

International Lightning Class Association – Annual Meeting Minutes – August 30, 2023 – Draft – Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

President Bogardus called the meeting to order at 12:08 Eastern Time.

Roll Call of Fleets: 5, 12, 34, 36, 50, 79, 126, 146, 187, 228, 229, 252, 253, 329, 405, 429, 493 and 509. In addition, proxies were submitted by Fleets 25, 27, 75, 85, 110, 164, 192, 198, 274, 415, 435, and 512. Quorum achieved.

Meeting Minutes from Annual Winter Meeting April 15, 2023, were presented, Bob Shapiro made a motion to dispense the reading and approve as submitted, Mark Schneider seconded, all approved - motion passed.

President's Report: Bill Bogardus summarized his (written report)

President's Report: Summer 2023 and Farewell

We are coming closer to the end of a fun year of sailing. Our sanctioned events from Virginia, to Metedeconk to Toms River all had good wind and well-organized activities off the water. We are looking forward to the Pan Am Games in October in Chile, and a World Championship in Cartagena, Columbia in November. Both promise to be fantastic events with many of the world's best sailors.

There were a few issues that have come up over the Summer that I will discuss now. First, dues. Despite easy online paying options, skipper, crew and fleet dues payments are static or down across all three geographic regions of the Class. If we desire the same level of service from the Class office that we have had in previous years, we must pay our dues. Please check your current membership, your crew's membership, your fleet membership, and your fleet member's memberships to fill in any gaps and continue funding the Class.

Second, equipment. Two boats used the new run masts at the North Americans, and both reported that the masts felt like the previous run masts. It did not hurt their performance (they finished 1-2). There are now new masts available through Allen Boat Company. I also understand several new boats have been ordered with planned delivery in 2024. Additionally, we have also started seeing boats use next generation compasses. The Class feels it is vital to remain up to date with technological advances where the cost is reasonable.

Third, attendance at the North American Championship. The Class continues to enjoy level if not growing participation at the WJM NAs and the World Championships, but the attendance trend at the North Americans is clearly downward. Coming out of Covid-19, it was difficult to tell if some downward trends were Covid related. With that in mind, we scheduled the Toms River NAs with the usual 5-day format, the week after the WJM. In discussion with the competitors, now that appears to be too long, with many competitors are choosing to sail either just the NAs or WJMs. Changes will be coming to make the North Americans a slightly shorter regatta in days, with scheduling in mind to help competitors sail both regattas if they desire.

It has been a privilege to be your President. I would like to thank my family who has always supported me, the general membership of the Lightning Class, and the Governing Board for their tireless efforts in running the Class. A special thank you to my teammates on the Executive Committee who are all returning next year, they have put their heart and soul into making the Class better. Nothing in the Class gets done without Executive Secretary Laura Jeffers, and I will miss the almost constant texts threads on the issue of the day. Laura, thank you. Finally, the Class is in amazing hands with incoming President David Starck. No one "lives" the Lightning lifestyle more than David. We have some big changes on the horizon, but I know he will be up to the task.

Farewell,

Bill Bogardus

President, International Lightning Class Association

Bill also gave a big thank you to the past presidents that have helped him along the way. He concluded with an ask to serve, as the incoming Nominating committee chair, he will be looking for more volunteers.

Chief Measurer's Report – Joe Buczkowski summarized his (written report)

The class continues to improve, and this year was no different. In the past year we accomplished 2 major initiatives – updating the class policy on electronics and the resumption of mast construction. Both were needed and will ensure the class continues to be relevant into the future.

Already we have seen the impact of the electronics updates with use of 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. While we are still awaiting final approval from World Sailing, I don't anticipate any significant changes and I look forward to hearing from everyone on their thoughts on 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 some being creative with repairs to older mast the ability to get a new mast is significant for the overall health of the class. All of the new masts that 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 the production of masts.

