

Response from Paul Hemker

Rick,

Thanks for the survey. I think it should help get input from more people. To my way of thinking, the idea of lots of separate series as well as a season championship should make it easier for people who don't want to commit to a full season of racing a chance to get a prize for a weekend investment. Some clubs take the fleet champions to a "final" series to choose the club champion. There are pros and cons to that and to my way of thinking the current fleet championship should be adequate. One of the most obvious problems with racing at Brookville is the lack of understanding of the rules as how protests should be handled. There are several people in the area who are really good at both aspects and I think it would be worthwhile trying to tap their knowledge. Unfortunately, some of the sailors who understand the rules the least seem to be unwilling to learn since they have been doing the same things for years. Somewhere there is a very simple set of rules that has been published that might be good to review with racing sailors. How to make it attractive for people to WANT to come to a session is something to figure out. On the line of race committee duty, it would seem that a system that requires racing sailors to either do their duty or find a substitute (no excuses) should do the job. However the system is set up is how it should be run without exception. I'm not sure what all went wrong with the program this season, there were at least two nasty situations that shouldn't have happened and just got out of hand. I think if we had had a commodore who was able to be at the lake all the time, it would have helped. I don't think you could have or should have done anything more than you did. Your efforts worked out fine. I understand that the temperature has come down in the relationships. The activity boat probably has helped get more people involved by making it less nervous for doing race committee. What other activities can the boat be used for? Training sessions, towing not motorized or disabled boats are two but it might also be a way to get non sailing family members out just for an afternoon. That may not be really practical but some way of involving non sailing family members should be on the agenda to keep the sailors from feeling guilty. Responsibility for the activity boat needs to be spread around regularly so people don't get burned out with the duty. By the way, I think there were some repairs needed and I'm very willing to do the welding since I recall there are broken welds. Has the broken skeg caused any problems with the prop?

Hope to see you next week.

Paul