

ILCA Governing Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023 - DRAFT

Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

Attendance: Meeting Chair, David Starck, Tom Allen, Robert Astrove, Jason Bemis, Bill Bogardus, Peter Bright, Bob & Sterling Bush, Bill Cabrall, Jamie Calderon, Bill Faude, Josh Goldman, Jonathan Martinetti, Richard Miner, Jack Mueller, Mark Schneider, Amy Simonsen, David Sprague, Joe Starck, Keith Taboada, Nick Vazakas, Doug Wake, Bertie Werley. Executive Secretary Laura Jeffers. Those not in attendance but submitted proxies: Kimmo Aromma, Joe Buczkowski, Ryan Davidson, Steve Davis, Greg Fisher, Jeff Hayden, Eric Heller, Lauri Hemming, George Koch, Victor Lobos, Peter McGinity, Craig Pomeroy, Ryan Ruhlman, Roger Slade, Tommy Sumner, Gustavo Tamayo, Valerie Tardif-Holly to achieve quorum.

President Starck called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM Eastern Time and attendance was taken via Zoom participant list.

Meeting Minutes from Governing Board meeting March 11, 2023 were presented. A motion was made by Joe Starck to dispense the reading of the minutes and accept them as presented. Bill Faude seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.

President's Report: David Starck – summarized - Written Report

As I officially take the helm as President of the Lightning Class, I pause for a moment, clear the air, and express my gratitude to all Governing Board members, past and present, for your hard work and dedication to the Lightning Class. Likewise, a special thank you to the Executive Committee members and our Executive Secretary, Laura Jeffers. Without your volunteerism and leadership, the class would not function.

I'd like to welcome the following individuals to the Governing Board:

Joe Starck – VP North American Championships

William Faude – VP Pan Am Games

Jason Bemis – VP Special Projects

Amy Simonsen – VP Southern Circuit

Roger Slade – District Commodore, Central N.Y.

Nathan Cunningham – District Commodore, New England

Those taking new positions:

Josh Goldman – VP World Championships

Jeffrey Hayden – VP Co-Chair Lightning Labs

Finally, thank you to Rob Ruhlman (VP Worlds) and Joan Hurban (VP Lightning Labs) for your time served on the Governing Board.

As far as class business, financially, we in a good place. A huge 'shout out' to Bertie Werley for taking on the oversight of the class finances. She has lots of good ideas to keep us in good stead which includes a keen focus on the value of class membership, giving people a reason to join/renew.

Looking towards the 2024 season, along with membership value, I will be focused on our pipeline for new equipment, boat parts, new boats. We need to plan accordingly for our future 5-10 years out. Furthermore, I will be communicating with fleet captains, district commodores, and other volunteers throughout our entire class footprint, asking how the class leadership can help them grow their district/region, local fleets, etc. Regional and local regattas are the lifeblood of the class. This includes our international footprint too.

Finally, speaking of international, we are just over a month away from the 2023 World, International Master and South American Championships being held in Cartagena, Colombia. The Organizing Authority in Colombia has been working very hard to host an amazing event. Keep an eye out for social media posts from Colombia.

Finally, I've asked a working group to look at the structure of the WJM & North American Championships and make recommendations on how to increase participation. Our new VP NA's Joe Starck will lead the group discussion and come to us with recommendations.

Thanks again to everyone for making the Lightning Class a special place to sail and spend time with family & friends.

Chief Measurer's Report- Joe Buczkowski – Written Report Submitted

Since our last meeting, we accomplished updating the class policy on electronics which is in the final steps of approval from World Sailing, and the resumption of mast construction. Both were needed and will ensure the class continues to be relevant into the future.

On Oct 16 the class conducted a meeting with reps from world sailing as we seek to have approval by the Pan Am games and the Worlds. While I was not present, it was attended by Laura Jeffers, Dave Sprague and Darryl Waskow. As anticipated World Sailing had feedback on wording but no changes to intent of the change. The updated proposal has been submitted and we expect to hear back from World Sailing in a few days. More to follow on this subject. Although not approved formally we have allowed its use in events and have seen the impact of electronics use with social media during events and great photos on the water. The ability to check on weather in marginal conditions has eased the anxiety some skippers felt on marginal days and helped them to make an informed decision on safety. All feedback I have received has been positive, but I look forward to hearing from more members with their thoughts about how the changes have impacted their sailing and the class (both good and bad).