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 also want to thank them for putting on a top-notch event where the entire class felt welcomed. It was a great time from the pickle ball tourney, to cornhole and games with fireworks on the boardwalk. To those who did not attend you missed out on two fun filled events and I hope you consider Buffalo Next year, another venue I have come to love over the years!

I look forward to working with the new slate of officers with Dave's ideas for the future of the class, and as Chief measure I want to continue to modernize our class through electronic conversion of plans to a CAD based version 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.

Joe added special thanks to Greg Fisher and Evolution Sails for help with new mylars. Doug Wake and his company for the assistance with the electronics revisions and David Sprague with his assistance with World Sailing and Measurement.

Finally, a big congrats and thank you to our outgoing President Bill Bogardus. He led the class with thought, class and dignity. He let us as members of the executive committee do our jobs and provided support and guidance when needed. If anyone wants to look at how to lead and be effective in anything that you do, look to him and his example. He leaves a high bar to follow and strive to reach. I look forward to seeing you out on the water again and as a fellow executive committee member and longtime friend I bring out a Navy tradition in saying:

"Shipmate, the watch stands relieved-
relieved by those you have trained, guided and led.
Shipmate you stand relieved- we have the watch"

Treasurer's Report- David Starck

As reported in April we are operating on a budget of approximately \$80,000. We have stuck to the budget but are seeing some membership attrition with the dues increase. We do have people sailing that haven't renewed so this is a good reminder to get fellow fleet members to join/renew Class membership. Bottom line, financially, the Class is in good shape but we depend on every dollar to make our budget work so class dues are very important.

Starck finished by thanking Bogardus for doing a great job as president. With a steady hand he challenged us and helped to make this class better. Thank you.

Secretary Report: Julio Velez

There is a lot of activity in South American Countries. Teams are training hard for the Pan Ams. Chile and Ecuador have Nationals this weekend and Brazil is scheduled for September. Ecuador is hosting a Sailing Week coming up with 4 days

of racing for several classes, Peru is planning to attend, and all countries are invited. Colombia is working very hard on the Worlds, and it is going to be a great time. He concluded by thanking Bogardus, it has been a pleasure to work with him.

Executive Committee, Masters Committee Report: Bertie Werley

Werley served as chair of the Masters Committee and shared the findings from the committees work. The full presentation can be found here: <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, an Amendment/Addition to the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships is being presented for vote at the upcoming Governing Board Meeting in October. Guidelines for running a regatta have been approved and adopted by the Executive Committee: <https://lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=368809> as have inclusions to NOR and SI's templates.

Werley concluded by giving her thanks to Bill Bogardus for his leadership and guidance over the past two years.

VP and Committee Reports:

VP of NAs – Josh Goldman

We had 37 boats at the Toms River YC for the North American Championship. Mark Foster filled in at the last minute as a replacement PRO. He did an excellent job and would be happy to do more Lightning Class events in the future. After conversation at the WJMs and NAs the length of the regatta (NAs) seems to be hindering participation. This will be discussed for future events. Goldman also got comments on penalty turns, 1 turn vs. 2 turns. This will also be discussed. We will head to Buffalo Canoe Club in 2024 for both the WJMs and NAs. We are looking for 2025 hosts, Larchmont YC on Long Island Sound is interested in hosting the WJM's in August of 2025. For the NAs we are thinking about a fall NAs a little further south, but also need to balance this with hurricane season. Any interested clubs should contact Josh or the Class Office. David Starck added that the tentative Buffalo dates are August 3-11 for both events. More information to come after the October Governing Board Meeting.

Boat Grant – Greg Fisher

We have had a great season, arguably our best year ever! A lot of sailing for 3 great teams and they all plan to do more sailing this fall.

Team Tarkan Bolat (with Michael Rivken and Katie Benstead) in Chicago area sailing 15619 was mentored by David Stix. 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!" The team sailed the districts in Milwaukee and weekly Beer Can racing with the Rhodes 19 fleet in Chicago. They plan to still do Wawasee, Blue Nose and hopefully the Wild Oyster. They loved the boat, the class and all the help and support people gave he and his team!

