**Meeting Agenda (1/17/15) – MCSA Midwinter’s Meeting**

**Meeting Information**

 ***Date:***January 17th, 2015 ***Location:*** McCormick Place (Chicago)
 ***Time:*** 0830 - Registration ***Meeting Type:*** MCSA Midwinters Meeting
 0900 - Meeting
 ***Called By:*** Brian Tobelmann ***Facilitator:***
 ***Timekeeper:***  ***Minutes By:*** Geoff Pedrick

***Attendance:***

Representatives from the following teams: Bowling Green, GLMA, Hope, Indiana, Lake Forest, Marquette, Miami, Michigan State, MTU, NMU, Northwestern, OSU, Ohio, Chicago, Illinois, UIC, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Notre Dame, Toledo, Wisconsin, UWM, Washington, Western Mich, Wittenberg, Lawrence, GVSU

Board: Geoff Pedrick, Nicole Coleman, Andrew Fox, Brian Tobelmann, Laura Rozier, Emily Johnson, Kim Hu, Alex Ramos

***Absence:*** Carleton, Denison, Grinnell, Purdue (SUSPENDED), Akron, St. Olaf

**Agenda**

1. Open Forum
	1. Afterguard – Gail Turluck
		1. Wisco alumna, MCSA board emeritus, college sailing was awesome.
		2. Please sign up for ICSA Afterguard Mailing List
			1. http://lists.collegesailing.org/mailman/listinfo/alumni
		3. Encourage clubs to have alumni event (especially regatta) every year. Great for fundraising. It builds relationships, event will grow each year.
		4. Annual afterguard regatta at Nationals. 18 boats this year. They’re lots of fun.
	2. LMSRF – Gail Turluck
		1. A regional sailing association of US Sailing, with the goal to grow racing on Lake Michigan
		2. Free PDF newsletter comes by email once/month. See paper slip (distributed to attendees) for details.
		3. Boat owners always need crew. Go to a YC, ask around, and you can find a ride
		4. If you see a one-design class that doesn’t have LM fleets, contact LMSRF and they will help you get a fleet started.
		5. Also, follow them on the facebook. LM sailors like knowing what college sailors are up to. https://www.facebook.com/LakeMichiganSailRacingFederation
	3. Storm Trysail/MORF Regatta (Fall 2015) – Steve Karstrand
		1. T-10 Fleet captain for Chicago. Largest one-design fleet in the whole Great Lakes (lots of boats on other lakes, and 37 boats in Chicago)
		2. IOR last fall had 52 college teams, totaling 430 undergraduate sailors (in New York). We want to mimic that with LMIOR.
		3. 10 teams invited to race on T-10’s for first year. 6 sailors each, plus owner/rep and coach (either your own or provided from fleet).
		4. This event will be 9/26-27, two weeks prior to the IOR (on Columbus Day). Friday afternoon will be mandatory registration/orientation/practice. It will coincide with MORF Open (signature event of MORF’s calendar).
		5. Hosted by Columbia YC. There will be food and some social events.
			1. No predicted fees! T-10’s will be loaned, ColYC offering all services. This is for the sailors.
		6. If interested, contact Steve Karstrand at karstrand@mpscpa.com
		7. Note: Timme Angsten is at the same time. Don’t over-commit.
	4. MCSA Foundation – George Griswold
		1. Forms were passed around with info
		2. Foundation is running reasonably well. However…
		3. Small problem: We need to have donations. 501(c)(3) exemption, but it’s contingent on receiving donations from public. (That’s you guys)
			1. Please get clubs, parents, associates to donate to:

George Griswold

8893 Melinda Ct.

Milan, MI 48160

* + - 1. Contact George at geogriswold@provide.net with any questions
		1. Foundation would also like more grant applications/requests. This past year, only four were submitted. 3 were from Wisconsin
		2. Each team received a form for grant proposals.
		3. So far, most grants have been for travel to national championships, etc. But it can be used for many other things, depending on a team’s needs.
			1. Not equipped to provide docks, safety boats, etc. But can offer support to help move your program forward.
			2. Probably only have about $6000 for all grants this year. However, more donations now will increase disbursement in later years.
		4. Question: Is it possible to make a donation and request it goes to a specific team?
			1. No. Once a donation is made, it’s part of the general fund.
			2. However, if a team did donate, the foundation would be in a better position to support a grant when the application comes.
		5. Question: If I want to apply for a grant, where does the form go?
			1. See address above (d.III)
	1. ICSA Winter Meeting Report – Geoff Pedrick & Brian Tobelmann
		1. All-academic committee – Relaxed criteria. 3.3 GPA, 7 events throughout year, JR or SR only. But you need to be nominated to get acknowledged. (You may nominate yourself). The nomination form will be updated.
		2. All-american – Nominate crews! The committee wants more crew nominations. It’s not just performance based, but also how much you contribute to your team’s success, so don’t worry if you don’t make nationals.
		3. Match Race weight limit raised from 620 to 660 lbs (for team of 4, an increase of 10lb/person).
		4. NEISA proposed team race interconference events would have $100 fee added. No action yet, but this may be enacted starting in the fall.
		5. APS no longer sponsoring TR nationals. They may be selling the old sails. Contact Geoff Pedrick or Whitney Kent if interested.
		6. This year’s nationals are Memorial Day in Newport, RI. Housing fills up quickly, so teams are encouraged to get housing early and cancel if they don’t make it to semis. (See Attachment A for details)
	2. 3-Day Championship Proposal – Brian Tobelmann
		1. See Attachment B for format. Would try to do TR first, FR second.
		2. Combine Coed and TR events into single weekend
		3. Cheaper to host, less travel, hopefully makes better turnout for TR qualifiers.
		4. Reduces number of championship weekends in spring to reduce risk of ice
		5. Host school would have minimum 18 boats, 12 for Fleet Race and then 3 sets of 6 for TR. (Could be 12 420, 6 FJ. Could be 18 420…)
		6. Not requirement, but teams could submit bid for 3-day combo (board will determine, based on bids, if a given year will have combined or independent Championships)
		7. Questions: Backup plan for inclement weather?
			1. Not in proposal right now, but will add a buffer weekend to ensure it fits before nationals.
		8. Straw poll: Support to enact this year?
			1. No opposition, probably about 60-65% in favor
			2. This will be enacted pending approval in Annual Meeting
	3. Lightning Boat Grant – Bill Faude
		1. College sailors are top priority for growth in the Lightning class
		2. Working on ways to keep boat feeling modern, push toward strengths of the design (carbon rig, etc)
		3. Boat grant is designed to get young people into the Lightning
		4. Three boats available for grant. Budget to travel around country, competitive boat, sails, etc. You get housed at each event.
		5. Application needs a couple of letters of recommendation from people in sailing community.
		6. Whitney Kent: Had boat 2014
			1. Got very nice boat, but had no idea how to rig it.
			2. Class helped tremendously at first regatta, got the team dialed in.
			3. Were able to sail a lot of events, including NA’s at Sheboygan with 106 boats. 106! Even did events in Canada.
	4. Open Discussion – Nothing proposed
1. Seminar – Chris Love
	1. Went to college not knowing anything about college sailing. Sound familiar?
	2. Went to BU, a very dedicated team. Not a great sailor himself, but was able to compete almost every weekend b/c NEISA so dense with teams.
	3. Talking about how college game works, both from being in it and observing/reporting on it for last ~10 years.
	4. Around the room: What is the single most important thing to your team this season?
		1. UWM – Fundraise to pay a coach for the first time
		2. Minnesota – Get more recognition for team at own university. Use resources to help MCSA in general. “awareness”
