

To all ECORA Clubs and Paddlers: Here are the Minutes from the January 2005 ECORA Annual Meeting, including the 2005 Race Schedule.

2005 ANNUAL ECORA MEETING MINUTES

ECORA held its annual meeting for 2005 on Saturday, January 29th, at the Kent Island Yacht Club in Chester, Maryland. Representatives from 12 clubs (Boston Outrigger Racing Association (BORA), Ho'ole'a OCC, Kent Island OCC, Manu'iwa OCC, Mid-Atlantic Paddlers Association (MAPA), NCA Outrigger, New York Outrigger, Outer Banks OCC, Philadelphia OCC, Rockaway Beach OCC, Sandbridge OCC, and the Washington Canoe Club) attended the meeting.

1. Teryl Chapel (now of the new Outer Banks OCC) kicked off the meeting with a Pule (prayer).

2. ECORA Secretary then gave the Secretary's Report. ECORA's current active club membership consists of the following clubs:

- Boston Outrigger Racing Association (BORA)
- Ho'ole'a OCC (to soon become the Capability Outrigger Ohana)
- Kent Island OCC
- Manu'iwa OCC
- Mid-Atlantic Paddler's Association (MAPA)
- Nantucket OCC
- Native OCC (formerly Rappahannock OCC)
- NCA Outrigger
- Newport OCC
- New York Outrigger (NYO)
- Outer Banks OCC (OBX) (new club)
- Pequot OCC
- Philadelphia OCC
- Rockaway Beach OCC
- Sandbridge OCC
- Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club
- Vermont OCC
- Washington Canoe Club (WCC)

*Mike & Ellen Handa (of New England OCC) are still active individual members, but all but one of their canoes has been loaned to a public beach service provider and the club is not active this year.

Northeast OCC and Jupiter OCC sold their canoes and are no longer active clubs.

One new club, Kapakai Nalo OCC (of Port St. Joe, Florida, on the Gulf of Mexico) is expected to join ECORA by March 2005, after they receive their new Mirage OC-6. The POC for Kapakai Nalo is Lisa Faipea, at ndnoutrigger@gtcom.net.

There are 6 independent paddlers with non-voting ECORA memberships. A motion was made and passed to accept the Secretary's Report.

3. ECORA President Debbie Hall announced that Joe McDougall, of Boston Outrigger, has agreed to take on the role of ECORA Vice-President from Jack Flynn.

4. ECORA Treasurer Jan Dreisbach then gave the Treasurer's Report. Several clubs still need to send Jan their 2004 ECORA dues.

- During 2004 we had deposits totaling \$2,124.08
- During 2004 we had expenses totaling \$1,586.75
- Our net income for 2004 was \$537.33
- The ECORA checking account balance, as of 29 Jan 2005, was \$2353.70 (pending 3 deposits).

A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

5. Jim Hall then gave a summary of the 2004 OC-1/2 Point Series results, which consisted of 9 events.

73 different paddlers participated in at least one event. Final standings were as follows.

Men's Open Division:

- 1st Place - Andrey Drachenko
- 2nd Place - Jeremy Grosvnr
- 3rd Place - Dorien Wolter

Women's Open:

- 1st Place - Caroline Brosius
- 2nd Place - Anne Gassett
- 3rd Place - Maureen Malave

Men's Masters:

- 1st Place - Jim Hall
- 2nd Place - Bill Gassett
- 3rd Place - Eric McNett

Women's Masters:

- 1st Place - Debbie Hall
- 2nd - Amy Potter
- 3rd Place - Freda Rosso

Men's Senior Masters:

- 1st Place - Mitch Potter
- 2nd Place - Bill Kuklinski
- 3rd Place - John Ponticorvo

Women's Senior Masters:

- 1st Place - Bobbie Mille
- 2nd Place - Roxie Merritt

Men's Golden Masters:

- 1st Place - Jack Brosius

OC-2:

- 1st Place - Mike & Ellen Handa

6. Debbie Hall then gave a summary of the 2004 OC-6 Point Series results, as follows.

- 1st Place - Washington Canoe Club, with 56 points
- 2nd Place - NCA Outrigger and KIOCC, tied with 26 points
- 3rd Place - MAPA, with 19 points

- 4th Place - Sandbridge OCC, with 16 points
- 5th Place - Philadelphia OCC, with 8 points
- 6th Place - Manu'iwa OCC, with 7 points
- 7th Place - NYO, with 2 points
- 8th Place - Boston Outrigger, with 1 point

7. Next up was a report on the 2004 IVF World Sprint Championships, from NCA Outrigger paddler Peg Coulombe. As a result of their finish in the 2003 ECORA Sprint Championships in Philadelphia, NCA Outrigger sent a 6-woman crew, as the ECORA representatives, to the 2004 World Championships in Hilo, Hawaii. Peg reported that there were a total of 5 days of 500-meter and 1000-meter events, with Mirages being used for the OC-6 events and a variety of OC-1 types used in OC-1 events. Peg brought back specifics on how other outrigger associations choose teams for this event. There are additional slots open for ECORA crews. The overall winner of the Championships was Tahiti. Drew Palavage suggested that clubs work at establishing local corporate crews for potential sponsorship to be used to help fund and facilitate sending crew(s) to the IVF Sprints in Aotearoa [New Zealand] in 2006.

