

Dear Fleet 14,

First off, I wish you all a happy and healthy 2009. I'd like a few minutes of your time to conduct some fleet business.

- 2008 results:

To begin with, I'd like to congratulate the top finishers in our 2008 racing series:

Power Play, Savasana and Sea Shadow

We had 12 boats that sailed in at least one of the scoring regattas and 7 with enough to quality under our scoring system. Unfortunately Vorticity wasn't one of these, but there's always hope for this year. See the fleet web site - <http://fleet14.j105.org/index.php> – for details.

- Winter gathering?

With our fleet members spread out so far, it's proven difficult to organize shoreside social events. Last year however, thanks to Malcolm Gifter's generosity, several of us spent an enjoyable evening sharing sea stories over dinner. Drop me an email if you are interested in attending such a gathering this year (with suggestions for when you would be able to participate). Nelson has tentatively volunteered to host.

- Dues:

The National class dues for 2008 remain at \$35 for (the principal) owners and \$25 for associate members. We propose Fleet 14 annual dues of \$35 per boat. You may remit via the National Class web site www.j105.org (under the *review/renew membership* area of the members page). Be sure to click the box that says to collect fleet dues along with national dues.

- Rule changes:

There are a few possible Class Rule changes that I will be voting on soon as your representative. Please review these on the National Class web site forum and let me know how you'd like me to vote.

- 2009 racing schedule:

I know it's the middle of winter, but one good way to get through (for those us not finding their way south) is to think about the upcoming sailing season. If you have any suggestions for regattas that we should put on the 2009 Fleet 14 schedule, please let me know.

- Fleet officers:

I welcome hearing from anyone who is willing to step up and serve as an officer of Fleet 14. It really doesn't take much time and new blood (and enthusiasm) is always good for the health of the class and fleet. Again, drop me a line if you are interested.

- A big thank-you:

Finally, as most of you have probably seen on the national web site and/or newsletter, Nelson is phasing out of serving as our national class secretary/treasurer. Please join me in expressing thanks to Nelson for his great service to our class and fleet.

Again, best wishes for 2009 and hope to see you all soon.