		3. Michigan – Get into finals at Nationals, push level of competition. More practice, more regattas, more opportunities.
		4. Wisconsin – Qualify for all three nationals, push level of competition. More regattas against competitive fleets (especially for younger sailors).
		5. Iowa – Connect with alumni, networking with youth sailors.
		6. UIC – Recruitment to fill team, more underclassmen
		7. Marquette – Too many social members, want to encourage more people to be on the water
		8. Notre Dame – Want to add depth to racing team, send more people to regattas
		9. Miami – Too many social members. Want more people at practices, more regular practice scheduling
		10. Indiana – Marketing team to student body, promote learning to sail
		11. Western Mich. – Want to send more people to regattas.
		12. Wittenberg – Recruitment to fill team, more underclassmen
		13. GVSU – Keep team going (1st year), add growth
		14. Hope – Recruitment to fill team, more underclassmen, people committing time, attracting more serious sailors from student body
		15. Washington – Get equipment necessary to have more productive practices
		16. GLMA – Create core of support within school, deal with people taking sea terms and being away. Need more people than ordinary
		17. Northwestern – Wide range of abilities, need to make sure upper end stays competitive while being able to teach lower level (also, no consistent coach)
		18. Chicago – Getting people involved, increase membership
		19. Lawrence – Need consistent members coming to practices, attract sailors from student body
		20. BGSU – Recruitment, practice regularity/efficiency (50m to sailing venues). Currently they’re trying to teach people at regattas. Better marketing. Golf pond.
		21. Illinois – Finding transportation to regattas
		22. Michigan Tech – Range of skill levels (similar to NU). How to teach new while keeping competitive edge
		23. Northern Mich – Reach out to alumni, fundraising, equipment improvement
		24. Ohio State – Huge membership but poor practice attendance and structure. Need to improve those to make big membership into big talent
		25. Lake Forest – Practice attendance, regatta commitment
		26. Ohio U – Good growth on team, but only a few have sailing experience. Tough to teach people to build confidence. Only have one boat.
		27. Michigan State – Fundraising, reconnecting with alumni
		28. Toledo – New sailors and leadership
		29. Trends: Recruitment/membership commitment, making practice happen, structuring practice
	5. Anybody feel like they’ve had this problem and have solved/are solving it?
		1. UWM – Used to have irregular practice schedule, but once they set specific day/time, people could plan for it in advance.
		2. How to hold people accountable? – If you don’t show up to practice, you don’t get to race. But a lot of times, best sailors have odd schedules and can’t make practice…but they still get the “A” berth.
		3. NMU – Freshmen told when to schedule classes to keep that time free.
	6. Setting expectations.
		1. Comes with recruiting process. Setting it up early, even a year in advance, will help. If someone wants to sail, but can’t because of class this term, follow up with the person and remind them of practice time so they can schedule next term around it.
	7. Practice is what brings your team together. Brings up the base, brings your best sailors up
	8. Has anyone held a weekend practice? How’d it work?
		1. UIC – Work with ColYC, because their program hosts Saturday practices. Also good for recruitment. But difficult to get people to commit to both weekday and weekend times. Advantage to pairing with YC: high schoolers at practice, so you don’t need to fill all boats yourself.
	9. Finding a YC that has resources in place, have practice instead of regatta
		1. Practice races may be more useful than going to a regatta
		2. Great way to get best sailors to increase level of competition, also teach newer sailors to get over their fear. Bring up the base.
	10. Could also practice with schools that are close, to get more boats on the water.
		1. Hosting a regatta is a huge challenge, but inviting one team to sail with you is easy. Could put together competitive sailing day without hosting a regatta.
	11. Question: Can you feature us on Chalk Talk more?
		1. Goal each week is to come up with a story somewhere in ICSA. Most information available comes from results, teams on FB, coaches