Peg and the other members of the ECORA Sprints Committee will continue to refine the ECORA procedures for selecting crews to send to future World Sprint Championships.

8. Jan Whitaker then briefed us on her Inclusive Equal Opportunity Program to introduce and involve disabled people to canoe paddling. Jan had 12 disabled paddlers compete in a V-12 configuration at the IVF World Sprint Championships in Hilo, Hawaii. Jan is in the process of registering her club (formerly Ho'ole'a OCC, to be known as the Capability Outrigger Ohana) as a member club with Disabled Sports USA (DSUSA), and is seeking 501(c)3 non-profit tax status. She is also seeking to make disabled paddling an official competitive sport in both the Paralympics and Special Olympics. Jan announced a Disabled Paddling Championships to be held August 11th at Chapman State Park in Warren, PA.

9. Debbie Hall announced that KIOCC would sponsor a DSUSA/Walter Reed Medical Center Program at Kent Island in 2005, including a Memorial Day weekend training session with Jan Whitaker. Practice sessions with the soldier's group will be scheduled for 6 weeks over the summer of 2005 - dates to be determined.

10. The next topic was Good Stuff from 2004, with the highlights being:

- The Walter Guild clinic at Kent Island
- The OC-1/2 racing circuit
- The Walter Reed Hospital Disabled Soldiers Program at Kent Island
- The NCA Outrigger crew that raced at the IVF World Sprint Championships
- Dana Aina's improvement of the ECORA web site (<http://www.eastcoastoutrigger.com>)
- Josh Bekerman's photography of ECORA races and paddlers

11. Roger Meyer then briefed the status of the 2005 Liberty Challenge. This race will be held this year, on June 25th, with the venue still being finalized; the venue choices are Frank Sinatra Park in Hoboken, NJ, or at one end of the Brooklyn Bridge. Roger has already had inquiries from several international teams, and he is considering adding one or more OC-1 events. Roger stated that the eventual goal is to return this race to Pier 84 in Manhattan.

12. More discussion followed on the IVF World Sprints, to include racing format, crew selection procedures for the next IVF Sprints (Aotearoa [New Zealand]/2006), whether ECORA should add a race as part of a qualifying process, whether the date for our ECORA Sprint Championships at Philadelphia (August 20th) should be changed (it wasn't changed), and cut-off dates for qualifying for Aotearoa.

13. Following lunch, Jim Hall discussed a new concept he called "Hybrid Racing". Since ECORA has lost a few clubs and OC-6 canoes, Hybrid Racing would emphasize sprints and shorter long-distance races (5 - 9 miles, for example) in "spectator-friendly" venues and settings to attract and bring in new paddlers. Claudia Chapel and others mentioned the potential use of a professional canoe transport service to haul our canoes to races, relieving paddlers of this responsibility. Blake Conant then made a motion (which was seconded and passed) to have ECORA look into this idea, and suggested that ECORA contact Affordable Boat Carriers of Florida.

Jim's concept was followed by discussion of why some clubs fold, how club leaders can get burned out, and the burden of the necessary logistics involved in hauling club canoes from race to race. An additional idea suggested to help alleviate these trends was seeking corporate sponsorship of a "fleet" of ECORA canoes.

14. The next topic was New Stuff. Sandbridge OCC and MAPA are considering hosting a race along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel across Hampton Roads, VA, possibly in 2006. This event may be done as an exhibition or non-sanctioned event for fun and to determine its feasibility and potential. Teryl & Claudia Chapel have moved to Nags Head, NC, and are starting up a new ECORA club, the Outer Banks OCC. Brook Meerbergen is the new head of the Nantucket OCC. Kent Island OCC is looking into hosting a Charm City (Baltimore, MD) OC-6 Challenge in 2006 which would be a 2-day event including a 13 - 15 mile race thru the Inner Harbor and past Fort McHenry.

15. Larry Liquori of Rockaway Beach OCC (and President of USCA) then talked about canoe and race event insurance, and briefed us on the different insurance coverages offered thru USCA, ACA, and USACK. Blake Conant then made a motion (which was seconded and passed) that ECORA gather all the relevant insurance data and the canoe trailering information (mentioned above) and put it on the ECORA web site for all clubs to have access to.

