

## Commodore's Winter Newsletter

White Bear Lake from the VFW last Saturday showed a vast expanse of white, clouds of blowing snow, and gray shorelines fading into the distance. Five iceboats were tethered on the northern shore and the dark shapes of icehouses and vehicles were clumped in three ersatz villages mid-lake. As several sailors enjoyed the VFW's tender succulent ribs, they could close their eyes and imagine sun-dappled waters, blue skies, puffy cumulus clouds, halyards slapping and sails rippling in the coming June summer breeze.



Looking back on 2024, the Board is happy to remember a safe, fair and fun racing season. In 2024, the BBYRA welcomed several new members, engaged new knowledgeable and youthful PRO's for Tuesday night judging, and the BBYRA Handbook and Bylaws were updated for the first time since 2014. Expenses matched income for the year despite increases in many costs. Many friendships were developed and strengthened, and a number of people taking lessons were able feel the excitement of an on the water sailboat race.

Looking forward to 2025, the BBYRA Board has been at work: developing the race schedule, communicating with WBYC to ensure schedules do not conflict and applying to the WBLCD as usual for permission to use WBL for races. Slip fees and insurance for the committee boat have been paid, plans to increase visibility of BBYRA and sailboat racing in general are being made and planning for upcoming socials and educational sessions is occurring. Your Board has been busy during these long winter nights.

Following are some brief updates and a request from the Board:

- Dues will increase by about 6% after not increasing for several years. (increase of \$20 for racing memberships, and about \$6 for social and basic memberships).
- The ICE BREAKER Social has been planned for April 27, at the Boatworks Commons conference room. Speaker is being arranged.
- Educational Sessions are planned for Tuesday May 6 and May 13 – possible topics are: How to set a racecourse and Tactics and Strategy (since this was so well received last year.) **The Board seeks your input on possible topics for the two educational sessions. Please respond to [BBYRA@gmail.com](mailto:BBYRA@gmail.com) with your ideas.**
- The first races will be the MAYHEM REGATTA on Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 25 and 25. The First Tuesday evening race will be Tuesday May 27.
- There will be a MAYHEM SOCIAL sponsored by Whithaus's on Sunday May 25 after the race.

Applications for the 2025 season will be available at the ICE BREAKER SOCIAL or on the BBYRA website.

Enjoy these last subzero days of winter, the days are getting longer which points us toward the upcoming sailing season in just a few months.

Steve Bergeson, Commodore

For the BBYRA Board

