

2018, April's meeting came with the expectation that snow would soon be gone and the water open for boating – yeah right. Undeterred we pressed forward knowing that this lingering winter would soon be a memory.

As discussed at the previous meeting Larry Johnson was selling most of his magnificent boat collection that was started in 1999. There are still a few boats remaining in the cage, and depending on how much of a project you are looking for there still may be something there for you. At the meeting wood and other building bits were generously offered up to the club by Larry and went home with several persons.



Next up on the agenda was the discussion of the fleet purchase of the DragonFlight 95 sailboat that has taken the RC sail racing world by storm, and I mean storm. Designed by two RC racing enthusiasts in England to be a great racer and available at an affordable price, the DF 95 is quite simply a phenomena of possibly historic proportions. Here is the boat brought to the meeting by Burt Fisher (on the immediate left):



Phenomenal how you might ask? Dragon Sailing North America is the sole distributor, Chuck being the CEO. I have been talking to Chuck since last fall when we started putting the club order together with 5 boats, this after one boat was shipped to me, and without being taken out of the box sold to Burt who assembled it (Per Chuck don't say build, it doesn't take much to put it together but figure a modest 5 hours or so) and had it on the water last year. Since that one was shipped Chuck has had difficulty filling orders as all orders are pre-spoken for and waiting to clear customs for delivery. When we finalized our order this spring Chuck was waiting for a shipment of 300, yes 300, boats to come in for shipping. Dragon NA as well as not getting enough boats has been running out of the FlySky radio they sell and can't keep color stickers for the hull and deck in stock. Our order? Went from 5 to 12 boats, with a follow up order of 4 in the works right now. That folks is a fleet of new boats!! Terry Mackey had his out on the water with some ODOMs and reports that the DF 95 and ODOM are very similar in performance, with the edge going to the ODOM in certain circumstances. That is great news to know that the DF 95 is going to be a fine boat to sail as they are become an important boat in our club as it has been in many other clubs. Another indication of popularity is the entries for a DF 95 regatta in Florida had to be terminated at 100 without accommodating all that wanted to enter. So while the ODOM will continue as the top racing boat in the club, the DF 95 does its job by making racing sailboats very accessible to existing and new members alike, and provides the opportunity for people to enter regattas with nearby clubs who have made the DF 95 their primary racing boat. The price of admission to the DF 95 is \$380 with the radio and \$330 without the radio, which includes the fleet discount (four or more boats) of 10% on the price and free shipping.

The plan is to run the DragonFlite boats at Centennial Lakes which means buoys will be needed along with a count-down start box. Investigations are underway to see if there is a phone app to do the countdown function via Bluetooth speaker. If this does not pan out the club will purchase a starting box. Burt Fisher has also created a DF 95 google group to assist communication between sailors to coordinate racing.

We are also going to hold an introduction to racing seminar to help all of the newer racers learn the basic rules of racing and right of way to make racing enjoyable for all. More on that to come in the future.

Name tags – If you plan on participating in any of the club events this year it would be great if you would use the name tag that I provided to all existing and new members. We will do special name tags for the Dry Dock Party, but there will not be name tags made up for the Parade or other events. Let me know if you need a new name tag and I will make it up for you.

Parade and Light House Posters – John Bishop is preparing the posters this year after creating last year's posters – gorgeous photography. I still have last year's posters on my wall at the office. Huge thank you to John for doing the poster again this year.

A plan ahead item that is not on our schedule comes from Richard Dahlquist, the Northland Antique Toy Show at the State Fair Grounds on Sunday, May 6th.

In show and tell John Bishop brought his update of a Dick Walker boat:



The display stands that we have seen on several of the boats that have been brought to the meetings have been really creative. This boat was no exception, a very nice display similar to other boats that Dick has built. I also believe Dick indicated he is displaying a boat at the 42nd Midwestern Model Ships and Boats Contest and display at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum May 18 – 20th.

Schedule

The date for the White Bear Lake Classic and Vintage Boat Show has been established, Saturday June 23rd, and the updated Club Calendar is attached.

Next meeting we need to discuss and plan the Parade of Boats. Here are some items I have heard mentioned: setting up an area with boats for sale, volunteers to adlib discussion of the boats on the water on the PA system to the people in attendance, setting up an area to celebrate the Larry Johnson collection of boats. Come with your own ideas to help make this Parade special.

Hope to see you on the water soon!!

John Bertelsen

Commodore

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