

RRS 68

The Latest News from the Judges' Committee

In This Newsletter:

[Chairman's Corner](#)

Page 02

[Judges' Training Evolution](#)

Page 03

[Mary Savage Judge
Emmeritus](#)

Page 04

[Happenings in Area L](#)

Page 05

[Useful Links](#)

Page 06



WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER

Sarah Ashton

A Reminder

Approximately 50 of you are up for renewal at the end of this year. You have until December to complete your recertification requirements to remain certified. If you have any questions, concerns or issues, please contact your RAJ as soon as possible so they can assist you.



So what is really in your Judging Bag?

[Please send me your additions,
your secrets, or tips.](#)

Any other Judge Tricks, Observations
or Words of Wisdom?
send to ashtonsh@bellsouth.net

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Wayne Balsiger

This time of year can be busy for sailing. August may be vacation month, but many sailing events happen as well. September means fall is coming soon; sailing on the water tends to diminish, but education opportunities arise. Same with Judges' seminars, roundtables, protest days and clinics. The Judges' education committee is planning the seminars for the learning season as I write this. Let us know if you have any educational ideas you'd like to see. Events will soon begin showing up on the seminar calendar.

SOARS It is always a good idea to check your SOARS record and see that your certification, SafeSport, Background check and membership are up to date. Also, click on Annual Report, and review/update your information. At the bottom, answer all the information in current box and click Save and Exit. These all must be current for your name to show up on Find a Race Official. And keep your SOARS event records up to date. The best way is to update SOARS right after an event. During an event, figure out who is going to create the SOARS record and then send around a note with the title and date so it is easy for others at the event to find it and make their entries. If you create an entry with a mistake that needs a correction, your RAJ can edit the entry.

Recognizing Judges' Committee Chairs One table we have been missing is a list of the Judges' Committee chairs. We have a history in the Judges' Manual and a number of articles in *RRS 68* by Bill Simon, Steve Wrigley, and now Joe Krolak's continuing articles describing the history of the committee and education history.

Here is what I have gathered from researching this with help from others, including Matt Hill. Let me know of any corrections.

Judges' Committee Chairs

- 1978 First reference to "Committee on Judges" - Harman Hawkins, chair
- 1980 Richard Latham, chair
- 1986 Ron Ward, chair
- 1990 William Parks, chair
- 1994 Renamed "Judges Committee" - Barbara Farquhar, chair
- 1998 Jim Capron, chair
- 2002 Ted Everingham, chair
- 2006 Sandy Grosvenor, chair
- 2010 Don Becker, chair
- 2013 Steve Wrigley, chair
- 2017 Sarah Ashton, chair
- 2021 Wayne Balsiger, chair

RRS 68 This issue has Craig Daniels article on Area L. This marks the round-robin completion of an article on each of the US Sailing Areas. Past copies are on the Judges page on the website. Are there subjects you'd like covered in *RRS 68*? Send suggestions to Sarah Ashton.

Speaking of Sarah Ashton, I want to compliment her on the great success of *RRS 68*. This is the first time I am aware of that the Judges' Committee has issued newsletters on a regular publishing schedule. She has done this every two month since the start of 2022. This issue is the eleventh issue. Thank you Sarah.

Smooth sailing, Wayne Balsiger, Chair. webalsiger@gmail.com.



JUDGES' TRAINING EVOLUTION - PART 3

Joe Krolak

One Seminar Does Not Fit All Judges

The Judges Seminar and Roundtables were successful milestones for the JC's commitment to raising the bar of education and training of US Sailing Judges. However, seminar participants often commented that the two-day workshop approach had several problems.

First, the content tended to be at a higher level. On the one hand, some less experienced participants would quickly be overwhelmed by some of the (more esoteric) discussions with senior judges attending the workshop. On the other hand, senior-level judges would become bored as Instructors would have to take time to explain some fundamental aspects of the rules and judging.

Additionally, the philosophy of focusing on “rules other than the six pages of Part 2” broke down when some participants really did not understand aspects of those Part 2 rules.

