

SM Sailing Annual Meeting
October 21, 2021

Meeting Minutes

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Meeting ID: 956 9585 0378 (Password: SMSA1234)

Board Attendees (Bold = present):

President Andy Herlihy (Community Boating Center - New Bedford)

1st VP Beth Smith (Grand Cove YC)

2nd VP Greg Stevens (Vineyard Haven YC)

Treasurer - Judy Quinn (Hyannis YC)

Secretary – John Maggioni (Chatham YC)

Administrator - Rob Hurd (Tabor Academy)

Meeting called to order by President Andy Herlihy at 2002 hours.

1. Junior Sailing Symposium.

Tonight's goal is to get some like-minded people together and share some ideas regarding junior sailing program. The more you share, the more we all get out of it. I asked for some questions to help guide the conversation. Here are a few to get started

Questions:

1) What boats are you currently using?

- A. Quissett – Optis, C420s, Bullseyes for adventure sailing. Some programming in H-12s
- B. Stone Horse – Hunters, Optis, C420s, sometimes a Wianno Sr
- C. Plymouth - Optis C420, RS Quests
- D. Hyannis – Optis, C420s, RS Quest, Open Skiffs, some wind surfers, Club owned J/22
- E. Vineyard Haven – Sonars, C420, Open Skiffs, Windsurfer, Lasers (sorta)
- F. Falmouth - Optis, Open Skiffs, C420s, Sonars

2) How is your program timeline structured?

- A. Hyannis – 8-week program (swimming and sailing both up to a certain level of swimming, and then they can specialize).
- B. Vineyard Haven – two 4-week program. Some kids do both programs
- C. Stone Horse - two 4-week program. Some kids do both programs
- D. Quissett – Race teams are 8 weeks, learn to sail is 1 week or 2 weeks. Adventure sailing is sometimes 4 weeks. Changing demographics have necessitated
- E. Falmouth - week to week basis. Outreach into the town. Club members tend to stay for all 8 weeks, but in the learn to sail we get a lot of just 1 week people.
- F. Plymouth - 2 week, 4 week or 8 week. There are some challenges in this format

3) What is your fee structure?

- A. Discounts for members,
- B. Discount for the whole 8 weeks

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- C. Discounts if you bring your own boat
 - D. Junior membership for non-member kids
 - E. BYOB or charter a club boat
- 4) Registration. Do you do it on-line or with paper
- A. Quissett – Thinking of switching to Clubspot. Used Membe for club newsletters, etc.
 - B. Hyannis – used a different online system for the past three years and each one was horrible. Using now Buzz Software, but it is also a club management software.
 - C. Plymouth – Looking for a new system. Camp doc was what Beverly used so thinking of changing to that.
 - D. Falmouth – Clubspot. Pay an admin to run that.
 - E. Stone Horse – Are you required to pay the junior sailing bills before starting or do you bill members on their month bill.
- 5) What is SM Sailing doing to help programs promote Jr sailing activity beyond the traditional race schedule?
- A. SM Sailing charter is to coordinate racing within the district, so that is where are focus is. Over the years, we have expanded to include instructor training. That said, if there are opportunities to promote other junior non-racing activities, then it si worth a conversation on how we can help.
- 6) How have programs successfully encouraged younger sailors to stay in the program, to move up into single-handed sailing, and not drop out when they hit the "racing" age/stage?
- A. Hyannis – adventure sailing program in J/22s
 - B. Vineyard Haven – Lot of emphasis on this. Saw a decline in participation 10 years ago. Added windsurfing and adventure sailing and have doubled the program. Often putting our best instructors in this group. Goal “do something different every day “– different boat, different location, etc. Windsurfing/foiling was the strongest program in 2021.
 - C. Falmouth – Reversed downward trend in enrollment this year. Added Open skiffs and an adventure “boating” course designed to get people on the water.
 - D. Stone Horse – struggling with this. Truly a racing program, so kids are dropping out if they don’t want to race.
 - E. Plymouth – Started to grown program by working in conjunction with the town’s rec program.
 - F. West Dennis – Sunfish for adventure sailing
- 7) How clubs are thinking about staffing given acute shortages and continued pressure of internships, summer courses, etc.
- A. Hyannis – a lot of junior instructors. Not all of them are involved in the program anymore.
 - B. Plymouth – Train up my son to fill a gap. Got another kid from Cohasset b/c they have “go away for a year” requirement. Have a robust junior instructor program

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- C. Stone Horse – Got a 420 coach from Brown. That worked well so we plan to do that again. We have an apartment so we can offer housing
- D. Quissett – Covid screwed us up, so we lost a year of people out of the junior instructor pipeline that we had to fill.
- E. Vineyard Haven -
- F. Falmouth – lean heavily in junior instructors. Provides coverage but almost have too many. We promote from within mostly, but this year, we upped the budget and brought in an outside person. Not sure it was worth the price.

8) What else

- A. Again, in Spring?
- B. Clubs using prop guards
- C. Wireless kill switches
- D. Regatta logistics
- E. Fundraising ideas
- F. Parent involvement
- G. Staff and hiring

The call was adjourned at 2033

Appendix A: Chat from ZOOM Call

- 9:02:50 From JenVisco-Stone Horse YC: Jen Visco - Stone Horse YC**
- 19:02:56 From Beth Smith: Beth Smith Hyannis, Grand Cove**
- 19:03:23 From Brian Doyle FYC: Brian Doyle FYC**
- 19:06:45 From Chris McGuire-QYC: Chris McGuire-Quissett YC JR Sailing Chair**
- 20:24:22 From doug jones qyc: Thanks for sharing all this information. I look forward to the next meeting. I will have leave now. Great to see you again, Rob.**
- 20:32:24 From Brian Doyle - FYC: Brian Doyle FYC**
- 20:32:29 From robingaynor: Robin Gaynor - Plymouth Yacht Club**
- 20:32:30 From Gabor Menyhart: Gabor Menyhart - HYC**
- 20:32:34 From Kevin J: kevin johnson Namequoit Sailing**