

2019 ECA Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting held in Chicago on 1-12-19 was a great success! Neil Lynch with Fleet 35 hosted the event and arranged a very memorable venue for our gathering. In one weekend, attendees were able to dine at the historic Chicago Firehouse Restaurant, stay at the gilded-age classic Blackstone Hotel, attend the Chicago Boat Show and convene for our meeting in a room that was formerly Al Capone's barbershop. Wow! Thank you, Neil and Fleet 35.

It was wonderful to meet some amazing new members. Representatives from the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center (MCSC) attended and we got to hear about their impressive program, facility and organization. Their fleet of instructional boats includes 29 Ensigns! They have begun working with Chad Lewis from Ensign Spars to upgrade these boats over the next few years. There are many opportunities for synergy between the ECA and MCSC which is only one of 35 community sailing programs accredited by US Sailing. Our mutual interests include reactivating and growing Milwaukee Ensign Fleet 37, educating the public especially youth about sailing and sailboat racing and promoting the Ensign as a family boat for recreational sailing. ECA members can also help MCSC by donating their older sails to this 501 (c) 3. Likewise, MCSC can help us by showcasing the Ensign as an excellent boat for other community sailing centers that are looking at US Sailing accredited programs.

Another amazing new member who came to the meeting was John Huff who just bought an Ensign that he is having completely restored by Chad Lewis at Ensign Spars. John, who hails from Chicago, is a true gentleman who happens to be a Cook County Judge. When I asked him if he raced, he very modestly said yes. Indeed he does. Later I learned he is a past overall champion of the fabled Mackinac Island Race which he won in his Tartan 10! John explained that he decided to buy an Ensign because of its beautiful classic design, a well run and strong ECA and our relationship with an excellent builder in Chad Lewis of Ensign Spars. Sometimes it takes a newbie to make you look at things with fresh eyes and realize how much you have and what has been accomplished by so many over the years.

The business meeting included election of the Governing Committee for 2019 & 2020, a vote on the Part III, Rule 9C regarding the maximum number of people allowed on a boat for the Nationals, the appointment of a new Yearbook Editor, and discussion of the 2019 National Championship Regatta and regional regattas. See below for more details.

The Governing Committee for 2019- 2020

<u>Commodore</u>	Pete Kogut	Fleet 23	Canandaigua, NY	#856 The White Lady
<u>Vice Commodores</u>				
Regional Affairs	Neil Lynch	Fleet 35	Marquette, MI	#1643 Irish Ayes
Publicity	Fran Trapp	Fleet 83	Columbia, SC	#513 Babe
Rules	Bud Brown	Fleet 63 & 81	Barnegat Bay, NJ St. Michael's, MD	#1085 Lorelei
<u>Secretary</u>	Roy Adamson	Fleet 34	Stonington, CT	#1066 Friendship
<u>Treasurer</u>	Kay Snider	Fleet 2	Houston, TX	#1724 Little Oil

New Rule Passed

Part III Rule 9C was amended to read:

"In addition to the contestant, there must be a crew consisting of not less than two, nor more than four persons."

Part III Rule 9C previously read:

"In addition to the contestant, there must be a crew consisting of not less than two, nor more than three persons."

The additional person will accommodate those teams with less than ideal physical abilities, younger or elderly persons, lighter teams, teams that want to sail with a "ride-along", and those teams that normally sail with five at the local level.

New Yearbook Editor

Teresa Coronado, who is the program manager for the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center, has volunteered to take on the position of Yearbook Editor. She has hit the ground running and already contacted all the Fleet Captains for their reports.

2019 ECA Regattas- see website for details and updates

58th ECA National Championship

August 10-15, 2019

Fleet 23 has opened registration for the 2019 Nationals which can be done online or by mail. The event will take place on Canandaigua Lake, located in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of western New York State.

A historic first for the ECA in 2019 will be a separate JAM Division Championship competition at Nationals. Recognizing that many members race in their local fleets without spinnakers, this will offer them the same opportunity to compete at a national level and enjoy the wonderful camaraderie and fun of participating at our biggest event of the year. Chad Lewis announced that Ensign Spars will donate a new perpetual trophy for the JAM Division Championship.

2019 Mid Winters Regatta

March 22- 24, 2019

Fleet 83 once again goes all out to host the Mid-Winters on Lake Murray in Columbia, South Carolina.

Anyone who has ever attended has told me the Fleet 83 members are incredible hosts, the venue is beautiful and the food cooked by Ensign sailor and professional chef Tommy Kasperski is outstanding.

Whenever I attend an ECA Annual Meeting, I come away recharged by the enthusiasm, new ideas and dedication on display. This year was certainly no exception. Our organization has many strengths but the greatest is the quality of the many incredible sailors who make up our membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Kogut

ECA Commodore