Moreover, two days of instruction represents an important commitment of time and energy for all involved. Scheduling an entire weekend of time (with additional expense for those traveling to a seminar) is burdensome – but perhaps more so for those who are just beginning their advocacy as a judge – and may have other competing commitments (perhaps racing a boat!).

Finally, two days of a seminar might cover the content important to senior and experienced judges. However, new and less experienced judges needed to focus on properly running a protest or redress hearing. Focusing on those aspects should not require two days of seminar attendance.

As a result, the JC and the JTTWP tasked RAJ Gail Bernstein to establish a club judge working party to investigate and provide recommendations on resolving these types of issues. In a case of “no good deed goes unpunished” and wearing multiple hats at one point, Gail became the Chair of the JTTWP as well.

In 2010, Gail and the working party proposed a three-level program of Club Judges, Regional Judges and National Judges; each with different certification and experience requirements. An important element of their proposal was the development of a One Day Club Judge workshop (or as US Sailing terminology changed, a One Day Judges Seminar).

This new, one-day seminar would include both Part 2 discussions (and homework) and those elements of the rules immediately needed for a judge to carry out proper hearings. The one-day framework would allow participants to better schedule their time without a commitment to the full two days.

Gail and her working party produced seminar materials and tests. For this One Day Judge Seminar (ODJS) her team streamlined the course materials. Recognizing the need to look at those Part 2 rules, Gail and her team added a new session, “Around the Race Course,” that allowed discussions of applicable rules from the start of a race to the finish. They structured the course to encourage internal roundtable sessions and reduce lecture times.

After a November 2010 pilot ODJS led by Don Becker and held in conjunction with the One Design Symposium, the JTTWP released the one-day seminars across the USA, and they almost immediately became a popular offering to judges.

Next Issue: JETTS swooshes in ...

JUDGE EMERITUS DESIGNATION FOR MARY SAVAGE

JUNE 11, 2023

The Judges Committee and US Sailing are honored to bestow upon Mary Savage the title of Judge Emeritus.

Mary's service to US Sailing, the sport of sailing, and its sailors was exceptional. She was a leader in the sailing community as a judge, rules advisor and developer, teacher, mentor, innovator, friend and administrator regionally, nationally and internationally. In the classroom, in the hearing room, on the club porch, on her rules, appeals and other committees, her leadership, wisdom, calm demeanor, devotion to the sport and high standards of excellence were a foundation for the development of our sailors as judges.

We are pleased to present to Mary's family this certificate indicative of our pride in Mary's accomplishments and our appreciation of the tremendous support that she gave to judges everywhere. We are grateful for the dedication, time, skills and knowledge that she gave to the judging community and to the sport of sailing.

Mary Savage of Larchmont, NY, a longtime US Sailing judge and umpire and a trailblazer among women race officials, died at home on December 13 surrounded by her family.

Mary learned to sail in 1960 in a beginning sailing class for women at Larchmont Yacht Club, and five years later, she was teaching the class. By 1979 she had won the Women's Championship of Long Island Sound. She raced regularly for many years in several classes on the Sound, predominantly the 210.

In 1979, less than a year after the program was created, Mary was one of the first women to become a US Sailing Judge. She was certified as an International Judge by ISAF (now World Sailing) in 1990. She officiated at events of all kinds, from youth regattas to world championships. She officiated regularly at Key West and Block Island Race Weeks, where she heard protests and made sure that the regatta documents were perfectly clear.

In the 70s and 80s, she served on the Judges Committee Testing and Training Sub-Committee and as the Regional Administrative Judge for Area B and was an integral part of the group that developed formal judge training programs. When the Umpire Program began in 1990, Mary was one of the first two women to become US Sailing Certified Umpires.

Mary served on the US Sailing Racing Rules Committee since 1991 – the first woman to do so. Her experiences as a competitor and judge and her skill with words made her a highly valued committee member. Her suggestions for rule changes exhibited an uncommon amount of common sense and a firm knowledge of the workings of the sport. In addition, Mary also chaired the US Sailing Race Administration Committee for several years and served as a Vice President of US Sailing.

