

J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/4/19

Start: 7:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 7:55 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell **X**
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
Jim Murrell (President) **X**
Scott Deardorff (Vice President) **X**
Al Poindexter (Secretary) **X**
Steve Liebel (Treasurer)
Polk Wagner (Technical Chair) **X**
Henry Brauer (Past President) **X**
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Mike McNamara **X**
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Chris Murray
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Tod Sackett
Fleet 4 Southern California – Bruce Cooper
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Matt Braun
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tim Finkle
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Kathy Andreasen **X**
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff **X**
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker **X**
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Adam Bowen **X**
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - Brad Gibbs
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Anne Lambert
Fleet 19 San Francisco - Christy Usher
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay – Kelly Gray
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Scott Sellers
Fleet 26 Detroit – Mike Welch
Fleet 27 Lake Champlain - James Unsworth
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Pamela Rose

Agenda:

1. President's Report
2. Class Office Report
3. Technical Report
4. Major Championship Updates
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. **President's Report** – Jim welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2019. He'd like to see our Class focus on mentoring each other.
2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 315 members so far in 2019, including 60 Group 3 members and 11 Associates. You can view 2019 members by fleet at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/officer-and-fleets/>. A push by Fleet Captains at local events is strongly encouraged. The funds coming in from the Group 3 memberships will be focused on Corinthian sailors. The Class just purchased Open and Corinthian perpetual Midwinter

Championship trophies and will also do so for the Corinthian Nationals. Some funds will be allocated to support the Corinthian Nationals. An international database of members via Yacht Scoring is still being sorted out and will be available soon. (Currently, Group 3 members are listed by Fleet on the US website and are checked manually for events.)

Treasurer Steve Liebel had to resign from the board, and Ed Austin from Fleet 15 can take his place. *Jim Murrell made a motion to accept Ed Austin as the replacement Treasurer, seconded by Scott Deardorff. The motion passed unanimously.*

3. **Technical Report** – Polk prepared the following report:

Rules Changes Updates: The changes to CR C.3.1 have been in effect since January 1, and are going well with some expected learning curve. (These Rules require all Group 3 crew to become Class members, and require all crew to be listed in registration and results.) A best practice note: we are **STRONGLY** encouraging all J/70 sailors to obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID, as this makes it much easier to track and cross-reference.

As of February 25, a new version of the J/70 Building Specification came into effect and was posted. Key changes:

-Harken SnubbAir winches can be swapped for the original Harken H8As. Winch handle inserts are optional.

-Winch handles are now optional.

Harken reports about 150 sets sold to date, and 200 in production per month.

Technical Committee Update:

Self-compliance Experiment at J/70 Midwinters. We conducted an experiment using a self-compliance approach (in lieu of inspecting every boat) at the Midwinters. Results were promising but mixed. The compliance effort was strong; but this approach puts pressure on the communications between the OA and the competitors. Chris conducted daily spot checks of equipment and sail royalty tags (Al suggested checking 15-20% of the entrants). We plan to refine and continue this process at the J/70 Corinthian Nationals as well as any other event that wishes. The form will be posted online for everyone's use. Chris shared that the J/24 Class selects finishers (such as second and fourth places) in advance of the day's racing to be inspected.

On-Water Judging. The Technical Committee received feedback regarding various approaches to on-water judging at Class regattas. We will be incorporating some of this feedback into our Regatta Guidelines and our suggested/template NORs and SIs going forward.

New winches. The new winches seem to be popular, and I've heard nothing but positive news. Harken is reportedly about to ship a pad specifically designed for the winch.

Technical Committee 2019 Agenda. Over the next months we will be:

-revising and updating our Regatta Guidelines, and our template/suggested NORs and SIs

-communicating about the new Rules changes to CR C.3.1

-communicating about lifeline tension and hiking Rules

-refining our measurement tools and techniques in the lead-up to the J/70 Worlds in the UK in September

-considering a number of relatively minor Rules changes, mostly for clarification or to bring the class Rules in sync with other racing Rules.

Measurers. The Class plans to have Class measurers at the J/70 Corinthian Nationals in Harbor Springs in August, and in Cleveland for the J/70 North Americans in September. We have three Class scales, and we can send those around and/or bring them to fleets or regattas.

