

# J/70 Class Association 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12/4/13

**Start:** 8:05 p.m. EST

**Adjourn:** 9:35 p.m. EST

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder) X  
Joe Colling (President) X  
Henry Brauer (Vice President) X  
Kathy Parks (Secretary) X  
Chris Groobey (Treasurer)  
Sean O'Keefe (Technical Chair) X  
Bennet Greenwald, incoming Treasurer  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay - Will Keyworth X  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech X  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central - Richard Nesbett X  
Fleet 4 Southern California - Karl Pomeroy  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Noel Clinard X  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel X  
Fleet 7 Niagara - 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 X  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff X  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Betts  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Blane Shea X  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg X  
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  
Fleet 19 San Francisco Bay - Norman Davant X

## **Agenda:**

1. Officer & Copyright Holder Updates
2. Class Rules and Constitution Update
3. Championship Updates
4. 2014 Budget Proposal and Approval
5. Election of New Officers
6. New Business
7. Tentative 2014 Meeting dates
8. Adjourn

## **Description:**

Chris Howell conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above).

### **1. Officer & Copyright Holder Updates –**

President Joe Colling: Joe thanked everyone for joining the meeting, and praised the year for the Class. The J/70s were the largest fleet at many events, and we held our first North Americans, plus a World Championship is scheduled for 2014. The Class has achieved ISAF status. He thanked the Officers, Johnstones and Julie & Chris Howell for their work throughout the year.

Executive Director Chris Howell: Chris H. reported that the Class had 252 total US members in 2013, representing 177 boats. 1,347 sail royalties have been sold so far in 2013, which is a huge number. He recapped the voting fleets per the Constitution which are fleets with 7 member boats: Fleets 1 (3 votes), 2,3,4,9,11,13,15. Next year, the threshold for a voting fleet increases to 10/fleet. He stressed that Class members must designate a fleet and hull # upon renewal.

Technical Chair Sean O'Keefe: Sean prepared a Technical Report which was sent to all via e-mail. He welcomed any questions to be directed to him via e-mail or phone. Noel asked about the "eye" in regard to the forward placement of the spinnaker block. Sean and Joe clarified that it is the round padeye, where the block attaches to, at the base of the stanchion. Corbo asked about the weighing of boats, and Chris H. said that the Class has purchased 2 scales which will be available

at the Davis Island YC Winter Series and Key West Race Week. The scales are also available for fleet use, and there is a weighing document that describes the procedure. Measurement certificates have been finalized and will be utilized in 2014. Blane asked Jeff about the weight of boats out of the factory, and Jeff stated that all are underweight. Lead will be available to bring boats to compliance. The expectation is to get boats weighed throughout the year for regional/national events. When boats are weighed, it will just be running rigging and the engine.

Copyright Holder Jeff Johnstone: Jeff summarized that there are 470 boats in 20 countries. Audi signed a deal for 8 J/70s in their German circuit, and the fleet is growing in Switzerland, Asia, Australia and South America. They will have a new builder announcement in Asia in the coming weeks. He commended the ISAF certification, and expects their redline Rules comments any day. The 2019 Pan Am Games are in Peru, so that is a possibility for the J/70. NYYC will again feature the J/70 for their Invitational Regatta in September 2014, and the boats can then be used for charters for the 2014 Worlds. He has been in discussions with several yacht clubs who want to have J/70 fleets. J Boats is working on a leasing program for club-owned fleets and hopes to roll something out to a select group of clubs in 2014.

