



# SHIELDS ONE DESIGN CLASS

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## FLEET 9 - NEWPORT

### 2021 Shields Fleet 9 Annual Meeting Minutes

Held Via Zoom / Conf. Call: December 15, 2021

In attendance:

John Burnham (Fleet Captain)

Bill Doyle (Secretary)

Mike Toppa (At Large)

Ron Oard (Treasurer)

Ted Slee

Reed Baer

Peter Stalkus

Robin Monk

Tim Dawson

Austin Cohen

Kelsey Patenaude

Nick Ewenson

Tom Rich

Jonathan Hough

Pete Denton

Peter Gerard

Guy Sanchez

Bill O'Hanley

Betsy Allison

John Horton

Steve Devoe

Steve Eberle

Sam Howell

Peter Siegl

Minutes Submitted by Fleet Secretary Bill Doyle as follows:

### **6:10: Meeting Called to order**

**Secretary confirmed a quorum per the bylaws.** At least 1/3 of the registered boats (30) for the season represents a minimum representation of 10 boats. The following sixteen (16) boats were represented in the meeting: 33, 36, 39, 101, 107, 156, 158, 160, 166, 204, 222, 224, 226, 245, 253, 254.

**6:15: Fleet Captain (John Burnham) provided an overview of the upcoming season:**

- Described our successful 2021 season, and how we've continued to grow.
- We plan to initiate additional webinars, more info TBD, requesting ideas from fleet
- Fleet will return to assigned RC Duty in 2022
- We will revive the assigned weekly blog. Each boat will be asked to provide one story per season as assigned.
- With our successes, we are looking to expand our activities and will be looking for volunteers to get involved in additional initiatives (to be discussed later in the meeting).

**6:20: Ron Oard: Fleet Treasurers report:**

- Ending Balance for the year is approximately \$3,400
- Attributes the gains to an unexpected growth of 6 additional boats registering than budgeted, as well as \$600 worth of voluntary donations to the social fund.
- Expenses are roughly distributed as: 50% of our budget going toward racing / RC / National Dues, approximately 25% going toward awards, and the final 25% being spent on social activities and supplementing the annual end of season awards party.

**6:25: Ted Slee provided an update on 2022 Nationals:**

- Looking for housing, moorings, and loaner boats (encouraging all to get involved)
- Classic Yacht Regatta will be acting as our Pre-Nationals event, run by ILYC & Peter Gerard as PRO
- We are looking for sponsorships and are welcoming anyone to contact Ted to discuss possibilities
- Reminders were mentioned regarding getting your boat measured, qualifying your sails, and having your skippers all registered as primary or associate members
- Registration is open, and the link will be shared ASAP. 8 boats are already registered and, along with a state grant, the budget has approximately \$9500 so far. We are hoping to raise an additional \$10,000
- It is estimated that this Nationals can be one of the largest Shields Nationals in history with 35-40 registered boats.

**6:40: John Burnham reported on Fleet Growth:**

- The stated goal for sustained growth is to concentrate on more social engagements, more camaraderie, and to involve more people throughout the fleet.
- The competitive side / Wednesday night racing is doing fine, so we are really concentrating on building our weekend participation. We have several ideas but encourage hearing from you with your input.
- Over the past two seasons, we have built our fleet up by approx. 1/3 and that poses new challenges and new opportunities. We welcome all the new owners and look forward to getting them involved.

**6:45: Ron Oard presented the updates on weekend plans:**

- He presented the weekend calendar and described how it was derived (avoiding the many conflicts on Narragansett Bay summer weekends). See attached.
- The weekend schedule consists of 4 Aloha / Non-Spinnaker racing dates, as well as 4 Spinnaker regatta dates.
- Discussed that we intend (if COVID restrictions allow) on increasing our post Aloha racing social schedule, with four individual owners already offering to host post racing parties.
- Ron and Heather have established a “weekend warrior” committee that will be meeting on a regular basis as we approach the season, to increase participation and help with the parties.
- The dates are published, and all are encouraged to save-the-dates for Aloha weekends, and we are intending on completing the Aloha NOR in early 2022.