		2. Send Chris information and he’ll talk about you.
	12. Question: As not top sailor, what kept you going all through college?
		1. Friendships formed mostly. Especially those formed in first year, but carried through because hung out so much with those people.
		2. Sailing is a good way to get away from chaos of school, city, etc.
	13. Question: How to keep intensity going through spring season, even when you can’t get on the water (ice)?
		1. At BU, they had a coach (for season) and lots of university support, but winter was all student-run. You have to identify what the team is willing to do, whether that’s a team workout, classroom time, or simply answering questions.
		2. Winter is great time to teach the new sailors so you don’t have to do basic concepts while doing drills and regattas.
	14. Email chris@chrisloveproductions.com and he’ll respond. He’s also happy to help you get information you need on growing your team, as long as he knows you need it.
	15. Also, ICSA board is willing to help if you contact them. Geoff can help there.
2. LUNCH BREAK – Miscellaneous Business
	1. Discussion of New Midwinters Format
		1. It has gotten expensive in recent years. And if we continue to host at Strictly Sail, price is likely to go up
		2. Do teams still enjoy Strictly Sail?
			1. Some teams still need it to get funding
			2. Would booths be discounted? Need to check with Show organizers
			3. We used to get conference room for free and tickets provided for attendees. This year, it had to all get paid for by MCSA
		3. Formerly (Pre-strictly sail): Teams could bid to host Midwinters
			1. Date when you would want to host it would be part of bid
		4. When considering bids, would we consider geography?
			1. Geography, Cost, Hotels, Dates would all be factors
		5. What if we had it at a hotel, book a conference room? Discounted rates? Then people could still go to boat show if they wanted.
			1. Board looked into a hotel for this year, was much more expensive
		6. How much of $45 entry fee goes to banquet? About 50%
		7. Could we split off from Stricly Sail but have it at a Chicago area school?
			1. They could bid to host, competing against other schools/weekends
		8. Bids would need to be due at first Fall meeting (often Fall Fury, Weekend #2)
		9. UWM mentions Harken is willing to host Midwinters, about 1.5-2hr from Chicago.
		10. Bid process also helps people get familiar with other schools where they might not ordinarily go.
	2. Harken Clinic – Not hosted this year, but CYC wants to host in September (19-20)
3. 2015 Regatta Registration – Brian Tobelmann
	1. Online google form and it worked well, but then people lost focus. It seemed to get long, but that could just be because everybody stayed seated.
	2. Jacob Bruce created it and sent out a request for comment to see how it may be improved for the future
4. Seminar: Oakcliff Sailing – Elizabeth Shaw (training/prog dir.) & Hobie Ponting (offshore)
	1. See Attachment C for full presentation, application info
	2. A couple of former Oakcliff sailors are in the MCSA, including Jacob from MTU
	3. Focus on full-sailor development
		1. Not just sailing, but rigging, electronics, business of a campaign…
	4. Two levels of keelboat program: full summer intense, or one of a series of short sessions each w/ different focus
	5. Also dinghy high performance program
	6. Hobie speaks to his own experience coming from MCSA, how easy it is to get into the swing of things.
5. ANNUAL MEETING
	1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Brian Tobelmann
		1. Attendant: BGSU, GLMA, Hope, IU, MRQ, Miami, MSU, MTU, NU, OSU, Ohio U, Illinois, UIC, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, ND, Toledo, Wisconsin, UWM, Washington, WMU
		2. Absent: Carleton, Denison, GVSU, Grinnell, Lake Forest, NMU, Purdue (SUSPENDED), St. Olaf, Akron, Wittenberg
	2. Reading and Approval of the November 2014 Board Minutes – Geoff Pedrick
		1. M/S/C to accept minutes as posted on MCSA website
	3. Board Members’ Reports – MCSA Board
		1. Commissioner’s Report – Geoff Pedrick
			1. Communicate with your school so they know what you’re doing. Not doing so can get you put on travel restrictions or suspended.
			2. Get women sailing! Host events, sail at events (an all-women’s team at a co-ed event counts) and we’ll get more berths to Semis.
		2. Treasurer’s Report – Nicole Coleman
			1. Finances are good. Increased cash in hand.
			2. More regular members = more money and more berths!
			3. Higher interconference participation is good.
