**Commodore's Report**

The highlight of the 2013 season was a highly successful World Championship in Porto Roz, Slovenia. Seventy-nine boats competed in a variety of wind conditions, representing ten countries. Our hosts did an outstanding job, providing excellent race management in addition to wonderful hospitality. It was especially gratifying to see so many Slovenian boats competing for the first time at a major international event. As we have experienced in the past, world championship events held in Europe enjoyed considerable support from European fleets, but representation from other parts of the world was scarce. The two Canadian boats, and one South American crew on an Italian boat, were the only visitors from abroad.

Fireball International is struggling to find the right recipe of timing, venues, sailing and non-sailing attractions, cost, logistics, and more to ensure that our international events are well-attended by sailors from fleets around the world. We are acutely aware of the high costs involved in travel, boat transport, and racing, and we welcome suggestions to ensure dynamic and attractive choices.

 One interesting initiative currently being implemented allows for reengineering the traditional racking arrangements to allow up to twelve boats to be shipped in a container. The twin advantages of lowering the unit cost and accommodating more travelers are real and attractive. Pictures of the Australian container are available on the website.

Our planning horizon includes the upcoming 2014 worlds in Pattaya, Thailand, and the 2014 European Championships in the Shetlands. We have committed and we are looking forward to the 2015 world championship in Pwllheli, Wales. The following year, our world championship will take place in Mosel Bay, South Africa. Planning our schedule well in advance provides the necessary time to market the events, and attract competitors and sponsors.

Our FI facebook group continues to grow. We have 564 members of the group, and requests continue to arrive. Content is always welcome, both on facebook and on our website.

Fireball activity is being resurrected in New Zealand. There is one committed sailor launching a New Zealand Fireball facebook group, and on the hunt for boats and sailors. It is always impressive to see what a determined individual can do. One of our strategic goals is to expand our international scope, and we are excited and very supportive of this initiative.

Our industry partners continue to develop and enhance what they do for the Fireball class, and their efforts are highly appreciated.

Our recently adopted constitution calls for elections to be held later this year for every elected position on the FI Executive. Candidates are welcome. If you are interested in serving as a Rear Commodore or as Commodore, please consider putting your name forward.

Finally, I would like to thank the FI Executive and the NCA Executives for their continued efforts and support this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Jospe