

International Lightning Class Association - Annual Winter Meeting – April 20, 2024

Written Reports

President Report - David Starck

The Class is firing on all cylinders as I write this report. In general, things are really good. Sailors want to go Lightning sailing and are genuinely excited for the season to begin.

The Executive Committee, along with GB members, have been hard at work over the past few months on several initiatives. I will list a few action items below I plan to touch on. However, I will let EC and GB members provide reports and updates.

1. Membership & Member Engagement
2. Marketing the Class / Flash Blast / Communications / Mission & Vision statements
3. Boats and equipment
4. International fleet development
5. 2024 ILCA Boat Grant recipients
6. U32 Invite Regatta
7. Lightning Labs

The Helly Hansen Sailing World regatta @ St. Pete in February and the Southern Circuit in March were well attended. The HH is a multi-class event and showcased the Lightning as one of the largest fleets.

My focus this winter/Spring has been to reach out to fleet and district leaders and offer my help. This is where we need to see growth in the class. We are a home grown, family class. I look forward to working with class members. I have attended a few winter/spring district meetings via zoom. It has been great to connect with Lightning sailors.

On April 13th I attended a Classic Boat Workshop at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum. Thanks to Bob Astrove for organizing it. It was a fabulous experience. I highly recommend visiting the museum. A perfect time to do so is June 22-23 and tie it into a fun weekend at Keuka Lake Yacht Club, the Champagne Regatta.

Finally, my sincere thanks to Laura Jeffers for keeping the class on track!

Chief Measurer's Report- Joe Buczkowski

I hope this finds everyone doing well. If things are going right- I am not at the annual meeting since I will be out on the water sailing in the Annual Moonshine Regatta! I really want to encourage everyone to get out and sail in your local fleet and district events. These events help define what our class is.

Ok- on to measurement since that is what I am here to talk about! I hope everyone had a chance to read my blog on plans for the upcoming year. For this year I am going to streamline the measurement process for the NA's to help minimize the time required for measurement as well as time away from home and work. With that philosophy I plan on doing more random inspections. It can be anything from inspecting the logs of the new electronics we authorized, weight of boats, safety gear or anything. Those at Toms River saw I did a few random inspections. I want to simplify the process but keep the integrity of our class.

I am encouraged that a team in Brazil is working to develop a new builder to support the class, there are new people supporting the repair of boats and sails, and currently we are doing well with new boats, masts and international development.

The U32 program is exciting. As a former junior sailor, it is great that our class is supporting and promoting these efforts. I would like to support these sailors not only in sailing but in the measurement process. Our youth is the future of the class in all aspects, let's do what we can to support it across the board.

The Classic division continues to impress me. It is great to see the number of enthusiastic sailors and boat owners working to keep these gems on the water. It always keeps me on my toes balancing the subtle differences between the boats and the great questions I get. KEEP THEM COMING!

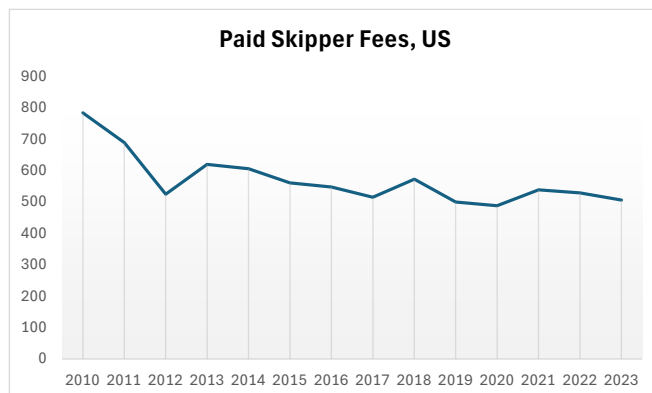
Finally, I continue to be glad and humbled to support our class efforts and if there is anything the membership needs, please let me know.

Treasurer's Report – Bertie Werley

Final report on our **2023 Financials**:

- We finished 5% below budget on expenses (\$86,358 actuals)
- We finished 5.8% below budget on income (\$85,752 actuals)

Although we raised fees in April 2023 to help offset expenses, the number of memberships fell slightly below the forecast.



