

USA response to specific questions regarding subs within country and subs to OKDIA

Hi Mary,

First of all.....Thank you for your service with OKDIA.

I do struggle with keeping things in order. I am retired now and I no longer have the will to pony up for annual subscriptions to our National Authority, USSA, and to the International Association, OKDIA. For all the years that I have been involved, since 1998, I have paid these fees out of my pocket. It was just fine, I was making a lot of money in my business, it was my pleasure and my privilege.

There has always been about twenty OK Dinghy enthusiasts over the years, in any one year, but they would come and they would go, being involved only for a few years at a time. Of the twenty, there were always about half that expressed any interest in supporting OKUSA. Of that half, only a few would send in a check for the annual subscription. It has always been disheartening for me, not because of the money, but rather because of the lack of support for the Class.

Earlier in my tenure the, OKDIA subscription was about 39 pounds sterling, also there was a fee to exchange or convert from US\$\$, and another fee to cut a international cashiers check and another fee to send certified or registered post to OKDIA bank in the UK. This was the easiest way to pay the subscription without incurring other bank charges on the UK side of the transaction. It required a lot of running around, as I could not do it all from any one place. It was just fine, the difficulties were collecting the membership fees from our guys here in the USA. The costs for all this would come out to about +/- US \$100.00

The cost for a annual subscription to our National Authority, USSA, is about US \$150.00

Together, it required US \$250.00 to keep OKUSA in good standing with both organizations.

Our mostly fictitious membership is spread across our big country and the each of the four regions had fewer than four or five OK Dinghy's. It was not feasible to try to get everyone together in one place at any one time. I tried to encourage fleet racing at the regional level, even so, it is hard to get a Class start with fewer than Five OK's. It has been a big problem, especially without a domestic manufacturer to offer new OK's. Our enthusiast here in the States are from the Golden Years of the International OK Dinghy.

Because I could not offer a bonafide and perfectible Class association, I felt that I could not ask for more than US \$25.00 from each enthusiast to support this kind of an effort. And bringing this dilemma to the attention of the membership everyone agreed. So, knowing that everyone was not going to support me, I asked for ten serious pledges of US \$25.00 to cover the costs. I could never ever get what was needed.

I love my OK Dinghy's and everyone who sees me out sailing loves my OK's too. I have two, one that is in the vintage format, the other, just as old, but up to modern racing standards.

Our National Authority USSA, subscription for US \$150.00 entitles our OKUSA membership to all USSA sanctioned One Design Racing Events. This includes, Portsmouth, or other handicapped events, but also ensures a Class Start with five or more OK's. The subscription is for an individual One Design Class.

USSA also offers an individual membership, for about US \$60.00. This level entitles the individual, discounts on entry fees and also for other things such as access to other benefits provided by the organization.

The answer to your question. How much for OKUSA? As little as US \$25.00 and with an individual membership that is not required, another US \$60.00

Here in the USA, and especially in Southern California, Yacht Clubs and other sailing associations make us sailors jump through many hoops to be eligible to compete, and for many that just means a day out on the water. In Southern California, the individual sailor is supposed to be a active member in a recognized Yacht Club, in another Association of Yacht Clubs. More \$\$\$ But really Mary, for me it is not about the \$\$\$, it is about all the rules and regulations, and often times it is about the stratification of social class. It can be ugly and menacing.

Best regards for the future

Tony