

DPMYC Annual Meeting Minutes 2025

Our 2025 Annual Meeting was held on Saturday December 6th at the Clinton Public Library.

The following Skippers were present: Bill Dempsey (Commodore), Steve Rottier (Treasurer), Steve Butler, Grant Thomson (Club Secretary), Bill Walker (Commodore Emeritus), Ron Rhault (Commodore Emeritus), Jack Evans, Brian Kerrigan, Kelly McGowan, Brad Meade, Ched Proctor, Kevin Cyr, Bob Borden, and Dave Constanzo.

Agenda and discussion Items:

Call to order

Secretary's report

- Grant Thomson gave the secretary's report. The minutes from the 2024 annual meeting were reviewed and accepted. The current DPMYC membership was reviewed. We have 41 listed members, and 35 have paid their dues. It was decided to keep non-paying members on the list until they ask to be removed. Two members (Nils Passburg and Paul Richardson) were removed because they have moved from the area.

Treasurer's report

- Steve Rottier submitted his report, and it was approved.

2025 DPMYC Treasurer's Report

2025 Year Beginning Balance	\$3067.29
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Income

2025 Dues (33 Members X \$25)	\$825.00
Boat Sale	\$700.00
Total Income	\$1525.00

Expenses

Awards - Club Series	399.66
Deep River Usage Fee	175.00
Insurance	170.00

Merchandise	240.00
Website	34.17
2024 Annual Meeting	90.00
Total Expenses	\$1108.83

2025 Year End Balance

\$3483.46

There will be additional web site expenses to be submitted by Grant Thomson for the security package (roughly \$350 per year).

Old business

- Grant Thomson asked for a volunteer to be the “social media guru”. The role involves managing the Facebook and Instagram accounts. It was pointed out that the Facebook (and magazine article) activity over the past year generated significant interest in the club and contributed to the increased membership. Dave Costanzo volunteered to manage the posting to social media. There was a discussion about names and images being posted. David suggested that we should have an annual photo with the club members. Brian Kerrigan proposed that the club use WhatsApp to communicate with members. WhatsApp is good for messaging when both iPhones and android phones are involved, and photos can be shared. A WhatsApp group will be created.

New Business

- Bill Dempsey started the discussion about building a new dock closer to the beach (more south along the driveway past the guard house), allowing the start line to be more south, and moving the north marks farther away from route 80 (where the wind is more variable). It would be in addition to, not a replacement for, the current dock. Bill D. will check with the town to see if they will allow it. There was a discussion about the swimmers in the area, fishing, and the fountain. Jack E. moved that the club investigate adding the dock, and it was approved.
- Bill Dempsey stated that the town of Deep River expects that the club have at least 4 members who are residents of Deep River (currently 2 are listed in our membership). Steve Rottier proposed that Deep River residents could be recruited and made “honorary members” (non-paying). Jack Evans moved that Deep River

members would not be assessed membership fees for 2 years, and this was accepted.

