

## **2006 ANNUAL ECORA MEETING MINUTES**

1. This year's meeting was held at the Kent Island Yacht Club (Chester, MD) on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The meeting was opened by ECORA President Debbie Hall, and started with a *Pule* by Blake Conant.

2. The Secretary's Report was given by ECORA Secretary Terry Wilton. As of 28 January, ECORA consists of 14 active clubs, as follows:

- Boston Outrigger Racing Association (BORA)
- Kent Island Outrigger Canoe Club (KIOCC)
- Manu'iwa Outrigger Canoe Club
- Mid-Atlantic Paddlers Association (MAPA)
- Nantucket Outrigger Canoe Club
- National Capital Area Outrigger (NCA Outrigger)
- Native Outrigger Canoe Club
- New York Outrigger Canoe Club (NYO)
- Outer Banks Outrigger Canoe Club (Outer Banks)
- Philadelphia Outrigger Canoe Club (Philly)
- Philadelphia Police Outrigger Canoe Club
- Sandbridge Outrigger Canoe Club (SOCC)
- Wai Nui O Kanaka Outrigger Canoe Club
- Washington Canoe Club (WCC)

The Philly Police club joined ECORA in mid-2005. Jan Whitaker's Ho'ole'a OCC is in the process of (hopefully) becoming the Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, and is awaiting tax status and DSUSA decisions, and will hopefully return as an ECORA club this year. Jan remains as an individual member of ECORA. Wai Nui O Kanaka, a recent merger of several Toronto-area clubs, joined ECORA at this meeting, and will host a 13-mile race in Toronto harbor on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Another new club is expected to stand up and join ECORA this coming spring in Wilmington, NC.

3. ECORA Treasurer Jan Dreisbach then gave the Treasurer's Report. The beginning balance for 2005 was \$2133.70, while our year-ending balance was \$3335.73, a net income of \$1202.03, so we are in good financial shape.

Jan then explained the annual dues protocol. The dues protocol can be summarized as follows:

- Club dues must to paid to Jan by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006
- Dues must be accompanied by a club roster containing paddler names, addresses, and ages (as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006)
- The minimum payment for a club is \$35.00, even if a club has less than 4 paddlers – clubs with 4 or more outrigger paddlers (on your outrigger paddler roster) must pay \$10.00 per paddler
- Individuals may join ECORA as voting (\$35.00) or non-voting (\$10.00) members – the same identification info as for clubs applies

Jan then briefly discussed the 2006 budget. We expect expenses to be roughly the same as for 2005. We need to include ECORA website costs this year (about \$200.00) - Debbie Hall has paid them up till now. We also may need to cover ECORA Officers and Race Director's insurance costs – this will be explored with Larry Liquori. We expect similar annual dues income as last year, and may get clinic income if a clinic is held.

4. The next topic was the OC1/OC2 Point Series results from 2005, as follows:

OC1 Men's Divisions

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Men's Golden Masters – Jack Brosius
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Men's Senior Masters – Mitch Potter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Men's Senior Masters – Tim Jones
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Men's Senior Masters – Ric Rountree
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Men's Masters – Bill Gasset
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Men's Masters – Rusty McLain
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Men's Open – Andrey Drachenko
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Men's Open – Gary Krapf
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Men's Open – Andrew Soles
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Men's Novice – Mike Pynn

OC1 Women's Divisions

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Women's Senior Masters – Bobbie Miller
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Women's Masters – Freda Rosso
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Women's Masters – Coralie Miller
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Women's Open – Caroline Brosius
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Women's Open – Kathleen McNamee
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Women's Open – Anne Gasset
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Women's Novice – Christine Couldrey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Women's Novice - Amy Pynn

OC2 Divisions

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mixed OC2 – Jim & Debbie Hall
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Women's OC2 – Tori Butt and Pat Loret de Molet

5. Next were the results of the OC6 Point Series competition for 2005:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Washington Canoe Club with 71 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – KIOCC and Philly OCC, tied with 37 points each
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Manu'iwa with 32 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – NCA Outrigger with 30 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Sandbridge with 22 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place – NYO with 17 points
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place – MAPA with 13 points
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place – Philly Police with 7 points
- 9<sup>th</sup> Place – Boston with 6 points

6. Caroline Brosius and Jan Whitaker then discussed the upcoming 2006 World Sprint Championships in New Zealand, in which ECORA and DSUSA are jointly sending a 15-paddler team to compete.

7. Debbie Hall then discussed some of the good things that happened in 2005. The OC1/OC2 circuit was very successful and popular, as were the Wounded Warrior and DSUSA paddling events at Kent Island. The Soldiers Canoe Blessing and the lecture given by Clifford Naeole at Kent Island were additional highlights, along with the return of the Liberty World Challenge in NYC. The ECORA web site became a very useful reality in 2005, thanks to Dana Aina, and Josh Bekerman contributed his usual stellar performance as ECORA's event photographer.

