

VENUES REPORT

February 18, 2015

Community Sailing Committee

The Community Sailing Committee (CSC) met at NSPS and identified a few key areas, and initiatives, that they'll be focusing on in 2015:

MENTORSHIP

As US Sailing continues to welcome new faces to NSPS & the Forum, the idea to establish the foundation for a mentoring initiative was launched in San Diego at the Forum in 2014. Initially, mentee candidates were selected from an open application process. Criteria for selection in this initial phase included those who were relatively new to leadership position or new in a specific role - career development was a strong consideration. Travel funds were provided to help offset costs. Mentors were hand-selected and invited through known contacts and established leaders/experienced for this first round. Mentors and Mentees connected during meal time(s) and social events and a process of "natural selection" was the outcome of this first group of mentees. Some mentees and mentors communicated periodically following the Forum. Those who did not continue a relationship within this group did seek - or already had established - relationships with trusted peers or colleagues who supported their ongoing learning.

This initiative will be flushed out more with the expectation being that it will be renewed at the Sailing Leadership Forum.

ACCREDITATION

There are currently 27 Accredited Community Sailing Centers (formerly called Sanctioned Centers). Jen Guimaraes will be taking over the role of Chair for the Community Sailing Accreditation and Exchange committee.

Marketing materials are being developed that will be accessible online for accredited sites to drop-in their logo alongside the US Sailing for added branding benefits. This approach has been taken with Keelboat and Powerboat programs and will allow for more consistency among the Community Sailing Centers who are utilizing the US Sailing brand.

RESOURCES

The Committee is in the process of updating the *Community Sailing Handbook* and merging some of its content with the *Modular Program Planner*. This new publication will serve as the primary text for the re-vamped Program Workshops, which are non-certification level and resource based. The product is approximately 70% completed, but more content is being added, including case studies and templates.

MEMBERSHIP

Kate Neubauer and Jen Guimaraes are working with Georgia McDonald, on ways to best connect with our accredited centers. While there's a potential connection via membership (or a version of the MVP program), the near future is focused on opening up lines of communication and determining how US Sailing can best serve the needs of the Community Sailing Centers.

OTHER ITEMS

Windy Key is assuming the role of CSC staff liaison. She is also the staff liaison for the Committee for Sailors with Disabilities which provides her a very unique opportunity to work on connecting the two groups. She will also be responsible for working with US Sailing's Communications Manager to relay news from both committees.

Committee members are encouraged to submit their "first sail" stories to the First Sail Initiative. Committee members were also notified of the grant opportunities available through the First Sail Grant Program.

Regional Sailing Association Committee

Harry Foote, Chairman, reported that the RSAC developed five goals from last year's fall meeting.

1. Create a forum to allow for open and easily accessible communication among the committee.
2. Create a current job description for the RSAC and ACC.
3. Mentor new members.
4. Develop current and accurate email addresses for the RSAC
5. Find ways to increase participation in the clubs and LSO's.

So far considerable progress has occurred in many of these goals. A Google forum has been established and has over 50 members with many of the topics receiving numerous views. While it does not have the same impact or flare of a conference call or webinar, everyone can see their own progress and schedule and post comments for the rest of the committee to see. It is a step forward in the much needed area of communication.

We have created a Handbook for RSA and ACC members based loosely on the old CSA handbook. It is attached for you reading. For someone new to the organization it gives a

basic description of how the RSAC is organized and where they fit in the overall organization and what the committee members responsibilities are.

Mentoring of new members is still in the development stage, and Harry asks for ideas on the best way to accomplish this task before the sailing season goes full speed around the country.

The current RSA roster, posted on the forum and with Georgia McDonald, has accurate member names and email addresses for the members.

The last of the five goals is proving to be the most challenging and Harry feels the most important, and that is to grow the sport and increase participation in our Clubs and Local Sailing associations. This will have to be a committee effort. The Vice chair recently sent me an email outlining his concerns to share with the RSAC and get their feedback as well as their ideas on growth. One of the first topics Harry posted on the forum came from Glenn McCarthy on growing your club membership. He had some great marketing ideas around regattas and sailing activities. That is an area that many Clubs and LSO's probably never consider. There are other sound suggestions that can be employed without a great deal of expense. Hopefully by the next report there will be some positive inroads made in this area.

Harry has asked Ed Theisen to lead the Area Redraw committee. Ed had expressed that this will be his last year as an "active" member of US Sailing and given his experience and knowledge of the organization Harry thought he would be a good fit. To date Ed has advised of only one RSA that was looking to change the Area that they are in.

ISSA

ISSA continues to have monthly conference calls with their Board. Currently there is much activity to try to get SEISA (Texas, Gulf Coast region) organized & running. It will be a challenge. The reorganization of the SAISA (Florida, Carolina region) region has now seen a tremendous growth with a record number of schools & sailors.

The first keelboat event was held in St Petersburg this last November with 9 schools competing from all districts plus some open berths.

They feel we'll be on track to have the same membership numbers from 2014.

Respectively Submitted,
Jim Tichenor