

Response from Bob Unkel

To all:

The survey is a good idea. I fail to see the need to use 'blind copies' in sending out the request to skippers as it gives the impression of not being open.

My comments are somewhat limited due to the few times I was able to race, but are also based on some observations based on what I observed this year and have observed in the past.

1. Overall opinion of the 2007 season – Started out with great expectations based on the recent growth of the program and the increases in the J-24 fleet and its rising success. At the end it was a feeling of disappointment due to the rising conflict and behavior of all those involved with the disagreements.
2. What changes would I like to see – Make certain we have sufficient water in the lake so we can have a complete season. I lost 20% of the sailing season due to the low water levels! For the racing program, I would like to see the establishment of a Standing Race Committee to govern the program. The Standing Race Committee should be made up of the top 3 finishers of each fleet and headed by a the skipper who won the most races in the season. This makes 7 people so you have a tie breaker vote. The 'chairman of the committee' would be elected by the 7. If the the skipper who won the most races is also the one of the top three in a fleet, then number 4 in that fleet is on the committee. The function of the committee is to establish the rules for the next year and to hear any disputes or protests.
3. Overall opinion of the committee boat – it is a nice boat and well equipped, my only concern is the expense of it all for our small program. It certainly is a more professional way to run the races.
4. Opinion of the committee selection process - I like the idea of those that race the most should have committee duty. If you have 20 race days and need 20 race committee's then the top 20 skippers in number of races participated in should be required to have committee duty. Then have a public drawing of names to assign the dates with the skippers who are drawn selecting their date at the time of the drawing. In case of no show for the drawing, you get a date assigned. In case of conflict on the date, the person with the conflict has to find one of the other names drawn to switch with to get a date they can serve on.
5. New events – Run the lake race, getting a race over in 30 minutes means the course is too short and does not allow any recovery from even a minor mistake.
6. Suggestions on how to fix what I am not happy about – First -Serving on race committee should not be a penalty or cause any skipper to have a disadvantage. As I understand the rules last year the number of throw outs was the same whether you had race committee duty or not. I personally think that this penalizes a skipper who has race committee duty. He comes to the lake, but it doesn't count and he loses the use of a throw out that may be required when he is unable to come to the lake. Many years ago we had a rule that if you had race committee duty you got an extra throw out as compensation for your loss of ability to participate. This solves the problem of a new boat showing up on the lake and not having to serve race committee duty and having the same number of throw outs as someone who has race committee duty. Serving Race Committee Duty should not result in a disadvantage. Second – If you are not happy about a given situation concerning the race program or a given race, you have the ability to take your complaint to the "Standing Race Committee" for a review. Once an issue has been heard and a formal response issued that should end the process.

Final thought, many years ago the racing program went into a decline due to a few people

who lost sight of what it means to be a good competitor. Their ego's got in the way of good judgment and they also lost sight of the need to have a program where the objective was to enjoy racing our sailboats. A true competitor knows how to win with humility and lose with grace. There is nothing wrong with celebrating a win, but not at the expense of your competitors.

While there is no doubt that the objective is to win, winning should not be pursued at the expense of the overall program or BLSA. The goal of the racing program should be to grow the sport and to grow membership of the club. The racing program is also just one element of Brookville Lake Sailing Association, it is not the only one. Unless the scars of last year are healed, the infection that was started will lead to the destruction of the racing program and the club.

Sorry I will miss the meeting, my sister passed away and I will be on my way to Florida to the memorial service.

Regards,
Bob Unkel