing participants to review the rules, methods of protest, right of way and the schedule. At least a written explanation along with a signed form from the participants that they agree to abide by these rules.
- B) Race sailing school or seminar.
- C) Fund raising event related to racing and monies to be used for the racing program.

6.) Suggestions on how to fix what you are not happy with.

- A) For ME: More wind, faster boat, better handicap, slower competitors, head starts.

- B) I believe the single biggest threat to the P fleet is the lack of boats competing in this class. We should (BLSA) and the racing program start a program to recruit new sailors to enter the race program. I met several sailors in the parking lot last year who expressed an interest in racing. However, they are reluctant to participate. The main reasons for not participating is the lack of racing or sailing experience and the intimidation of sailing in close proximity to other boats. An organized effort to recruit these people and provide minimal instruction, mentoring and crew would help add to the number of participants in the P fleet, new fleets and in the membership roles of BLSA.

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