Masts are back! Coming out of the pandemic there were many supply chain and worker issues across the globe but for us it was most prevalent in the inability to get new masts. While we did get by on inventory and being creative with repairs to older masts, the ability to get a new mast is significant for the overall health of the class. All of the new masts from the Allen Boat Company are fully certified and meet all class specifications. Comments from those who have a new mast support that they are just as good as any of the previous masts. Several were used at the NA's across a wide range of wind conditions with no issues. A big thanks to Tom Allen and his team for getting all the things done that go into restarting a production of masts. On the subject of masts there has been some interest in other builders to start making masts. These talks are in their infancy and hopefully will develop over the next year.

I want to thank all the volunteers at Metedeconk River YC and Toms River Yacht Clubs with measurement. Their help was instrumental in making measurement at both events go smoothly. I have been working with the team in Colombia to put on a great event for the worlds and a Special thank you to Dave Sprague for representing the class as both the Pan Ams and the Worlds.

I look forward to working with the new slate of officers with Dave's ideas for the future of the class, and as Chief Measurer I want to continue to modernize our class through electronic conversion of plans to a CAD based versions as well as how we conduct measurement at events so that we maintain the principles of one design sailing yet, minimize time measuring boats and sails.

Treasurers Report – Bertie Werley – summarized written report

Overall, both Income and Expenses are in line with our 2023 Budget and historical levels. While North American Skipper Dues are up as a result our dues increase in April, the overall number of skipper memberships are down slightly. Laura and I are meeting separately to discuss some measures we can take to address this and hopefully drive-up membership, including: a more personalized follow-up after the system-generated reminders have been sent, a "campaign" to increase the number of auto-renewals, and development of our value proposition to members – what do they get for their money?

Our Flashes Advertising Income is down; we need to figure out how to charge for advertising on the website, and our Merchandise income is down due to a timing issue of ordering inventory. Overall Expenses are nearly flat with 2022 and in line with our Budget.

Laura and I will be meeting in December to begin work on the Budget for 2024 and will finalize it in January after year-end actuals are available.

Secretary Report – Julio Velez – Written Report Submitted

In Salinas, Ecuador, the first edition of the Salinas Sailing Week championship took place, an event that featured various classes, including the Lightning class, and included the international participation of a crew from Colombia and a representative from Peru. Next year, there is an expectation to have a greater international presence from other countries. The idea is to host a low-cost event where we provide accommodation and boats at no cost.

In Ecuador, Sebastian Higuera is set to become another supplier for the Lightning class in South America, particularly for stays and halyard spares. He already has the machinery and is about to begin production. This is excellent news as it will optimize both time and costs for our region when such spare parts are needed. Also, we are working to see if we can find a supplier for masts in South America, but so far, we haven't found one that can meet all the required specifications. The Pan American Games and the Lightning World Championship are just around the corner. Many teams have been training rigorously for these two events, making them highly competitive. The organizers of the World Championship have everything ready and are looking forward to welcoming the class in the best possible way.

Newsletters, social media, and articles are a priority to keep our members updated on class events and also to attract new sailors.

In Julio's absence, David Starck added that it is great to have Julio on the Executive Committee, he adds a lot of knowledge and input from a South American perspective. In addition, Starck announced that Meredith Killion has been elected as the 5th Executive Committee Member. We are excited to have Meredith joining us. She is a longtime Lightning member, most recently you will find her crewing for Ched Proctor. Welcome Meredith!

