

J/70 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/4/17

Start: 7:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 7:50 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell **X**
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
Craig Tallman (President)
Kristen Robinson (Vice President)
Jim Murrell (Secretary) **X**
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer) **X**
Polk Wagner (Technical Chair) **X**
Henry Brauer (Past President) (**Proxy yes vote**)
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Jonathan Pollak
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Chris Murray
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Tim Gibbs
Fleet 4 Southern California – Jim Murrell **X**
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 – Daan Goedkoop **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 – Amy Neill **X**
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin **X**
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 - Al Poindexter **X**
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman **X**
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel (**Proxy yes vote**)
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog (**Proxy yes vote**)
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Polk Wagner **X**
Fleet 26 Detroit - Jason Geisz
Fleet 27 Lake Champlain - James Unsworth
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Pamela Rose

Agenda:

1. Election of Officers
2. Office and Copyright Holder Reports
3. 2018 Championship Updates & Future Planning
4. Technical Report
5. 2018 Budget Proposal and Approval
6. New Business
7. Tentative 2018 Meeting dates

Description:

Chris Howell conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above).

1. **Election of Officers** – The Executive Committee has prepared the following slate of Officers:

President: Jim Murrell

Vice President: Scott Deardorff

Treasurer: Steve Liebel

Secretary: Al Poindexter

Technical Chair: Polk Wagner

Henry Brauer remains Past President.

Josh Goldman made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Amy Neill. The slate

passed unanimously.

Jim said he looks forward to serving as President and keeping the Class going strong.

2. **Office and Copyright Holder Reports –**

Jeff Johnstone, Copyright Holder: Jeff was unable to attend the meeting, but stated that about 35 US boats were built in 2017, with 45-50 forecast for 2018. The French builder has been more active, and J/Boats Argentina is up and running (around 1,300 total boats now). The leasing program is forthcoming, and J/Boats is preparing the announcement with Dockline Leasing. It will be available for the next production run of boats starting in February. Look for more information from J/Boats soon.

Chris Howell, Executive Director: Chris reported that the US Class had 368 members in 2017 (we had 408 in 2016). Keep your fleet members honest on the local level! The Class polices major Championships and other large events (ex. Charleston RW, etc.). Keep up with members by fleet at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/officer-and-fleets/>. 2018 invoices will be mailed this week. There are 28 total fleets, including one new fleet: Biscayne Bay. Chris noted that there is no official communication from dealers to the Class upon the sale of new boats. It would also be helpful if owners who sell their boats provided contact information to the Class of the new owners.

3. **2018 Championship Updates & Future Planning –**

- Davis Island Winter Series: sold out at 60 boats
- 2018 Midwinter Championship at Coral Reef Yacht Club, Miami, FL, February 23-25
- 2018 Corinthian National Championship at Fort Worth Boat Club, Fort Worth, TX, April 26-29
- 2018 North American Championship at Club de Vela La Peña A.C., Valle de Bravo, Mexico, May 14-20: The NOR is published and registration open.
- 2018 World Championship at Eastern Yacht Club, Marblehead, Massachusetts, September 22-29: The US Qualifying System for the 2018 J/70 World Championship is posted at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/event-calendar2/>. Chris summarized the qualified owners by state for the 2018 Worlds so far: 7 in CA, 4 in CT, 3 in FL, 2 in IL, 2 in MA, 3 in MD, 3 in NY, 4 in OH, 1 in PA, 4 in TX, 2 in VA, 1 in WA. There are 11 remaining berths, and there is no expectation that there will be unused berths. Teams must register by 100 days before the Worlds begins. If a qualified person cannot attend, the berth drops down within that event. Chris reviewed that the USJCA Executive Committee met in regard to the three events that did not meet the qualification criteria of quantity of boats. The Committee felt the intent of the “15 boats to be considered a qualifier” language was clear in that the boats were racing (not just registered). The EC decided that in all three cases (East Coast Championship, Southwest Championship and Northwest Championship), they should award the Corinthian berths because there are very few convenient opportunities left for Corinthians to qualify. The open berths were passed along to other events this winter. The Class will fine-tune the qualification process moving forward, having learned from this year.

Ten new boats will be available for 2018 Worlds charter, in addition to private/used charters. Ted Johnson is the charter contact, and they will have a web exchange to connect parties together as well as to sort through insurance with Gowrie. As several locals are not qualified, charter boats should not be a problem. Daan said that the committee is hard at work to make this a great regatta! The fleet encourages all to attend the Marblehead NOOD and Ted Hood Regatta to practice in summer 2018. There are 18 local boats so expect a nice turnout with the added Worlds teams arriving.