			4. Officer expenses are down
			5. Midwinters costs more this year than last, which was unexpected.
			6. Association can apply for developmental grants from ICSA to increase quality of racing.
			7. Report accepted by Members
	4. Proposals from the Executive Board
		1. By-Law Revisions – Geoff Pedrick
			1. The expected changes were not finished the requisite 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting.
			2. Geoff will distribute a full set of changes to Members via email, at least 30 days in advance of the Executive Board’s Spring Meeting #1 (NU Spring, 4/4/15). At the beginning of that meeting will be a Special General Meeting to address and confirm or reject the proposed changes.
			3. Members will submit votes via email, to be tallied at the Special General Meeting.
			4. All members are invited to attend the Special General Meeting and voice opinions prior to the vote.
		2. Membership Advancement – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
			1. Board recommends to approve their advancement
			2. Members vote to approve.
		3. Membership Advancement – Michigan Technical University
			1. Board recommends to approve their advancement
			2. Members vote to approve.
	5. 3-Day Championship
		1. Discussed previously. NU brings up an issue with their school rules prohibiting travel on Thursday / missing class to attend the Friday race day.
		2. 13 in favor, 4 opposed, 3 abstain. Motion carries.
	6. Midwinters Plan
		1. Discussed previously. Proposal for teams bidding to host instead of linking it to Stricly Sail. Meeting and Banquet turn into bid system. Bids due before first fall meeting of MCSA executive board.
		2. 12 in favor, 5 opposed, 5 abstain. Motion carries.
	7. Fall Championship
		1. With the Angsten moving from the final Fall weekend, it shouldn’t remain as the championship.
		2. Board proposes having NU Fall serve as the championship for 2015. Future years will be on a bid system. Always would be Weekend #11 when ACC/PCC happen?
		3. Question: Could we keep it with Timme Angsten, or does it need to be at end?
			1. Board would like to keep it at end.
			2. Wisconsin thinks it should not be in November because of winter.
		4. Nice thing about Timme’s is the number of boats. Would other hosts be able to support as many teams as are interested?
		5. Could you have a contingency regatta? Not much time to schedule/relocate.
		6. Timme Tune-Up has had weather issues recent years. Are we comfortable relying on them?
		7. Date doesn’t necessarily have to be same as ACC/PCC. Could be earlier when the event is more likely to happen.
		8. This year, first weekend of November is open except Match Race
		9. Hope would like a bidding process
		10. Votes:
			1. Everyone wants fall championship
			2. Most people don’t want Timme’s to be it b/c too early
			3. Current regatta changed to fall champ? None.
			4. Teams bidding to host Fall championship, including date
				1. Bids due at Fall Meeting #2 for the following year, with all other championship bids
		11. 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstain. Motion carries.
	8. Proposals from the Floor – None
	9. 2015 MCSA Executive Board Elections – Brian Tobelmann
		1. Special Interest – Montana Pruett (MSU)
			1. She’s excited.
			2. Members approve.
		2. Publicity Chair – Hannah Noll (UWM)
			1. I’m a PR major.
			2. Members approve.
		3. Race Chair – Jacob Bruce (NU)
			1. I made the regatta signup system.
			2. Members approve.
		4. Equipment Coordinator – Jacob Henley (MTU) vs DJ Litts (UMich)
			1. Jacob: Spent the summer at Oakcliff, made a lot of contacts with manufacturers, etc. Want to use those contacts to help the MCSA
			2. DJ: Freshman at Michigan. Try to create system where schools can communicate with each other to see what people have/need/want to get rid of.
			3. 11 Jacob, 8 DJ. Jacob wins
		5. Vice Commodore – Alison Kent
			1. Most important job for VC is liaison between teams and board. Bring issues from team level to conference level.
			2. Members approve.
		6. Commodore – Whitney Kent
			1. My voice is hoarse. I’m one-upping my little sister.
			2. But really, I’ve been working with the past two commodores well and have seen what the position is about. Want to be more involved
			3. Members approve.
		7. Interconference Regatta Coordinator – Andrew Fox
			1. Members approve.
6. Final Words & Adjournment – Brian Tobelmann
7. 2014/2015 MCSA Executive Board Transition Meeting – 2014/2015 Boards