



2020 OFFICERS		
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COMMODORE	Marty Witt	(920) 642-3305
VICE COMMODORE		
SECRETARY	Mike Mahnke	(224) 406-3139
TREASURER	Brian Carter	(920) 539-6735

MISSION STATEMENT – *The mission of the Fond du Lac Sailing Club is to provide sailing events for the recreation, challenge, and pleasure of the membership, while promoting safety, fellowship and an opportunity to improve sailing skills and knowledge*

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hi everyone,

We have entered another season in the books albeit the weirdest environment within the season, but it was hopefully a good season for everyone.

Don't forget this Saturday is our socially distant outdoor change of watch /banquet.

Marty

NEXT MEETING

Sailing Club Banquet Change of Watch

Saturday, Oct. 3, 1:00 p.m.
De Nevue Shelter
E. Harbor View Dr. & Winnebago Dr.

BYOB

"Bring your Own Banquet"

Grills will be provided if you want to cook. Bring your own meat, snacks and refreshments.

MINUTES OF THE FDL SAILING CLUB MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Commodore Marty Witt. The meeting was held outside the Yacht club in a social distancing environment. Seventeen members were in attendance with three guests joining us this month; Paul Mueller, Stuart Doty and Lou Gross. Welcome guests – and future members!

The minutes of the August meeting were approved by the membership with no additions or corrections after motions by George Winters and Bill Freund respectively.

Treasurer Brian Carter reported the status of the FDLSC treasury including \$185 in racing fees and membership dues. He also reported a disbursement of \$58.03 for the pavilion rental which was authorized at last month's meeting. The pavilion is being used for this year's banquet/Change of watch due to the need for social distancing. His report was approved by the membership after motions by Jack Boatman and Don Cayen respectively.

Committee Reports:

Day Sailors report: Andy Gratton reported that races have been taking place, but this year a lack of wind has been a challenge. Andy also reminded day sailors that boats needed to be off the parking lot by September 13th.

Cruisers report: Jim Braun reported on the Cruisers and reported that the upcoming Frostbite race date has been changed to September 26th. He also stated that there would be no food for this year's race. There will be an entry fee just for non-members.

For the "Fun sail races", the start for the races will be at 6 pm due to the earlier sunsets at this time of year.

Mainsheet

Jim shared that the staggered starts have worked well this year – and has been the second year the club has opted for them. September has a lot of sailing left.

Youth Sailing program: Kevin Gratton shared that he felt the instructors did a good job with the advanced youth sailors this year – helping them to improve their skills. The pandemic limited this year's youth sailing program to advanced sailors. Hopes are that next year the club can resume sailing lessons for beginner youth sailors.

Kevin also reported that a little work was needed to be done on the ramps due to undercutting. It looks like pouring some concrete will be necessary.

Kevin updated the membership that the bench that was donated to the club in memory of Dan Thornton is in place at the Youth Sailing area. Also, there are plans to add an embroidered patch to the PFD's for youth sailing instructors to more easily identify them. These will come from donations to the Thornton family who wanted to do this in Dan's name. Karin Whealon asked how people who still want to make donations could do so. Members who wish, can contact Ellen for Paddle Power and Sail.

Old Business:

Banquet and Change of Watch: Brian Carter reserved the Pavilion closest to the club for the October 3 meeting/banquet.

It will begin at 1 pm.

Members may bring their own beverages and food. PLEASE NOTE: Jim Braun has volunteered to have the grill, charcoal and lighter fluid good to go for those members who wish to make some hot food for themselves.

Nomination of club Officers:

Dave Lallier moved to open the floor for nominations of officers for the upcoming year. The motion was seconded, and the nominations made were:

Commodore – Marty Witt
Vice Commodore – Andy Gratton
Secretary – Mike Mahnke
Treasurer – Brian Carter

A motion was made by Dave Lallier to close nominations and accept the officers as identified. Bill

Freund seconded the motion and it was carried by the members.

Laser cleanup:

Members who wanted to help clean up the lasers before putting them into storage should meet at the club's garage at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Racing Buoys: A big thank you to Tom Clausen for repairing the lighted buoys!

New Business:

Photos:

Members who have photos of sailing events/boats from this year should send them to Tom Clausen who will try to put something together for the October 3rd event.

For the good of the club:

Karin Whealon welcomed back Betty Clausen after her return from surgery and recovery. Those same thoughts were echoed by the membership.

Ann Freund thanked Mike Mahnke for his article *I'm Behind You All the Way* in the last *Mainsheet*. Thanks Ann.

Tom Clausen gave an overview of a book he read and recommends about Tinkerbelle – the smallest sailboat to cross the ocean. He placed the book in the club's library for any of us to read. Thanks Tom!

Mike shared a toast with the members. "Slainte" (pronounced slawn che) is an Irish toast such as "cheers" but also "health" (implied good health) – and a very appropriate wish for all of our members!

