

Presidential letter 2009-1

Dear all!

The new sailing season is becoming to start and the activity is taking up in many national associations already.

But first I may introduce myself. My name is Andreas Dietze, born German, living in Norway since 1994. Self I've been a dingy sailor for more less 20 years and my 505 is stilling waiting for a new overhauling. My 2 daughters have been involved in Zoom8 sailing and I introduced the boat to one of the largest sailing clubs in Norway, Tønsberg seilforening. As a result of that the club hosted the worlds in 2008 with 177 boats participating. At that time I got the question if I could spend some time on IZCA and in the flair of enthusiasm I said "yes", becoming the new president of IZCA in December 2008. The new executive committee started its work immediately after the AGM in Berlin hosted by the German class association.

We have a lot to do and I hope that IZCA can become more interactive with its National Class Associations so that we can continue our important work for the best for sailors.

Over the past years the class has grown and we have a consistent activity in 7 countries. The fleets are full of life and it looks like that a new generation of Zoom8 sailors are going to take over to rule. 2009 the Europeans are again at Lake Garda (<http://www.circolovelatorbole.com/it/news>) and the Austrian Association is helping to arrange that regatta. Thanks for that. The Worlds are going to be held at Träslövsläge in Sweden (<http://www.tbs-tbk.org>) and we are looking forward to a nice race week at the Swedish westcoast.

I will also encourage all sailors to participate in as many Euro-Cup races as possible. Information about the international competitions will be announced regularly on the web site www.zoom8class.org . Please take a look to that site frequent since we will use it as our communication platform much more as in the past.

Beside the sports activities which have to be organized the class association should work further on the organization of IZCA itself. This is quite a challenge and we have a fluent discussion ongoing about that. Reconstruction of the web-site, funding through licensees and introduction of new countries are the main issues for discussion.

On the technical part we have released rules changes which will be published on the ISAF web side shortly. The main issue here is the change of sail cloth. This decision was prepared through the last years and the AGM in Berlin concluded in changing to HPT+ quality. Even if I find it hard to accept it, the production will first start after the Europeans 2009 due to production issues. It is then secured that all sailors could buy and train with the new sail in an appropriate time before competing against each other. The original sail may be used but it will not be produced any longer. This means that it practically will disappear within the season 2009. I admit that we had a lot of discussion according the sail. I'm of the opinion that the class will earn of that experience and that the sailors quickly will find out if it is worth the change or not. We are not leaving the one-design concept but the class should try to be a dynamic one, were changes are possible and new concepts are welcome.

This is a short briefing from your president. I invite everybody to take part in the work of IZCA. Please don't hesitate to contact us by mail or phone.

Here is the list of other active IZCA meeting participants: Annett Petersen ([annett\(at\)annett.dk](mailto:annett(at)annett.dk)), Kalev Kaal ([kalev\(at\)zoom8.ee](mailto:kalev(at)zoom8.ee)), Juha Ruskola ([jruskola\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jruskola(at)gmail.com)), Stefan Hess ([stefan.hess\(at\)a1.net](mailto:stefan.hess(at)a1.net)), Dirk Piechowiak ([dpi\(at\)alice-dsl.de](mailto:dpi(at)alice-dsl.de)), Tommy Johansson ([tommy.johansson\(at\)bostream.nu](mailto:tommy.johansson(at)bostream.nu)), Gerald Haeupl ([Gerald.Haeupl\(at\)energieag.at](mailto:Gerald.Haeupl(at)energieag.at))

I wish all sailors and their parents an eventful and challenging sailing season.

Regards from your president

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