

Greater Tulsa Model Yacht Club Annual Report

The Greater Tulsa Model Yacht Club will complete its 3rd year of existence in June and has just completed our second full year of racing. In our first 12 months, we had as many as 30 boats in the club with paid memberships. At the beginning of last year, 8 of those members dropped off the roles and 3 new members were added during the year. This is not the level of growth that we had hoped but the shrinkage has stopped and we have now grown to 25 members. Of those 25 members, 18 raced in at least one of the series that we sailed last year. Again, not the 100% that we were shooting for but 72% is better than the 45% that we had in 2001.

We raced a very active schedule during the year, scheduling 7 different series on 49 race days. Nine of those days were weathered out with too much or too little wind, ice or heat leaving 40 days of racing during 2002. We try to race 15 races each race day and last year we sailed 579 races, averaging over 14 races per race day. What a grueling year of racing, averaging 7.2 boats per race with a maximum of 12 boats and a minimum of 5 throughout the year.

In order to encourage more participation, we changed our program as we worked through the year. The first 2 series were 5 race days with 2 throw outs. We found the participation low so we increased the number of race days to 10 or 11 and counted only the 5 best days. This allowed people to be gone on vacation or travel or just not feel like racing on a hot day but still be able to stay in the hunt for the series. After we adjusted, the participation increased from about 6 to about 8 boats per race day.

We used the Red, Yellow, Green, Go handicap system in the first part of the year as we got more boats up to speed, but the use of this system fell off as boats got tuned up and got competitive. We now may need to adjust our program as we have achieved a hierarchy in the club with the same few boats always at the top. We must encourage the boats at the bottom of the fleet and we may reset the handicap system to allow the lower boats to get a jump on the established fast boats. This has yet to be decided as a club.

The coming year will be more of the same. We will plan to sail about every week with some series in the evening, when the days are long, and on Saturdays and Sundays when the days are shorter in the fall and winter. We will have just 5 series this year, averaging 10 races per series, counting the best 5 with 15 races per day, weather permitting. We will also be hosting the Region 5 Championship regatta, September 13th and 14th.

As we look back on these past couple years, we are pleased with the progress of the racing program but are not happy with the growth of the club. We anticipated continued growth as we got quickly out of the blocks and got 30 boats sold and 25 or so built. Now we have settled in at 25 dues paying members and 18 active boats. Our goal will be to be 100% active and have a 20 % or 5-boat growth for the coming year.

CR914 racing is alive and well here in the Midwest. If you like to race the 914, this is the place to be.