VP and Committee Reports:

Pan American Games – David Starck

Just this week, Bill Faude filled the vacant position of VP Pan Am Games. As he has just been appointed, Starck gave a short update. The Games begin next week Oct 25-Nov 4, and we have a great group of athletes representing the Class: ARG – Conte, BRA- Sumner, CAN – Ramsay, CHI – Robles, ECU – Martinetti, PER – Mendoza, USA – Terhune, VEN –Saba. The local Chilean Fleet is doing a great job to support this event and a special thank you to David Sprague who will be down there helping with the Measurement process. Faude added that he had the opportunity to speak with Allan Terhune last week and reflected on the games. As a competitor back in 2007 (Faude) his appreciation of how important this is to the Class has grown. Faude added that back in 2007 David Sprague was there, and Faude hopes to live up to his commitment. Sprague was thankful for the comments, this will be his 6th Games.

World Championship – Josh Goldman/ Peter Bright

The Worlds will begin next month, the planning process is well under way, and we are on track for a great event.

Peter Bright, VP from Colombia and part of the 2023 Worlds OA added that everything is going smoothly. The first 6 boats from Tomine were shipped to Cartagena this week. The boat park is all prepped and we are awaiting on the arrival of the boats. Paula Douat is doing a great job with the organization. We look forward to seeing everyone soon. Starck added that the US boats were packed last weekend and are enroute. Bright added that we are working on trying to BRA to come and if anyone has any questions or needs assistance please ask.

Starck added that the 2025 the Worlds Rotation will go back to Europe. Nick Vazakas representing the GRE District reported that his club is eager to host with the possibility of a joint effort from the Yacht Club of Greece. He looks forward to seeing everyone in Cartagena and talking more about 2025. Starck added that the US qualifier for 2025 will be the 2024 NAs in Buffalo.

South American Championship - Peter Bright

The 2023 championship will take place in Colombia just prior to the Worlds, a similar report to the Worlds. The 2024 Championship will be confirmed next month.

Southern Circuit Amy Simonsen

Reported that the 2024 schedule is set: March 16-19, 2024 - Winter Championship - St Petersburg YC, St Petersburg, FL and then March 20-23, 2023 – Midwinter Championship – Coconut Grove Sailing Club, Miami, FL. It is always a good time so please make plans to join us! Starck added a note of Thanks for Amy coming on as a co-VP and added that the Helly Hansen Regatta in February is a great event as well and boats can be left in St Pete between Feb and March.

Youth World Championship – Laura Jeffers on behalf of Victor Lobos

The 2024 YWC will take place at Cofradia Nautica del Pacifico YC, Algarrobo, Chile – July 23-27. Countries need to schedule their Youth Qualifiers. The US qualifiers were held at 2023 Junior NAs. The NOR will be posted soon.

VP of NAs – Joe Starck

A big Thank You to all of the volunteers that helped put on the 2023 WJM's in Metedeconk and the NAs in Tom's River. The Buffalo Canoe Club will host our 2024 WJM North Americans and North American Championship in the beginning of August. In 2025 we have accepted a bid from Larchmont YC to host the WJM NA's in the beginning of August. We hope to bring the 2025 North American's back to a Southern location sometime in the Fall with a shortened format – maybe 3 days of racing. Bids are being accepted for that event.

European Championship – Laura Jeffers for Lauri Hemming/Kimmo Aromma

Reported that the 2024 Championship is scheduled for August 7-11 in Kotka City that is the SE area of Finland, racing on the Gulf of Finland. The 2025 Championship will be in combination with Master Worlds. Nick Vazakas added that he has been in contact with Hemming/Aromma and they are going to try and attract new Countries to join the Championship to help grow Europe.

Classic Lightnings Report – Bob Astrove – summarized - Written Report

2024 Classic Lightning Get Together will be held weekend of June 22-23, 2024 at the Keuka Yacht Club in Hammondsport NY (Keuka Lake.) We have a new date for next year, moving the event up one week from our usual date due to some conflicts and at the request of our host club.

If you have never come to one of these events, they are great fun. A weekend of celebrating the Lightning and sailing our boats. If you have been before you already know these are special events and great fun for all. Bringing your boat is best. But we all need crews as well, if you can't bring your own. And if you are a modern boat owner this event is held in conjunction with the long-standing Champagne Regatta which is also a great event, and the combination of the two fleets (separate starts) makes the event one of the highlights of the year.

