

The Mutineer 15 Class Association  
By: Rey Garza

Well, we finally did it. On September 30, 2003 the Mutineer 15 Class Association was registered as a non-profit corporation with the State of Texas. On October 15, 2003 we started taking membership applications.

This was a long road for a group of guys that has never done this before. Last year about this time a group of us decided to look into what it would take to get the MCA re-organized. We started an organizing committee and invited any Mutineer owner that wanted to join us in this endeavor to come and work with us in our separate Yahoo group. Eric Frisvold took the initial lead and got us organized and focused on certain tasks. We broke up into teams to work on these different tasks and the result from each team's work was then presented to the whole group for input. We made a lot of good progress, but for some reason we just did not make it happen. I guess you could say that we got a case of the winter blues and activity on the committee started to dwindle. We had hoped for a spring startup date, but we were not ready. The 2003 sailing season came and we all went on our way, all along being prodded by the Buccaneers to "Just Do It".

Then the BNAC/MNAC in Ware River came around. That event just has a way of exciting people, and I for one am glad for it. When it was over there was a renewed interest in the MCA. Now there were calls from Mutineer owners to "Just Do It". At this point I decided to look into the legal aspects of getting an organization started. With some help from fellow Mutineer owners, advice from some of the BCA officers, and encouragement from the designer, I set out to figure this out. After several calls to the Secretary of State of Texas and the IRS I found out that all I needed was a form stating who we are and what our purpose was, plus the names of three officers and a check for \$25. I submitted it and ten days later we were official. Wow, we finally made it. Well not really, we still had to do the paperwork for the IRS, but at least our name was registered. The initial paperwork requesting a tax ID from the IRS is now in, and we still have to request a tax exempt status from them, but that will all come in due time.

It was decided that with this legal protection now in place we could start taking memberships. Temporary officers were assigned. Gib Charles is our President and I am the Secretary/Treasurer. We will hold these offices until our first General Meeting at which a full slate of officers can be voted on by the membership.

We have the same three membership groups that the BCA has, Full, Associate, and Honorary Life members, and they all carry basically the same rights as in the BCA. Our only difference is that we decided to only charge \$15 dollars for the Associate membership, while the Full members pay \$25. We figure that Full members are paying for the right to vote on the future of our great little sailing machine, or at least on what this organization should do to influence that future.

The beauty of this whole exercise is that it was done by a group of people across the country. This would not have been possible without the Internet. The Internet is an awesome tool, and we feel that it is this tool that will help us be successful where other groups have not been. We were able to meet and share ideas without having to actually sit in the same room with each other. The truth is that we are a web-based community and we would like to take it to the next step and start facilitating meetings in locations throughout the country, wherever Mutineer sailors can be found.

So if you know anybody that owns a Mutineer, please direct them to our website [www.mutineer15.org](http://www.mutineer15.org) or give him or her a copy of the application and ask them to join us. We appreciate your support.