

# J/70 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12/3/14

**Start:** 7:05 p.m. EST

**Adjourn:** 8:10 p.m. EST

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder) X  
Joe Colling (President) X  
Henry Brauer (Vice President) X  
Kathy Parks (Secretary) X  
Sean O'Keefe (Technical Chair)  
Jennifer Wulff X  
Craig Tallman X  
Frank McNamara X  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Ray Wulff X  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech X  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central - Richard Nesbett X  
Fleet 4 Southern California - Karl Pomeroy X  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Noel Clinard X  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel  
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tim Finkle X  
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley X  
Fleet 9 Marblehead - Henry Brauer 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 - Joel Ronning  
Fleet 14 Austin - Bruce McDonald for Matthew Romberg X  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin X  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - John Brim  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt  
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Jan Richmond  
Fleet 19 San Francisco - Drew Harper X  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter X  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point - Bill Walker X

## **Agenda:**

1. Officer and Copyright Holder Updates
2. Class Rules Changes
3. Championship Updates
4. 2015 Budget Proposal and Approval
5. Election of New Officers
6. New Business
7. Tentative 2015 Meeting dates

## **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. Officer and Copyright Holder Updates –**

President Joe Colling: Joe said that we've had athletic growth in the last two years and have accomplished much. There is always more to be addressed, but remember how young we are as a Class. He recalled that the past survey on Midwinters showed a 50/50 split between Key West Race Week versus another venue. Based on the 2015 KWRW registration, he thinks that a change seems to be welcome by the membership.

Executive Director Christopher Howell: Chris reported that the Class had 405 total members representing 260 boats in 2014. He thanked Kathy Parks and Sean O'Keefe, who are coming off of the Board, for their service since the beginning of the Class.

Copyright Holder Jeff Johnstone: Jeff echoed the appreciation to the Board. Everyone's hard work is paying off. He looked back on the successful regattas this year, especially the inaugural World

Championship. He added that the J/70 Class is making huge inroads in South America, and a South American Championship is in discussions. Boats are in Australia, Japan and China too. Europe is still growing in major ways, particularly with the sailing leagues there. A sailing league in the US is also in the works. There is much optimism for the future, including the World Championship in 2016 in San Francisco. Jeff stated that they are shipping hull #700, and the European builder is into the 720s with hull assignments.

- 2. Class Rules Changes** – Chris distributed the results of the fleet votes on the rule change proposals. Proposals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 received enough votes to pass in the USA, while proposals 1 & 7 did not. The IJ70CA World Council Meeting takes place on December 17, and the USA will have 5 votes as well as Henry's vote on the Council. There were no changes to the submitted votes on this call. He was pleased that the fleets met to discuss the proposals, and that the US Class was able to go through the rule change proposal process for the first time. *Henry Brauer made a motion to accept the US votes as presented, seconded by Jeff Johnstone. No discussion ensued, and the motion passed unanimously.* Answers to the open-ended questions will be passed along to the IJ70CA Technical Committee. Regarding the "fairing" question, the opinions were split. Only two fleets were in favor of sail limitations, so it is doubtful that this will be pursued at this time. Exact wording of the proposals has been, and is, available at [http://www.j70ica.org/?page\\_id=271](http://www.j70ica.org/?page_id=271). Following the IJ70CA vote, ISAF will have to provide final approval. The World Council will set an effective date of the new Rules, likely to be around April 1, giving people enough time to prepare. Suzy was hoping that the effective date could be earlier. Any other feedback is welcome, and Henry can pass along these opinions to the World Council. The fleets agreed that sooner is better. Kathy asked about the Rules proposal process, and Chris said that the Technical Committee should prepare a document to explain the flow of each task. Joe hoped that, in the future, the proposals could come out earlier to allow more time for revisions ahead of the 60-day window required by the Constitution. Chris agreed, and did not anticipate that being a problem going forward. Fleets and NCAs can propose a Rule change proposal at any time throughout the year. Ed asked what objections were made that caused votes to go against the crew positioning proposal. Ray stated that many people felt that since the Class is still evolving, they didn't want to place limitations on the crew positions. Henry added that female crew may want to keep flexibility in that area. Scott thinks that the crew limit wording is not clear enough in regard to number of crew per race. His fleet would also like to ask the Technical Committee about the current use of winches. Al suggested that owners discuss these topics on the Forum regularly, rather than waiting until the last minute.