One of her most unique contributions to the sport was serving as the contact point for sailors for the US Sailing Competitor Classification Committee. Until ISAF took over the system, she made countless difficult and controversial decisions under intense time pressure so that hundreds of sailors could receive a classification just before the entry deadlines for events.

In 2007 Mary was awarded the Harman Hawkins Trophy for her contributions to race administration, and in 2015 she received the Nathanael G. Herreshoff Trophy, US Sailing's most prestigious award, for her outstanding contributions to the sport.

Through all these years, she worked quietly and effectively in the background with little publicity. This is a common trait of our best officials: they know that the game is not about them but about the competitors.

Fair Winds!

HAPPENINGS IN AREA L

Graig Danniels

US Sailing's Area L is a hidden gem nestled within the stunning landscapes of the Pacific Northwest, encompassing Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. This maritime haven offers sailors a variety of experiences, venues, and events for those who love sailing.

Judges and Certification

Area L's sailing community has witnessed strong growth in its certified judges over the last several years. What began with around seven judges in 2013 has grown into a team of 15 certified judges, including valuable contributions from Canadian judges. This expansion has resulted in enhanced coverage and support for sailing events and regattas, underscoring the collaborative spirit that defines Area L.

Diverse Sailing Venues

The beauty of Area L lies in its diverse range of sailing venues, each offering a distinct experience. The awe-inspiring Columbia River Gorge, with its reliable winds and breathtaking scenery, and the waters of the Puget Sound near Seattle have garnered recognition for hosting world-class events. Meanwhile, the waters of Lake Washington, the Willamette River, Fern Ridge Reservoir, and Flathead Lake, to name just a few, cater to both handicap and dinghy racing, providing a versatile playground for sailors.

Exciting Events and Community Bonding

The sailing calendar in Area L is brimming with events. From the just completed Lido 14 Class Championships and Thistle National Championships, to the upcoming J-24 Worlds, to the dynamic high school team racing, and lots of fleet competitions, the region is filled with sailing opportunities. Area L's yacht clubs serve as more than sailing hubs; they foster camaraderie, mentorship, and a shared love for the sport. The warm hospitality extended to visiting judges reflects the strong bonds that bind the sailing community.

Challenges and Triumphs

Navigating Area L's expansive geography presents a unique challenge for judges and officials. Despite the physical distances, Area L's officials maintain a high level of service by balancing remote hearings with live interactions, exemplifying resilience in the face of logistical challenges.

Embracing Natural Wonders

Beyond the thrill of regattas, Area L invites sailors to embrace the wonders of nature. The legendary winds of the Columbia River Gorge, the majestic snow-capped volcanoes, and the chance encounters with orcas, otters, and other marine life create a variety of experiences that enrich every sailing venture. With yacht clubs nestled in scenic coves and inlets, sailors can explore captivating cruising destinations that are as diverse as they are enchanting.

A Glimpse into the Future

As Area L continues to flourish, the sailing community remains committed to nurturing new talent and fostering a love for the sport. The transition from Seattle-centric coverage to a more comprehensive focus on Area L highlights the region's dedication to growth and inclusivity.

Whether racing against the wind, savoring stunning vistas, or engaging in spirited camaraderie, Area L beckons sailors to partake in a journey of discovery and adventure.

Thunderbirds at Port Townsend, WA



ILCA at Cascade Locks, OR



USEFUL LINKS

- [US Sailing Judges' Page](#)
- [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 with the corrections and updates for Jan 1, 2023](#)
- [US Sailing Appeals](#)
- [World Sailing Cases](#)
- [SOARS](#)
- [Safesport](#)
- [World Sailing](#)

RESOURCES

- [Find a Seminar](#)
- [US Sailing Judge Certification Requirements](#)
- [2021-2024 US Prescriptions to The Racing Rules of Sailing](#)
- [Appendices KG & LG - NoR and SI Guides & Templates](#)
- [The Judges' Manual for 2021-2024](#)
- [Guidelines for Online Hearings](#)
- [Continuing Education Events and CEUs Table](#)
- [Race Officials Certification Forms](#)
- [Race Officials Insurance Information](#)



Club Judge Seminar