- 2019 Corinthian National Championship at Little Traverse Yacht Club in Harbor Springs, MI, August 8-11: Rochester YC was selected to host however they are unable to do so. The Executive Committee voted to hold the event in Harbor Springs.

- 2019 World Championship at Royal Torquay Yacht Club, United Kingdom, August 30-September 6

- 2019 North American Championship at Edgewater Yacht Club in Cleveland, OH from

September 22-29

Scott added that the International Womens Keelboat Championship will be in Santa Barbara, CA in J/70s in August 2018.

Chris said that a Request for Proposal is active for the 2020 World Championship in North America with a deadline of 12/15/17. The IJ70CA will vote on this matter.

4. **Technical Report** – Polk summarized activities of the Technical Committee:

Rules Changes Updates

a. 2018 J/70 Class Rules changes are pending at World Sailing, with approval expected in early 2018. These are posted on J/70 class website (in the rules section).

Tech chair's remarks: I would characterize most of these proposed changes as non-substantive changes intended (1) to synchronize the Class Rules with the 2017-2020 RRS, (2) to clarify the original intent of the Class Rules, or (3) to codify certainly existing practices in the Class. Note that there is a slightly more substantive change to the regulations regarding the construction of the jib (CR G.4.2), specifically relating to the geometry and reinforcement of the jib clew. This change was written to respond to some issues observed at major Championships and was written in consultation with the sailmakers. I don't expect this will change the vast majority of design or construction of J/70 Class-legal jibs.

b. We have a series of changes to the J/70 Builder's Specification pending and in discussion with J/Boats. We expect final approval and publication of these effective early in the new year.

Tech chair's remarks: As with the Class Rules changes, the bulk of these are intended to codify the current practices of the Licensed Manufacturers. One possibly important aspect of this new Builder's Spec will be explicit approval to use gudgeons, straps and pins from any Licensed Manufacturer. (There has been some failure to date of the US version of this hardware.)

Chris added that there will be an allowance of a single purchase line from the cleat to a hole in the main halyard to be run back down to the cleat. This is a safety measure...look for details soon.

c. I would expect that at some point this winter we may have an iteration of the official J/70 Class Rules FAQ, which will be announced and posted on the Class website.

Technical Committee Update

Measurers. The Class plans to have Class measurers at the Midwinters in Miami, the Corinthian US Nationals in April in Fort Worth, the North Americans in Mexico in May, and the Worlds in Marblehead in September. We have three Class scales, we can send those around and/or bring them to fleets or regattas.

Manufacturer's Declaration. We're continuing our effort to get all the boats weighed and issued a current Manufacturer's Declaration. There's a web form you can use to get the process started, linked from the "Rules" tab of the website. In general, Class members should contact Class Executive Chris Howell to get a copy of their Manufacturer's Declaration.

Closed Class Rules. We continue to address issues that arise under the Class Rules, in particular related to the status of the J/70 as a manufacturer's Class with a closed Rule system. As these items arise, the Technical Committee will try to address them as quickly and thoroughly as possible. I would particularly commend members to review the excellent report Chris Howell put together on the keel issue that arose at the 2017 Worlds in Italy. This is linked from the Rules page on the website.

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 Polk 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."

Chris explained that the Italian J/70 Class Association thoroughly researched and interviewed all of their boats that were found in violation at the 2017 Worlds inspections in Italy. The Class recommended a tiered punishment based on each case, ranging from a warning letter to one with a lifetime suspension. The IJ70CA affirmed the decisions of the Italian Class. Each party has the right to a hearing, per the IJ70CA Constitution, which will take place on January 10 for those who chose not to accept the suspension, including the Russian boat. After the hearings, the Class Office will publish the final outcomes. Polk noted that there is a "Class Rules" page direct link to the International site from the US site to help people find pertinent news without duplication. Chris added that both the US and International websites will be revamped in 2018.

5. **2018 Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the current Profit & Loss + proposed budget for 2018. *Al Poindexter made a motion to accept the P&L and budget as presented, seconded by Jim Murrell. The motion passed unanimously.*
6. **New Business** – Jim will reach out to folks individually to talk about 2018.
7. **Tentative 2017 Meeting Dates** – 3/12/18, 6/4/18, 9/4/18, 12/3/18

Julie Howell

Action Items:

- Chris and Julie will send 2018 membership invoices.
- After the 2017 Worlds hearings in January, the Class Office will publish the final outcomes.
- Jim will reach out to Fleet Captains individually to talk about 2018.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. ET