

2007 ANNUAL ECORA MEETING MINUTES

1. This year's meeting was held at the Kent Island Yacht Club (Chester, MD) on Saturday, January 27th, 2007. The meeting was opened by ECORA President Debbie Hall, and started with a *pule* by Blake Conant.
2. ECORA Secretary Terry Wilton then summarized the Minutes of the 2006 Meeting.
3. ECORA Treasurer Jan Dreisbach then gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that as of this meeting, ECORA consists of 15 active (i.e., paid-up) clubs:

- *Boston Outrigger Racing Assoc.
- *KIOCC
- *Manu'iwa OCC
- *MAPA
- *NCA Outrigger
- *Native Canoe Club
- *North Shore Outrigger
- *NYO

- *OBX Outrigger
- *Philadelphia OCC
- *Philadelphia Police OCC
- *Sandbridge OCC
- *Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club
- *Wai Nui O Kanaka OCC
- *Washington Canoe Club

Jan Whitaker's adaptive paddling club (the Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana) is expected to join ECORA soon for the 2007 season. We also have two voting individual members (Josh Bekerman and John Ziegler) and three non-voting individual members (Eric McNett, John Ponticorvo, and Jan Whitaker).

The beginning balance for 2006 was \$3335.73, while our year-ending balance was \$5190.58, a net income of \$1854.85. Jan expects that our 2007 expenses will be similar to those of 2006, and may include Officer's and Director's Insurance. Jan also expects similar annual dues, and perhaps clinic income as well.

The annual dues protocol requires that:

- ❖ By June 1st, 2007, member clubs must send the Treasurer a paddler roster (full names, addresses, and ages of as April 1st, 2007 (season start)) and a check (\$10.00 per paddler, minimum of \$35.00 per club) made out to ECORA; individual members must send the Treasurer a check made out to ECORA in the amount of \$10.00 for non-voting status, or \$35.00 for voting status.

4. Terry Wilton then gave the Secretary's Report, including the following:

- ❖ Several minor wording changes were proposed to the ECORA By-Laws, all of which were approved by a 2/3 vote of the present club representatives - these included wording that permits expulsion of a club from ECORA for failure to pay dues for two consecutive years.
 - ❖ Following much discussion, several additional motions were made and approved that resulted in the following:
 - i. ECORA Officer terms will remain at two years in length, but Officers may now serve up to three consecutive terms, except for the Treasurer, who may serve an unlimited number of consecutive (two-year) terms.
 - ii. The current Treasurer's term was extended by one year (through January 2009) in order to stagger the departure of Officers and avoid a mass retirement of serving Officers.
 - iii. The current Secretary's 4th consecutive term will expire in January 2008, so a candidate for Secretary will be needed to serve for the next two-year term (2008 and 2009).
5. Caroline Brosius then gave a summary of the ECORA Team participation in the March 2006 World Outrigger Sprint Championships in New Zealand.
- ❖ The event was a fabulous and very rewarding experience for everyone involved, including Jan Whitaker's adaptive paddlers.
 - ❖ The next World Outrigger Sprints Championships (in 2008) will be held in (probably) Sacramento, CA.
 - ❖ The question was raised concerning which ECORA events will serve as qualifying events for the 2008 World Outrigger Sprints Championship.
 - ❖ Jan's September 15th race in Rochester, NY was chosen to serve as a qualifying event for this purpose.
6. Jim and Debbie Hall then gave out ECORA trophies to the winners of the 2006 OC-6 and OC-1/2 Point Series competitions.
- ❖ For the year's OC6 competition (the top four clubs received trophies), the final results were:
 - i. First Place - WCC, with 91 points
 - ii. Second Place - Wai Nui O Kanaka, with 45 points
 - iii. Third Place - Philadelphia OCC, with 36 points
 - iv. Fourth Place - KIOCC, with 33 points
 - v. Fifth Place - NCA Outrigger, with 27 points
 - vi. Sixth Place - MAPA, with 15 points
 - vii. Seventh Place - NYO, with 14 points

- viii. Eighth Place - Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club, with 13 points
- ix. Ninth Place - Manu'iwa OCC, with 12 points
- x. Tenth Place - Sandbridge OCC, with 8 points
- xi. Eleventh Place - Philly Police, with 5 points
- xii. Twelfth Place - BORA (Boston), with 1 point.

