

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 6/2/2020

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

**Adjourn:** 7:55 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell **X**  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Scott Deardorff (President) **X**  
Ed Austin (Vice President) **X**  
Al Poindexter (Secretary) **X**  
Brian Keane (Treasurer) **X**  
John Heaton (Technical Chair)  
Jim Murrell (Past President) **X**  
Fleet 1 Annapolis – Mike McNamara **X**  
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Sean Hendrickson **X**  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Tod Sackett **X**  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Bruce Cooper **X**  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay – Clark Dennison  
Fleet 7 Eastern Great Lakes - Tim Finkle  
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  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Steve Knoop  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin **X**  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island/Newport - Brad Gibbs **X**  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt  
Fleet 18 Sag Harbor – Sean Elliott  
Fleet 19 San Francisco – Christy Usher **X**  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay – Kelly Gray  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman **X**  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ – Jack Lord **X**  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs – Scott Sellers  
Fleet 26 Detroit – Don Glover  
Fleet 27 Lake Champlain - Vivien Allan **X**  
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Pamela Rose **X**

## **Agenda:**

1. President's Report
2. Class Office Report
3. Technical Report
4. COVID Preparedness
5. Championship Updates
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** – Scott welcomed all and appreciates the turnout during this strange year. We have challenges ahead, but let's look forward to Fleet ideas.
2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 299 members so far in 2020, including 77 Group 3 members, 13 Helmspersons and 11 Associates. We don't anticipate many more members, so the annual budget is likely to show a slight loss. We do have airline credits, and solid cash reserves.
3. **Technical Report** – John Heaton was unable to attend the call. Polk Wager, International Technical Chair, shared earlier that the technical side is quiet on new ideas due to the pandemic.

Chris reminded everyone of the Class Event Rules including the option for one-pro regattas and one-pro divisions. With event cancellations, this hasn't been tested much, but hopefully will be soon locally.

4. **COVID Preparedness** – World Sailing Introduces Measures to Deal with the Effects of COVID-19: <https://www.sailing.org/news/89951.php#.XrwRNMApCUm>  
Guidance for Event Organizers for the Protection of the Health of Sailing Communities: [https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/CoronavirusCOVID19WSGuidanceforEventOrganizers20200325NNMD.ver4.0-\[26253\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/CoronavirusCOVID19WSGuidanceforEventOrganizers20200325NNMD.ver4.0-[26253].pdf)  
This is the waiver from the US Sailing website that you could customize: [https://cdn.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Organizational-Liability-and-Release-Waiver-template.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0FVJgaE0Yvg1gOLpiPscOw2sJeVstFAu6l5rNseY44QWkr78\\_0IOkXFmw](https://cdn.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Organizational-Liability-and-Release-Waiver-template.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0FVJgaE0Yvg1gOLpiPscOw2sJeVstFAu6l5rNseY44QWkr78_0IOkXFmw)
5. **Championship Updates** – Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the 2020 Corinthian US National Championship, World Championship and North American Championship have all been postponed.
  - 2021 Midwinter Championship at DIYC Winter Series #3 at Davis Island YC, Tampa, FL, February 18-21
  - 2021 North American Championship, May 13-16, Annapolis YC, MD
  - 2021 World Championship at California YC, Marina del Ray, CA, August 7-15
  - 2021 Corinthian US National Championship at Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA, September 16-19
  - 2022 Corinthian US National Championship, Cedar Point YC, Westport, CT, exact dates to be announced
  - 2022 North American Championship, Port Credit YC, Toronto, ON Canada, exact dates to be announced
  - 2022 World Championship, Yacht Club de Monaco, exact dates to be announced
  - 2023 Corinthian US National Championship, Bayview YC, Detroit, MI, exact dates to be announced
  - 2023 World Championship, Newport, RI, exact dates to be announced
  - 2023 North American Championship, St. Pete YC, St. Petersburg, FL, October 30-November 5

Jack Lord and Chris Howell will work offline on rescheduling the 2020 East Coast Championship in Cape May, NJ.

