

BABA Steering Committee Meeting - 3/21/2010

Present: Mark Raginsky, Janice Emerling, Daphne Lathouras, Tom Sargent, Carsten Boekholt, Fran Pat, Colin Pitts, Maureen & Albert Pritchard, Debra Baysinger, Michael Parramore

Thank you to Debra Baysinger who took notes for Ann Jackson.

There was much discussion at the meeting about the need to get more windsurfers involved in racing and for BABA to support the national/international focus on youth windsurfing. It was discussed that Techno on design was a way to do this.

Focus for meeting is on Racing and Youth Activities - mostly focused in Baltimore County. NOTE: BCSC moved their office to the house - much better accommodations, including wrap-around porch, running water and hot showers!!

RACING:

Schedule

An extra race is scheduled between Jerry Brown and Campout (BABA is helping promote Kashi event) This race is Formula 1 only. Insurance rider was ordered separately for the property - the organizer paid the \$50 fee and is the named insured.

April 25 - Cancer Research - Baltimore County Sailing Center - The goal is to raise more donations for cancer research. A bunch of high school kids and Junior Yacht Class participants are expected to participate. Sponsorship forms are available to help raise/track/collect donations. Discussion regarding whether different levels and classes would race the same course, have separate start times/start lines ensued... Same course seemed to be a good idea - same start time seemed to be a bad idea. There was discussion about BCSC organizing a party afterwards and some talk of a caterer. Mark Rosen reportedly still has a budget from Izzy for some food or concessions. Idea to promote on radio and in media was discussed.

Additional thoughts were tossed around to raise interest, including: a Beach Party; Kite Festival; SUP demo, etc. It was stated that the SUP Demo would be better at the 6/6 race at Mayo or the Family Day in August. Some discussion about alcohol - Gunpowder does not allow it; Mayo requires a separate permit...

May 16 - Clean-Up Day - Rocky Point (not a race) - There will be a dumpster. There was good feedback last year, especially since BABA folks had wetsuits to go into the water and clean up trash.

May 22&23 - BABA Campout - Gunpowder Falls - Comment: Gunpowder does *not* allow alcohol, but last year, permission had been granted - apparently as a "grandfather clause" type of special arrangement since the campout arrangements had been made prior to the passing of prohibition at Gunpowder. It was mentioned that we may *not* want to clarify the point!

Additional discussion surrounding how to raise interest and draw more participants in racing and windsurfing in general. Ideas were surfaced including:

- 1) combine a skills course/workshop prior to races on race day
- 2) have consistent/regular location and course to encourage friendly/regular participation/competition without entire race overhead requirements
- 3) invite Petra or Farrah Hall and advertise their participation
- 4) compensate Petra or Farrah

Michael Parramore mentioned that he already has something in place with the Junior Olympics and is working with Britt to bring "Learn to Windsurf" clinics to the yacht club programs

It was mentioned that the West River location is good for learning, and that the AYC has 9 boards and rigs that are good for learning - stars 470s and lasers. Cost is ~\$1750 complete or \$950 board only... Baltimore Sailing had been quoted ~\$1700... It was mentioned that some rigs are already delaminating, and have loose leaches so there may be some negotiating room.

It was also mentioned that if the goal is improvement, there should be more race participation.

Race times currently targeted for 12:00 - it may adjust to an earlier time.

Mike Parramore mentioned that it would be nice to get licensed coaches (encourages BABA folks to get licensed to teach - a level 1 windsurf instruction credential should suffice).

Some discussion about expanding to include more adults. Want to get multiple clubs to 'standardize' on a similar type of board.

It was noted that:

- the Severn Sailing Association has regular events on Thursday evenings
- the Baltimore County Sailing Center has regular events on Monday evenings
- BCSC also has regular Saturday events

May 29 - Regatta Course - Michael Parramore mentioned that it would be nice to get CBYRA clubs that would buy boards to agree to commit funds to the purchase of the boards. Question was raised whether the AYC launch is friendly towards boards - response was that they are at invitational regattas.

May 29 - Olympic Class event

July 9-11 - Olympic Class Junior Regatta - Rock Hall - Tom Sargent, Mike Parramore and Daphne all volunteered to help. There will be a one week clinic at BCSC taught by Britt, with the races held the following weekend. Hope is that the opti kids will see the windsurfing activities and get inspired to join the fun!

