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Sunday, November 16, 2025 – Houlihan’s Westlake, Ohio

Attendance: Ryan, Kellner, Merkle, Raynor, Daley, Schiavoni, Blackburn, Glass, Mueller, Judy Kellner.
Guest: Matt Kern and Drew Hisey Discover/J33. **New members:** Andrew Devenish, Craig Mueller, Judy Kellner. Quorum was present; 7 of 10 voting members were present.

Administrative – Meeting was called to order at 10:30am. Minutes from the May 19, 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion by Sandy Burris and second by Chris Merkle. Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm Dave Ryan introduced several new members: Craig Mueller will serve as a Western End At Large measurer, Andrew Devenish from Monroe Boat Club, and John Gialanella from Grosse Ile. Cliff Ruckstuhl’s resignation was accepted. We appreciate his long-standing service.

APPEALS

Discover J33 – Matt Kern/NCYC; current rating 84, asking 90. Current race results were provided in the appeal file. Mr. Kern attended the meeting, making a short presentation and answered questions from the Committee. Mr. Kern pointed out the evolution of sport boats, hull designs, construction materials, and sail technology have dominated mixed fleets that include the more traditional legacy designs. The Committee discussed and reviewed the race results, courses, course distances, and typical competitors. The Committee also looked up other race results. The Committee determined a +3 Second/mile adjustment to the rating for Discover, and by extension the entire J/33 Lake Erie fleet. New Base Rating for the J/33 Class is 87.

Melges 24 Bullet– Appeal was submitted by Will Taylor/NCYC (owner of a J105). Melges 24 owner is Branson/NCYC; currently has Midwest Certificate at DHCP of 84; LE rating is 81. Branson does not have an LE certificate which would also be a Club rating and restricted to Club racing only. PHRF-LE does have one Melges 24 in Buffalo with a certificate. From Paul: The Melges 24 "Ate" Sail 344 currently racing in Buffalo is doing just fine at 81. These guys are very good sailors. The boat is well prepared, they have good sails. The boat is Dry-Sailed out of BYC so the bottom is clean. Overall Buffalo S2 Wednesday Night Class Champions for 2025. The group agreed that while the appeal was technically valid under the rules, they should not hear it since it involved a boat that wasn't a Lake Erie member. Relying heavily on the race results of a non-PHRF-LE competitor could impact another LE boat's rating. Vote was tied. The PHRF-LE Chairman broke the tie in favor of asking Mr. Taylor to re-file the appeal for the Melges 24.

MODIFICATIONS

NY36 – Dan Montgomery/NCYC – add-on sprit and increased ISP; new asymmetrical spinnaker. Change this boat to a NY36 Custom at 111. Maintain base standard rating at 114. Do not change JAM rating because the add-on sprit cannot be used for JAM. An email should be sent reminding him of the pole usage rules. Many sailors may not be aware of the rules that oversized poles cannot be used when racing JAM.

NEW RATINGS

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance at 11/8/25 \$13,923.34. No extraordinary expenses are expected. 386 members in 2025 with 410 budgeted. The Square and Venmo options are working well. Will present a 2026 budget at the December meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued discussion on options to equalize ratings of older style boats to newer design sprit boats. It was suggested that we filter by design year, but the database does not have that field. Judy provided a list from the database whereby the SPL/TPS is > J as a starting point.

North Cape is using new app called Rail Meets for registration and scoring. The program has a way to import Midwest certificates. NCYC would like PHRF-LE to provide the same service requiring API integration and get a JSON formatted response back, i.e., the LE certificate and/or ratings. Craig Mueller will run point on this and check with Rail Meets to see if our Access database can be used. Another option is whether we can send a PDF with all certificates in it and they can pull from that?

Reminder: Committee submissions for newsletter

Reminder: Need Club Profiles for newsletter

NEW BUSINESS

ILYA Fall Meeting -- December 5 - 6, 2025, Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport, 8000 Merriman Road, Romulus, MI 48174 734-729-2600

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 18, 2025 – Zoom Call – 7:00pm
Thursday, January 15, 2026 - Zoom Call - 7:00pm
Thursday, February 19, 2026 – Zoom Call – 7:00pm

386 members in 2025; 409 members in 2024; 413 members for 2023; 416 members 2022; 429 members 2021; 382 members 2020 (Covid); 438 members for 2019; 447 members for 2018 (South Shore had 52 of our previous members), 484 members for 2017; 498 members for 2016; 514 members for 2015; 521 members 2014; 533 members 2013