

US J/70 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/7/15

Start: 7:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 7:50 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
Henry Brauer (President) X
Jennifer Wulff (Vice President)
Craig Tallman (Secretary) X
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer)
Frank McNamara (Technical Chair) X
Joe Colling (Past President) X
Kristen Robinson (incoming Secretary)
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Ray Wulff & Jon Pollak X
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech X
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Joe Colling X
Fleet 4 Southern California – Dave Viereg
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Blake Kimbrough
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel
Fleet 7 Niagara – Tony Byrne for Tim Finkle X
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley X
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Daan Goedkoop X
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker X
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 - Richard Miller for John
Brim X
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Jan Richmond
Fleet 19 San Francisco - Justin Kromelow X
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter X
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Bill Walker for Trevor Roach X
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel X
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog X

Agenda:

1. Officer and Copyright Holder Reports
2. US Results of Class Rules Proposals
3. 2016 Championship Updates & 2017 Planning
4. 2016 Budget Proposal and Approval
5. Election of Officers
6. New Business
7. Tentative 2016 Meeting dates

Description:

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

1. Officer & Copyright Holder Reports –

President Henry Brauer: The Executive Committee has been working hard. He thanked Jennifer Wulff for her time on the Board and with the Regatta Committee. The North American Championship in San Diego was excellent, and he appreciates the work that our Measurers did onsite. He looks forward to the 2016 North Americans in Texas in May. It's been helpful to hear and see the Fleet Captains' reports throughout the year. He's hopeful that the US Class will start a sailors' league, and conversations are taking place to provide this opportunity in the future. Frank, Chris and J/Boats put a lot of effort into the current Rules proposals, and he thanked the voting fleets for submitting their ballots. He has enjoyed working on the IJ70CA Executive Committee,

and the US has to always be sensitive to our international owners and look at the Class globally. Copyright Holder Jeff Johnstone: Jeff was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written report: “The J/70 worldwide sales continued at a high clip for 2015 and we’re now shipping boats in the mid 900 hull range. Hull #1000 will ship this spring! The largest growth area for the second year running was Europe, which also hosted its first World Championship in La Rochelle, France in early July. North America has eased off the incredible first “wave” and we’re now seeing increased inquiries for J/70s to be used in training and club programs. This is similar to the institutional demand we saw for the J/24 and J/22 about 3-4 years after the initial introduction of each of those models, which then led onto a second and third wave. We were pleased to see continued growth in South America with the start of a 10 boat fleet in Uruguay as well as additional sales in Chile, Peru and Brazil. This has led to the recent announcement of the first South American Championship, which will take place in Punta Del Este Uruguay next March. We are currently pursuing a possible option to build the J/70 in Argentina with our long-time J/24 builder. This could have a dramatic impact on the long-term development of the class in South America. Demand in Asia has increased incrementally with additional boats in Australia, a new fleet in Japan, and the recent announcement of a new 10 boat fleet in China for use in sailing school and club development. The use of the J/70 in high profile events such as the Champions League and national sailing leagues across Europe has continued to fuel interest in the boat. Discussions continue about the development of a similar league in North America. We’re looking forward to the J/70 Worlds making its west coast USA debut next year in San Francisco, and in the meantime encourage everyone to get to Florida this winter for some of great winter events planned.” Henry noted the two institutions committed to the J/70: J/World in Annapolis and the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut. Suzy added that the International Women’s Keelboat Championship is planned for August 14-20, 2016 at American Yacht Club for women ages 20-40 in the J/70 (12 boats/24 teams, invitational-based). More confirmed information will be distributed soon.

Executive Director Christopher Howell: Chris reported that the USJ70CA has 397 members representing 287 boats (of which 232 have designated fleets). There are 24 total fleets, and three of those are new this year (Cedar Point, Tampa Bay, Cape May). Big gains were San Francisco (+7), San Diego (+3) and Galveston (+4), while a couple fleets decreased slightly. We have eight voting fleets: 1 (3 votes), 13 (2 votes), 2, 3, 4, 9, 15, 19 (1 vote each). So there are about 55 boats without a fleet affiliation, however this includes about 20 international members who will be joining their own NCAs once better formed. Fleet Captains are asked to confirm that their area owners are current members with a properly designated fleet, and after that project is complete, we may need to review if any fleets should be combined to create more voting fleets.

2. **US Results of Class Rules Proposals** – On December 21, the J/70 World Council will vote on seven Rule change proposals. This fleet vote was to establish how each fleet would like the US representative to vote on these proposals. 18 total US votes were possible, and every proposal had all 18 “for” votes, except #5 passed with 15 “for” votes.

