

North American Formula 18 Class Association

Meeting Minutes

6:30-8:30 PM EDT – 10 September 2009

Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

Long Beach, CA



The meeting was called to order by John Williams (Vice Chair). John reported that the Class had a modest balance in the bank and that membership dues from the Championship would primarily be used to pay the International dues at year-end. Remaining funds would be used to advance-purchase boat certification materials and fund the cost of shipping the class scales from venue to venue.

John announced that the 2010 North American Championship would be co-hosted by the Racine Yacht Club and the Catamaran Racing Association of Wisconsin; it will be a combined Championship with Performance Race Week, which will include Nacra 20 and Formula 17 classes. Several people asked if it is feasible to have these classes share a race course for a Championship; discussion included historical perspective on the first two F18 Championships in the US which were hosted in this same manner. Jack Young from Performance Catamarans was present and was recognized for his long commitment to the Class.

Discussion regarding the 2011 Championship was opened; John Williams presented a bid from the Tybee Island Sailing Association to host a combined event with Performance Race Week in October 2011. John discussed the prevailing weather, logistics, and housing. Several people present were familiar with the venue and made positive comments from the floor in support of the event. Mike Easton, however, asked if he could present a bid from Sail Newport to host the Championship. John yielded the floor and Mike presented the general details of the venue, weather and logistical support that has been pledged by Sail Newport. Again, several people were familiar with the venue and made positive comments from the floor; the venue and race administration is clearly well regarded. Mike indicated that the event would be a stand-alone Championship and that additional classes would not be invited. Mike indicated he understood from Sail Newport that a regatta budget for 25-30 boats would be sufficient. Upon conclusion of discussion, the matter was brought to a vote:

MOTION: That the North American F18 Class accepts a bid from Sail Newport to host a stand-alone Championship in 2011.

Motion Passed.

John Williams presented the next agenda item which regarded changing the Association's name to the United States Formula 18 Class. Spirited discussion continued for some time with several Canadian members' invaluable input. The Canadians indicated that they had formed a Canadian Association only in order to be assigned a number of berths at the F18 Worlds. People from Western Canada, however, felt strongly that the current Canadian Association did not represent the interests of the Class beyond a fairly limited area focused in Eastern Canada, and that they felt the current North American Class represented their interests better. Further, the Eastern Canadians indicated that they did not feel the North American Association was over-reaching or "stepping on the toes" of the Canadian Association. US members were also opposed to the name change based on additional costs associated with purchasing new domain names, re-printing association stickers, etc. Following discussion, the matter was brought to a vote:

MOTION: That the North American Formula 18 Class Association not make a name change at this time.

Motion Passed.

John Williams presented the agenda item regarding boat measurement and certification. Much discussion on the matter followed. In general, the fleet expressed that it does not appear that boats present at the past and current North American Championships would fail measurement checks, even though only a handful of boats present have certificates and only one boat present had been fully certified. The class was reluctant to incur additional costs in order to address an issue that may not improve the quality of racing. It was pointed out that the fleet would need to be in full compliance with the International Class Rules if there were any hope of hosting an F18 Worlds were to be contemplated. While people recognized this necessity, most felt that a Worlds was some time off and did not present an immediate need for change. No vote was called on the issue.

Regional representatives reported fleet growth in the Northeast and Northwest, primarily driven by core groups that were focused on either specifically Nacras (Northeast) or Tigers (Northwest). Canadian members indicated a thriving fleet in Eastern Canada with an anticipated 40 boats for their national event later in the month. Several US teams from the Northeast and Midwest are expected to attend.

A discussion of the possibility of an F18 Worlds in the US ensued; the International Class again expressed an interest during the meeting in Belgium last July. The NAF18 Class members agreed that the constraints presented by the International Class in the past have made hosting Worlds in the US very difficult to manage. Some of the international teams present, however, strongly encouraged a bid be presented. Members expressed a desire to see a bid prepared based on our own terms that the International Class either accepts or not. John called for volunteers to form an Ad Hoc Committee to pursue the objective. No vote was called for on the issue.

A review of the 2009 membership incentives was made with special recognition to Jay and Pease Glaser (who were present) for their contribution to the Class. The incentives offered this year were very well-received, although it appeared only a few members took advantage of the gift certificates included with membership. With the year coming to a close, John called for volunteers to help pull together an incentive package for 2010. No vote was called for on the issue.

The Election of Officers was conducted;

1. Chair – David Ingram
2. Vice Chair – John Williams
3. Secretary – Vacant
4. Treasurer – Don Atchley
5. Chief Measurer – John Williams
6. Northern Area – Brent Carlson
7. Southern Area – David Ingram
8. Eastern Area – Mike Easton
9. Western Area – Dan DeLave
10. Mid-Western Area – Chris Green

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted –

John Williams
Vice Chairman