Adjournment:

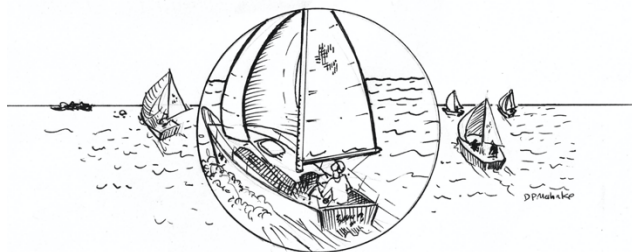
A motion to adjourn was made by Don Cayen and Bill Freund respectively. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Mahnke, secretary

Mainsheet

Random Ravings

PHRF Wars – when will it stop?



By Mike Mahnke

In today's uncertain times, I know what you're thinking – oh no, not another article on the challenges facing this nation; Pandemic, civil unrest, global warming (and seasonal cooling), elections and mail-in and take-out ballots, world-wide tampering with our political system, mask mandates – and Not just for Halloween.

Why are we so polarized today? I find it perplexing - And, quite frankly – I thought they stopped making those cameras. And you know they did in 2001 when they went bankrupt. But I just discovered that they started making them again which would explain this whole polarization thing. But I digress...

PHRF's. As a person new to sailing, it took me a few years to spell it correctly and another while to properly pronounce it. I have learned (with the help of our colleague Jim Braun providing me with a great website to research) that the Performance Handicap Rating Factor (PHRF) is "a subjective rating rule. PHRF was developed to handicap monohulls that didn't fit under the rubric of other handicap systems." (Careful here – while it is as challenging as the Rubik's cube they are not related. But I digress...

"PHRF assigns a boat a rating in seconds per mile (shown as s/M), which is multiplied by the length of the course and subtracted from the boat's elapsed time to give corrected time. Ratings are assigned by a committee of the local racing authority." Basically, the PHRF takes historical performance data for each boat design, ratings of similar boats and "a set of standard adjustments to basic ratings (e.g. fixed prop, extra-large sails, etc.)"

So, the articles go on and on and on, with a lot of detailed information, calculations, blah, blah, blah. Frankly it seemed pretty confusing to me and I almost gave up on it *until* I came across a couple of key sentences...

"A member may appeal a rating, presenting evidence...which supports the appeal." **and**
"Although PHRF is subjective, it still attempts to rate the boat, in racing trim, with a perfect crew."
Come on! Are you kidding me?!

Let's start with the second sentence, shall we? In particular the phrase "perfect crew". I don't know about you, but I don't know anyone that is perfect. And if you accept that premise, doesn't it make sense that there is no such thing as a "perfect crew"? I have observed incredibly talented crews, extremely knowledgeable crews, magnificently effective crews, wonderfully passionate crews, and having crewed for several skippers I have personally been observed to be far from perfection in my assignments as a crew member. So there.

What is my point in all this ranting and raving? Well, you may think it's splitting hairs – but I believe that the verbiage should be changed from the assumption of a "perfect crew" to a "less than perfect crew". I'm just saying...

While I do take PHRF to task on the whole perfection thing, I applaud the element of appeal: "A member may appeal a rating, presenting evidence – which supports the appeal. I am not an attorney (nor lawyer if you prefer) – but I don't think you need to be one to provide grounds for an appeal. All you need is some common sense and an appreciation for reality.

I think there are several factors that should be considered for legitimate adjustments to one's PHRF rating. I believe that given the false assumption of a perfect crew, there are several factors that should be added to the "set of standard adjustments".

These are just a few:

For starters, if you have children, this is an automatic handicap. Let's face it. While children are wonderful, they have taken their toll. If you are sailing and have children in their teens at home, you deserve a double factor. You know what I'm talking about.

Sails. If your sails are like mine, circa Viking period woven wool sails, you should be given extra consideration, such as starting a day earlier than the rest.

Alcohol. If you are sailing without any alcohol on board, you should not be allowed to use any PHRF. If you are sailing without consumption of alcohol you should be required to take only half of your designated PHRF – unless you promise to start on your next race. If you simply do not drink alcohol as a standard part of your life, you must consume a minimum of a gallon of root beer. I'm just saying...

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And finally -

Spouses and significant others. Are you kidding?
There is no way I'm recommending an increase or decrease in PHRF on this one. I'll let the two of you argue this one out.

Stay healthy this off-season!

Photos for 2020

This was a good year for photos. I think I have been officially named the "Photo Boat" for the club. If you come to the banquet, you can see them all, but if you want, you can go to our website and click on the Photos menu selection to see them all.

Boat for Sale

Jim Zitzelsberger says he has no time for sailing and is selling his 30-foot Hunter for \$7,500 but will listen to offers. It can be seen in front of the club in slip 6. A description and pictures will be available on the club's website. Look under Links and For Sale.

Looking for an I-20? There is one for sale in Madison for \$700.
<http://inland20.com/advert/melges-converted-i20-700/>

SELLING A BOAT or PARTS?

If you are selling a boat, we will be happy to place your listing on our website. The **For Sale** page is under LINKS. Mike Elmergreen will also put it on his website at no-charge: www.elmoandbig Sue.com (navigate to "Boats for Sale"). Just send pictures and a write-up by email to elmo@centurytel.net.

MAINSHEET EDITOR

Tom Clausen - Mainsheet Editor
Please send items for publication to fdlsailingclub@gmail.com or call 920.960.7484

FOND DU LAC SAILING CLUB WEBSITE

See all the new improvements that have been made to the site: <http://www.fdsail.com>.