

US SAILING Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, May 18, 2009

Present: Dick Allsopp, Dean Brenner, President Jim Capron, John Dane III, Susan Epstein, Vice President Tom Hubbell, Gary Jobson, Leslie Keller, Patty Lawrence, Jerry Montgomery, Dawn Riley, Bill Stump, and non-voting Ex Officio members, Secretary Fred Hagedorn and Executive Director Charlie Leighton.

Observers and Guests included Walt Chamberlain, Charley Cook, Cory Sertl, Liz Walker and Steve Wrigley.

- 1) The meeting was called to order by President Capron at 8:02 pm EST.
- 2) Secretary Hagedorn called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.
- 3) It was noted that the April Minutes had been approved by the Board via an email vote and that they were posted on the Website.
- 4) President's Report – President Capron shared that apparently, as a result of the USOC Hearing Panel's published decision, a Section IX complaint has been filed relative to an event held this past September in San Francisco Bay. Relative to the February USOC Hearing Panel decision, a motion for clarification is currently in draft.

The ORC Termination agreement regarding the use of the US SAILING Intellectual Property is being discussed by the parties and should be finalized soon.

- 5) Executive Director's Report - Executive Director Leighton shared that the association participated in the Volvo stop-over in Boston at Fan Pier by hosting a dinner with the College Sailors and a presentation by selected members of our 2008 Olympic and Paralympic medallists.

He also reported that the Association is on budget. Membership is up 28% YTD, but May, June, July and August are critical months in the membership area. We are doing well in the area of Fundraising. In the Technology area, we plan to release the new CMS by the end of June, 2009.

Leighton attended a meeting of the Executive Directors of the NGBs this past month. He shared that US SAILING is in the top quartile of NGBs. It was noted that the top 5 staff persons at the USOC have left the organization in the past few months.

For a while, Leighton has been thinking a lot about the future and how to continue to keep our staff engaged and a part of our organization. To this end, he is running a mini-class for the staff each month. The current book they are reading and discussing is "You Don't Need to Have a Title to be a Leader."

- 6) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Keller reported that the Audit is beginning at our offices with the outside audit team. Keller also noted that the unrealized gains of our portfolio have made up for our previously unrealized losses.

- 7) ISAF Mid-Year Meeting Issues – Attendees of the ISAF Mid-Year meeting shared a sense of what is happening in the ISAF. Cory Sertl brought forward the thought that US SAILING might consider hosting one of these mid-year meetings in a few years.
- 8) Olympic Report – Chairman Dean Brenner shared his picture of the US SAILING Olympic Program. He sees three corners of a triangle: the athletes, the sources of funds (USOC, donors, sponsors, fundraisers), and the fans of our sailors.

Brenner noted that the staff is engendering a culture of fitness, shared training and a sense of team, among the athletes.

Finally, Brenner shared that we have more athletes engaged in active campaigns in the first year of a quad, than historically. He also shared that it is our program's goal to be serious contenders for a medal in 6 of the Olympic events and in all 3 of the Paralympic events.

- 9) Championships Committee Proposal – Gary Jobson, with Steve Wrigley and Liz Walker, shared a vision of where our championships can and should evolve. They shared a matrix that was discussed for 2010 and beyond. The goal is to ensure that each of our championships is relevant and is seen by an outside observer as a “true championship of our nation.”

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and unanimously approved to endorse the principles engendered in the “2010 and Beyond Plan” (see attachment A). It should be noted that the right-hand column of this document is for reference purposes, and is not necessarily what should or will be done.

#### 10) Old Business

None

#### 11) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Executive Director Leighton brought forward a **MOTION** to extend the lease for our office space. This **MOTION** was made, seconded and approved.

