

FWSA LONG RANGE PLAN

What should we be doing in the next 5 years to best meet our needs?

LOVE IT!

.....
Camaraderie, Support of Women's Sailing and Racing, Rainbow Regatta, Interclubs, Championship Regatta, Meetings, Ship's Store, Young Woman Sailor of the Year

Who are We?

.....
Some of our fellow club members don't know enough about the FWSA to comment. We all need to educate our members about FWSA and encourage participation.

Biggest Benefit

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FWSA supports our individual sailing clubs and helps keeps clubs focused and connected.

Make New Friends

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Who are all these wonderful women sailors? Let's create more opportunities to interact at our meetings and races so we can get to know each other. Appoint a social chair to the Board. Include social events at Rainbow Regatta such as a dinner the night before.

Plenty of Ways to Improve

Meetings received the most comments overall. Consistently, people remarked that our meetings were too long, boring, redundant and expensive. Many would like oral club reports eliminated and replaced by written reports, summarized online. One topic could be selected for clubs to report on. Many felt speakers should focus on sailing. Some meetings could have a seminar format on racing.

Meetings should be less expensive by eliminating breakfast (keep the coffee!) and offering smaller lunches. Include vegan option.

And speaking of money, more transparency was requested as to what the money is used for in the FWSA account. Some thought FWSA should pay for speakers.

Who comes to the meetings? There's confusion about the role of the IC Chair vs. First Delegate. Some think club captains should attend all meetings. First time participants should be introduced and ask for feedback at end of meeting.

Most clubs sit with their own members thereby eliminating a chance to meet and interact with great women from other clubs. A variety of "forced" table seatings ideas were suggested.

The May business meeting needs attention - reports and awards are too lengthy.

Website

Our website is under-utilized. Create a working group to revise and improve content. Update the calendar more frequently, adding individual club events that are open to others. Include interclub scores. Add more links to sailing sites, useful videos, seminars, etc.

Interclubs

To enhance communication amongst clubs and improve scheduling

What else do members want?

One - more education & training to grow their sailing and racing skills

Two - more crewed boat opportunities

People would really appreciate more training in sailing related topics such as

- Flags, racing rules, knots, strategy and tactics, race management
- Safety & mark boat procedures
- Powerboat handling
- Coaching on sailing specific one-design boats
- Coordinate with US Sailing to offer seminars.

Our members are very interested in continuing education and look to FWSA to provide it. Many also want to expand sailing from single-handed dinghies to crewed boats and are very interested in learning what boats are being sailed by different clubs and why. People want more opportunities to learn how to sail crewed boats, not just a few weeks before the Championship. Form a committee to determine what boat(s) might work best for clubs looking to add crewed boats.

of interclubs, the newly appointed IC chairs should meet in May or early summer. IC chairs need clearer guidelines, protocols and job descriptions. Better ways to RSVP would be helpful.

Have fewer interclubs, one each year per club. Make them more special, like tied to a holiday or create themed events. Incorporate more learning at interclubs. Offer more crewed boat at interclubs. Debrief about what happened on the race course. Provide opportunities to train with RC.

Relook at the Spirit Award criteria if there are fewer interclubs.

People want greater consistency in the quality of race management at interclubs, which will require training.

There can be other inter-club events, such as for sailing education, RC training, sailing lessons or coaching. Share the knowledge and in-house expertise. When weather doesn't allow for racing, an educational program could be offered rather than cancelling the event altogether. Use lunch time to encourage socializing with other club members.

Rainbow Regatta

People would like a consistent date, preferably in April for an one-day event.

We need better advance preparation for both competitors and race committee. Both groups need training in flags and rules. RC training is needed on setting and changing courses, providing assistance to sailors in distress and such training would help improve the skills of our volunteer RC.

Use FWSA website to promote the event and post relevant documents.

Championship Regatta

Again, a consistent date was requested, preferably a Monday in November.

Have one boat used consistently year-to-year (suggested 420's since those boats are more available to our member clubs) and another boat that could change based on availability by the host club.

Have instruction and practice races scheduled and open to other clubs, perhaps throughout the year. With more training and practice, more women may feel comfortable and confident to compete.