March 2017

Dear Sailors and Friends of Sailing,

Welcome back for another to another great season of racing! This should be an exceptional year for sailing, since 2017 marks the Flying Scot 60th Anniversary, and the FSSA Nationals will be held in our district this year, June 25 – 30. This year also marks the advent of the 2017 USSA *Racing Rules of Sailing*, so we’ll have some housekeeping to do, to make sure we are compliant with the current RRS interpretations and terminology. Ray Gauthier is planning a PRO/Signal Boat Captain clinic for early in the season, which will cover PRO process and decision making, and rule changes from the update.

Our Memorial Day format will be the same as last year. The season opens May 27th with the Steiding zone race, followed by the Becker Cup May 27 – 29. Scots and Lasers will race the same courses and number of races.

For Series racing, the Board voted to return to the 60% minimum participation requirement for all divisions this year and, for both the June and July/August Series, to have Scots and Lasers race the same courses. At the discretion of the PRO, a separate, shorter windward mark may be used for the Lasers. The Lasers will sail separate courses for the Firecracker Regatta (July 1 – 2), the Commodores’ Cup and, of course, will be the only fleet sailing for on the weekend of the Laser Invitational, July 22 – 23.

We’re planning some special recognition of the Scot 60th Anniversary at this year’s Sandy Douglass Regatta, on July 29 – 30. Like last year, all SDR entrants are required to be members of the Flying Scot Sailing Association.

As always, we will host the Commodores’ Cup over Labor Day weekend, September 2 – 4.

Our new regatta, the Fair Winds, was a great success in its first run last year, and we will build on that success for its second running, on September 9 - 10. This new regatta is free, but we ask that entrants consider making whatever donations they feel appropriate. This year, all donations will be presented to the Mountain Laurel Medical Center, as a sailing contribution to the local community. As you know, the term “Fair Winds” is a traditional sailors’ farewell and wish for safety, and the Fair Winds remembers and honors those who have made that last safe journey home.

Our season wraps up with the Magellan zone race on Saturday, September 16.

For the trophy program, we will continue our current practice of awarding engraved plates. Both skippers and crew who are members of DCYRA would get an engraved plate to add to their DCYRA plaque. We are encouraging crew who regularly sail to join DCYRA, but crew who are not members would be offered a “collectable,” which is some DCRYA-logo item like a mug, bag, etc. We will continue to maintain the various perpetual trophies, and continue to offer unique trophies to skipper and crew for our two major regattas – the Sandy Douglass Memorial and the Laser Invitational. Other regattas would get engraved plates or DCYRA-logo collectables, like series.

In the new season, your DCYRA Board is bidding farewell to two key members, Treasurer Alan Silverman and Trophies Chair Barbara Grunbaum. Both have been wonderful to work with and deserve a word of thanks from us all for their support of DCYRA and sailing here on the lake. Alan is ably-replaced by our new Treasurer, Andy Carrier. Barbara’s replacement has not yet been named, but as is typical of her, she is taking care of planning and ordering all the trophies for this year, so that all we’ll need to do is hand them out. Thank you, Alan and Barbara!

Finally, DCYRA needs your financial support. Your Board works hard to control costs, but our equipment is aging and the costs of insurance and all those other things that support the racing program continue to rise. Along with your membership and if you can find room to do so, please consider an additional monetary gift to the association this year. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

In all, this should be an exciting year for racing on the lake and we all look forward to seeing you on the water!

Marty Hill

President, DCYRA