Also, on the docket for 2024, we will be doing another early spring workshop at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum. I keep promising to get the details out, but keep running into delays. It will be held the weekend of April 5, 2024. We will be working on classic boat setup and rigging options, Instruction in repairing cracks in wooden hulls and building some tools to simplify the process of setting the boat up and putting it away. All who attended last year had great fun while we re-canvased the decks of 4 boats.

Further, with no details imminent, we are looking at doing a second classic event next year in New England in perhaps September (a great time of year to visit that part of the country.) I think the key to hosting an event is we would need 4 or 5 reasonably local classic boats committing and taking the lead on planning.

Boat Grant Program - Co-Chairs- Greg Fisher/Ryan Davidson - Written Report Submitted

Committee-Bill Fastiggi, Matty Schon, Bill Faude, Caroline Patten, Karl Allen

It's been a great season for our 2023 Boat Grant Teams! A lot of sailing for all 3 teams!

Team Tarkan Bolat (with Michael Rivken and Katie Benstead) in Chicago area sailing 15619. David Stix was their mentor. They recently sailed the Bratz regatta where he had a super time and said he felt like he was "going 60mph in 10-foot waves!" Michael and Katie sailed the districts in Milwaukee, and they raced weekly with the Rhodes 19 fleet in Chicago. They finished off the season with the Wawasee Regatta. They loved the boat, the class and all the help and support people gave him and his team!

Team Owen Moore (with Emma Hawko and Ed Coleman) in New England sailing 15406 and their mentor was Don Brush. They sailed the ACC's, NAS, Marblehead Race Week- 3rd, Squam Lake -3rd, NE Districts -5th and won their fleet series! They ended the season with the Fall Squam and Leaf Peeper regattas.

Team Jordan Wiggins (with Abbie Goodness, Ann Sheridan, Pierce Orenstein, and Jack Sutton) in Charleston, sailing 15475 and mentor, Ryan Davidson. They sailed the local regattas here in Charleston, including the SE Districts. Finished in the top 4 of all of them and as a result was the overall winner of the combined regatta scores-18 boats entered! Jordan found a job in Sarasota early in the summer but made it back for all the SE District events throughout the summer and will be back for the Wild Oyster.

Other Highlights:

Emma Hawko is the NE District secretary and becoming even more involved with the class.

Allison Hansen, a boat grant crew from last year sailed the NAS this year with Tommy Allen and wants to stay involved. We mentioned in the last meeting the enthusiasm for Boat Grant Alumni to sail the boats in the Southern Circuit....super successful and more interest again THIS YEAR.

It's cool that Boat Grant recipients Emma and Ed are sailing the Worlds with their Boat Grant skipper from last year Clavin Lamosse!

We've mentioned before the value of having great equipment for our Boat Grant teams to sail. It has clearly made a difference in the enthusiasm, the demographic of our applicants and maybe even the talent level of our participants. It is, again, due to the support of the class members in supporting this program. On behalf of the committee, thank you. We should mention the generosity of North Sails in donating 4 new jibs to the program this year.

Finally, we have identified a great opportunity for a fundraising campaign involving a match to an existing fund. We will be reaching out to our membership once again asking for your consideration and your generous support. These funds will be used for new sails for the three boats and ongoing maintenance.

We are in a good place. We have great equipment, a great committee, great applicants year after year who are just as passionate as we are in enjoying and supporting the class. And we are appreciative of all your support. Thanks.

VP World Sailing – David Sprague

Sprague, along with Darryl Waskow and Laura Jeffers are in the process of working with World Sailing on getting our Electronics Rules approved. We are hoping to get approval prior to the Pan Am Games/Worlds.

No further reports from the floor or written reports.

Charters ratified or revoked:

None at this time.

Ratifications of Executive Committee Rulings

None at this time.

