

US J/70 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/25/2024

Start: 7:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 8:05 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell **X**
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
Al Poindexter (President) **X**
Brian Keane (Vice President) **X**
John Heaton (Secretary) **X**
Cate Muller-Terhune (Treasurer) **X**
Dina Kowalyshyn (Technical Chair)
Ed Austin (Past President)
Andrew Loe (incoming Officer) **X**
Fleet 1 Annapolis – John White and Paul Green **X**
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Sean Hendrickson
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Ted Pinkerton
Fleet 4 Southern California – Karl Herbst **X**
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 – Daan Goedkoop **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 – Will Howard **X**
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 **X**
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Knoop **X**
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ – Jack Lord
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs – Sean O’Brien
Fleet 26 Detroit – Don Glover
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Ryan McKillen

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. 2025 Meeting Dates

Description: Al welcomed everyone to the 2024 Annual Meeting!

1. **Office & Copyright Holder Reports** – Chris reported that the US Class has 298 members in 2024 (335 in 2023), including 67 Group 3 members and 6 Associates. Class Rules require membership for boat owners, helmspersons and Group 3 crew. Membership enforcement at the local level is vital!

Jeff J. submitted the following report via e-mail: Next month hulls #1871 and 1872 will be arriving in Rhode Island. A total of 65 new J/70s were built/sold worldwide in 2024, and the current hull assignments extend out to #1918. The 2025 forecast is for 65 boats, 50 from the European builder, and 15 from the Argentinian builder. Thanks to input from the Class Office and

J/70 service providers, we engaged with key suppliers to increase the stock supply of essential replacement parts such as spars, spreader bracket kits, mast base conversion kits, rudder hardware, etc. Overall interest in the J/70, as measured by inquiries and web traffic, remains very strong, with most new owners buying used boats and keeping resale value high for all owners. The J/Newsletter, the weekly e-digest of J news from around the globe, featured the J/70 in 2024 over all other J models by a factor of 3x.

2. **Technical Report** – The current Rules Proposals have been posted at [J70_CRC_2025-01-DRAFT11072024.pdf](#) for a 60-day review period. Chris highlighted:

--World Sailing updating the word “driver” to “helmsperson”

--3.2(b) For events of six or less consecutive days, not more than two ~~drivers~~ helmspersons can be designated. If two ~~drivers~~ helmspersons are designated, both shall be Group 1 and at least one must be an owner. From five minutes before the start until the finish, the boat shall be helmed by the designated ~~driver~~ helmsperson(s) except for momentary absences for personal or shipboard needs not to exceed five (5) minutes when a Group 1 crew member may ~~drive~~ helm.

--deleting C.1.1(b) RRS 42.3(e) is modified to read “~~When surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave) or planing is possible, to initiate surfing or planning, the main and jib may be pulled in only once for each wave or gust of wind, but the gennaker sheet may be played without restriction.~~”

(essentially one pump per wave, per the RRS)

--addition of I.16 RACESENSE EVENT Class Rule C.5.2 is modified to add Vakaros Atlas 2 (or subsequent Atlas versions) as required equipment for the purpose of starting and finishing with the RaceSense system. Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas 2 at check-in for configuration with RaceSense, or an Atlas 2 will be provided by the Organizing Authority (OA) for a fee.

Detailed requirements for the mounting and use of the device will be posted on the Official Notice Board and are incorporated by reference to this section.

(note this is an Event Rule, needing activation in event Notices of Race)

These proposals will be voted upon by the 30 member NCAs, and are expected to pass internationally. If any US members have feedback, please contact the Class Office or Technical Committee via e-mail as soon as possible.

Andrew noted the wording in 3.2(a) Permitted ~~drivers~~ helmsperson: The ~~driver~~ helmsperson shall hold a valid Group 1 Categorization in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 22 except that a Group 3 crew who owns and pays for 100% of a J/70 may ~~drive~~ helm.; ~~however, a Group 3 crew who owns and pays for at least 50% of a J/70 may drive in events started prior to January 1, 2024.~~ (noting “a J/70”)

The IJ70CA recently distributed a member survey...please take a few minutes to fill it out. There has been mixed feedback on potentially limiting Group 3 helmspersons.

Daan asked about the placement of electronic devices when the RaceSense technology trickles to the club racing level without direct support from Vakaros. Ron noted that their fleet is successfully using RaceSense for club racing. Race Committee takes control to equalize the fleet, and it has been a very positive experience!

