

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 9/15/15

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

**Adjourn:** 8:15 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Henry Brauer (President) X  
Jennifer Wulff (Vice President) X  
Craig Tallman (Secretary)  
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer)  
Frank McNamara (Technical Chair) X  
Joe Colling (Past President) X  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Ray Wulff X  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech X  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Joe Colling X  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Dave Viereggs X  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Blake Kimbrough  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel  
Fleet 7 Niagara - Jason Sutor for Tim Finkle X  
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley X  
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Ted Johnson  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell X  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker  
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  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter X  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Trevor Roach & Bill Walker X  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog

## **Agenda:**

1. Class Office Report
2. President's Report
3. Regatta Committee Report
4. Technical Report
5. Fleet Reports
6. New Business
7. Annual 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 384 members so far in 2015 (we had 405 for 2014 total, which included several international members who have now joined their own NCAs.) Click 'View Members' at this link to see who is a current member: <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/officer-and-fleets/>. At the December Annual Meeting, we will review financials/budget. Chris summarized the 2015 Worlds in France. Charterers of new boats thought that the boats were even between the US and French built boats. The on-water conditions/venue were a highlight, although the social functions were lacking. Chris would like the Class to be firmer on the Regatta Guidelines (ex. Race Committee must speak English as the official language of the Class). Measurement went very smoothly. Ray was in La Rochelle and confirmed Chris' report. He requested firmer language on the judge boats' on-water activity.
2. **President's Report** – Henry recapped that it was a busy summer with the 2015 World

Championship in France. The Class is always learning, and an approved PRO list should be enforced for major championships. He continued that the Class distributed a member survey, and results were sent via e-mail. Henry recalled that some of our fleets have noted a plateau in activity. Chris distributed a couple documents via e-mail regarding a US Sailing Champions League. This is a grassroots fleet concept that the Executive Committee will research further and report back with additional details on a proposed path for moving forward to grow our fleets. Ray noted an attempt last year from a German who failed at recreating their sailing league in the US, which was not properly sponsored or organized. Henry thought that his revised team-racing approach in conjunction with J/Boats and US Sailing may be a better fit for our fleets. Furthermore, Henry encouraged Fleet Captains to work with Julie & Chris on fleet reports and newsletter article ideas.

3. **Regatta Committee Report** – Jenn stated that 50 boats are participating in next week's North American Championship in San Diego. SDYC had their Tune-Up Regatta last weekend, and it was a good experience for both the competitors and organizers. The 2016 Midwinter Championship NOR has been released. It will be another busy winter with the DIYC Winter Series, Bacardi Miami, St. Pete NOOD and Key West Race Week (now being run by Storm Trysail in a 5-day format). John Brim said that the schedule is a little heavy in the Tampa Bay area, and we need to make sure that we emphasize quality races versus quantity. The original plan was to have two DIYC events + the St. Pete Midwinters, but the current schedule indicates three DIYC events. Al thought we could expand the winter events into the Southwest going forward. Chris added that there will be a 2016 Midwinters West at California YC next April. Proposals are requested for the 2017 North Americans to be voted on at the December Annual Meeting. Jenn asked Fleet Captains to send their regatta information to the Class Office for posting on the USJ70CA calendar. Al spoke about the 2016 North American Championship: they are meeting monthly, certified PRO (Jim Tichenor) and judges have been confirmed, sponsors are secured, breezy conditions expected with some chop, two pre-regattas being planned, any feedback is welcome! Chris circulated language for Corinthian wording to confirm how the scoring should work. Jenn asked about charters in Houston, which will be discussed offline. Dave spoke to the 2015 NAC: 15 boats attended the Tune-Up Regatta and they did use the used the south bay venue, weather has been humid, volunteers/staff are ready, 18 Corinthian boats signed up, events every night, Bruce Green is the PRO...let's go sailing!
4. **Technical Report** – Chris asked if anyone had questions about the survey? He read the survey summary as distributed previously via e-mail. This year, the Rules proposal language will be pre-approved by ISAF before a vote of the US fleets and the World Council. Henry said that this is a positive move forward but we must balance the US members, World Council and Copyright Holder. Chris continued to say that he and Frank will be using prototype templates at the NAC to conduct measurement. Al thought that the more communication, the better on measurement issues. The most recent newsletter has a Worlds measurement recap. Remember – if the Rules don't say you can...then you cannot.
5. **Fleet Reports** –
  - Fleet 1 Ray Wulff: Fall Brawl is a great event but there is also an Opti event happening at AYC so it will be busy. Ray praised the San Diego NAC communications. Fleet 1 is planning to do the 2016 Annapolis NOOD and then head to Houston for the NAC.
  - Fleet 2 Suzy Leech: They have 10-15 boats but their summer has been quite inactive. Maybe the Sailing League would initiate activity.
  - Fleet 4: They lost a member to power boating, but a new J/70 owner filled that void. The 2016 Midwinters West has been introduced into a series of events. As we get closer to the 2016 Worlds in San Francisco, many SoCal boats will train in the Bay area.
  - Fleet 19, submitted by Justin Kromelow via e-mail:
    - Working with yacht clubs to organize the Bay Area calendar and reduce conflicting regatta

schedules to improve turn-outs. Trying to create a better schedule with one major event every 3-4 weeks.

--Receiving a lot of requests for charter and more information for the 2016 Worlds. Working as part of St Francis Yacht Club Organizing Committee to address as many questions as possible. Maintaining a list of charter requests.

--Working on a promotion to help increase turnout for 2016 events for non-locals. Sail in three San Francisco Bay regattas and get up to three months of free dry storage leading to the Worlds. Work in progress.

--Working with 10th Annual Bay Area Leukemia Cup Regatta on October 18 for a family fun J/70 fleet that would have awards for family teams and teams with children. Trying to expand beyond the usual competitive J/70 racers that dominate local events.

--Organized transportation and logistics support for six local fleet boats to go to NAC next week. Fleet 7 Jason Suitor: The season is winding down, but they had a good turn-out at the Can Am. They will support the Fall Brawl and Southern Circuit.

Fleet 8 Charles Corbishley: The fleet didn't get much racing in due to weather but they are hoping for better conditions.

Fleet 9 Henry Brauer: The fleet sailed a full schedule of Saturday racing with 7-15 boats out. The NE Championship had 22 boats and the ONE Regatta had 10.

Fleet 10 James Mitchell: This very small fleet has been struggling first with droughts and then with flooding. They'll be promoting to new buyers with a dealer demo day focused on juniors.

Fleet 13 Amy Neill: Next weekend, they have a two-day regatta. The Great Lakes Championship had 13 boats. Soon they'll be frost-biting before heading south.

Fleet 15 Ed Austin: The fleet has a good Friday night series, but Sundays are more challenging. The American Yacht Club Fall Series is coming up.

Fleet 16 John Brim: They have 9 boats in 4 yacht clubs + the Coast Guard Academy. Participation occurs on Saturday afternoon racing (4-8 boats), multi-class regattas, distance racing, PHRF and a couple boats in the travel circuit. There is room for growth.

Fleet 20 Alfred Poindexter: addressed above.

Fleet 22 Bill Walker: They are gaining a boat or two every year and looking forward to 40-60 boats at the Cedar Point One Design Regatta next May.

6. **New Business** – Joe asked about boat sales. Henry said that sales are stronger outside of the USA right now, and the used boat sales in the USA are just gearing up. The French builder produces 15 boats per month so demand in Europe is high. The European Championship has 72 boats registered.

7. **Annual Meeting** – Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm EST

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

--Jenn, Chris and Al will talk about charters for the 2016 NAC.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm EST