6. **New Business** –
  - Fleet 1 Annapolis Mike McNamara:* This week starts Thursday night racing with J/World. AYC racing will be every other week. Eight-10 boats are expected. The Fleet has produced J/70 neck gaiters as face masks with local dues.
  - Fleet 2 Wayzata Sean Hendrickson:* 10 boats make up the Fleet. The state has moved to “safer at home,” but only those within the household are allowed on a boat unless socially distanced. Lake permits are challenging, so they will focus first on training. Sean still sees new boat interest.
  - Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Tod Sackett:* The area is still in a holding pattern since the primary club is part of a state park. Cleveland Race Week was cancelled. They are hoping to race locally by late June, in addition to a Race Q series. See <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n4F3AjFtPFMQVJKssmQV8fnYfAk4jqR-xL4Vxa5kj1w/edit>
  - Fleet 4 Southern California Bruce Cooper:* The Fleet is quite spread out geographically so there are a variety of restrictions to deal with. The San Diego NOOD, Yachting Cup and Cal Race Week are rescheduled to late summer/fall.
  - Fleet 9 Marblehead Kathy Andreasen:* The Marblehead NOOD is still on track for July 22-26,

although we're not sure what it will look like yet. Not many boats are in the water, although the Fleet is enthusiastic overall. Fleet dues are suspended in 2020.

*Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff:* The Fleet raced in March before the shutdown, but now racing is only virtual to keep folks connected. This weekend will be a "rally" format race on a 15-mile fixed-mark course. People record their own start/finish data, with staggered starts. J/70s are limited to three people. The Fiesta Cup is next on the list, which will hopefully lead to more.

*Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Ed Austin:* The Friday night series at American YC is slated to start in mid-June. Larchmont Race Week and the YRA Championship are still scheduled.

*Fleet 16 Fishers Island/Newport Brad Gibbs:* Boatmates must be housemates, but there is hope this will loosen.

*Fleet 19 San Francisco Christy Usher:* They are focusing on Big Boat Series in the hopes it will happen September 17-20. A J/70 start is planned. Entry fees are fully refundable.

*Fleet 22 Cedar Point Josh Goldman:* Restrictions are starting to be lifted, so racing will start next week with cruising (maximum five crew) and one-design. Race Committee is limited.

*Fleet 24 Cape May NJ Jack Lord:* They have conducted a monthly survey, and about 75% are anxious to get on the water as quickly as possible (guidelines to be upheld.) Offshore races will start June 20, with household members recommended.

*Fleet 27 Lake Champlain Vivien Allan:* They are in a holding pattern as sailboat racing is deemed an "organized sport" and therefore waiting on Governor's orders. The Fleet has been in contact about options such as double-handed racing. There has been turnover with more of a local focus, including a couple boats on moorings with bottom paint. Vivien is inquiring with the yacht club about pursuit racing options, as it staggers starting. There is a new marina in downtown Burlington with seasonal and transient slips, which would be great for a J/70 event.

*Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay Pamela Rose:* Five+ J/70s will be racing this weekend, including several pro sailors who have been out of work. She encouraged people to become sailing activists to help our officials understand the sport. Hopefully this winter will be better.

Brian said he's received concern that, given the COVID environment, owners who were already struggling to keep up are struggling further. Chris said that the professional sailor discussion has been considered at the international level. He hopes OAs can enact the one-pro regatta and/or division Event Rules to be tested so the Class has better guidance moving forward. The IJ70CA is hesitant to make a major Rules proposal during a pandemic.

Scott asked Fleets to share their unique event details. Chris offered that we could designate those Fleet Captains who desire to be an editor of the USA J/70 Facebook page. Let us know at [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com). Also, calendar information is ALWAYS encouraged.

Bruce reminded everyone to support their local sailmakers 😊

7. **Next Meeting** – Monday, August 31 at 7:00 EDT

**Action Items:**

--Jack Lord and Chris Howell will work offline on rescheduling the 2020 East Coast Championship in Cape May, NJ.

--Fleet Captains will advise calendar/event details and anyone who want to be USA Facebook editors.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, August 31 at 7:00 EDT