



SSYC One-Design Racing Meeting

April 25, 2009

A number of active racers from the harbor met to consider various way to stimulate and improve one-design racing at SSYC. This meeting followed a survey of members, which had over 90 responses. This is a summary of some of the more tangible results of the meeting. (Complete minutes can be found on the SSYC web site; we encourage you to read them for greater detail.)

1) **Discovery:**

- Core representatives from the Harbor Association Board, SSYC, the Sailing Program, plus SSYC Fleet Captains spoke to the desire to improve the racing program.
- The on-line survey results were summarized. Some sample results: 60% learned as adults, 2/3rds wanted more seminars, half wanted to race Wed nights, lack of crew was a constant theme, and the need to make racing more fun was emphasized.
- Examples of other yacht club turn-around programs were presented and discussed.

2) **After the group generated various ideas, three major areas of focus were identified:**

- Improve the Racing Program.
- Attract and Develop racers.
- Could changes to SSYC and Harbor Association policies stimulate more participation?

3) **Participants then divided into three subgroups to consider which of the ideas could be pursued.**

- Improve the Racing Program
 - A good Wed night racing program is important: short and tactical, with dinner on the deck.
 - Weekend racing needs to evolve to a new, more fun format.
 - Initiate a program for dingy / Laser racing to attract younger sailors to the harbor.
- Attract and Develop Racers
 - Provide clinics on racing and boat handling. Try to incorporate coaches.
 - Create a 'virtual crew bench' from nearby sources (NU, high school racing, Sailing School).
 - Develop programs to stimulate and involve existing boat owners.
- SSYC/Harbor Association Policy Issues
 - Consider ways to increase mooring spaces for dingy fleets.
 - SSYC should consider associate membership fees.
 - Revisit evolution of existing fleets

4) **Some take-away quotes**

- "Short, tactical, and fun" summarized many discussions and desires.
- "Wed night is tactics and boat handling whereas weekend racing is all boat speed."
- "The decline in Club membership has tracked the decline in racing."
- "The SSYC Sailing Program activities have had great success with increased participation across a number of programs, i.e. the summer program (full last summer), the high school racing teams using the harbor both fall and spring, and the adult program. We are at capacity."
- "SSA in Annapolis was nearly broke in the early 90's, After some changes, they now see 80+ boats on Wed nights and have over \$1 million in the bank"
- The chairman of the advisory board for Northwestern Univ. Sailing Team stopped by and had the following comments:
 - NU has one of the largest programs in the country and wants to be more involved with SSYC: 30+ races will be around and available this summer and would like to crew.
 - Their adult program could be a feeder to SSYC for crew.
 - They would like more involvement with the high school programs.
 - They appreciate the help SSYC has been over the years (regatta sponsorship, etc.)
- MORE – in complete minutes on SSYS web page