

J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/29/15

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 8:45 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
Henry Brauer (President) X
Jennifer Wulff (Vice President) X
Craig Tallman (Secretary) X
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer) X
Frank McNamara (Technical Chair) X
Joe Colling (Past President) X
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Ray Wulff X
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech X
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Joe Colling X
Fleet 4 Southern California – Dave Vieregg X
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Blake Kimbrough
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tim Finkle X
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Ted Johnson X
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff X
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Amy Neill X
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin X
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - John Brim X
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Jan Richmond
Fleet 19 San Francisco - Justin Kromelow
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter X
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay
Fleet 22 Cedar Point - Bill Walker X
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel

Agenda:

1. Class Office Report
2. President's Report
3. Regatta Committee Report
4. Measurement Report
5. Fleet Reports
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting

Description:

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

1. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 364 members so far in 2015 (we had 405 for 2014 total, which included several international members who have now joined their own NCAs.) Chris distributed the current Balance Sheet + Profit & Loss Report versus this same date in 2014. Henry summarized that the US Class is very strong, even more so than the IJ70CA which runs solely on royalty tag sales. We can always look for ways to expand revenue, and the USJ70CA got a great start as it was the first J/70 Class Association. A new budget will be prepared for the Annual Meeting. Ray asked if the travel budget could be reviewed so the Class could have more presence in US events. Henry stated that the Executive Committee is reviewing this, and all the variables (whether the regatta organizers contribute funds, how deep in regattas we go, whether a certified measurer can handle regional events, etc.). Chris clarified that \$11,000 is where we are on the plus side for this fiscal year, but we will not have much more income this year, although we will have expenses. We will be on the plus-side for the year, and we aim to keep

each fiscal year balanced and not moving into cash reserves. We can plan a few different budgets for next year to accommodate for additional travel, but still keeping us out of the red. Al and Bill wondered what the Class could do with the cash reserves? Henry requested ideas in this regard. Suzy and Jenn suggested the advertising of fleet events and higher, which then raises the question of how much is paid from the USJ70CA and/or fleets. Henry reiterated that the Class needs to maintain some money in the bank, and Chris said that the goal for all non-profits is to have enough cash to cover one fiscal year. Regarding marketing, Chris recapped that we are constantly target marketing events, and there are opportunities to cross market with J/Boats and/or builders to offset costs. Proposals are requested for marketing opportunities to be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

2. **President's Report** – Henry explained that he abstained the USA vote for the 2017 World Championship between the UK and Italy. He didn't want the USA to dictate a European Worlds location with our five votes, and this decision created much good will among the other nations. Obviously we do not want the European NCAs to control the location of a US Worlds. Italy is hosting the 2017 Worlds, and the UK will host in 2019. The 2018 Worlds will be hosted in the USA. Henry continued that Chris, Ned and two other International Measurers will be handling measurement at the upcoming Worlds in France. The European NCAs are about 18 months behind the USA, so significant progress will be made in the coming weeks. Look for a report following the Worlds. Chris and Henry also participated in a call with the Mexican and Canadian Presidents to discuss hosting of future North Americans. After extended dialogue, Mexico will submit a proposal for the 2018 NAC (when the Worlds will be in the USA) and Canada for the 2020 NAC. The 2017 NAC will be in the East Coast USA. Mexico has been actively seeking to host a major event since the beginning of the Class, and they are very enthusiastic. They already have a method of shipping boats from Florida to Mexico, to supplement their 30+ boats. There is full understanding of the need to attract US boats. John thought they should have a "fun" regatta in the year(s) preceding the NAC. Henry also wants the Fleet Captains to contribute more newsletter content, perhaps including the fleet reports to follow in this meeting. Al suggested a survey to hone in on hot topics. Joe thought that a Fleet Captain can obtain this information consistently, and all should be encouraged to e-mail or call the Executive Committee with this feedback.
3. **Regatta Committee Report** – Jenn recapped that we went through the RFP process to select the 2016 Midwinters and NAC, which was selected for St. Pete and Houston, respectively. Miami was not able to submit a bid for 2016 Midwinters due to logistical issues, but hopefully will for future years. St. Pete had the most to offer as far as timing, Race Committee, etc. Houston in May should draw people winding up the winter circuit, prior to the summer racing season. We are now accepting bids for the 2017 Midwinters and NAC by this September. Storm Trysail is now managing Key West Race Week, and our fleet is still expected to be strong there. The Class will help market the event for our members. The Midwinters is not being held there in an effort to hold a "stand alone" Championship. Anyone with a strong preference on the KWRW format should share their views with the organizers, as the details are still being finalized. The Davis Island Winter Series is happening, although the details are still being finalized as far as storage. These details will be shared with the members as soon as it's available. Jenn said that we have 10 US teams among the 75+ boats entered at the Worlds in France, which includes 17 countries. The 2015 NAC has 22 boats on the entry list, and hopefully that list will grow quickly (Dave is projecting 50-60). Amy invited everyone to the Great Lakes Championship in Chicago in August as a feeder to the NAC. Chris has a shipper to truck boats from the East Coast to the West Coast, but it will require coordination of 4 boats per trailer at \$4,000 round trip per owner. The shipper may also be able to coordinate boats into Florida following the NAC. Chris has also heard of new boats to be available locally, and more information will be announced on that from JK3. Dave added that the NAC website does indicate current shippers.

