

J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/12/14

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 8:05 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell **X**
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder) **X**
Joe Colling (President) **X**
Henry Brauer (Vice President) **X**
Kathy Parks (Secretary) **X**
Bennet Greenwald (Treasurer)
Sean O'Keefe (Technical Chair) **X**
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay - Will Keyworth **X**
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech **X**
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central - Richard Nesbett
Fleet 4 Southern California - Karl Pomeroy **X**
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Noel Clinard **X**
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel
Fleet 7 Niagara - Don Finkle
Fleet 8 Rochester – Ken Smith for Charles Corbishley **X**
Fleet 9 Marblehead - Henry Brauer **X**
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell **X**
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker **X**
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Craig Capilla for
Blane Shea **X**
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - Colin Cashel for John
Brim **X**
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Jan Richmond
Fleet 19 San Francisco Bay – Drew Harper & Ellen
Hoke **X**
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter **X**

Agenda:

1. Class Office report
2. Update on International Class
3. Boat Weighing
4. Accommodation of Disabled Sailors
5. Qualifier system for 2016 Worlds
6. Fleet Activities
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting

Description:

Chris Howell conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above). He asked each participant to identify him/herself plus the fleet when speaking.

1. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the Class has 275 total members so far in 2014. Our budget was based at 310 members. There is likely around 1/3 of the boats in existence that aren't members, so more growth is possible. The Office has been busy keeping up with the winter events, website and the newsletter. Henry asked if J Boats and/or the Class Office provide information on the Class Association and Fleets to new owners. Chris thought that we could draft some language which can be inserted into the dealer manual given to new owners. It would also be helpful for the Class Office to receive contact information of the buyers from the dealers.
2. **Update on International Class** – Chris said that the IJ70CA is really taking off. We are up to about 25 countries with J/70s. The 2015 World Championship will be in La Rochelle, France, after review of four excellent proposals. 2016 Worlds will return to the United States. NCAs are

being formed all over the world. Rule proposals are now vetted through the IJ70CA. Jeff stated that hull 500 finished in January, of which 150 is international. Another 150 are expected this year internationally. Germany has the most J/70s so far. In the USA, the most growth is occurring on the west coast. Mexico is also growing quickly.

3. **Boat Weighing** – Chris recapped that boat weighing has been occurring in groups at Davis Island Yacht Club and Key West Race Week. About 70 weights took place at those venues. All procedures for boat weighing are online. Finished forms are then distributed back to the owners. Other areas have held “weighing parties” such as Seattle, and also Ed Furry has conducted weights. The scale is available by scheduling with the Class Office. All Fleet Measurers and their contact information are available on the Class website. Boats that have been weighed and added correctors do not need to be re-weighed. For boats that undergo a change, Fleet Measurers will re-weigh. Chris provided some advice on the lead increments.
4. **Accommodation of Disabled Sailors** – A question was posed to the Class on accommodating disabled sailors. It’s a process of adding certain language to the Class Rules as well as using a demo boat to determine adaptations, so Jeff will be working with Paul Callahan and others on this project. Sean added that ISAF has extensive wording, which includes an Adaptation Committee, likely to be comprised of local Measurers. Anyone with knowledge or interest should contact Sean at j70decolores@gmail.com. The goal is to make headway on this prior to the NAC. Drew from Fleet 19 volunteered.
5. **Qualifier System for 2016 Worlds** – Chris explained that the current qualifier program for the 2014 Worlds was rushed due to the close timeframe of gaining ISAF status and holding the first Worlds. The goal moving forward is to hold the 2016 Worlds qualifiers in 2015. The regional championships should be included in that process, but adding in more Fleet input. This system will be sorted out throughout 2014. Suggestions to the Class Office are welcome. Jeff added that for the 2015 Worlds, there may be 12-15 charters available for US spots. Anyone who brings his/her own boat can sail. We will discuss this further at our next meeting. Bids for the 2015 Regional Championships will be accepted until September 30, 2014.
6. **Fleet Activities** – Chris had requested Fleet updates in writing, and a few fleets have done so. Reports received by noon Thursday are included with these minutes. Al asked if the Class might provide a form to be filled out, which Chris will do for the future. Fleets 19 and 13 shared their enthusiasm, including ideas such as moving regattas around the area to gain new interest.
7. **New Business** – Will inquired about the kelp cutter and the filler of the slot. He thought it should be an option to buy one of these. Jeff said that it is high on the list, and they are working on prototypes. Noel asked about the mast failure at Bacardi Miami, which is the second occurrence. Jeff explained that the first time was an issue with the mast itself. The Miami problem is still being tested as Southern is looking at the rig tune #s, vang, extreme conditions, etc. Drew from Fleet 19 asked where the current Rules Proposals are available? Chris clarified that there are no “pending rules” but the Builders Specs addresses most questions (which is available on the Class website). The IJ70CA will be forming a Technical Committee and coming up with new Rules Proposals in the future. Noel asked about the 5 crew idea for family and junior sailing. Chris said that this is an example of a Rules Proposal that will soon go through the IJ70CA process. The wording will likely make this an “Event Rule.” Currently, a Rule 87 letter from the Class would be needed to implement this at a local level. Henry asked the Fleet Captains is anyone has launched with a forklift, but no one has. Jeff thought that with proper padding, it shouldn’t be a problem.
8. **Next Meeting** – Monday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

Action Items:

- Jeff, Chris & Julie will draft language to be distributed to new boat owners through the dealers.
- Chris will prepare a Fleet Activities Form.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. EDT