❖ OC-1/2 winners were as follows:

- i. Men's Open
 - 1. 1st Place Andrey Drachenko,
 - 2. Second Place Jody Marcon,
 - 3. Third Place Kevin Humphries
- ii. Men's Masters - None qualified
- iii. Men's Senior Masters
 - 1. First Place Mitch Potter,
 - 2. Second Place Mike Black
- iv. Men's Golden Masters
 - 1. First Place Paul Perlstein
- v. Women's Open
 - 1. First Place Caroline Brosius,
 - 2. Second Place Kathleen McNamee,
 - 3. Third Place Kelly Rhodes
- vi. Women's Masters
 - 1. First Place Kate Dowling,
 - 2. Second Place Susie Johnston
- vii. Women's Senior Masters
 - 1. First Place Amy Potter,
 - 2. Second Place Roxie Merritt
- viii. OC2
 - 1. First Place Bill & Anne Gasset
 - 2. Second Place Art Chenowith & Bobbie Miller
 - 3. Third Place Jim & Deb Hall

7. Awards were followed by the breaking up of all attendees into small groups of 5 - 8 per group, who over a 1 hour and 45 minute session, proceeded to discuss and come up with suggestions on the following topics:

- ❖ Article II of ECORA's Constitution (ECORA's Mission Statement);
- ❖ Do we need ECORA? Growth vs. Apathy in face of communications challenges, committee participation & follow-through, timely payment of club dues, and increasing efforts to solicit sponsorship;
- ❖ Leadership changes within and growth of your club - how are you handling them?

- ❖ What is our ultimate goal? Is it still the same as it was when we started up? How do we overcome the hurdles we face to achieve this goal?
8. The ECORA Board of Directors gave Debbie Hall a \$100 gift certificate in recognition of her continuing efforts to lead ECORA and grow the sport of outrigger racing on the east coast.
 9. After the small group discussion session and lunch, the afternoon session began with each group summarizing its conclusions and suggestions concerning the topics in Paragraph 7 above.
 - ❖ The first group, represented by Blake Conant, made the following comments:
 - i. The ECORA Mission Statement (Constitution Article II) is OK as is. There are two distinct issues here - the Association and membership.
 - ii. ECORA should establish a non-voting advisory board (NVAB) consisting of one member from each active club, which would hold monthly conference calls, including the ECORA Board of Directors (ECORA Officers), to discuss current issues.
 - iii. We could utilize forums on the ECORA web site to post information of interest to multiple clubs (recruiting and sponsorship ideas, canoe transportation advice, etc.). Dana Aina, the ECORA webmaster, will look into how we would do this.
 - iv. The NVAB could include an ECORA Communications Committee (1-2 people) that would ensure that local papers, TV stations, and radio stations in the vicinity of each member club were given press releases about outrigger events the local club was involved in.
 - v. The NVAB could also include a Marketing Committee, composed of marketing subject matter experts from the various clubs, to help all member clubs seek sponsors and funding, and to pass on successes from other clubs.
 - vi. ECORA should enforce the principle that ECORA member clubs paddling in ECORA recognized races must be paid up - "no dues, no race". The idea of race organizers establishing (ECORA) member fees and non-member fees for each event was raised by Freda Rosso.
 - vii. Putting clubs "in good standing (i.e., dues paid)" on a list on the ECORA web page would allow race organizers to check to see if clubs registered for an event were paid up and thus eligible to compete.

- viii. Jan Dreisbach suggested encouraging use of PayPal for club dues payments.
- ix. Jack Brosius suggested issuing each club a unique number (XX), with each paddler in that club being assigned a subsidiary number (XX-01, XX-02, etc.) in order to track whether paddlers had been paid for their respective clubs.
- x. Blake Conant offered to create a master ECORA paddler list on the ECORA Yahoo!Groups site.

