

Date: February 13, 2017
To: USS Board members
From: Bruce Burton, President
Subject: February President's Report



Dear USS Board members,

We have started 2017 at full speed and all major initiatives are on track at this time. We are traveling to Austin for our conference today.

Over the transom
Sailing World Cup Miami

Over 400 boats competed this year in the SWC-Miami regatta. Malcolm will provide detail on the team and its performance. We had nice breakout performances.

I was in Miami for the awards presentation at Coral Reef YC, where I was honored to serve as the master of ceremonies. One of the best part of being president of USS is awarding prizes and with such a large fleet in Miami is was a big event. One of the challenges for me was the pronunciation of the foreigner's names, so Kate Drummy and Robin Dale (thanks!) served as my phonetic translators-writing out my script with the names beforehand. I certainly botched a few, but the competitors loved their medals just the same.

The event was a complete success from a regatta and race management viewpoint. In typical Miami fashion, we had varied conditions challenging both the athletes and race management teams, both of whom rose to the occasion.

All classes, except the boards, were consolidated this year in Regatta Park. There was a Jumbotron in the park like the Olympics with lots of great shots and regatta updates. This is now an expensive requirement of World Sailing. The feedback from the competitors that I heard was that more boat ramps are better and improved WiFi would be welcomed. If the city of Miami adds to the boat ramps, then the boards can relocate from CGCS to Regatta Park next year.

We are in the process of evaluating the financial results and will share that with the Board. As you are well aware, USS subsidizes this regatta because in the end it is less expensive for us to invite the top sailors in the world to sail here as opposed to shipping all of the US teams in the regatta to various parts of the world.

John Craig and Meredith Brody deserve a big round of applause and if you have a chance and are so inclined, then please send them an email to thank and congratulate them.

John Craig: jwc.race@gmail.com
Meredith Brody: meredithbrody@ussailing.org

Olympic Sailing Committee

We continue to meet weekly or bi-weekly depending on agenda items and USS meetings. This committee is working very hard are completely dedicated to improving our program! I cannot tell you how pleased that I am that Jack Gierhart has more involvement with Olympics now that Malcolm is onboard.

We had a meeting of part of the OSC in Miami during the SWC, with Brian Keane, Paul Callahan, Jim Campbell, Malcolm Page and myself meeting to discuss personnel and Olympic strategy. Brian is our newest member and has joined the OSC to lead the building of what we are calling the "Olympic Resource Bank," Brian's



excellent business and competitive sailing experience, along with time available, makes him the perfect person to lead the effort in generating resources (meaning money, people, equipment and facilities) necessary to win Gold Medals.

The OSC will brief the Board on how we have organized the Olympic program for funding and management as soon as possible. We just need to find the time to fit this presentation into the Board's schedule.

The following are the OSC members:

Bruce Burton-Chair, Cory Sertl-Vice Chair, Brian Keane, Jim Campbell, JJ Fetter, Paul Callahan, Peter Duncan Steve Benjamin, Steve Freitas, Malcolm Page, Jack Gierhart

OSC Related Meetings

Ding Schoonmaker and I met at Naples YC Jan 29th for lunch where we discussed the glory days of the past, why they were so and what the OSC is planning for 2020 and 2024 to return us to the Gold Medal podium. Ding's input is so valuable and accurate that we will always rely on him as a key advisor to our high performance sailing program. He always is "in the know" and is in constant communication with our leadership and many of our athletes. As you know, Ding provided a significant amount of the funding for many of our initiative, especially the Sailing Center in Coconut Grove. He funded the FD molds and oven in 1981 that led to our gold medal in 1984.

Paul Callahan, Malcolm Page and I met with the leadership (President, Treasurer and Board members and staff) of the USS Miami Sailing Center in Coconut Grove to begin to forge our plans for the this quadrennial. The meeting could not have been better. Their attitude was "how can we be a bigger part of the effort to win medals and support the US Sailing Team?" Frankly, after they said that I realized that we need to do a much better job of specifying what we need to be successful. Malcolm will work with them to put us on the winning track. Again, it could not have been any better.

Andy Kostanecki and I met in Vero Beach. Andy chaired the OSC for the 1988 games, after Sam Merrick in 1980 and 1984. Andy has approved of our planning and personnel. He will serve as a technical advisor and will be at our service when called upon. This is a huge, confidence building resource for our new efforts to develop "unfair advantages" in Olympic sailing. Note I say "unfair advantages" NOT "illegal advantages."

Jane and I had lunch (and dinner!) with Dayton Carr in NYC. We met to thank him for his support, and of course he most generously bought lunch, which then turned into dinner. I look forward to spending more time with Georgia McDonald and Dayton working on development strategies. He said he really likes what we are doing for Olympic sailing.

Herreshoff Trophy

Cory Sertl, Georgia McDonald and I were at Oakcliff Friday the 10th to award the Herreshoff Trophy to Hunt and Betsy Lawrence. They own more than 200 boats, almost all of which were purchased and are maintained for the use by others. They are truly remarkable. A wonderful meal of fish and wine was served. Timmothea "Timmy" Larr and Mary Savage, past winners, helped in the celebrations.



Over the Bow

My immediate concerns are:

1. Having a productive National Conference, with my key focus being:
 - a. Making connections with leaders and members of committees.
 - b. Understanding Board member's concerns and areas of interest for this year.
 - c. Understanding how we can make the Conference better next year-new dates?
2. Scheduling/Planning our Spring FTF (face to face) meeting (May XX TBD).
3. Making connections to resources to help with our Olympic Program funding.

Thank you for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce J. Burton', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Bruce J. Burton,
President

Attached: letter from Commodore Phil Lotz, NYYC



NEW YORK YACHT CLUB

February 6, 2017

Bruce J. Burton
President
U.S. Sailing Association
P. O. Box 1260
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Dear Bruce,

I wanted to express my surprise and delight for your complimentary letter of January 25th—it was unexpected but very much appreciated.

In this regard, I look forward to sharing it with the NYYC leadership and all of the many men and women who serve on the various committees that are the backbone of our sailing programs. As you know, everything we do at the New York Yacht Club is a “team effort” driven by our Mission:

To attract and bring together a dedicated group of yachting and naval members to share and foster their interest in yachting and yacht racing;

To sustain a leadership role in yachting, its history, its development, the preservation of its traditions and the furtherance of good seamanship;

To promote the highest form of Corinthian sportsmanship in national and international yachting forums and yacht racing competitions.

On behalf of the Flag Officers and trustees, I want to thank you and US Sailing for its expression of appreciation on behalf of the sport. We look forward to continuing our collaborative relationship with US Sailing to support programs and regattas that will strengthen and enrich the sport of sailing for the future sailors of America. On a personal note, I look forward to hearing from Malcolm on dates for the next Olympic regatta.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip A. Lotz'.

Philip A. Lotz
Commodore