International Technical Committee Membership. The J/70 ICA Technical Committee membership has been revised slightly:

Polk Wagner, Chair
Chris Howell, Class Executive
Egidio Babbi
Alex Finsterbusch
Ned Jones
Dina Kowalyshyn
David McNabb
Frank McNamara
John Outhwaite

US Technical Committee. The US Technical Committee at present consists of myself (chair), Chris Howell (Class Executive), and Frank McNamara. We will be expanding this roster throughout this calendar year, and expect to nominate a new chair to the US Class by the end of the summer for election at the Annual Meeting. I am actively looking for a few good Class members to join the US Technical Committee; please contact polk@polkwagner.com with any suggestions.

Please help us work on the Rules. Any system of Rules is only as good as the effort that the Class members put into thinking, revising and following them. No system of Rules is perfect, and we should always be trying to improve the fairness, compliance and simplicity of the Class Rules. Please be in touch with me or Chris Howell (and preferably both) with your comments, observations and guidance with respect to the J/70 Class Rules system. The J/70 is increasingly regarded as one of the world's top Classes for high quality one-design racing. In my view, a big part of maintaining that success requires a transparent and respected system of Class Rules. And to do that, we need every Class member's help.

4. **Major Championship Updates** – The Midwinters had some issues with communication from the OA to the competitors in regard to the Self-compliance Form and the new Class Rules in regard to Group 3 membership and crew names in Yacht Scoring. While some people flew through registration, others ignored the pre-event communication and took an exorbitant amount of time. The sailing was spectacular for three days/nine races. Stuart Childerly did an excellent job as PRO. The social events were not well attended, and there were 11 of 50 teams sailing Corinthian. Chris and Henry recapped some of the history of how the new Rule changes came to be, and Henry noted positive comments from Group 3 members in Miami.

2019 Corinthian National Championship, August 8-11, Little Traverse YC, Harbor Springs, MI:
Polk said there are 27 boats registered. Expect lots of support from the sailmakers.

2019 World Championship, August 30-September 6, Royal Torbay YC, UK

2019 North American Championship, September 22-29, Edgewater YC, Cleveland, OH

2020 Midwinter Championship: Chris will conduct a member survey before a final decision is made.

2020 Corinthian US National Championship, June 11-14, Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA

2020 North American Championship, September 20-27, Port Credit YC, Toronto

2020 World Championship, July 27-August 3, California Yacht Club, Marina Del Ray, CA: note new dates listed here. Qualifiers are listed at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/event-calendar2/>.

2021 North American Championship, May 13-16, Annapolis YC, MD

2021 World Championship, October 18-23, Yacht Club de Monaco

A request for proposal for was distributed in November for the 2022 North American

Championship and the Corinthian US National Championship in 2021, 2022 and 2023, with a deadline of April 1, 2019.

5. Fleet Reports –

Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay Mike McNamara: the weekend prior to the Annapolis NOOD will be a spring commissioning with pros discussing boat set-up and maintenance, plus boat weighing and free coaching on Saturday, ahead of the AYC Spring Regatta on Sunday.

Fleet 9 Marblehead Kathy Andreasen: their fleet meeting is in April to discuss scheduling and lead-up events to the 2020 Corinthian Nationals.

Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff: the calendar is set with seven series regattas. A clinic is planned with Ullman Sails in April.

Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island David Becker: N/A

Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan Adam Bowen: the Great Lakes Championship will be August 23-25 in Chicago. They hope to have Corinthian teams in Harbor Springs in August too.

Fleet 20 Galveston Bay Al Poindexter: Kelly Gray is the new Fleet Captain. The circuit schedule is set. J/Fest is their Regional Championship in October.

Fleet 25 Harbor Springs Polk Wagner: the U Gotta regatta precedes the Corinthian Nationals and they expect around 30 J/70s for that warm-up. The Fleet races twice a week and will hold a fleet development day in June.

Fleet 4 Southern California Jim Murrell: they had a Winter Series West, with an average of 12 boats. 15-20 J/70s are expected for the San Diego NOOD.

6. New Business – N/A

7. Annual Meeting – Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

Action Items:

--Chris will post the Self-compliance Form online.

--Chris will conduct a member survey before a final decision is made on 2020 Midwinters.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. EDT