- ❖ The second group, represented by Bea(?), came up with the following comments:
 - i. We should strive to reduce the administrative burden on clubs and race organizers.
 - ii. Committees composed of widely-scattered members find it very difficult to complete their tasking.
 - iii. Three things we need (workable goals) are: 1) a good web site with good information flow, 2) a governing body that recognizes or approves specific races, and 3) a resource pool of experienced paddlers and useful equipment.
 - iv. Money - Obtaining corporate sponsorship(s) of ECORA as a whole would allow ECORA to do things such as giving needy clubs new canoes, giving cash prizes to winning paddlers or crews, or giving cash to clubs that need funding. This might also lead to ECORA gaining 501(c)3 non-profit status, which would require ECORA to put on clinics, and give out donations and/or sponsorships. Money would also bring spectators, who would probably better enjoy short races/sprints as a spectator sport.
 - v. Limiting the number of ECORA-recognized races would allow paddlers to concentrate on those specific events, and would allow more paddlers at fewer events.
 - vi. We should set the 2008 race schedule by next November, rather than waiting until January 2008.
- ❖ The third group, represented by Bill Gassett, brought up the following:
 - i. The issue of marketing, specifically the offer by Hinano (the sportswear and clothing division) to sponsor ECORA events. Bill will e-mail club reps to gauge club interest in pursuing this offer.
 - ii. Emphasizing sprints and shorter distance events is a good idea for attracting both new paddlers and more spectators to our sport.
 - iii. We should seriously consider the idea (originally proposed last year) of dividing our racing season into halves or even thirds - OC1/2 races in the spring (March thru May), OC6

regatta (shorter distance/sprint) events in the mid-summer (May thru July), and OC6 long-distance races in the fall (July thru October).

- iv. The issue of regionalization - such as an ECORA North and an ECORA South.

❖ The fourth group, represented by Teryl Chapel, raised the following:

- i. The words "and guiding" should be added to the ECORA Mission Statement (Constitution Article II) in the first sentence, before the word "body". (Secretary will do.)
- ii. We should consider doing more clinics, and in more areas than just paddling or steering, such as coaching, training, and canoe transportation.
- iii. We could put a Race Organizer's Checklist (developed by the NVAB mentioned above) on the ECORA web site.
- iv. We should make sure that new clubs get needed resources.

10. The 2007 ECORA Race Schedule was the next item for discussion.

❖ Wendy Perkins (Wai Nui) invited all clubs to another race on Lake Ontario - the "Wai Nui Why Not?" 12-mile race to be held on June 9th from the Mississauga Canoe Club just west of Toronto.

- i. Wendy proposed that this event be designated as an ECORA OC6 Point Series event for 2007, which was approved.

❖ Several motions were passed during this session, as follows:

- i. The Blackburn race (Cape Ann, MA) will not be an ECORA OC6 Point Series race this year.
- ii. ECORA will revive the holding of the OC6 Sprints Championship regatta - to be hosted by KIOCC this year, and by WCC in 2008.
- iii. The OC1 Championship Race will be held at a different venue every year. Sandbridge OCC will host this event for 2007.
- iv. We will hold off on deciding on the split-season issue until this fall, immediately after the Kent Island Cup event on Labor Day weekend.
- v. A clause will be added to the By-Laws stating that having a right to vote at ECORA meetings requires having paid up the immediately previous year's dues (for both member clubs and individuals).

11. The following 2007 Race Schedule was set (available on the ECORA web site also) (** designates an OC6 Point Series Event):

DATE:	EVENT:
April 14 th	WCC OC1 Race (DC)
May 12 th	Buckroe OC1 Race
May 19 th	Kent Island OC1 Race
May 26 th	Virginia Beach Long Board Federation Steel Pier Classic
June 2 nd	Milford OC1 Race (Milford, CT)
June 9 th	Wai Nui Why Not? (** (Toronto)
June 23 rd	Washington Monumental (** (DC)
June 30 th	Liberty World Challenge Race (** (NYC)
July 7 th -8 th	Toronto Harbour International Challenge (** (Toronto, Ontario, CAN)
July 21 st	Blackburn (Gloucester/Cape Ann, MA)
August 4 th	Sandbridge Challenge (** (VA Beach)
August 18 th	ECORA OC6 Sprint Championships Kent Island, MD
September 1 st -2 nd	Kent Island Relay Race (**
September 15 th	Rochester (NY)
September 22 nd	Misery OC1
September 30 th	Chestertown OC6 & OC1/2 Races (Point Series event for OC1/2, only)
October 6 th	Back Bay Hei Hei (VA Beach OC1/2 Championships)
October 20 th	Seaford OC1 Race (Seaford, VA)

The Lake Erie OC6 race idea has been put off till 2008, because of a date conflict with the Rochester race.

Respectfully,
Terry Wilton, ECORA Secretary