**6:50: Ted Slee provided a report from the Nominating Committee:**

- As all existing officers agreed to continue, the 2022 slate was proposed as,
  - o John Burnham – Fleet Captain
  - o Mike Toppa – Executive Officer
  - o Ron Oard – Treasurer
  - o Bill Doyle – Secretary
  - o Heather Shaver – At large
- The floor was open for additional nominees, with none set forward.
- A vote was taken, and the slate was approved unanimously, with no opposition.
- Other volunteer opportunities were mentioned as well, and Ted indicated that he will be looking for additional recruits to help with projects.

**6:55: Bill Doyle discussed the additional volunteer opportunities:**

- Specifically, the fleet needs help in the areas of social media, measurement, website management, and social / parties & webinars.
- Introduced Austin & Kelsey who have agreed to become involved to learn some of these areas and to get involved. More volunteers are needed, however.

**7:00: John opened the floor to the fleet for any comments or suggestions:**

- Steve DeVoe suggested that we need to provide the fleet members with a directory of owners so that they can contact each other.
- Pete Siegl opened the discussion regarding ideas on how to bring in youth to our fleet
- Nick Ewenson introduced himself as the person responsible for Sail Newport’s youth sailing instructor program and mentioned that he would be a liaison to help provide younger crew to those boats in need.

**7:05: Bill introduces the potential adjustments in the racing schedule and locations:**

- Timing: For 2021, we experimented with a 6:00pm warning in an effort to provide more time for crew to arrive. However, this limited our opportunity to fit in second races when needed.
- Opened the floor for discussion, and mixed reactions were expressed.
- John suggested that we maybe split the difference and start a little later in the Spring and Summer (but remain earlier from Mid-August through the end of the season as in the past)
- Course Location: Bill explained that the genesis of Shields splitting the season north and south of the bridge was a result of an old agreement with the Newport Yacht Club, that had them sponsoring a Rose/Goat area race circle from July 1 – Labor Day Weekend, and Shields staying North of the Bridge during that time. (Shields had traditionally raced North of the Bridge, hosted by the Navy, for decades up until the 90's). Over the past few years, the Newport Yacht Club began hosting their Wednesday night racing during the month of June, providing an overlap for several weeks with the Shields fleet south of the bridge.
- John asked for Bill O'Hanley's input. Bill explained that with the growing fleet, and the growing need for more real estate, it was unlikely that they would be able to avoid future overlaps – even with communications with the NYC, they still existed. Bill O'Hanley mentioned that North of the Bridge would offer more options for the RC to set courses.
- The idea of announcing the race circle on a weekly basis was briefly floated, however members of the fleet reported that it was impractical because it was important from a timing perspective to know exactly where the circle will be located in advance.
- John requested input from the fleet on both topics, as we (officers) are going to need to decide and confirm these details soon in order to publish the NORs.

**7:10: John asks for any additional input on any other topics:**

- Peter Denton suggested the possible usage of varied types of windward offset marks, which was discussed. As well, John encouraged continued use of gates whenever possible.

**7:15: Meeting Adjourned**

2022 Weekend Schedule

- May 28-29 – Ocean Great Lakes Challenge (Larchmont YC)
- June 5 – Aloha (Sunday) (Leukemia Regatta on Saturday)
- June 11-12 – NYYC Annual Regatta (*need 8 committed boats to get a start*)
- July 17 – Aloha (Sunday) (NYYC Race Week ends Saturday)
- July 30 – Winslow Regatta
- August 21 – Aloha (Sunday) (ILYC Distance Race – ends Saturday)
- Sept 3-4 – Labor Day Weekend (Plans underway for Shields start in Newport CYR)
- Sept 7-10 – Shields Nationals
- Sept 24 – Aloha (Saturday) (May have to move to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> for IC 37's)