2024 Budget Forecast:

- We are budgeting income at \$94,230, which includes an increase in US Skipper/Boat Owner memberships to 542.
 - Lapsed Member Initiative has begun, which involves calling ~100 skipper members whose membership expired in 2023 to find out (1) why they didn't renew, and (2) what might get them to re-engage.
 - We hope to use the data gathered to guide Retention and Re-engagement initiatives going forward.
- We are budgeting expenses at \$94,200, which includes an increase for back-office support for publications, etc.

Completed Projects:

- Auto-renewal Membership (US) project completed
 - 180 of 781 total skipper/family/etc. memberships were auto-renewal as of June 2023
 - Added 54 new auto-renewal membership (30% increase)
 - New Total: 30% of total memberships are auto-renewal
- Donation capabilities improved
 - Added the ability for recurring donations monthly or quarterly
 - Updated the Auto-Renewal notice and Automatic Payment Confirmation to include a link to the Donation page

Donations

Click the link with the arrow to contribute to the specified fund. If recurring donations have been set up for a fund, a "Schedule Donation" link will appear for that fund. Click the Schedule Donation link to make a recurring donation.

Boat Grant Program	ILCA Fund	Limbaugh Fund
You can donate cash, boats, covers, sails, trailers, etc. to support this innovative program to attract young racers to the Lightning. Designed to help young sailors experience the high level of competition offered by the class, this revolutionary program offers a unique opportunity among one-design classes. While many one-design classes struggle to attract and retain young sailors, the Lightning Class is taking active steps to give young adults a leg up. Since 2007 the class has provided fully rigged, insured and competitive boats for worthy teams for the sailing season. The recipients participated in Fleet, District and National regattas.	The ILCA Fund was established in 1981 as a way to guarantee the long-range operations of our Class. Contributions to the Fund may be used to pay for the ordinary operating expenses of the ILCA, to advertise and promote the sport of Lightning Class sailing or for any other purpose approved by its Board of Directors.	The Limbaugh Fund was established in honor of two of our most avid supporters. Helen was our Executive Director from 1965 to 1982. Jay was our Class President in 1964. Both remained strong supporters of the Class long after their tenures were completed. Because of Helen & Jay's strong interest in junior sailing, and their belief that our juniors are the future members and officers of our Class, the organizers of the fund have dedicated these funds toward junior activities.
Donate > Schedule Donation ↻	Donate > Schedule Donation ↻	Donate > Schedule Donation ↻

Secretary Report – Julio Velez

A big part of our management has been promoting our class to attract more young people to sail. For this reason, in the Lightning master plan, there is a U32 committee with a lot of initiatives for 2024. Our efforts have also been directed to South America.

Chile and Ecuador have their respective plans and programs to invite or incorporate sailors under the age of 30 to be part of the Lightning class. In Ecuador, a new owner with their entire team under 30 was achieved by purchasing the newest boat in the fleet an Allen 15577. On the other hand, Chile Lightning class aims to help finance boats to sailors under 30 and have at least one new owner per year.

Youth Worlds are around the corner. Algarrobo, Chile is a great and challenging place to sail. It will help to promote the class to new generations in Chile and help us to achieve the U30 objective. We are working to get the most participation from youth as possible from each country. In Ecuador, we already have teams training.

In 2022- 2023, we approached other countries in the region that do not sail Lightning to compete in the Pan American Games, encouraging them to participate. As a result of this initiative, Venezuela participated in the qualifying events and in the Pan Ams. In the case of Uruguay, this year they are considering acquiring Lightnings and starting to sail the class in their country.

In Ecuador, the second edition of "Sailing Week" will be held this year from September 24-28. We already have participation in the Lightning class from Chile and Colombia. It is a low-cost event; we can help by providing housing, no boat charter fees, and special prices for food at the club. Considering the master plan, the event organization will also make efforts to attract young teams, both local and international, so they can see the potential of the class.

Keeping the class at the forefront of the sailing world, which includes Scuttlebutt Sailing ads, social media and flashes, is also one of our priorities.

Also see Lightning Lab's separate PDF Report by Lisa-Marie Lane