4. **Measurement Report** – Chris, Frank, Henry and Ned met at the factory in Bristol and looked into various complaints about how boats are put together. Basic measurement templates have been created to determine keel compliance, and these templates will be tested at the Worlds in France next week. Assuming these tools prove accurate in France, the templates can be utilized by local measurers. Frank has been working on a “Q&A” document on what is permitted, which is being finalized and will be posted online. Chris said that all boats, regardless of builder, are made from the same mold except the mast/spars (which has two suppliers). Al asked about fairing and wondered if it should just be permitted. Chris encouraged the US Class to be patient as the other NCAs catch up in the measurement curve.

5. **Fleet Reports** – Several fleets submitted reports in writing which were sent via e-mail earlier today. The following reports took place on the call.
 - Fleet 22 Cedar Point Bill Walker:* They had a large regatta in June at Cedar Point with 30ish J/70s, as well as the Long Island Sound Championship. They have 9 boats in the fleet, with 4-6 boats out regularly. They hope to recruit more new boats.
 - Fleet 20 Galveston Bay Alfred Poindexter:* The locals are working on the 2016 NAC. A PRO is secured, and they are planning to have a great social program.
 - Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound John Brim:* They have five clubs in Fishers Island Sound, but they are sort of divided in local racing (including PHRF) versus those traveling. He hopes to see the boat marketed more locally.
 - Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Ed Austin:* The fleet gets about 12 boats on the line (with 19 in the area), including a Friday night and Sunday series, potentially expanding to Saturdays also. It’s a challenge to find the right balance. He hears concerns about the fairing issue.
 - Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan Amy Neill:* Spring has been weak due to weather issues, but they often get 10-12 boats when the weather is cooperative. If they get 30 boats for the Great Lakes Championship, our fleet will have its own circle (otherwise the J/70s will be with the Etchells). Anyone showing interest gets out on a boat to check out the action.
 - Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff:* There are 5-6 active boats, and they have 7 regattas in the championship series with max participation. Their clinics by sailmakers and top crews are a big hit. Farr and J/24 sailors have been showing interest in the J/70. He too hears feedback about fairing, professional sailors and winches. Henry noted that fleets can invoke regatta rules about coaching. Chris reminded that any Rules proposal ideas should be sent to the Class Office for consideration by the IJ70CA Technical Committee. The Constitution lays out the specifics of how the Rules proposal process works.
 - Fleet 9 Marblehead Ted Johnson:* About 16 boats are in the Series (with a perpetual trophy), and they get 8-12 boats out every Saturday. The Marblehead NOOD is the New England Championship (contact him for housing info, etc.). They “roll call” every week, which seems to help participation. The winner of the day has to write up a strategy recap. They throw out 1 of every 5 races. He thinks some locals are waiting to see how the fairing issue resolves, and to review the used boat market
 - Fleet 7 Niagara Tim Finkle:* The fleet started out strong in recent years, but they haven’t sold new boats and are seeing more boats being sold. Their average sailor is getting turned off by the top end of the fleet nationally, and they’d like to see less focus on the major championships (more local focus).
 - Fleet 4 Southern California Dave Viereg:* Dave referred people to his written report, highlighting that they’ve had four big events, and 19 boats at Long Beach Race Week. The fleet Facebook page is popular. There is free boat storage at SDYC after July 4th through the NAC. Great staff will be on hand to make the NAC experience smooth, and many sponsors are secured. Encourage your members to attend!
 - Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Joe Colling:* About 13 boats are in the area, with about 6 boats racing twice a week. They are working to place crew for the local racing which helps get a steady

turnout. No new boats have been in the fleet for a while so they are holding steady but not growing. Henry suggested that Fleet Captains reach out to the junior sailors as crew.

Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay Suzy Leech: They had 10 boats at Bacardi Newport, and got 5 races in on Saturday. It was the first time the event had been split from Sail Newport's Regatta, so not sure how many boats had it on their agenda. Their fleet is not growing, but Suzy is promoting a crew finder on the website. The site also has a calendar targeted to the fleet so they can confirm which events they plan to participate in. She's been able to invite teenage kids to race, which has created lots of enthusiasm! Jenn suggested that the kids should write something for the newsletter.

Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay Ray Wulff: The fleet will do what it takes to get someone on the race course (finding crew, pay entry fee, etc.). Most of their fleet racing has about 13-14 boats out, but it's challenging to get people out regularly. Ray is attending the Worlds in France as crew. It's difficult to find a charter boat for the NAC so he'd like to see any new information in this regard.

The 117 PHRF rating was questioned, and Joe said that Cleveland gets 111. Race Qs is a great tool for fleets. Suzy asked about the collection of fleet dues and how they are used. Most fleets are planning parties and/or using the funds for trophies. Fleet 13 also used funds for clinics and post-race kegs.

6. **New Business** – Henry noted that the goal of the Rules proposal cycle is to get proposals “pre-approved” by ISAF before being voted on by the International membership.
7. **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

Action Items:

--Chris will prepare next year's budget for the Annual Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. EDT