16. The 2005 ECORA Race Schedule was then discussed, with the following calendar dates fixed (a motion was made, seconded, and passed to make the Blackburn Challenge an official ECORA Point Series Race):

- April 30th - Kumu'ohu OC-1 Challenge - Washington DC – WCC
- May 14th - Buckroe Beach Dash & Splash (OC-1) - Hampton, VA – MAPA
- May 21st - Holo Niu OC-1 Challenge - Kent Island, MD – KIOCC
- May 28th - Walter Reed/DSUSA Disabled/Adaptive Paddling Clinic - Kent Island, MD (taught by Jan Whitaker and Gary Gellert)
- June 4th - Washington Monumental - Washington, DC - NCA Outrigger
- June 18th - Donovan's Reef OC-1 - Sandy Hook, NJ - John Zeigler
- June 25th - Liberty Challenge - New York, NY – NYO
- July 16th - Blackburn Challenge - Gloucester, MA - Tom Lawler/Tom Mailhot
- July 23rd - ECORA OC-1 Championships & OC-6 Sprints - Milford, CT - Blake Conant
- July 30th - The Hamptons OC-1 Race - East Hampton, NY – NYO
- August 6th - Sandbridge OC-6 Race - Sandbridge, VA - Sandbridge OCC
- August 11th - USCA Nationals OC-6 Sprint Race for Disabled Paddlers - Chapman State Park, Warren, PA - Jan Whitaker
- August 20th - ECORA Sprint Championships - Philadelphia, PA - Philly OCC
- September 3rd - 4th -KI Cup Relay Race – KIOCC
- September 10th - Catalina Race
- September 17th - Rochester River Challenge (incl. DC-8 sprints) - Rochester, NY - Jan Whitaker
- September 17th - Lighthouse to Lighthouse - Norwalk, CT - Pequot OCC/Jeff Mard
- September 17th - Beverly OC-1 - Beverly, MA - Mike Handa
- September 24th - OBX or Sandbridge (TBD) OC-1 - Nags Head, NC or Sandbridge, VA - OBX OCC or Sandbridge OCC
- September 25th - Women's Moloka'i (Na Wahine O Ke Kai), Moloka'i, HI

- October 1st - Chestertown Races – Chestertown, MD - KIOCC/Jim Hall
- October 9th - Men's Moloka'i, Moloka'i, HI

The Race Schedule will also be posted on the ECORA web page (<http://www.eastcoastoutrigger.com>).

17. OC-1/2 Age Classes were then discussed, including a novice division. Age groups/classes will be as follows:

- OC-1 Men's Open 18 – 39
- OC-1 Women's Open 18 – 39
- OC-1 Men's Masters 40 – 49
- OC-1 Women's Masters 40 – 49
- OC-1 Men's Senior Masters 50 + up
- OC-1 Women's Senior Masters 50 + up
- OC-1 Men's Golden Masters 60 + up
- OC-1 Women's Golden Masters 60 + up
- OC-1 Men's Novice 18 + up
- OC-1 Women's Novice 18 + up
- OC-2 Men's Open 18 + up
- OC-2 Women's Open 18 + up
- OC-2 Mix Open 18 + up

Age classification for the series will be based on the paddler's age on the day of the first race of the season. To qualify for the novice division, a paddler cannot have participated in more than 3 ECORA OC-1 races prior to the 2005 season. If a paddler starts out 2005 as a novice, he/she will be considered to be a novice all year. (This was debated, and Blake Conant made a motion, which was seconded and passed, to leave this interpretation unchanged.) Point Series champions will be awarded for the above divisions based on the most points for a paddler's best 6 races, with a minimum of 3 races being required (and the paddler must be a member of ECORA).

18. Next were the OC-1 and OC-2 Point Structure and Rules.

Scoring:

- 1st Place 12 points
- 2nd Place 11 points
- 3rd Place 10 points
- 4th Place 9 points
- 5th Place 8 points
- 6th Place 7 points

Rules:

- Participants must be ECORA members to be eligible for points and awards.
- Participants must race in at least 3 races to be eligible for Point Series awards.
- Points will be awarded for finishers 1 through 12 regardless of age category.
- Points will be awarded for long course races only. Short course races are not eligible for points.
- There will be a separate set of 12 points for men and women. This means men will be competing for 1 - 12 points, and the women will be competing for their own 1 - 12 points.
- The 12 points system will be awarded regardless of the number of participants. This means that if there are less than 12 men or 12 women racing, 1st Place will still get 12 points and 2nd Place will get 11 points, etc.
- The one exception to the 12-point rule will be at the OC-1/2 Championships. At the Championships, points will be awarded based on the number of participants. This means if there

are 18 men racing, then an 18-point structure will be awarded, with 18 points going to the 1st Place winner down to 1 point to the 18th Place finisher.

- As mentioned above, the Point Series champions will be determined based on total points earned in a paddler's best 6 races (so a paddler does not have to compete in all 9 races - only the best 6 will be counted).
- If there is a tie for points in any age group, the first tiebreaker will be the total number of points for all 9 races.
- The second tiebreaker will be participation and placement at the Championships.
- The third tiebreaker will be the best placements in individual race standings.
- We hope to assign OC-1/2 paddlers an ECORA boat number.

19. The final topic was Goals for 2005, which are to:

- Increase Overall Participation in Our Sport
- Establish Keiki Programs
- Obtain Non-Profit Status
- Support Walter Reed/DSUSA Programs
- Build Sprint Programs
- Control Race Fees
- Play Traditional Hawaiian Music at Events

Following the Goals, the meeting was adjourned.

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