#### 12) The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick H. Hagedorn  
Secretary

Attachment A

Championship	2010 & Beyond – An Endorsed 4 year Plan	Background thinking, but NOT approved actions
<p><b>US Men’s</b></p> <p><b>US Women’s</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going forward both Men’s and Women’s Championships will be held at the same venue.</li> <li>• Official quarter finals will not be held as the Semi Finals will be open.</li> <li>• Continue to evaluate sailor participation annually.</li> <li>• Sperry Grants are to be provided to the men’s champion to pay entry fees for a Nood Regatta and women’s champion entry fees paid for the International Women’s Keelboat Championship.</li> <li>• Review and evaluate the size and make up of our committee structure in order to better serve our sailors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The participants feel that these are significant championships.</li> <li>• Change will be a challenge due to the long history of both championships.</li> <li>• Continue to structure committees which are proactive and responsive to our sailors needs.</li> <li>• Semi Finals have not been well attended with an average of only 5 of 11 areas conducting a Semi Finals each year and on average 3-4 teams per regatta. We will continue to closely evaluate the Championship ladder system. Local RSAs will still be able hold regattas where they finance the winner’s entry to the Semis (sailors who do not win will still be able to compete in the open Semis).</li> <li>• We should continue to evaluate the class of boats used and how to utilize what our sailors perceive to be “today’s” boats.</li> <li>• Combining the two events creates better sponsorship opportunities and economies of scale.</li> </ul>
<p><b>US Match Racing</b></p> <p><b>US Women’s Match Racing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will continue to evaluate the combining of the Open and the Women’s Championships at one venue.</li> <li>• We will need ISAF grading for a grade 3 regatta with the women racing with the open group in preliminaries, but each racing within itself in the Semis and Finals.</li> <li>• This would also allow the introduction of additional high quality racing. A competition level below the finals. This would be needed to allow all across the nation to sail their way in (numerous regattas will be needed to accomplish this).</li> <li>• Evaluate the combination of the two committees in order to better serve our competitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With 6 Open and 6 women’s teams, the caliber of racing would be very much strengthened.</li> <li>• Combining racing in the preliminary rounds would strengthen women’s match racing for the Olympics, but we will need an ISAF grade 3 rating approval to succeed (we are currently in discussion with the proper personnel at ISAF).</li> <li>• This will be an opportunity to expand match racing for the open and women’s divisions by creating a competition level below the finals to be sailed around the country. This would allow all to sail their way in, no matter where one lives.</li> <li>• Currently both winners of these championships move on to higher levels of competition nationally and internationally.</li> <li>• The Championship Committee will continue to work with OSC to develop a path forward such that the winner of the Women’s Championship receives an invitation to try out for the US SAILNG team or to race at the pretrials.</li> <li>• <b>This championship must always be the Nations Cup qualifier.</b></li> </ul>

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<b>USTRC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to evaluate a reduction in the size of the regatta to enable the top teams more high caliber racing throughout the entire championship regatta.</li> <li>Continue to work to with various OAs develop other regattas to become legitimate feeders (commit to adhering to all of US SAILING’s criteria for membership and race officials) to the finals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The finals must be structured to allow the best to frequently race against each other.</li> <li><b>This championship must always be the World’s Qualifier.</b></li> <li>We will need to develop more sponsorship sources as well as an increase in entry fees to fund this championship as it is one of the most expensive to host and run both for the club and US SAILING.</li> <li>We must continue to have a committee which truly reflects the youthful age group of our racers.</li> </ul>
<b>US Singlehanded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will continue to investigate how to format the championship to bring the best racers to the finals.</li> <li>Investigate the introduction a Women’s Singlehanded division in the Radial class (12 teams) to be held at the same venue as the Open.</li> <li>One committee for both championships.</li> <li>Look to use boats other than Lasers (Finns? others?).</li> <li>Review the structure of the committee to fit with today’s needs of our racers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will continue to work with the OSC to reserve a berth at the pre-trials and trials for the winner and a berth for the women’s winner should that championship be introduced.</li> <li>The winners should be assisted financially to move onto a more prestigious level. This may mean finding new ways to find sponsors.</li> <li>Consider the winners to be members of the US SAILING Team or provide them the opportunity to sail their way on.</li> <li>Laser Performance is open to the idea of providing an additional fleet or additional rigs if a women’s championship was introduced.</li> </ul>
<b>US SAILING’s Championship Of Champions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the impact of extending this concept to be broader than just fleet champions.</li> <li>We will continue to investigate how this Best of the Best can a unique opportunity for a sponsor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a regatta that is truly the best of the best, but can favor the sailors who have their experience in the class of boat raced.</li> <li>CoC is very popular with one design classes, and offers the opportunity to introduce new classes to the championship and US SAILING.</li> <li>This championship requires a very proactive committee.</li> </ul>