2. **Class Rules & Constitution Update** – Chris H. shared that the US Class has become a member nation of the International J/70 Class Association due to our ISAF status, and therefore voting of Rules moves to the IJ70CA. Jeff has been working on grammatical updates to the Class Rules, and in conjunction with ISAF's changes, a new Rules document will be forthcoming. There are no substantial differences. Chris H. distributed a new version of the Constitution that is suited to the US Class. Because the USA has the most members, they will have the most votes on an International level. Joe Colling, US Class President, will speak for the US Class in that regard. Chris H. asked for feedback via e-mail on the Constitution. Two Rules Proposals were distributed: 1) In the Event Rule section (to be enacted in the NOR or SI), an allowance for a crew of 5 to accommodate junior and/or female teams. This is NOT a default Class Rule, but an Event Rule that a yacht club or fleet can evoke on a case-by-case basis. Suzy voiced her and her fleet's support of this rule proposal for all-female teams and youth teams. Joe clarified that this is intended to be a local rule, and not used for regional/national championships. Chris H. noted that the previous practice of "turning heads" on a fleet practice to ignore the Class weight rule is a violation of the RRS and therefore protest-able. This Event Rule brings the Fleets into compliance. The 5-person crew weight of 310 kg was determined through the US Class survey. Blane thought the weight should be higher, but Chris H. reminded everyone that we need to think internationally and not just about the US. Henry added that we may need to address the Event Rules in the Regatta Guidelines. He also noted that his Fleet 9 is a proponent of the fifth crew being 13 or under, but Chris H. cautioned that those things can be hard to police. Jeff suggested that the weight be removed from the proposal. Other comments are welcome via e-mail, and the Technical Committee will massage the proposal from there. 2) In the Crew Positioning area, the second proposal requires crew above deck to maintain the family-friendly ideal of the J/70. Nearly everyone agreed that this is a good idea.
3. **Championship Updates** – 2014 Midwinters, North Americans & Worlds: 2014 Midwinters is at Key West Race Week, North Americans are in Rochester, and the World Championship is in Newport. Dates are available online. The NAC will be limited to 120 boats on a first come, first serve bases. Chris H. distributed a qualifying system for the World Championship which has 80 berths for the USA, encompassing a geographical representation and both Open and Corinthian spots. Don supported the qualifying system but was disappointed to not see that the previous July Level Regatta was not on the list. Chris H. and Joe said that they were not aware of what the "new" Level Regatta was. Chris H. thought that we might be able to maneuver a qualifier to that event. Suzy asked about the local organizer's 2 spots, and Chris H. said that the fleet usually decides those. The regional championships are open to whomever wants to go, regardless of what region they are actually in.

There will be a deep trickle-down effect as people qualify throughout the year.

2015 Midwinters, North Americans & Worlds: The RFP for these events is still open. The World Championships are handled at the International level, and probably will be in Europe.

2016 Midwinters, North Americans & Worlds: The RFP for these events is still open. The World Championships are handled at the International level, and likely be back in the USA in 2016.

4. **2014 Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris H. distributed the budget via e-mail. The funding for this year has been very good due to royalty tag sales and memberships. The Class has a very nice nest egg. The IJ70CA has now taken over the royalty sales, and each member nation will maintain their own memberships and related income. Joe noted that the US Class seeded the IJ70CA and still has over \$20,000. *Rich Nesbett made a motion to accept the budget, seconded by Scott Deardorff. The motion passed unanimously.*
  
5. **Election of New Officers** –  
Slate presented by the Nominating Committee: Rich Stearns, Morgan Paxhia, Karl Pomeroy  
President: Joe Colling  
Vice President: Henry Brauer  
Secretary: Kathy Parks  
Treasurer: Bennet Greenwald  
Technical Chair: Sean O’Keefe  
Chris H. thanked Chris Groobey for his work throughout the year for the Class as well as with the North American Championship. Kathy also commended Chris G. *Don Finkle made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Will Keyworth. No nominations were made from the floor, and the motion passed unanimously.*
  
6. **New Business** – Chris H. appealed to each fleet to identify a Measurer, and everyone was asked to submit the name/contact information to [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com) ASAP. Henry and Joe reiterated the importance of this role, and noted that it does not take any specific expertise. Chris H. spoke to the upcoming winter weigh-ins: DIYC has two cranes, and he will be available in the days prior. At KWRW, a lift will be onsite away from the water (near the boat ramp) so we are dedicated just to weighing of boats. He will administer time slots, and it should only take a few minutes to obtain the weights. Again, lead will be for sale onsite. A scale can be left at DIYC so additional weights can be taken throughout the series. One of the scales is in a shipping container so can be sent around as needed. Jeff added that indoor weighing will be available in Providence, RI on Saturday, January 4. The location of corrector weights is defined in the Rules, and will also be included in the weight procedure documents. A calibrated scale can be used, upon approval of a local Measurer. Charleston Race Week will be limited to 60 paid J/70 entries. When the NOR is ready, Chris H. will advise the members via the website. Finally, Scott Deardorff asked about winch removal and sail purchase limitations. Sean said that there is not a plan to limit sail purchases. Regarding the winches, complaints have reduced, and if desired, a proposal would have to clear the IJ70CA. Joe thought that there are other measurement issues that are more imminent than the winches. Measurement templates are in the works. Suzy asked about fairing issues. Chris H. did not see noticeable post-factory fairing at the NAC. Jeff added that they did utilize templates to discreetly check a few boats. It’s difficult to police, but boats are being checked. Factory measurements are known for all boats and this information will be utilized on measurement certificates for members going forward. A Measurer will sign off on the weight. Noel noted some wear on the keel for early hulls, and Jeff said that repairs to the boat are within the Rules.
  
7. **Tentative 2014 Meeting Dates** –  
3/12/14  
6/11/14  
9/17/14

Annual Meeting – December 2014, date TBD

8. **Adjourn**

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

**Next Meeting:** 3/12/14