Unfinished Business

1. **Electronic Devices**– See the Executive Committee Report from Chief Measurer Joe Buczkowski and report from David Sprague above. The approval process at World Sailing has taken a little longer than normal, but all is now on track, and we should have this closed up very soon.

New Business

1. Masters' Championship – Document Governing Proposal - Bertie Werley

ADDITION TO THE DOCUMENT GOVERNING ALL SANCTIONED LIGHTNING CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS PROPOSAL

After the Annual General Meeting at the 2022 Masters' North American Championship President, Bill Bogardus convened a committee to evaluate and make any recommendations pertaining to the Masters' Championships. The

Committee's findings can be found at <https://www.lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=1152608>

In addition, the Results from the Member Survey: <https://www.lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=1152609>

And Full Survey Comments: <https://www.lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=1152610>

As a result, to increase participation and to ensure that the spirit of the Masters' Championship is preserved, the following Amendment/Addition to the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships is being proposed. The Executive Committee stands behind the work of the committee and is in favor of this addition.

Proposed New Article to be added to the Document Governing:

ARTICLES WHICH APPLY SPECIFICALLY TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MASTERS' CHAMPIONSHIP AND
WORLDS MASTERS' CHAMPIONSHIP
(AND OTHER DESIGNATED MASTERS EVENTS AS THEY MAY CHOOSE TO ADOPT)

ARTICLE XIV – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Masters regattas is to extend the life of competitive Lightning sailing, allowing participants to continue racing into their 70's, 80's and 90's. The Masters competition should be reasonably sailable for all ages 55-80; exceptional physical requirements should not be a prerequisite for participation. The Class goal is to maximize participation and is geared towards competitors being able to sail all races, focusing on the middle-to-higher range of the age demographic.

ARTICLE XV – ENTRIES

Teams may register with co-skippers within the team of three, so long as each skipper meets the age requirement in Article XII(4). No substitution of skippers is permitted other than the original team of three as proscribed by Article VII.

ARTICLE XVI – SCHEDULE OF RACES

1. The RC will hold two (2) races each day for the Masters fleet, provided however that a maximum of three (3) races may be sailed if determined necessary by the PRO given weather conditions to achieve a six-race series, and taking into consideration the Guidelines below. No more than three races per day may be run under any circumstances.
2. Guidelines regarding the decision for a third race (none of which are protestable)
 - a. Strong preference for only one day to sail three races, but it is within the RC's discretion based on the weather forecast (for example, two perfect days and an impending hurricane)
 - b. Strong preference to avoid three races on the last day
 - c. Other factors to consider include the number of hours off the dock daily, sea conditions, air and water temperature, or other factors that preclude tactical racing
 - d. Encourage a morning competitor's meeting if a 3rd race is contemplated (*changes Race Committee Instructions Section 7*)
3. If the number of completed races is three or less, all races will be scored; if four or more, one race will be discarded. This changes RRS A2 and Article VIII(1).
4. Other recommendations for Masters races may be found located in the Lightning Guide for Notice of Race and Race Committee Instructions.

David Starck added a note of Thanks to Bertie and the committee for all their work on this effort!

A motion was made by David Sprague to accept the proposal as presented. Tom Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed and was adopted.

Other New Business

Joe Starck – added Pan Am Masters Championship in Cleveland – July 12-14, 2024 No pre-qualification, participants can be aged 35+. Jeffers added that Nick Turney is in charge of the sailing events. We will be looking for charter boats to make sure this is a true international competition. Watch for more information to be posted soon.

Jamie Calderon wanted to bring up 2 ideas: first, make the same evaluation with the youth sailing as we did for the Masters. See if we can do anything to improve, possibly the idea of co-skippering. Second, investigate other material upgrades for some of our boat parts. For instance, carbon fiber masts. It might be cheaper to ship and produce. Starck added that the Class is evaluating and discussing the equipment issues.

Adjournment

With no other items from the floor. David Starck called for a motion to adjourn, Joe Starck made the motion, David Sprague seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 12:55pm.

Submitted by Executive Secretary, Laura Jeffers.