

# US J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 8/26/2024

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

**Adjourn:** 8:00 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell **X**  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Al Poindexter (President) **X**  
Brian Keane (Vice President)  
John Heaton (Secretary) **X**  
Cate Muller-Terhune (Treasurer) **X**  
Dina Kowalyshyn (Technical Chair)  
Ed Austin (Past President)  
Fleet 1 Annapolis – Paul Green **X**  
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Sean Hendrickson **X**  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Ted Pinkerton **X**  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Bruce Cooper  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay – Clark Dennison  
Fleet 6 Cohasset MA – Charlie Henry  
Fleet 7 Eastern Great Lakes - Tim Finkle  
Fleet 8 Solomons Island - Larry Ray **X**  
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Patrick Andreasen  
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 – Will Howard  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Jean-Marc Papin **X**  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island/Newport - Brad Gibbs  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Ron Rosenberg **X**  
Fleet 18 Sag Harbor – Jim Vos  
Fleet 19 San Francisco – David Fried  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay – Kelly Gray  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Crawford Phillips  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Knoop  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ – Jack Lord **X**  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs – Sean O’Brien **X**  
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. Championship Updates
5. Fleet Roundtable
6. New Business
7. Annual Meeting

## **Description:**

1. **President’s Report** – Al noted the write-ups and calendar on the US Class website. He wanted to emphasize how important it is to have strong hosts in offering an opportunity for participation, keeping the value of our boats and having diverse events and locations. You may have some doubts about your area’s hosting ability, such as whether your club is too small. We could have a separate virtual meeting for those wanting to know more information. Larry said that his club might be interested in a Mixed Plus event, based on a high level of interest locally in this format type. The Class Office will share the Request for Proposal for consideration of this group.

2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 282 members so far in 2024, including 61 Group 3 and 6 Associate (2023 total was 335). Remember to confirm membership at your local/regional regattas.
3. **Technical Report** – Rules Proposals for the current cycle are posted at [J70\\_CRC\\_2025-01-DRAFT-28724.pdf \(j70ica.org\)](#) for a review period. The World Council will vote later this year. 90% of the proposals are clerical to align with World Sailing wording. The only substantive proposal is in regard to the helmsperson as follows for the Event Rules:

“7. Class Rule Amendment

CR Amend to Add:

**I.15 CHAMPIONSHIP HELMSPERSON**

Class Rule C.3.2 (a) is modified to add that a helmsperson holding a Group 1 categorization who does not own and pay for 100% of a J/70 must have either held or been eligible to hold a World Sailing Group 1 categorization for the eight (8) years prior to the start of the event. Any effect of World Sailing Regulation 22.2.3 is not considered when calculating this delay period.”

Please review the proposals within your Fleets and advise any feedback to the Class Office.

It was clarified that our Class Rules do not permit changing the amount of crew per day during an event.

4. **Championship Updates** –

--2024 Corinthian US National Championship, Corinthian YC, Cape May, NJ, September 6-8: Jack noted that 25 boats are registered...good to go for next week. Entrants should keep an eye for communications online and via e-mail. This will be open ocean sailing, hoping for great weather!

--2024 World Championship, Real Club Nàutico de Palma, Spain, September 14-21: 99 boats are entered, including several from the USA. Boats will be using Race Sense, and the goal is to use this more at our Championships.

--2024 US National Championship, Fort Worth BC, TX, November 6-9: Jim said 13 boats are registered and hoping for 30. Great time of year to be there. Come to tune-up in October, and they can accommodate boats in between...contact Jim.

Follow the Class on social media!

The future of the Youth Nationals is unclear; Chris will follow-up.

--2025 Midwinter Championship, Shake-A-Leg Miami FL, March 27-30

--2025 US National Championship, Wayzata YC, Wayzata, MN, May 16-18: The Fleet is excited. The lake has been notorious with J/Boats over the years. The YC hosts events often, so expect a top-notch weekend on water and land.

--2025 Mixed Plus US National Championship, Corinthian YC, Seattle, WA, June 14-15: Ron explained that there will be coaching on Friday. The Championship is part of J/Fest but focused on J/70s.

