

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 8/19/13

**Start:** 7:05 p.m. EDT

**Adjourn:** 8:05 p.m. EDT

**Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder) X  
Joe Colling (President)  
Henry Brauer (Vice President) X  
Kathy Parks (Secretary) X  
Chris Groobey (Treasurer) X  
Sean O'Keefe (Technical Chair) X  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay - Will Keyworth X  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Morgan Paxhia X  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central - Richard Nesbett X  
Fleet 4 Southern California - Karl Pomeroy X  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Noel Clinard X  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel X  
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tony Burn for Don Finkle X  
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley X  
Fleet 9 Marblehead - Stein Skaane for Henry Brauer X  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - John Coye X  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Betts X  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan - Richard Stearns  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin X  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - Kevin Grant  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt  
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Jan Richmond X

**Agenda:**

1. Roll call of Fleet Captains/call etiquette
2. Office report
3. North Americans report
4. Fleet communications best practices
5. Class Rule change overview/TC
6. Other
7. Next Meeting

**Description:**

1. **Introduction of Officers and roll call of Fleet Captains** – Chris Howell conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above). He asked each participant to identify his/herself plus the fleet when speaking.
2. **Office Report** – Chris H. reported that the Class has 208 total members so far in 2013, representing 170 boats. 1,128 sail royalties have been sold in 2013. Between royalties and memberships, about \$50,000 has come into the Class. The US Class has contributed \$10,000 to the start-up of the International J/70 Class. Jeff called in from the International Sailing Summit, and thanked everyone for their enthusiasm for the J/70. Hulls are assigned out through 504, which will take us through the end of this year. About 360 have been delivered worldwide, including about 260-270 in the USA. There has been a lot of interest from clubs and commercial sailing schools and academies. J Boats will provide a current owner list for member solicitation. Chris H. also asked the fleets to reach out to their local owners to confirm Class membership.
3. **North Americans report** – Kathy Parks advised that people are moving up on the wait list as cancellations come up. Everyone will likely be able to be accommodated. NOR amendment draft 2 will be circulated to the Class very soon. Draft 1 of the SIs will follow. The various committees are hard at work on preparations. Will Keyworth added that he has been working with Sean and Chris H. on measurement. Sail measurement templates are being made. Boat inspection will be

conducted by their local committee plus J Boats factory reps. This will also encompass note-taking for future review. A measurement checklist and instructions will be posted online. Chris G. spoke to sponsorship, and they have a number of proactive sponsors totaling \$25,000-30,000 plus in-kind contributions. The cash will benefit competitors in trophies, food/beverage, etc. Hillman Capital Management is the title sponsor, and also Atlantis, Velocitek, Atlantic Rigging, and Raptor. Spread the word on these companies! A great event is in the works both on and off the water.

4. **Fleet communications best practices** – Chris G. wondered what are you doing in your fleets to communicate, and what can the national Office do to help? Jan Richmond in Fleet 18 shared that their four boats have regular dinners and help one another rig their boats. Will Keyworth noted that Fleet 1 has conducted some fun races, and he suggested that each fleet should submit an end-of-season report including how they've helped mid-level racers throughout the year. Chris H. thought that he could add a page on the website to share these updates. He requested these reports to [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com) by the end of October. Sean from Fleet 4 said that they have a J Concierge who keeps a current schedule available and they also have held fleet meetings. Ed Austin from Fleet 15 got a local J Boat dealer to provide a training session/clinic. Henry Brauer from Fleet 9 built in two clinic days into their racing schedule, and they have a web page, Facebook page, and regular e-mail communication. Tony in Fleet 7 stated that they have put together Thursday night training sessions with coaches.
5. **Class Rules change overview/Technical Committee** – Chris H. said that a US Technical Committee has been formed, encompassing Sean as chair, Rod Johnstone on behalf of the Copyright Holder, Bennett Greenwald, Ron Copfer, Karl Pomeroy, and Brandon Flack. Jeff J. has submitted paperwork to ISAF to bring the J/70 Class into an International Class. A steering committee has been meeting, and has prepared a Constitution. The current Constitution on the website will become the US Constitution. We expect that the J/70 Class will receive international status in November. Rule change proposals will be put up for a vote of the International Class, with changes in effective sometime early next year. Chris H. noted that there has been some discussion that when the Class reaches 200 boats, there would be major changes in the rules. In reality, the process and procedures of the Class organization have already been working, and the International Class will be controlling the Rules process and royalty sales in a few months.

Chris H. will be sending out a survey to US members to gauge feedback on the Rules and how the current system is working. Those results, in conjunction with NAC feedback, will be reviewed by the Technical Committee and then moving forward to the International Class for a rules vote.

The US Class has purchased two sets of sail templates, and a third set will be for international use. A measurement form/process is also being prepared for use in 2014. Class measurers are being identified to carry out these procedures.

Sean added that Joe Colling and the NAC PRO and Judge have been drafting Regatta Guidelines. Upon completion, these Guidelines will be posted online for fleet reference. Regarding hiking, there will be on-the-water judges at the NAC for enforcement. Feedback is encouraged from the NAC competitors, and/or anytime on the Rules. Chris H. appealed to each fleet to identify a local measurer who is willing to learn.

Jan asked about PHRF ratings, and Jeff J. said to figure 3 seconds a mile faster than a J/80, so around 120 as a starting point. Henry noted a rating in his area of 117 for racing. Sean added that the ratings have been dropping to 114-118, but this is not something that is perfectly consistent. He offered himself as a resource for questions. Jeff J. also referred everyone to a letter on their website as well as a grid.

6. **Other** – Chris H. has compiled Rich Stearns, Morgan Paxhia and Karl Pomeroy as the Nominating Committee in lieu of having a Past President to serve as the Nominating Chair. They will prepare of Slate of Officers to present at the Annual Meeting. If anyone has an Officer suggestion, they may contact the Committee. A voting fleet has 10 member boats or more, and additional votes based on multiple boat owners above that. However, for the first year, the threshold for voting rights is dropped to 7 members representing 7 boats. Corbo asked about the future of major regattas. Chris H. summarized that since we are awaiting International status, we cannot officially hold a World Championship until then, but the goal is a major event in Newport in September 2014 (hopefully a Worlds) to be supported by NYYC and Sail Newport. Jeff J. added that we would need to decide about whether the first Worlds would be open. Bids for the NAC 2014 host have been received by the Class Office and will be reviewed by the Officers. Bids for 2015 are still coming in, and the Class will need to decide how many major events can be supported annually. Key West Race Week will be the Midwinter Championship in 2014. A question was asked about the legality of blocks on the vang and windward/leeward traveler release. Sean clarified that the blocks are legal as noted on the website in the builder spec sheet, and the traveler mechanisms are not legal at this time.
7. **Next Meeting** – Annual Meeting, late November or December, date TBA.

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

- J Boats will provide a current owner list to the Class Office for member solicitation.
- All Fleet Captains will send Fleet reports to [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com) by the end of October.
- Chris H. will be sending out a survey to US members to gauge feedback on the Rules and how the current system is working.
- All Fleet Captains will determine a local measurer for the future.

**Next Meeting:** Annual Meeting, late November or December, date TBA.