3. **Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2024 and Budget 2025. The IJ70CA is expected to approve a \$10 increase to 2025 dues (from \$20/member to \$30/member) that NCAs pay to the IJ70CA. As the US Class financially relies almost solely on dues income, it is proposed to pass this \$10 International dues increase along, making annual dues for the US at \$160. Al suggested we consider a higher increase to compensate for increased costs. Chris clarified that non-profits should keep one year’s budget in cash reserve. Cate prefers that we

don't dip into our cash reserves, and Class dues are generally insignificant in the big scheme of boat expenses. Brian agreed, and the amount of \$175 was targeted.

Brian Keane made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L with the amended 2025 US Class dues of \$175, seconded by Andrew Loe. The motion passed unanimously.

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

President: Brian Keane

Vice President: John Heaton

Secretary: Cate Muller-Terhune

Technical Chair: Dina Kowalyshyn

Treasurer: Andrew Loe

Al Poindexter made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Ron Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Thank you Ed and Al! Brian hopes to increase participation in 2025, keep plugging the Class. Thank you Al for your leadership and building the Class! Al encouraged everyone to keep nurturing boat to boat.

5. **Championship Updates** –

--2025 Midwinter Championship, Shake-A-Leg Miami FL, March 27-30: more than 30 boats are registered so far.

--2025 US National Championship, Wayzata YC, Wayzata, MN, May 16-18: good to have geographic diversity!

--2025 Mixed Plus US National Championship, Corinthian YC, Seattle, WA, June 14-15: Ron has heard lots of interest including from Mexico and across the USA. They have 55 boats in the area, so charters will be available. They are discussing possibly adding a third day of racing. Or possibly clinics. Send Ron your feedback...

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

--2025 Corinthian World Championship, Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA, September 22-28: This is an open event. Look for the Notice of Race in the coming days. Daan said to expect good winds. There will be racing the weekend prior as well as a few summer events (HH Sailing World Regatta and Ted Hood Regatta). He is looking for support from Northeast boat owners to secure charter opportunities. Chris recommended a charter liaison to connect people.

--2025 World Championship, Yacht Club Argentino Buenos Aires, October 24-November 1: Expect a petition link soon for those who didn't qualify.

--2025 North American Championship, Davis Island YC, Tampa, FL, December 1-7

--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

Chris pointed out the [J70 US AGM 2024 - Dropbox](#) folder including a draft document 'US Qualifying System for the 2025 J/70 World Championship' for the 2026 Worlds in Portugal. At the international level, there is some discussion about redistributing perpetual berths. The process will be finalized by the IJ70CA in the coming weeks. The graded petition list for Worlds spots will be public starting in 2025.

6. **New Business** – Jean-Marc asked about the future of the East Coast Championship. Chris offered that we should formalize a regional regatta rotation. Jean-Marc and Chris will work offline.

Steve commended Davis Island Yacht Club for their diligence in getting the club rebuilt from

Hurricane Helene. They will be ready to host the J/70s in January. The J/70 Class has been recognized for donating December entry fees...much appreciated by DIYC!

Steve wondered if our Class has considered a separate Corinthian start? Chris relayed that people generally say they want to pace themselves in an open environment. The International and National Classes have put focus on Corinthian divisions and events. Al thinks this would make a good survey question but agrees that most people desire to sail together.

Ron will be working on a membership drive in their fleet. Hoping other fleets follow! It's been nice to see women and youth getting more involved locally. They've been doing a fun driver-only clinic, rotating positions on the boat. More teams are getting more comfortable to travel.

Jean-Marc said Western Long Island Sound added seven J/70s last year, so participation is improving.

Will is the new Fleet 13 Captain, looking to develop more activity. Daan agreed that membership promotion is needed to build fleets back up.

In Solomons Island, Larry said the fleet is working with high school teams, and looking to have J/70 scoring broken out when sailing PHRF.

Scott shared that they added a new boat recently in Santa Barbara, and their area is looking to work more closely with Fleet 4 in southern California.

John is the new Fleet 1 Captain. 29 boats are in the Annapolis Fleet. Paul recapped that he really enjoyed his time as Captain, and he plans to travel/race more in 2025.

7. 2025 Meeting Dates – 3/3/25, 6/2/25, 9/8/25, 11/24/25 AGM

Action Items:

- The Class Office will send 2025 membership renewal invoices.
- Jean-Marc and Chris will work on a Regional Regatta Rotation.

Next Meeting: 3/3/25