--2025 Mixed Plus World Championship, Circolo Vela Torbole, Italy, June 26-29

--2025 Corinthian World Championship, Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA, September 22-28

--2025 World Championship, Yacht Club Argentino Buenos Aires, October 24-November 1

--2025 North American Championship, Davis Island YC, Tampa, FL, December 1-7: note this is a change from Pensacola

--2026 Corinthian World Championship, Union Nautique/Club La Pelle, Marseilles France, May 23-30

--2026 World Championship, Clube Naval de Cascais Portugal, August 28-September 5  
--2026 North American Championship, Annapolis YC, October 27-November 1

## 5. **Fleet Roundtable** –

*Fleet 1 Annapolis Paul Green:* Thursday night racing continues to get a good turnout. Seven teams are going to Corinthian Nationals next week. Some people are a little nervous about competing in a bigger event so he hopes the OA will keep a friendly environment. Chris agreed that the focus of the Corinthian event is supportive, educational and low-key. Fleet 1 boats supported the Screwpile regatta in Fleet 8.

*Fleet 2 Wayzata Sean Hendrickson:* They are up to 21 boats now, including 19-20 boats out for Thursday night racing (maybe two more boats joining in).

*Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Ted Pinkerton:* Wednesday night racing continues with a couple teams regularly traveling.

*Fleet 8 Solomons Island Larry Ray:* Five boats are active, and they enjoyed having Fleet 1 attend their Screwpile regatta. Local racing is blended with PHRF, and they also have long-distance and double-handed racing. It's been good to see interest from younger sailors.

*Fleet 9 Marblehead Patrick Andreasen:* via e-mail "The Fleet and Eastern Yacht Club are excited to host the Corinthian Worlds. Our seasoned leaders include those who were chairs at the 2018 Worlds and 2021 Corinthian Nationals. Since then, we have also hosted the Star World Championship. We are well prepared to run a successful regatta. We have put the word out to our local expert J/70 shops to start contacting their network to find charter boats."

*Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club James Mitchell:* noted above for US Nationals

*Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff:* Long Beach Race Week, Fiesta Cup and J/Fest had 8-10 boats each. There are 7-9 boats for Santa Barbara's weekday racing. Scott expects a proposal from SB for a future Corinthian Nationals.

*Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Jean-Marc Papin:* Activity on Long Island Sound has been a little light, but they did just have an event on Manhasset Bay. American Yacht Club's Fall Series will host J/70s. The fleet is working to increase participation. He would like to get next year's East Coast Championship sorted out. Paul recapped that the event has been both in Annapolis and Larchmont...the Fleets should work together offline.

*Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest Ron Rosenberg:* Ron agreed with a focus on bringing our average crew age down. His fleet has 350 people on their local crew list via What's App, and they've been able to involve younger and female sailors more. The Fleet is excited for the 2025 Mixed Plus Nationals, and they plan to have about a dozen charter boats. They will host a coaching session on Friday, and you can expect a very inclusive experience overall. The Fleet now has more than 50 boats and continuing to grow/improve. 16-20 boats race every Wednesday. Several boats from the west coast are joining in on the fun. It's a local goal to help people feel more comfortable to travel. Ron will attend the Worlds and keep people updated in the USA.

*Fleet 24 Cape May NJ Jack Lord:* The Fleet is strong at 8 boats. Boats that turned over stayed at the yacht club with younger sailors. There is a lot of energy in ages late teens to 20-somethings. Looking forward to seeing folks at the Corinthian Nationals next week. Having this event has generated so much excitement and interest locally, on water and land.

*Fleet 25 Harbor Springs Sean O'Brien:* Nine boats have just ended their season, following a great/windy summer. The sailing school has been on a J/70 (among others), which gets used about 10 hours per day. Donations to this non-profit are welcome!

*Fleet 26 Detroit Don Glover:* Nine boats are in the area, with seven active. They've gone more digital on the racecourse, in the hopes of quick quality races. Ron concurred that use of Vakaros has helped their fleet gain more time on the water, and no pinging!

6. **New Business** – Regarding Vakaros usage at our 2025 Championships, the Notices of Race say that we “may” use this equipment. The plan is to survey regatta entrants, but even if people don't have the units, they could rent them. More information to come after the 2024 Worlds....
7. **Annual Meeting** – Monday, November 25 @ 7:00 p.m. EST

**Action Items:**

- Chris will follow-up about the future of Youth Nationals.
- East Coast Fleets will work on the 2025 ECC.

**Next Meeting:** AGM on Monday, November 25 @ 7:00 p.m. EST