

US J/70 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/29/2021

Start: 7:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 7:50 p.m. EST

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 – Marty McKenna **X**
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Sean Hendrickson
Fleet 3 Lake Erie – Ted Pinkerton
Fleet 4 Southern California – Bruce Cooper
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay – Clark Dennison
Fleet 7 Eastern Great Lakes - Tim Finkle
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Cindy Smith
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 **X**
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg
Fleet 15 W Long Island Sound - Jean-Marc Papin **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
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
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs – Scott Sellers
Fleet 26 Detroit – Don Glover **X**
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Ryan McKillen
Geoff Becker (incoming Technical Chair) **X**

Agenda:

1. Office & Copyright Holder Reports
2. Technical Report
3. Budget Proposal and Approval
4. Election of Officers
5. Championship Updates
6. New Business
7. 2022 Meeting Dates

Description:

1. **Office & Copyright Holder Reports** – Chris reported that the US Class has 364 members in 2021 (317 in 2020), including 86 Group 3 members, 22 Helmspersons and 18 Associates. Jeff Johnstone reported via email that J/70 builds will be up to 1,690 this year. He expects the US builder do a run again in fall or winter 2022. We have two solutions for spreaders on Southern masts (traditional bracket or a thru-bar).
2. **Technical Report** – Rules proposals have been posted at <https://j70ica.org/class-office-rules/>. These will be voted on by the IJ70CA next week. Chris noted that there are no changes to the way the boat is sailed, and is primarily for clarification purposes.

Scott suggested that the IJ70CA distribute a member survey to gauge interest on current topics. This will guide the Technical Committee for next year's Rules cycle.

- Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2021 and Budget 2022. There were no surprises this year. He added some 2022 funds for regatta support. Chris expects to be mostly flat on membership going into next year, or perhaps adding a few. Membership compliance is best emphasized at the local level. If the US Class had more money, Chris would prefer it to be spent on event media (and the goal is the same on the international side). This expense is often swept aside by Organizing Authorities, and sponsorship is harder to come by. Al agreed that more promotion, especially with Corinthians, will grow the Class. A dues increase will be considered for 2023.

Brian Keane made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Scott Deardorff. The motion passed unanimously

- Election of Officers** – The following slate was presented for election:

President: Ed Austin

Vice President: Al Poindexter

Secretary: John Heaton

Treasurer: Brian Keane

Technical Chair: Geoff Becker

Jim Murrell made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Steve Knoop. The motion passed unanimously.

Thank you Jim & Scott!

- Championship Updates** –

--2021 Postponed Midwinter Championship at Davis Island YC, December 3-5: 60 boats are expected

--2022 Midwinter Championship at Davis Island YC, February 4-6

--2022 Corinthian US National Championship, Cedar Point YC, Westport, CT: the event was originally scheduled in September, which was too tight with the North Americans, so the hope was to move it to May. This schedule is also conflicting for Cedar Point, so a new host is being sought. Most likely, it will be added to an existing regatta. Steve noted that Chicago could possibly be able to host.

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

--2022 World Championship, Yacht Club de Monaco, October 21-29: this follows the European Championship in Hyeres France in September

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

--2023 World Championship, Newport, RI, dates likely to be in late September

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

Should we also consider adding an open National Championship in the future?

Brian noted that shipping of boats is getting more difficult lately, so charter boats are increasingly valuable. Unfortunately, communication with Monaco for 2022 Worlds has been a challenge, partially due to the pandemic. The format and NOR are still being finalized, and we are already late in this process. The qualifying document is drafted but pending approval by the OA. Petition spots are expected. The IJ70CA Officers are meeting tomorrow so hopefully we can make forward progress.

Scott suggested that we add a Worlds berth for women and also provide more female recognition at our events. We do have a perpetual trophy for the top female skipper at the Worlds, but the US Class could certainly come up with additional trophies for national or continental events. Chris

noted that the Class will be starting some Mixed + divisions in 2022, starting with the St. Pete NOOD in February.

6. **New Business** –

Steve Knoop from Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan stated that they have 16 boats strongly participating at larger events but the weekly participation struggles, particularly with Corinthians. Scott shared that Santa Barbara has done “clinic-gattas” with unlimited coaching from Dave Ullman, which is very popular. They also will host a women’s regatta in conjunction with Fiesta Cup to boost enthusiasm.

Chris relayed the sad news that Lindsay Smith, daughter of Jud Smith of Doyle Sails in Marblehead, MA, was shot outside the loft. She is in the hospital recovering, but it will be a long road ahead. Brian explained that there are mermaid stickers on sale via Facebook that can be placed on sails/boats as a show of support. Ed added that a supportive video was shared on Facebook from a recent M32 event (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaThPH2NjAo>), so maybe we can do something similar at a DIYC event.

As our new President, Ed said that he’s open to any suggestions...contact him anytime.

7. **2022 Meeting Dates** – 3/14/22, 6/13/22, 8/23/22, 11/28/22 (AGM)

Action Items:

--The Class Office will send 2022 membership renewal invoices.

Next Meeting: 3/14/22