

Notes from JSCA 2006 Annual Fleet Planning Meeting
Nov. 22/05

Present: Andy Hunt, Deirdre Webster, Stephen Chessor, Richard Spencer, Mark and Ingrid Jones, Jacek Suski, Mike Cotter, GM.

Regrets: Brian Key

1. Introduction of Members
2. Selection of 2005/06 Programs Committee Chair
Andy Hunt acclaimed, with thanks for the great job he did in 2005.
3. Racing Review
 - a) 2005 programs. Participation was typically good on Tuesday evenings but poor on Sundays. Race management and equipment was adequate. Regattas were well run. Branding the Flights of Spring, Jericho Classic, Kits Invitational and Bluenose regattas as the EBOC series had no apparent effect in increasing participation. People considered each regatta separately when deciding whether or not to sail.
 - b) Preview of 2006 Programs. Should we consider changing Tuesday Night Racing to Thursdays? Agreed not to consider this, as it would conflict with KYC's long running program which some of our racers participate in. There was discussion of ways to increase participation in racing in general and Sunday Racing in particular. One suggestion was to conduct special Sunday Races, with coaching and feedback available, if possible with an on-water coach with video camera and loud hailer. The JSCA Zodiac is available in support of our on-water events. Clubs and Fleets may book the boat for \$5/hr. plus fuel, to support their programs at Jericho. Anyone operating this must have a valid Pleasure Craft Operator Certificate as required by law. MacSailing teaches this program.
Dave Thomas of MacSailing (and previously a Canadian Olympic sailing team coach) has indicated that he is willing to volunteer some time coaching in support of JSCA Race Programs. Dave is planning develop more race programming in 2006 for kids and adults through MacSailing. He is also interested in team racing at Jericho.
4. 2006 Tentative Schedule
The tentative schedule for 2006 was reviewed, and will be posted on the Jericho website as soon as possible.
5. a) Vancouver Boat Show and Open House
There was discussion of JSCA's participation in the Vancouver Boat Show. Is it worthwhile? Our goal is to make people aware of who we are, what we do, and where we are as well as to promote our Open House in May. Our participation in the Boat Show is the focal point for commencing each year's promotional campaign for JSCA and our affiliated schools, clubs and fleets. We generally get between 40-50 volunteers working in the 10' X 10' booth over the duration of the show. If we had to pay the standard commercial rate for booth space it probably would not be worth it but as we get a much reduced non-profit rate it seems to be worthwhile.

- b) The Jericho Boat Show and Open House is scheduled for May 13. Most clubs are full by that time but having it in April is not good, because it can be too chilly. Schools are open in May and do see new business as a result of the open house. Member, club and fleet participation in the sailpast has been good. Promotion should be done through all media community announcements, website, posters and notices at Jericho, and promotion at the Boat Show. We typically purchase up to \$500 in radio advertising and Helium balloons.
6. Junior Racing Programs
- There was discussion of ways of developing junior racing programs at the Jericho Sailing Centre. We used to have a Jericho Junior classic regatta, but most of the entrants were usually not from Jericho (e.g. 50 boats, and only 3 from Jericho!). Yacht clubs own their own boats and hire junior program coordinators and instructors. The closest way for JSCA to follow the yacht club model is to work through our contracted sailing school.
- MacSailing is planning to do more with junior racing programs this year. JSCA will support their efforts by making race support boats, equipment and volunteers available. There are a number of family oriented clubs that might be able to encourage their juniors to take part in more organized sailing programs.
- The Sea Scouts show that it is possible to run programs that get juniors on the water in sail boats.
7. Website
- There was discussion of how we can continue to improve the website at www.jsca.bc.ca. Its primary purpose is to inform members and promote the Jericho Sailing Centre. It needs to have up to date information that is of interest to members. Many features can be added including race registration and rescue team member event sign-up. Richard Spencer accepted appointment by the committee to be the JSCA's Webmaster. Richard will work with JSCA staff to find ways to continue to improve and develop the website.
8. Race Scoring
- The Principal Race Officer and race scorers will attempt to score every participating boat in Sunday and Tuesday races. Finishing positions will be recorded for all boats in all races (unless a boat has no sail number and cannot be identified). We only require one registration for the season, and this should allow people who sail their own boats to be identified. It can be a problem getting the names of the people who are sailing co-op owned boats, or sailing boats from other clubs who are not registered at Jericho. We may be able to use a program like Regatta Manager to allow people to register on line for Tuesday and Sunday racing, which could help to identify sailors who were not registered, or were in a co-op boat.
- Race results should be posted physically onsite, and on the web, ASAP.
- Advertising race results for regattas in publications such as Pacific Yachting and 48 degrees North may create awareness, help recruit people, and is desirable.
9. Sponsorship
- West Marine came through last year with over \$600 worth of merchandise prizes for the Jericho Classic Regatta. Where sponsors are willing to provide us with prizes we can give them onsite exposure.

10. Wishlist

Programs committee wish list includes: a video camera for coaching and promotional videos; a new set of hypalon marks; and more keen volunteers.

11. Rookie Racing, Advanced Racing and Race Management seminars.

About 25 members went through Rookie Racing programs in 2005. It is a gentle way of introducing new racers into an often intimidating situation. A buddy or mentor system, where a more experienced sailor could help someone with less experience, was suggested as something fleets could try.

Advanced racing programs will be available through MacSailing in 2006. BC Sailing may also be a source for such programs. We have a number of members who are high calibre racers in their class and may be willing to volunteer their expertise.

David Cram and John Culter are willing to run Race Management Seminars at Jericho which will be scheduled at the BC Sailing Annual Planning Conference.

Last year there was very little interest from people wishing to be certified. Mark Jones knows of 4 members in the Hobie Fleet who are interested.

12. Adjournment

Next Meeting