Attachment A

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<b>US Disabled Championship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue in the current direction.</li> <li>Must continue to seek enough sponsorship to properly finance the championship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly recommend that the winners of each of the 3 fleets qualify for US SAILING Disabled Sailing Team AlphaGraphics.</li> <li>Has continued to expand and is seems to be one of the more popular regattas with both the sailors and the sponsors.</li> <li>Usually receives in kind sponsorship, but cash sponsorship must also be generated for continued success.</li> <li>A strong committee which is very proactive is needed to continue the success which has been achieved.</li> <li>Classification at the event with funding from Competitions should be encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>US Offshore Championship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions are taking place with regards to holding the championship in 2010 and we may have opportunities to find hosts beyond this date.</li> <li>Evaluate the frequency of holding this regatta.</li> <li>Must continue to restructure the format if we are to continue to hold this regatta on annual basis.</li> <li>The Championship will add a ISAF Group 3 professional sailors (similar to the system use by the Farr 40s). This may assist in the strengthening of the championship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to continue to restructure in order that the championship will becomes more of a standalone committee and not a duplication of the Offshore Council.</li> <li>A rotation of venues and hosts are needed.</li> <li>We should consider adding a distance segment to the finals.</li> </ul>
<b>US Multihull Championship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An official bid for 2010 has not been received.</li> <li>The cost of leasing boats is increasing and some of the principle of the Hoyt Jolly fund was used for the 2009 boats (leasing). Continued use of the principle is not recommended by the Championship Chair nor the Championship Director.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greatly valued by the multihull sailors.</li> <li>The cost of leasing boats may lead us to new ways to cover expenses as well as how we manage the regatta.</li> <li>The Championship does not attract national sponsors so we must work on marketing to support each year's championships.</li> <li>Stronger communication between this committee and US SAILING is very much needed.</li> </ul>
<b>International Women's Keelboat Championship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regatta is one the most visible of our championships and is run biannually.</li> <li>The Championship will be hosted Rochester YC in 2011</li> <li>Continue as is, but must continue to attract the prestigious international sailors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continues as the # 1 sponsor driven regatta.</li> <li>Brings in international judges (vs. all other regattas which are likely not to).</li> <li>At the request of the title Sponsor this is separate from championships' budget.</li> <li>We will need to focus more on how to develop the international participation.</li> </ul>

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<b>US Junior Championships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Championship has a title sponsor which has improved the event.</li> <li>• Quarter finals will be eliminated in 2010 as young sailors' schedules are full.</li> <li>• Emphasis on the Semis and the finals.</li> <li>• Continue to evaluate the committee structure to insure we are serving the championship and our sailors.</li> <li>• Encourage Areas to hold Chubb clinics at the semis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of our oldest Championships.</li> <li>• The majority of our top sailors as well as Yachtsmen and Yachtswomen of the Year participated in these championships in their youth.</li> <li>• The champions of each event should go onto compete at a higher level.</li> <li>• We will need to sail in more competitive (and fun) triplehanded boats in order to attract our top young sailors to this championship.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Championship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current path forward is strong.</li> <li>• Continue to review the structure of the committee.</li> <li>• Work with the OSC to provide linkage with this championship and the new under 18 program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important to have the champion move onto a higher level of competition.</li> <li>• Proper boat selection is necessary so that our young sailors are moving in the right direction for the future.</li> <li>• Still very tied to ISAF's selection of boats for the ISAF Youth Worlds.</li> <li>• All of our top sailors have come out of this championship.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Multihull Championship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A newly restructured committee with new Chairperson took place in 2008.</li> <li>• Is currently combined with the youth world qualifier and we seek to have the championship as a high quality level competition that might be a standalone qualifier.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This championship should be a standalone feeder to any world event.</li> <li>• Tied very closely to ISAF's selection for the Youth Worlds.</li> <li>• Logistics will be an issue in 2010 and 2011 as the boat chosen by ISAF for the Youth Worlds is found only in California, while the qualifier is in Florida.</li> </ul>
<b>Junior Women's Championships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the OSC to provide linkage with these championships and the new under 18 program (in turn linked to the ISAF initiative.)</li> <li>• Continue to have Clinics and US SAILING coaches an integral part of the regattas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A co operative relationship with Trustees and the Trust is a must, but at the same time the championship must meet today's demand by our sailors to blend in with tomorrow world of racing.</li> <li>• Leiter trophy is for the singlehanded and the Ida Lewis trophy for doublehanded.</li> <li>• All of our top women sailors have sailed in these championships.</li> </ul>
<b>All US SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to drive each championship to be the best of the best.</li> <li>2. Structure our committee to serve today's racers.</li> <li>3. Insure that at least one member of each committee is under 30 years old.</li> <li>4. We need to always have our championship be the feeders to any international event.</li> <li>5. We need to market the Championships as a group to potential sponsors.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate having several championships in one locale ( could be multiple hosts )</li> <li>• We must seek to bring fresh ideas through young and energetic committee members.</li> <li>• It is important to have all our junior events in sync with the OSC's direction.</li> <li>• We will need the assistance of the Area Directors to communicate with our sailors and their RSAs and yacht clubs.</li> <li>• We need to seek a path so that all champions can go on to compete at a higher level.</li> </ul>