- Bill Walker proposed that the club should host a regional event or a regatta for DF95s in 2026. He volunteered to run the event and not sail. He pointed out that these events are a good way to showcase the pond, generate interest, and attract new members. There was a discussion about the number of boats, and whether it should be limited or race in fleets. Brian Kerrigan pointed out that there were 60 boats in Newport, and that mark judges and a score keeper are necessary. The max number for our pond is somewhere in the low to middle teens per fleet, and we should probably limit the event to 30 boats. Jack Evans and Ron Rhault thought that there would likely be a significant interest (25-30 boats). Ron pointed out that the event would need to be approved by the class secretary, and would be a 2-day event. Bill Dempsey indicated that the AMYA website states that 2026 and 2027 are open for the CR-914 national regatta, and we could host that for 2026 or 2027. Jack Evans moved that Bill Dempsey form a pickup committee to formulate a full plan for regattas for 2026 and 2027, including the NESR for maybe 2027. Jack volunteered to be on the committee, and he and Bill W. agreed to run the events.
- Bill Walker opened a discussion about loosening the requirements for the CR-914 boats to be legal within the class, including steering wheels (which break and don't contribute to the performance of the boat), sails (which often get delivered with inaccurate cuts), outside parts (which could be made of stronger materials and not alter the function), and carbon masts (which would be stronger, but unclear if they might offer a sailing advantage). Jack Evans stated that the CR-914 class is strict, but there has been no evolution as materials have improved, but feels that the boat should evolve. Brian Kerrigan has concerns that if word gets out that we are not strict one-design there will be lower participation. Bill Walker agreed that boats would not be legal at other events, but most of our members do not sail elsewhere. A separate rig would be needed to sail elsewhere if we allowed outside sails and carbon masts. Our club previously pushed for changes to the batteries, and that took 10 years. A vote was taken for making steering wheels optional (not passed), outside sails (passed), outside parts (passed), and carbon masts (not passed).
- Jack Evans started discussion about marks and start/finish lines.
 - He recommends that, to reduce congestion and mark issues, both the weather and leeward marks be inside out gates. This provides rounding options and reduces boats piling up at one mark. Alternatively make all marks hot which may encourage skippers to be more careful at the marks and reducing fouling. Decisions about which marks are hot will be made by the course committee, and will likely be applied to the marks close to shore and easy to judge. The marks could have stripes to make it easier to detect contact while rounding.

- Both weather and leeward marks to be fixed-buoy and robo-buoy. This allows adjustment such that buoys are equally favored and adjusted for wind direction.
- Utilize the fixed start line furthest from the first mark and finish line furthest from the last mark. This provides longer weather legs. When needed utilize robo buoy as one end of start line.
- Circulate ECSA and other rules and tactics seminars and schedule a tactics/rules/sailing/tuning/repair evening or two and invite all interested parties.
- Steve Rottier introduced the discussion about who would decide the course for each race, and recommended that the senior club officer at the pond would propose a race coordinator for the day. Jack Evans made a motion to accept, and this was approved. Brian Kerrigan will donate a white board to help make the course clear, and the board will be kept by the robo mark person to bring to the pond.
- Two email suggestions for alternative sailing sites were discussed. David Price offered Lake Pocotopaug in Sears Park in East Hampton for DPMYC to sail out of – it may be less likely to freeze. Details to work out include buoys, rescue boats, launch dock, and limitation of Sears Park to residents only in the summer. Joel Zackin suggested Sail Haven in New Haven could also be another alternate location. That would be salt water, and there are no buoys or rescue boat yet, but there are heated boat bays. Another option is North Cove Yacht Club in Old Saybrook. Discussion was tabled as it was decided that these would not be regular occurrences, but might happen in the future outside of regular club activities.
- Brad Meade asked about installing a weather station at the pond for live weather updates including wind speed and direction. We would need approval and access to WiFi. Bill D. will ask at the town office.
- Bill Dempsey introduced a discussion about social events, and there was interest in events where we would discuss rules, boats, rigging, and tuning. The vice-commodore (Joe Koziel) is in charge of social events, and he may need to step down for health reasons. Bill Walker volunteered his home for these events, and Bill Dempsey offered his shop for a tuning/rules get together.
- Steve Rottier wants to step down as treasurer, and a new treasurer will need to be identified.
- A motion to accept the current board as is was made, and this was accepted.

Awards

Bill Dempsey presented the following 2025 Winner Plaques:

2025 Spring and Fall Series

	CR-914 Spring Series	DF-95 Spring Series
1st	Bill Walker	Bill Walker
2nd	Jack Evans	Ron Rhault
3rd	Grant Thomson	Jack Evans

	CR-914 Fall Series	DF-95 Fall Series
1st	Bill Walker	Bill Walker
2nd	Jack Evans	Ron Rhault
3rd	Brian Kerrigan	Jack Evans

2025 Club Champion

Bill Walker

Adjourn