

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 8/23/2021

**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)  
Brian Keane (Treasurer) **X**  
John Heaton (Technical Chair) **X**  
Jim Murrell (Past President)  
Fleet 1 Annapolis – Marty McKenna **X**  
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Sean Hendrickson **X**  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Ted Pinkerton  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Bruce Cooper **X**  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay – Clark Dennison  
Fleet 7 Eastern Great Lakes - Tim Finkle  
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Cindy Smith **X**  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell **X**  
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  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt  
Fleet 18 Sag Harbor – Jim Vos  
Fleet 19 San Francisco – Robert Milligan **X**  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay – Kelly Gray  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman  
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 **X**  
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Ryan McKillen

## **Agenda:**

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

## **Description:**

1. **President's Report** – Scott assisted with inspections at the Worlds, and the Officers who attended in LA met for a debrief last week. The racing was very exciting, and an overall success.
2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 341 members so far in 2021, including 87 Group 3 members, 18 Helmspersons and 12 Associates (last year at our August meeting, we were at 314 total). Memberships continue to trickle in.
3. **Technical Report** – John participated in the Worlds, and commended the inspection process.

ITC Chair Polk Wagner prepared recommendations as follows:

- FAQ Addition / Rule Change: Can boats fill their kelp cutter slot? If so, how much? Is there a limit to how high/low the blade must sit (thus determining how much slot can be filled)? In the short term this can be a FAQ entry, but will ultimately require new Rule language.

- FAQ Addition: The non-enforcement of the upper limit mark (white band at top of spar) needs to be put in the FAQ.
- FAQ Addition: That backup spinnakers, once declared and measured-in, need to be carried aboard.
- FAQ Addition: That boats are required to have a copy (electronic copies are okay) of their current Manufacturer's Declaration with the boat at each event.
- FAQ Addition: any repair or replacement of the keel or rudder needs notice to/approval of the tech committee.

John advised people to keep an eye on their keel wedges, as they can become deteriorated. Many boats are almost 10 years old, and sun seems to be the largest factor here.

We had one keel trailing edge that was substantially noncompliant -- it was beveled but the bevel was too long. It was fixed overnight and made compliant.

Rudders are an increasing area of concern, along a few dimensions:

- (a) the location and depth of the rudder varies somewhat, and some boats seem to have adjusted their rudder depth.
- (b) we had at least three rudders where the chord length was substantially (about 5mm or so) longer than what our templates allowed
- (c) the bottom areas of the rudders seemed substantially different in some cases (flatter bottoms, less bevel on the trailing edge tip)

Chris noted that some of the Worlds compliance concerns came from California boats that may not have been looked at in many years.

Expect some maintenance Rules proposals this cycle. It's common for boats much older than the J/70 to clarify their Rules nearly every year. Scott added that boats are starting to show their age, so we need clear guidelines to help owners with compliance and with access to parts. J/Boats is included on Technical Committee communications. Chris explained that there is a pending spreader bracket fix for Southern masts via Moore Brothers. Options for the traditional spreader bracket will also be available.

4. **Worlds Recap** – The Organizing Authority was top notch as far as venue, hospitality, volunteers, Race Committee and Jury. Eight races were completed. Brian commended Mark Foster for getting in races in challenging conditions. Unfortunately, COVID limited international participation. John echoed the praise for the OA and the club members who moved their boats so all J/70s had room in the harbor. Bruce recalled that the Fleet stepped up over several years to make this event happen, as well as lead-up racing. Although charter boats were available, it's always better to have even more. Chris thanked US Sailing for issuing letters of exemption for international teams to enter the country for this Championship. Several people followed the event online via several social media channels, including Sail22, CalYC, etc.
5. **Championship Updates** –
  - 2021 Corinthian US National Championship at Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA, September 16-19: 28 boats are registered, and more are welcome. Gary Jobson will be there Friday, among other social gatherings.
  - 2021 Postponed Midwinter Championship at Davis Island YC, December 3-5: September 1 will open the dry storage, and all event registrations are live on Yacht Scoring
  - 2022 Midwinter Championship at Davis Island YC, February 4-6
  - 2022 Corinthian US National Championship, Cedar Point YC, Westport, CT, September 14-17: this event may be moved forward

- 2022 North American Championship, Port Credit YC, Toronto, ON Canada, September 18-24
- 2022 World Championship, Yacht Club de Monaco, October 21-29: will be limited to 90 boats
- 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

Chris & Julie leave tomorrow for the European Championship in Denmark. About 100 boats are expected!

**6. New Business –**

Fleet 1 Annapolis Marty McKenna: The upcoming Fall Brawl will be at Eastport.

Fleet 2 Wayzata Sean Hendrickson: Upper Midwest J/Fest is in October. 15 boats race locally with three more on the way. Owners are meeting.

Fleet 4 Southern California Bruce Cooper: They are working to fill the void following Worlds activities. There are about three more regattas planned in 2021, and they hope to hold a winter series.

Fleet 9 Marblehead Cindy Smith: The New England Championship had 17 boats. They are gearing up for the Corinthian Nationals.

Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff: They will get back to Wednesday night racing and travelling again following all the recent Worlds activity.

Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan John Heaton: Participation hasn't been great this year, but they have the Verve Cup this weekend and hoping to inject some excitement (plus coaching).

Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Ed Austin: It was tough getting boats out this year. There are some Fall events coming up at American YC.

Fleet 19 San Francisco Robert Milligan: With many people preparing for Worlds, the fleet racing was somewhat light. There are four new boats looking to become active, and 10 boats coming up at Rolex Big Boat Series.

Fleet 24 Cape May NJ Jack Lord: The East Coast Championship is this weekend with 15 boats registered. Eight local boats are actively racing, with a couple more expected.

Cindy asked about the implementation of the one-pro division, as the NOOD organizers were not aware of this option. Chris stated that it does take time for these Event Rules to take off. It was great that we got 26 Corinthians at the Worlds and a growing group of one-pros. As the Class continues to grow, the Worlds will be spread out beyond North America and Europe, so perhaps there will be room for more Corinthian and one-pro events in the future. The NAC also had a one-pro division. Unfortunately, World Sailing's website is not currently functioning to update Classifications, so it is all being done manually on their end.

**7. Annual Meeting – Monday, November 29 @ 7:00 p.m. EST (in advance of the IJ70CA Annual Meeting)**

**Action Items:**

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 29 @ 7:00 p.m. EST**