

J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/7/16

Start: 7:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 8:05 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
Henry Brauer (President) X
Craig Tallman (Vice President)
Kristen Robinson (Secretary)
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer) X
Frank McNamara (Technical Chair) X
Joe Colling (Past President) X
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Jonathan Pollak X
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Joe Colling for Tim Gibbs X
Fleet 4 Southern California – Dave Viereg
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Blake Kimbrough X
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tim Finkle X
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Daan Goedkoop X
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell X
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff X
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 - 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 – Trevor Roach X
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel X
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Polk Wagner X

Agenda:

1. Class Office Report
2. President's Report
3. 2016 Midwinters Recap + 2017 Midwinters
4. Technical 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 291 members so far in 2016, which is an excellent start and good for the budget. We should get close to 400 total. Chris & Julie have been to as many major winter events as possible including Key West Race Week, one of the DIYC Winter Series weekends and the Midwinters.
2. **President's Report** – Henry said that the Rules are approved and posted as of February 1. Around 50 boats each were at Key West Race Week, the DIYC events and the Midwinters.
Upcoming major events:
2016 J/70 North American Championship, May 19-22 at Lakewood Yacht Club, TX: Al said that 26 boats are registered, and they are hoping for 50+. Charter boats are available. Get signed up and tell your fleet members to do the same! Any questions can be sent to Al: alfredp@bcm.edu.

2016 J/70 World Championship, September 24-October 1 at St. Francis Yacht Club, CA: Justin said that logistics are posted at <https://www.stfyc.com/j70worlds2016>. Any questions can be directed to him at justin@kromelow.com. Storage options will be available...look for more information to be announced soon. They are planning social events to feature local food/wine.

2016 J/70 NorCal Summer Series		
July 22-24	J/70 Pacific Coast Championship	StFYC
August 12-14	Summer Keel	SFYC
Sept 15-18	Rolex Big Boat Series	StFYC
Sept 24 - Oct 2	J/70 Worlds	StFYC

2017 J/70 World Championship, September 12-16, 2017 at Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, Porto Cervo, Italy (10 new boats will be available for charter)

2017 J/70 North American Championship, October 9-15 at American Yacht Club, NY: Ed said that the club is looking forward to continuing the great NAC tradition.

2018 North American Championship, dates TBD, Mexico

2018 J/70 World Championship, September 22-29 at Eastern Yacht Club, MA: Daan said that they are formulating their regatta committee, and they are very excited to host hopefully 80+ boats. Doug Morgan is the chairman, who also chaired a J/105 NAC in recent years. It will be an open event.

Bennett Greenwald's suspension ends in April, and Ned Jones and Craig Tallman have measured/approved both his boats. It's important that we all understand the facts to knowingly answer any questions.

3. **2016 Midwinters Recap + 2017 Midwinters** – Chris said that the Midwinter Championship at St. Petersburg Yacht Club was very successful. Forty-six boats participated, 10 boats were weighed and all were inspected. Racing took place each day, the club did a nice job as host and the social functions were well attended. John Brim added that the Race Committee was excellent, the town is fun and the location is accessible. Although St. Pete YC doesn't have the space for storage during a series, many people would like to return to St. Pete (and they are willing to host again). The Regatta Committee is researching options and will meet to formulate a recommendation on 2017. Al wondered if we should consider locations further west. Joe said that he reached out to Southern Yacht Club, but their schedule is full in 2017. It could be considered for 2018 and beyond. Ideas/proposals for the Regatta Committee should be sent to Joe at usa3757@gmail.com.
4. **Technical Report** – Frank recapped that a team of measurers inspected every boat at the Midwinters, including 10 newly weighed boats. Fleet Captains should encourage everyone to get weighed if not already. Ned from J/Boats brought a number of templates to ensure Rules compliance, and it was a painless experience overall. The only real issue was a set of keel wedges being shimmed, which the owner replaced onsite. The Technical Committee is working on a model set of NORs and SIs, and they are also looking at revised Regatta Management guidelines.
5. **Fleet Reports** –
 - Fleet 25 Polk Wagner: They are still iced over but planning a full season. They hope to do a Great Lakes Series. There are about 8 local boats + 6 who come in for the summer.
 - Fleet 23 Steve Liebel: Bacardi Miami is this week, capping off a great winter. There were a high amount of Florida events, which some wonder if it might be too many...however they are all quite well attended. About 10 boats are in the area.
 - Fleet 22 Trevor Roach: They expect 8-10 boats on the line for weekly racing. Their big event is June 4-5, the Cedar Point One Design Regatta.
 - Fleet 20 Alfred Poindexter: One new boat is in the fleet, bringing the total to 9.
 - Fleet 19 Justin Kromelow: Over two dozen J/70s are on the Bay, but it's always the same folks

showing up. The first half of this season will focus more on coaching to bring more confidence to the fleet. The plan is to have one major event per month, along with the coaching. The second half of the season should see 30+ boats on the line leading up to Big Boat Series and Worlds.