Team Owen Moore (with Emma Hawko and Ed Coleman) in New England sailing 15406 was mentored by Don Brush. They sailed the ACC's, NAS, Marblehead Race Week where they finished 3rd Squam Lake Regatta also a 3rd place finish and the NE Districts placing 5th. They also won their fleet series! Their plans include one more regatta at Squam and the Leaf Peeper end of September.

Team Jordan Wiggins (with Abbie Goodness, Ann Sheridan, Pierce Orenstein, and Jack Sutton) in Charleston, sailing 15475 was mentored by 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 include Emma Hawko being elected as the NE District secretary and becoming even more involved with the class. Allison Hansen, a boat grant sailor 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, this was super successful with 2 teams last year, and we have more interest again THIS YEAR.

Clavin Lamosse 2022 Alumni is teaming up with Emma Hawko and Ed Coleman and will be sailing the Worlds in Colombia.

We've mentioned before the value of having great equipment for our Boat Grant teams to sail is excellent. 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 also mention the generosity of North Sails in donating 3 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.

Fisher concluded by asking for any empty hitches from the NE or Chicago areas heading south to Charleston area, we have two boat grant boats that need to be moved south. Contact Greg or Laura.

Lightning Labs – Lisa-Marie Lane

Lane made a callout for members to join her and incoming co-chair Jeffrey Hayden to share their thoughts on labs with them. We are looking at trying to revitalize labs to bring them to more fleets. We are looking for input and ideas. One thought is to separate labs from events to bring more focus on the instruction component. We all want to go faster in our boats and labs have been a popular way to make that happen. We can tailor a lab to what your fleet wants. Lane's experience at the ACC's and having Greg Fisher there was a big help to her and many others. They are looking for 1 or 2 more people to help round out the committee to help formulate and implement new ideas.

South Americans – Laura Jeffers

The 2023 South American Championship will be Nov 23-27 in Cartagena, Colombia right before the Worlds.

Youth Worlds – Laura Jeffers

The 2024 Youth World Championship will be July 23-27 in Chile. Patricio Flores was recently recruiting youth sailors at the WJM's in Metedeconk to come to Chile! We are hoping to have the NOR out by the Cartagena Worlds in November to cross promote the Youth Worlds in Chile.

World Championships – Laura Jeffers

Representation from South American Countries is looking good for the Nov 27-Dec 3 Worlds in Cartagena, Colombia. We now just need those sailors to register for the event. We are likely looking at a 50-boat fleet. The 2025 Worlds rotation heads to Europe and we are talking to the Greek District on possible locations for a tentative June 2025 event.

Pan Am Games – Laura Jeffers

The games are coming up Oct 25 – Nov 4, 2024. We have all 8 slots filled by the following Qualified Countries: ARG, BRA, CAN, ECU, PER, USA, VEN and host CHI. New participants from VEN are sailing, which is great. Conversation is happening amongst class leadership, and we will continue to be diligent in our efforts to remain in the games.

World Sailing – David Sprague

No real report from World Sailing. They have not published submissions for the next meeting yet.

Unfinished Business

1. Submissions to World Sailing

Bogardus noted that we have not heard back from World Sailing regarding our previous rule changes that were submitted for approval.

New Business

1. 2023-2024 Proposed Slate of Officers (<https://www.lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=1198948>) – Hugh Hutchison

Hugh presented the slate of officers as published by the Nominating Committee. Bill Bogardus made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Bill Faude seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Bogardus congratulated the new officers and wished everyone well.

A question was raised by Bob Shapiro about why we needed to be a part of World Sailing? Laura Jeffers answered that to be an International Class and host World Championships it was required to be part of World Sailing. That includes participating in the Pan Am Games too.

Adjournment

With no other items from the floor. Bogardus called for a motion to adjourn, Bob Shapiro made the motion, Doug Wake seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 1:13 PM.

Submitted by Executive Secretary, Laura Jeffers.