

The History of the FWSA

On November 13, 1973, the first Women's Inter-club Council met, because of the realization that the Tampa Bay Area and its close proximities consisted of several sailing organizations of women who were team racing with each other but were not particularly coordinated.

Consequently, when a few members from the Salty Sisters of St. Petersburg Yacht Club Race Committee met with members of the Windlasses of Clearwater to exchange ideas on scoring, courses, etc., for when they would meet, the idea of an organized group was discussed informally. As a result, six of the present seven clubs met this November and elected Fran St. Arnold, President, Ardith Rutland, Vice President, Lilly Kaighin, Secretary/Treasurer. A delegate form of representative was decided on. The present name of Florida Women's Sailing Association was voted on, from several suggested names.

In January 1974, the Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution were approved, and the group became members of Florida Sailing Association. The by-laws were adopted at the next meeting, as well as inter-club policies and race instructions.

In May of the same year, the first Inter-club Regatta was held at St. Petersburg Yacht Club, with six clubs sailing prams, 420's and Rhodes 19's. The response was so

enthusiastic that two inter-club regattas are held each year at a different host club. A "bring your own Laser class" was later added, which has increased attendance and interest even more. The "FWSA Team Trophy" was awarded to the first-place pram team, as well as individual and other team trophies.

Adams Cup participation has doubled at the state level in the last two years, due in part to the education of the member clubs in championship competition and encouraging teams to "give it a try".

In 1976, Fran St. Arnold, past president of FWSA, was appointed by U.S.Y.R.U. to be the Area D Adams Representative and a member of the U. S. Women's Sailing Committee.

A "Guidelines" book was compiled by Bertha Nelson, with all the pertinent information needed to help new women's sailing groups become organized and FWSA adopted their logo.

(The above was taken from the original FWSA Constitution and By Laws of FWSA)

The Purpose of the FWSA

Florida Women's Sailing Association was founded in 1973 to promote and encourage the growth of women's sailing groups along the West Coast of Florida. There are nine member clubs with more than seven hundred women racing once a week at their respective sailing clubs.

The Florida Women's Sailing Association shall function to:

1. Encourage the sport of women's interclub yacht racing in Florida.
2. Foster and encourage social fellowships that are all things nautical between member clubs.
3. Improve communication between clubs.
4. Forward and advance sailing in all phases through education and clinics.
5. Promote and coordinate interclub, match team racing, and other sailing events that are for and between members under uniform rules.