Techno World Championships will be held in San Francisco in 2011, which would give the kids an opportunity to become world class champions!!

BABA One Design

There was considerable discussion about the "One Design" (OD) concept and the fact that it would 'level the playing field' and essentially minimize the 'technical advantage' that allows the biggest sail to beat the better technique. The selection of the design proves to be the challenge. In this area, it is essential to have a design that works in light air. Some folks would like to be able to demo different OD equipment before committing. The question was raised as to what would influence sailors to choose any particular design over another (IMO - cost, weight/manageability, and performance top the list). A suggestion was made to poll the sailors (reply was that this could wait until Ann gets back)... suggestion was that the boards would be purchased in a group through Mark, and general consent was given.

BABA Youth Windsurfing Focus

Mark Raginsky stated that he would like BABA to have more community focus than we have in the past and that the youth focus and donation to Baltimore County Sailing Center along with the beach clean-up at Rocky Point are good programs for this.

The group discussed the need to focus on youth windsurfing in order to rebuild the local windsurfing community. There was discussion about US Windsurfing and US Sailing efforts to bring windsurfing to kids at sailing clubs. The group discussed the many opportunities to get windsurfing in front of more kids through programs at sailing clubs and youth sailing centers around the Chesapeake - incorporating windsurfing into sailing club regattas, hosting youth learn to windsurf clinics at sailing clubs, getting sailing clubs to purchase

windsurfing gear for their fleets, getting more people to become certified instructors, etc. Techno 293 is the world junior class for windsurfing racing.

Background information about Baltimore County Sailing Center was discussed. BCSC has been very supportive of youth windsurfing for the past several seasons and has been employing Britt Viehman (who along with Karen Marriott is coach of Team USA - the US Windsurfing Junior National Team) to run youth windsurfing camps at BCSC in August. Britt brings all his own equipment for the camps because BCSC does not have any windsurfing gear. The purchase and donation of 2 windsurfing boards will give the juniors taking camps at BCSC more opportunity to windsurf during the season and will also give BCSC the opportunity to train and send more kids to the Junior Olympics at Rock Hall in the windsurfing class and to work towards the Techno Youth World Championships at St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco in 2011.

It was agreed that BABA will support the national focus on the Techno 293 junior class and support windsurfing at sailing centers in the area. This could help bring more kids into windsurfing with the hope that they would continue with windsurfing as adults and build up the local windsurfing community.

Members present also discussed the need to give continued support to BCSC throughout the season so their kids could have a good windsurfing experience. Mark Raginsky, Tom Sargent and Daphne Lathouras said they would look into getting US Sailing Windsurfing Instructor Certification at their own expense through Ultimate Watersports in support of this effort.

Members present voted unanimously to commit \$3,000 in BABA funds to purchase 2 Techno 293 boards and appropriate rigs to donate to Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC) for use in their youth windsurfing programs. They will be purchased through East of Maui. There was discussion of doing some fundraising to raise more money if needed to complete the rig packages. Mark Raginsky will research and make a decision on what rigs to purchase with the boards since the Techno class rigs that are available through East of Maui are too large for most kids to learn on.

There was concern about how the outlay would impact the Hatteras House reservation funds. Mark committed to email Helen to see.

Discussion about getting CBYRA to coordinate the board management since they coordinate clubs. General consensus that BABA didn't want the overhead of board management. BABA would like to help coach the kids, but the sailing camp would house and care for the boards (apparently there is a long association with the sailing center).

Discussion regarding the rigs: interest is in having smaller more durable yet still competitive rigs (especially considering the potential delamination and loose leach condition).

Question was raised whether BABA is a member of the CBYRA. Apparently there is a \$60 fee, and a sponsorship requirement. It was suggested that BCSC could write the letter of recommendation for BABA's inclusion in the CBYRA.

Folks would like to be able to see the boards and verify that BABA money was well spent. Mark committed to contacting Bandy, and sending an e-mail summarizing the costs etc.

Beverly Trinton Launch - parking is a concern. Maureen has been emailing re: launch potential there. Apparently the cost is ~\$3/month.

Next Meeting: JULY 2010 (topic August Fun Day) Final meeting in the fall.