Fleet 16 John Brim: He and Brandon Flack attended the winter events. About 8 boats are in the fleet + the 4 Coast Guard boats (although they are away in the summer).

Fleet 15 Ed Austin: Last season averaged about a dozen boats per regatta; hoping for 20 this year. They plan to host the East Coast Championship during the first weekend of October (overlaps with Worlds...which should be better coordinated). The American YC Spring Series will have a dedication to a Class member who passed away, and identical spinnakers will be used.

Fleet 13 Amy Neill: Four new boats are confirmed with others looking, bringing the regular fleet to about 15. They will be part of the proposed Great Lakes Series. The fleet is seeking to increase regatta participation...stay tuned to see how it goes.

Fleet 12 David Becker: The fleet is transient, so they are considering joining with Fleet 15. Chris asked the fleets to coordinate a new name, fleet captain, etc. and advise the Class Office.

Fleet 11 Scott Deardorff: They are at 8 boats, of which 6 are very active. Looking forward to Fiesta Cup with a late Friday start and several social events. A clinic is being coordinated in April.

Fleet 10 James Mitchell: There are about 5 boats in the fleet, and they are challenged with getting people out for racing. He sees potential for new owners.

Fleet 9 Daan Goedkoop: 17 boats are in the fleet, with maybe another 1 or 2 on the way. The Saturday Series sees about 10 boats on the line. The big events are the Marblehead NOOD and the ONE Regatta.

Fleet 7 Tim Finkle: Holding steady around 7 boats. The big event of 2016 is the Great Lakes Championship in July as part of the CanAm Challenge. They will help with storage, etc.

Fleet 5 Blake Kimbrough: A couple boats have been added, bringing them to 11 with some prospects. They seek a balance of casual Friday night racing (newer folks, juniors, etc.) and a four-event series for J/70 racers. Coaching helps bring the back of the fleet up and increases interest in traveling.

Fleet 3 Joe Colling: The fleet has one new boat, bringing them to 11-12. Cleveland Race Week is a highlight, which he is working on including in the Great Lakes Series.

Fleet 1 Jonathan Pollak: 30 boats are in the area, with some leaving/some coming. About 75 racing days are planned, with the Annapolis NOOD among one of the major events.

All Fleet Captain e-mails/phone numbers are on the US J/70 Class website, so be sure to coordinate.

6. **New Business** – Joe said that when the Class began, there was an influx of professional sailors. Much discussion ensued about the pros/cons of this, and the Class decided to utilize the Corinthian division (I.4). Joe has been tracking the number of Corinthian entries lately, which were at about 20-25% at the winter events. He asked the Fleet Captains to talk with their members to understand what the pulse of the Class is right now regarding this matter. If the members are content as is, no problem. If the members desire a change, we can discuss a possible Rules proposal. John B. said that Corinthian teams often can't take enough time to participate in many events, so the pros keep the events well attended. Joe noted that we want to know both what travelers and non-travelers want from the Class. Chris highlighted that the last survey was split at 50/50 on limiting professional sailors. He also reviewed that the Class Rules include Event Rules I.5 and I.6, which fleets can invoke to limit professionals for a particular local regatta and/or have a Corinthian only local event (not for National, Continental, World events). This discussion is intended to summon conversation among the fleets to gauge the pulse of our members on this topic. The Easter Regatta will be Corinthian-only for the J/70s. Corinthian teams typically prefer to start with the pros to see how they measure up, but many regattas then award both Open and Corinthian trophies. Al said that the Executive Committee and Regatta Committee need to work with the fleets better to avoid event conflicts. As a reminder, Joe said that all Regional Championships must be

reviewed by the Regatta Committee for conflicts.

7. **Next Meeting** – Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

Action Items:

Next Meeting: Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. EDT