8. The Liberty World Challenge Race was the next topic of discussion – the intent is to make it bigger and better. The lu'au for the 2006 event may have to move to a different location. NYO and Blake Conant are working on an idea to contract with a shipping firm to transport canoes from the west coast to New York to accommodate all of the crews who want to race but who will not have their own canoes at the race site. Date of the race will be June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Better ways of getting canoes into the water are being looked at, such as building plywood ramps at the landing site.

9. The ECORA Sprint Championships in Philadelphia were discussed next. There is a unanimous desire to encourage more clubs and more crews to participate in this event. The date will be the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The location of this year's event is still under consideration by the host club, Philadelphia OCC. The venue may shift to a different spot on the Schuylkill River or to a site in New Jersey. POCC asked that all participants meet their registration deadlines, and noted that paddler waiver forms are on the race web site and can be downloaded in advance by participating clubs.

10. Debbie and Jim Hall then brought up the Kent Island Race Day Series, that will involve shorter (2 – 3 miles) races on Sundays at the Kent Island Yacht Club, to encourage potential paddlers who are put off by longer-distance races to give outrigger canoe racing a try. All ECORA clubs are invited to come to Kent Island for these Sunday events.

11. Debbie and Blake Conant then brought up canoe weight and design specification requirements. Thru 2005, OC6 canoes to be entered in an ECORA race were required to weigh 400 lbs at the starting line, and had to have a minimum build weight of 340 lbs. Blake made a motion that we allow all OC6s to be entered in an ECORA race as long as they weigh 400 lbs at race time, regardless of their build weight. Jack Brosius amended the motion by stipulating that canoes with a build weight of 300 lbs or less must add weight in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, to keep the canoe safe and stable. This amended motion was seconded and passed. A second motion for Blake to send his canoe scale around to all clubs that need/want to weigh their canoes was also seconded and passed. All clubs that weigh their canoes are asked to send the results to ECORA Secretary Terry Wilton for recording.

12. The idea of holding one or more paddling or steering clinics in 2006 was raised. We hope to hold at least one clinic, but will probably use “local talent” (i.e., an experienced ECORA paddle, such as Jack Brosius) to run such a clinic rather than importing someone from Hawaii, etc. with the attendant cost. Jack volunteered to travel to ECORA club sites to do such clinic(s).

13. Debbie then stated that there will be a small-scale informal outrigger canoe event in Baltimore Harbor this year. The date is still TBD – we are thinking of an approximately 15-mile event between the Key Bridge and the Inner Harbor. More details will be passed on as they become available.

14. June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the date for the Bimini Hoe 50-mile event between Miami and the Bahamas. This event will require 9-man or 12-woman crews. Tim Streeter is the race organizer. Tim can be reached as follows:

E-mail: [kanaluimiami@yahoo.com](mailto:kanaluimiami@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 305-668-9347/786-208-8458  
Web Page: [www.kanaluimiami.com](http://www.kanaluimiami.com)

15. The next item on the agenda was ECORA Officer Elections for 2006 and 2007 (two-year terms). The results were:

- President – Debbie Hall (KIOCC)
- VP - Josh Bekerman (Independent)
- Treasurer – Jan Dreisbach (NCA Outrigger)
- Secretary – Terry Wilton (KIOCC)

16. The ECORA leadership is considering purchasing “Directors and Officers” insurance for ECORA Officers. More will be announced on this issue when final decisions are made.

17. Next up was the 2006 ECORA Race Schedule. The ECORA OC1/OC2 Race Schedule is as follows – all are Point Series races

- April 15<sup>th</sup> – WCC - Washington, DC
- May 13<sup>th</sup> - Sandbridge and MAPA – Hampton, VA
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – KIOCC – Chester, MD
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – Mike Handa – Beverly, MA (all OC’s invited)
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – John Zeigler – Sandy Hook, NJ
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – NYO – The Hamptons, NY
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Blake Conant/ECORA OC1/OC2 Championships – Milford, CT
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – Chestertown Outrigger Races – KIOCC – Chestertown, MD
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – Sandbridge (Back Bay Hei Hei) – Virginia Beach, VA
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> – MAPA/Freda Rosso - Seaford Challenge – Seaford, VA

There is also a non-ECORA sponsored race, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, to be hosted by MAPA (Freda Rosso) in the Virginia Beach Area.

The ECORA OC6 Race Schedule is as follows. Point Series races are marked as such.

- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Washington Monumental – NCA Outrigger – Washington, DC (Point Series)
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – Soldiers and KI Race Day – KIOCC – Chester, MD (see #10 above)
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – Mike Handa – Beverly, MA (all OC's invited)
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – Liberty World Challenge – NYO – New York, NY (Point Series)
- July 8<sup>th</sup> – Toronto Harbour Outrigger International Challenge – Wai Nui O Kanaka OCC – Toronto, ON (Point Series)
- July 16<sup>th</sup> - Soldiers and KI Race Day – KIOCC – Chester, MD (see #10 above)
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Blackburn Race – Cape Ann, MA (Point Series)
- August 5<sup>th</sup> – Sandbridge Ocean Challenge – Sandbridge OCC – Virginia Beach, VA (Point Series)
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – ECORA Sprint Championships – Philadelphia OCC – Philadelphia, PA (Point Series)
- September 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kent Island Cup Relay Race – KIOCC – Chester, MD (Point Series)
- September 16<sup>th</sup> – Rochester Races – Jan Whitaker – Rochester, NY
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – Chestertown Outrigger Races – KIOCC – Chestertown, MD

18. OC1/OC2 Age Race Series Classifications were discussed next. To ensure everyone understands the OC1/OC2 age groups, the age limits and rules are reiterated below.

- OC1 Men's Open 18-39
- OC1 Women's Open 18-39
- OC1 Men's Masters 40-49
- OC1 Women's Masters 40-49
- OC1 Men's Sr. Masters 50-up
- OC1 Women's Sr. Masters 50-up
- OC1 Men's Golden Masters 60-up
- OC1 Women's Golden Masters 60-up
- OC1 Men's Novice 18-up
- OC1 Women's Novice 18-up
- OC2 Men's Open 18-up
- OC2 Women's Open 18-up
- OC2 Mix Open 18-up

Age classification for the series will be based on your age 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 OC1/OC2 races prior to the 2006 season. If you start out 2006 as a novice, you will be considered in the novice division all year.

Point's series champions will be awarded for the above divisions based on the most points for 6 races. Minimum of 3 races required. Participants must be ECORA members

to be eligible for points and 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 if there are less than 12 men or 12 women racing, 1st place will still get 12 points and 2nd place will get 11 and so on. The one exception to the 12-point rule will be the championships. Points will be awarded based on the number of participants. This means if there turns out to be, say 18 men racing, then an 18-point structure will be awarded - 18 points for 1st on down to 1 point for 18th. The point series champions will be based on total points from your best 6 races. It will not be necessary to compete in all 10 races to win the series championship. Only 6 will be counted for the point's series.

If there is a tie for points in any age group the first tiebreaker will be the total number of points for all 10 races. The second tiebreaker will be participation and placement at the championships. The third tiebreaker will be the best placements in individual race standings.

19. A motion was seconded and passed to alter the OC6 Points Series structure to mirror that of the OC1/OC2 Points Series. One difference from the OC1/OC2 structure (12 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 11 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.) is that 6 points will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 5 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 for 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 for 5<sup>th</sup>, and 1 for 6<sup>th</sup>. The ECORA Sprint Championships at Philadelphia is a Points Series race for OC6s, but for this event, only overall event points, not individual race points, are counted in the ECORA Point Series calculations.

20. In order to increase the number of races that individual paddlers could participate in, the idea of creating separate OC1/OC2 and OC6 racing seasons (such as holding all OC1/OC2 races in the first half of the year, and OC6 races in the latter half of the year), was discussed. It was also mentioned that we could schedule races geographically, to make it easier for clubs to get their OC6 trailers to the various race sites. No conclusion was reached on this topic, other than to refer it to the Steering Committee for further discussion.

21. Debbie then talked about our goals for 2006. The goals are:

- Increase Participation & Avoid Team Burn Out
- Establish Keiki Programs
- Obtain Non-Profit Status
- Support Walter Reed Wounded Warriors Program
- Build Sprint Programs
- Control Race Fees
- Safety Safety Safety Safety!!!

22. Final topics discussed were:

- Pete Schechter of the Philly OCC offered to perform a Paddling Mishap Risk Assessment for ECORA – this offer will be considered by the Steering Committee.
- Penalizing crews for unsafe maneuvers, and crediting crews for avoiding unsafe maneuvers. (This item will also be considered by the Steering Committee.)
- The fact that ECORA does not have safety officials other than race organizers, and that we cannot guarantee the presence of an ECORA Officer at every race.
- Creating a penalty structure to be incorporated into the ECORA Race Rules/By-Laws. (This last topic was made as a motion, but it was decided to refer this topic to the Steering Committee for further discussion, and that a decision should be reached by the Steering Committee by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.)

Respectfully,  
Terry Wilton  
ECORA Secretary