- 3. Championship Updates** –

2015 Midwinters, North Americans, Worlds and its qualifiers: Chris reviewed that the 2015 Midwinters are at Key West Race Week, with 37 entrants as of today. The North Americans will be in San Diego in September. The California fleet captains are in discussions on a race series leading up to the NAC. The goal is to pair the Rolex Big Boat Series with the NAC to expedite some of the measurement processes. An NAC NOR is currently in the works. Drew said that anyone is welcome to contact him with questions/concerns.

The IJ70CA World Council has approved St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco as the 2016 Worlds host. The dates are still being confirmed, but it will be Fall.

Six new charter boats are available for the 2015 World Championship in France. Since the USA did not have qualifiers for 2015, Chris suggested a ranking of the top finishers in our top three events of 2014. We also need to determine qualifiers for the 2016 Worlds. Chris and Jeff suggested the formation of a Regatta Committee to work through all of these details. Jenn Wulff was recommended to chair the committee with other members of the Executive Committee as well as fleet captains. Another topic for them to address is the regional championship rotation, of which Chris distributed a draft rotation via e-mail. The Executive Committee has currently been acting as the Regatta Committee, but this new committee would be more focused and represent a broad

geographical area. *Drew Harper made a motion to allow the formation of a new Regatta Committee, seconded by Henry Brauer. No discussion ensued, and the motion passed unanimously.* Chris continued that the concept behind the draft regional championship rotation allows the venues to rotate over the years, giving each region the power to decide their annual championships. Any feedback on the draft is welcome. The World Council is finalizing a process for Worlds qualifiers going forward, and then we will understand how many berths the USA will have for the 2016 Worlds. Determining USA qualifying regattas is top priority for the Regatta Committee. They will also be addressing the question of where the Midwinters will be from 2016 on. The goal is to have major championships planned a few years out. Rich asked whether people need to be from the region to qualify for that regional championship. Chris thought that we could consider this for the future, but this restriction is not imminent. Again, this is something that the Regatta Committee should consider. Volunteers to the Regatta Committee are encouraged from this group. If you are interested, e-mail [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com).

4. **2015 Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris distributed the 2014 financials and 2015 proposed budget via e-mail. The Class had a good year, especially with advertising and membership. We have almost \$30,000 on hand. The miscellaneous income/expense was the purchase/sale of lead for the boat weighing initiative, which is not an ongoing line item. The IJ70CA fully manages the sail tag royalty program, and the USJ70CA fully manages its membership sales. Ray noted the PayPal fees, and they are researching alternate ideas. He will share any pertinent information with the Class Office. Scott asked why the administrative fees went up? Chris explained that One Design Management was taking a fee of \$1,600/month when the USJ70CA began, which then was dropped when the IJ70CA formed. As the USJ70CA would stabilize, the fee would be returned to the higher amount, which is now reflected. Chris's membership income projection for 2015 may be conservative, largely due to some random international memberships that had been filtering through the USJ70CA while other NCAs were being organized. *Al Poindexter made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Scott Deardorff. No discussion ensued, and the motion passed unanimously.*

5. **Election of New Officers** –

Slate presented by the Nominating Committee: Karl Pomeroy, Rich Stearns, Will Keyworth

President: Henry Brauer - Marblehead, MA

Vice President: Jennifer Wulff - Annapolis, MD

Secretary: Craig Tallman - Torrance, CA

Treasurer: Scott Deardorff - Santa Barbara, CA

Technical Chair: Frank McNamara - Wenham, MA

Past President: Joe Colling - Bath, OH

Copyright Holder: Jeff Johnstone

*No nominations were made from the floor. Bill Walker made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Drew Harper. No discussion ensued, and the slate passed unanimously.*

Chris thanked Karl, Rich and Will. Henry thanked Joe Colling and the past Executive Committee for their work. He looks forward to the working with the new Board.

In the future, it is the role of the Past President to chair the Nominating Committee.

6. **New Business** – Ray requested that fleets provide their regatta dates to Chris Howell for posting on the USJ70CA website.

7. **Tentative 2015 Meeting Dates** –

3/16/15

6/8/15

9/15/15

Annual Meeting – December 2015, date TBD

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

- The IJ70CA Technical Committee will prepare a document to explain the flow of each task in the rule change proposal process.
- The Regatta Committee will be formed and start holding meetings.
- Fleets will provide their regatta dates to Chris Howell for posting on the USJ70CA website.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. ET