

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 8/31/2020

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

**Adjourn:** 7:45 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell **X**  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Scott Deardorff (President)  
Ed Austin (Vice President) **X**  
Al Poindexter (Secretary) **X**  
Brian Keane (Treasurer) **X**  
John Heaton (Technical Chair) **X**  
Jim Murrell (Past President)  
Fleet 1 Annapolis – Mike McNamara **X**  
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Sean Hendrickson **X**  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Ted Pinkerton **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  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Steve Knoop **X**  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin **X**  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island/Newport - Brad Gibbs  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt  
Fleet 18 Sag Harbor – Sean Elliott  
Fleet 19 San Francisco – Christy Usher  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay – Al Poindexter for Kelly Gray **X**  
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  
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Ryan McKillen **X**

## **Agenda:**

1. President's Report
2. Class Office Report
3. Technical Report/Survey
4. Championship Updates
5. New Business
6. Annual Meeting

## **Description:**

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

1. **President's Report** – Scott was unable to join the meeting.
2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 314 members so far in 2020, including 78 Group 3 members, 15 Helmspersons and 9 Associates. These numbers are down from 2019, but to be expected during the lack of racing during the pandemic. Chris projects a \$2,500 loss for the fiscal year, however we have about \$2,000 in airline credits, so overall we will be about even.
3. **Technical Report/Survey** – John recently travelled to a couple events including the Annapolis NOOD this past weekend. Annapolis had excellent communication without social activities and

followed COVID protocols. He felt safe flying. Going forward, he'd like to see a virtual community debrief, including with professional sailors, following racing. Although things won't be the same, there is a way to keep sailing.

The International J/70 Class Association conducted a survey of its owner members between July 31 and August 12, 2020. There were 301 owners who completed the survey: 60 percent of the respondents were from North America, 23 percent from Europe, 15 percent from South America and another two percent from Australia and Asia. This was the first step in an overall review of some of the topics that have been brought to the attention of the International Executive Committee (EC) by various member National Class Associations (NCAs). The results of the survey indicated about half the respondents favored Rule changes, and about half did not. Although not an overwhelming result, in a typical year such support for Class Rule changes might well prompt an NCA to propose draft language for review and decision by the World Council (as of today, the USA would have 4 votes) at the Annual General Meeting. However, for multiple reasons, including the global pandemic, the EC will not ask the International Technical Committee to draft any Class Rule change proposals this year. The Executive Committee believes that the results of this survey suggest that more input is needed on the topics addressed. The EC would like these matters to be discussed by each NCA to better determine the preferences of the membership. One goal is to further educate the membership on the existing Event Rules (Class Rules Part III, Section I) to see if they can be used more frequently. It would also be useful to give the membership additional opportunities to experiment with the newest Class Rule, CR I.5 (One-Pro Division), that has not really been implemented given the postponed regatta schedule in 2020. The following charts show the results of the primary questions asked in the survey: <https://secureservercdn.net/198.12.145.239/e3k.d5c.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/J70-Survey-Summary-Final.pdf>. A more detailed report and breakdown of the comments were in the International Class Newsletter distributed today.

Bruce said he was surprised by the 50/50 split of the respondents. Thanks for sending the survey. Sean agreed, and asked about any equipment changes coming from the open-ended questions. Chris summarized that winches continued to be brought up, as well as keel depth and availability of masts. The Technical Committee is always monitoring these ongoing topics with the Copyright Holder. Ted thought that sail purchase limits should be front and center long term for the Class as our dollars spent to be competitive are tightening. The survey reflected that North America primarily voted against this idea, with other continents more in favor. Chris recapped a recent Rule change regarding the jib foot round, which curbed the jib arms race somewhat. Sail purchases this year have been in the basement. We will need a "real" year of sail buying to see where this idea goes. Bruce spoke to the J/105 "3-2-3" sail purchase limit, and sees people feeling they should buy the maximum sails, and they also buy "practice" sails that don't get tagged. Sometimes, people buy an additional boat to increase sail purchase options.

Chris clarified that if/when any of these proposals are put forward to a vote (per the Constitution), Fleet Captains will be asked to advise the USJ70CA President on how to vote at the World Council.

#### 4. **Championship Updates** –

--2021 Midwinter Championship at DIYC Winter Series #3 at Davis Island YC, Tampa, FL, February 18-21: the Series has been extended to a fourth event in March, the maximum boats will be expanded for the Midwinters.

--2021 North American Championship, May 12-16, Annapolis YC, MD

--2021 World Championship at California YC, Marina del Rey, CA, August 7-15: The revised NOR is in the works, and registration will be finalized around the new year; expect petition opportunities.

--2021 Corinthian US National Championship at Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA, September 16-19:  
Kathy said to expect nice breeze.

--2022 Corinthian US National Championship, Cedar Point YC, Westport, CT, September 14-17

--2022 North American Championship, Port Credit YC, Toronto, ON Canada, September 18-24

--2022 World Championship, Yacht Club de Monaco, exact dates to be announced

--2023 Corinthian US National Championship, Bayview YC, Detroit, MI, June 9-11

--2023 World Championship, Newport, RI, exact dates to be announced

--2023 North American Championship, St. Pete YC, St. Petersburg, FL, October 30-November 5

5. **New Business** – Steve commended John Heaton for the restart of Chicago racing. They recently held a successful Verve Cup with 13 boats. John sponsored a clinic with Jud Smith and others. On September 12, they have extended what was a smaller regatta to an expanded event with coaching. Sean echoed that Fleet 2 requires professional debriefs, which has increased by three boats even during COVID. Bruce added that they have boats receiving up to four days of coaching. Fleet 4 had 11 boats at their first event, and they are doing another in September with more boats. Kathy reported that Fleet 9 has only had a couple J/70s out, but she expects improvement soon. The Marblehead NOOD was cancelled, and the Ted Hood Regatta did not have enough J/70s for a start. Ed said the same is mostly true on Long Island Sound. They hope to have the HPR regatta in October, but many boats never took the covers off in 2020. Al stated that Galveston Bay has J/Fest October 9-11, followed by events in November. Josh said there is no fleet racing in Fleet 22. Jack shared some good news of 6-7 boats on the line since early June in Cape May, but no social events of course. He looks forward to hosting the East Coast Championship in 2021. Bruce reminded us that the San Diego NOOD has again been rescheduled to September 26-27, followed by the Yachting Club October 10-11.

6. **Annual Meeting** – Monday, November 30 @ 7:00 p.m. EST

**Action Items:**

**Next Meeting:** Annual Meeting on Monday, November 30 @ 7:00 p.m. EST via Microsoft Teams.