

The SSMA Journal

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As an organization, the SSMA directors are frequently asked, what does a club receive for their dues? Up until now the answer was the ability to participate in the group insurance, the quarterly journal, the SSMA handbook for running regattas, website and e-mail hosting and a number of other benefits. For 2015 the SSMA will be trying to add a number of other member and club benefits and we will try to expand upon the 2015 offerings with even more in 2016.

The first addition for 2015 is a method with which to give something back to the member clubs. A variety of fiberglass hulls are being donated to the SSMA by one of our sponsors and these hulls will in turn be donated to member clubs as part of a contest to help promote the club and also help grow the SSMA. Hopefully we will be able to do this every quarter. Depending on how the process works, we may have to adjust the time line or other fine details but let's give it a try. The idea is that the hull available will be advertised in the journal and clubs interested in winning it will contact the SSMA committee responsible for selecting the winner and throw their hat in the ring so to speak.

Now the catch is, the hull is to be used in some way to benefit the club. That use could be as simple as raffling it off to put money in the club treasury, or it could be used as part of a club building project or maybe given to a promising younger member of the club. Whatever the idea is, the club needs to submit their idea of what they will do with the hull when they put their hat in the ring. The selection committee will then review all the ideas and the one that ap-

pears most interesting or promising will be the winner and receive the hull (the decision of the selection committee is final). The various ideas that were submitted will then be published in the next issue of the journal so that all member clubs can read the ideas and maybe use one or adapt one for their own use. The goal is to make the clubs better and stronger through various methods of growth and promotion.



We would ask that the club that wins the hull follow up with pictures and a short article letting the entire SSMA community know the progress of their idea and the end results. These photos and article would be published in the Journal for all to see and learn from the experience. The success of this program hinges on the clubs submitting ideas and then the winning club following up to let us all know how the idea worked out. If we don't receive this feedback the program will not generate the results desired and will be curtailed or possibly dropped. If this program works out as well as the SSMA directors hope it will, it will be expanded over time with more and different offerings. We will do our best, based on donations available, to provide a variety of hulls throughout the

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course of this program. This should help to balance the event out so that if the hull being offered currently does not really line up with the activities of a particular club then there is a good chance the next hull available will.

As an example, a club dedicated to warships would have little use for a sport fisherman so if a sport fisherman is what is currently available hopefully the next hull available will be a warship or something closer to the warship clubs interests. This will, of course, be dependent on what is donated and we will be working with a variety of suppliers to try and provide a wide range of available hulls. The decision of the selection committee will be final. If your club didn't get selected for the current offering then please feel free to throw your hat in



the ring for the next if it interests you. A club that has won a hull will not be allowed to bid on another until we have received the follow up pictures and article for the hull they received. This will help to ensure that the wealth is as evenly spread around all clubs as possible.

The selection committee will be made up of various SSMA directors and the company donating the hull or other product will have no input at all in the selection process.

If this idea works out well we will try and expand it to other products as well. This will take some work and partnering with suppliers but we will do everything we can to make it happen.

As always, we are open to carefully thought out ideas on other services that the SSMA as an organization can provide to its members and clubs. Please feel free to contact any of the directors with whatever ideas you may have.

For the very first try at this program we have a Hartman Models C2 freighter hull. This is a fiberglass replacement for the Sterling American Scout hull and can be used for a wide variety of projects. Pictures of this hull follow this article. So get your club together and put on your thinking caps and start sending those ideas in. The deadline for submitting your clubs plan of attack for this hull is

March 15, 2015 and the decision will be announced within one week. Please, when submitting you plan provide the e-mail address of the contact person so that they can be kept up to date on the progress of this contest. It is envisioned that the hull will be shipped by the end of March, 2015. Only clubs that are currently paid members of the SSMA may participate in this contest.

Don Spielberger

SSMANA National Director

**Send your club entry to
JOURNAL@SSMANA.ORG
AND MICJT@HOTMAIL.COM**