



March 25, 2019

Presidents Report March 2019

Late February I traveled to San Francisco to attend the Rolex Yachtswomen and Yachtsman of the Year awards luncheon along with fellow Board members, Rich Jepsen, Tarasa Davis, Dave Perry, Malcom Page and Jack Gierhart. St. Francis Yacht Club and Commodore Paul Heineken and Board Chair, Paul Cayard were terrific hosts.

Our team of Jake Fish and Peter Glass in conjunction with Rolex, changed up the format to include a lively interview format with all the nominees led by Gary Jobson (who has been the emcee for this event for 28 years...) that was fun and entertaining. The lifelong aspect of our sport was on full display with the Cowles' sisters' youth and excitement about their new 470 campaign to try for the 2020 Olympics and then the experience, long history in the sport and mastery of the J70 exhibited by veteran Jud Smith.

US Sailing is fortunate to have a solid partnership with Rolex over so many years. Jack used our West Coast visit to engage with the new leadership at West Marine and held a town meeting with the new CEO right after lunch. On Friday I accompanied Jack, Stu and Peter to meet with Tom Siebel and learn more about plans for the exciting community sailing project.

I've spent some time working with Jack and Lee Parks to further understand the requirements that are being imposed on all sports by the Center for Safe Sport and the USOC regarding policies for training, mandatory reporting and background checks. I have been in "listening mode" and learning how other sports are responding and how our staff team at US Sailing is developing proposed policies that "fit" our sport into these requirements.

On the topic of other sports, I am just returning from accompanying my husband Mark, to Mammoth Mountain (CA) where he was competing in US Skiing's Masters Nationals. Mark competes in all 4 disciplines: Downhill, Super G, Giant



Slalom and Slalom. Ski racing shares some similarities with sailboat racing. Mammoth has had record amounts of snow and a few days were cancelled due to too much snow! The group of competitors embrace Masters Ski racing as a lifelong sport and are very fit. Very inspiring to see the man who just celebrated his 90th birthday jump up on the top step of the podium to receive his medal!

Thank you to the hardworking team of Martine, Rich and John who keep me on my toes and meet regularly with the staff leadership. I am looking forward to the Board meeting in Bristol March 28/29 and the opportunity for the Board and staff to be together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Sertl".

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