



Greetings Fellow Fleet Members:

The ice is off the lake and a number of docks and boats are starting to populate the shoreline. The ICCSA racing season, therefore is just around the corner. While we look forward to a season of challenging racing, let's reflect on the loss of our great friends and fellow Fleet members John and Joan Larimore. We must never forget the instrumental contributions they made toward developing the ICCSA into the organization we enjoy today. In recognition of John and Joan, the Larimore children will host a celebration of their parents' lives on Saturday June 5th. Details will follow later from the family. In deference to their plans we have rescheduled the Shakedown race to a 10:00 AM start on Sunday June 6th.

I am pleased to announce that Dan Andrews has accepted the Vice Commodore position for the 2010 season. We look forward to Dan's participation and leadership on the Executive Committee.

As in previous years, the Executive Committee has been busy this winter. We have listened to member concerns about lack of growth and a reduction in race participation over the past several years. A poll was taken to gauge opinions regarding possible actions to increase racing participation. More than 60% of all Fleet members responded to this winter's survey. Based on this feedback and subsequent discussions with the Executive Committee, several actions have been sanctioned for the 2010 racing season.

The changes focus primarily on Fleet structure and Racing Season configuration.

Fleet Structure for 2010 will be based on 3 groups as in recent seasons, but configured somewhat differently. There was overwhelming support to develop a new fleet grouping which will be named the Cup Fleet. Initially this group will be comprised of Rick Ahaus, Jack Steifel and Lyle Reiff. Analyses of race standings over the past 8 seasons were used to determine the makeup of this group; the analysis will be made available to anyone wishing to review it. This fleet will compete for a travelling cup which should provide for interesting competition.

The current Silver and Gold Fleets will be merged into a combined Gold Fleet group similar to the club's original structure. This Fleet will continue to compete for 5 trophies. The Novice Fleet will be renamed

the Silver Fleet and will remain focused on new members and those wishing to sail in a less competitive environment. This group will compete for 1 Trophy.

Based on poll input, there was a slight majority in favor of splitting the 2010 twelve race season into two 6 race sessions. After a spirited debate at the Executive Committee it was agreed to try this for 2010. We will have two six race sessions separated by Regatta. Trophies will be awarded for the top finishers in each Fleet for both racing sessions in line with the numbers identified above. Four out of six races in a given session are required for trophy consideration. These changes will increase the number of scoring opportunities specifically for Gold fleet participants and hopefully increase participation and competition.

The Race Co-chair position was established to couple newer sailors with an experienced sailor in order to learn the process of running a race. This approach has been in place for the last several seasons with most sailors developing a good understanding of the race process. As a result, the Co-chair position will be eliminated effective this season. This will also serve to put more racers on the water.

To minimize complexity, there will be no movement between fleets for the 2 racing sessions and the Most Improved Sailor award will be given at summer's end based on combined performance of both racing sessions.

In summary, the spirit behind these changes is to drive increased racing participation and competition. These changes are not taken lightly nor are they permanent at this time. They are being tested this season to determine if they result in increased participation and competition. The impact of these changes will be reevaluated at the conclusion of the 2010 season to determine whether they should be continued, modified or eliminated .

Change can be uncomfortable. Your support is appreciated as these actions are implemented. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at www.stonetkml@aol, 419-320-6978 or stop by the cottage to discuss.

Notable dates this season:

- Raft Launch Sunday May 30th at 9:00 AM
- Shakedown Race Sunday June 6th at 10:00 AM
- First race: June 12th
- Conservancy fundraiser June 26th, No party
- Regatta: July 24th and 25th
- Old Salt/New Skipper: July 11th at 9:30 AM
- Beer Can races: June 23rd, July 14th and August 11th. 6:00 PM start time for these races.

Please review all of the attached documents for Committee involvement and activity detail. Let us know if there are any omissions or changes required.

Please be specific to select the Silver Fleet on your Dues/Membership Statement if that is your fleet preference. Aside from Cup Fleet members, everyone else will be assigned to the Gold Fleet unless your selection is Silver.

Note that these schedules and other important ICCSA information can be found at www.lake-george.org.

Finally, I would like to thank Matt Hendrickson for his dedication and commitment as Commodore over the 2009 season. I'm sure Matt will preside over a successful 2010 Regatta.

Best wishes for a safe, successful and enjoyable racing season. It should prove to be interesting!

Tom Stone, Commodore