(CRC1) 2016 Spare Gennaker

(CRC2) 2016 Pumping

(CRC3) 2016 Corinthian Division

(CRC4) 2016 Corinthian Event

(CRC5) 2016 Limited Group 3 Event

(CRC6) 2016 Hull Repairs

(CRC7) 2016 Appendages Repairs

In the notes section, some thought numbers 6 & 7 were not worded strongly enough (even though they did vote “for.”) Also, others were concerned about an all-Corinthian fleet. Chris reminded the group that the current proposal is in the “Event Rules” area, so we can experiment. ISAF is also reviewing the proposals. ISAF has said that at a World Championship, Corinthians must meet the same criteria of countries and continents to be considered a World Corinthian Champion. So we

may need to call the Corinthian “award” at the Worlds something else. The exact wording from ISAF will be advised in the coming months.

3. **2016 Championship Updates & 2017 Planning –**

2016 Midwinter Championship February 26-28 at St. Petersburg Yacht Club, St. Petersburg, FL: Steve said that there are great deals on close hotels + limited storage between St. Pete NOOD and Midwinters. There will be two race course possibilities depending on the breeze situation. 27 boats are currently signed up, and more are expected. Henry added that the three-event Davis Island YC Series is maxed out at 50 boats, and there are 43 J/70s entered for Key West Race Week. The winter circuit is strong!

2016 North American Championship May 19-22 at Lakewood Yacht Club, Seabrook, TX: Al noted that they are meeting monthly. Tito’s is the title sponsor, the PRO and judges are confirmed, and the NOR is posted at www.j70nac.com. Onshore, they are working through all the logistics to keep everyone organized. The San Diego NAC organizers debriefed with Lakewood YC, which was very helpful. Everyone should do this! Ten boats are signed up...get your name on the list. They are hoping for 50-70. The social aspects are coming together, and all competitors will be well taken care of. They are working on charter boats, and asked if anyone is willing to charter, please let Al know ASAP.

2016 World Championship September 24-October 1 at St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco, CA: Justin said that the schedule is being finalized for regattas leading up to the Worlds:

July 22-24 Pacific Coast Championship at St. Francis Yacht Club

August 13-14 Summer Keel at San Francisco Yacht Club

September 15-18 Rolex Big Boat Series at St. Francis Yacht Club

In another month or so, they will announce storage options. Nineteen boats from seven countries are currently registered. Social functions are being arranged. The event website is <https://www.stfyc.com/j70worlds2016>, and they will be adding much new information.

The Regatta Committee is reviewing proposals for the 2017 Midwinter Championship and the 2017 North American Championship, and an announcement is expected by the end of this year. The 2017 J/70 World Championship is September 12-16 at Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, Porto Cervo, Italy. The 2018 North American Championship will be held in Mexico.

4. **2016 Budget Proposal and Approval –** Chris distributed the 2016 proposed budget via e-mail. Income was slightly above budget, and expenses were as expected. Money is set aside in measurement tools for any needed templates. Chris is planning to staff David Island Series #2, Key West Race Week, Midwinters, Charleston Race Week and the North Americans. (The Worlds travel is an IJ70CA expense).

Al Poindexter made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Craig Tallman. No discussion ensued, and the budget passed unanimously.

5. **Election of Officers –** Slate presented by Nominating Committee Chair Joe Colling:

President: Henry Brauer - Marblehead, MA

Vice President: Craig Tallman - Torrance, CA

Secretary: Kristen Robinson - Arnold, MD

Treasurer: Scott Deardorff - Santa Barbara, CA

Technical Chair: Frank McNamara - Wenham, MA

Past President: Joe Colling - Cleveland, OH

Copyright Holder: Jeff Johnstone

No nominations were made from the floor. Steve Liebel made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Bob Herzog. No discussion ensued, and the slate passed unanimously.

All Officers are happy to take comments and feedback from members at any time. Joe noted that Henry will be moving out of the President’s role next year due to the two-year term limit in our Constitution. Please contact Joe with any new Officer ideas.

6. **New Business** – Ray introduced Jon Pollak as the new Fleet 1 Captain. Henry elaborated on the current discussion on the US Sailing League: take fleets that run from Mid-Atlantic up through New England, and three or four different fleets host in the summer/early fall. The host fleet would provide 6-8 boats and then invite teams from other fleets. For each club that sends a team, it may need to include a woman, a junior, etc. to expose the boat to a broader demographic. This concept is still being vetted, and hopes to be launched in the next year or two.

Happy holidays to all!

7. **Tentative 2016 Meeting dates** – 3/7/16, 6/6/16, 9/1/16, 12/16 AGM date TBD

Julie Howell

Action Items:

--The Regatta Committee is reviewing proposals for the 2017 Midwinter Championship and the 2017 North American Championship, and an announcement is expected by the end of this year.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. ET