

US J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/2/2026

Start: 7:03 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 7:43 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
John Heaton (President) X
Andrew Loe (Vice President)
Cate Muller-Terhune (Secretary)
James Mitchell (Treasurer) X
Dina Kowalyshyn (Technical Chair)
Brian Keane (Past President) X
Fleet 1 Annapolis – Paul Green X
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Bob Garlinghouse X
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Ted Pinkerton
Fleet 4 Southern California – Karl Herbst
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay – Clark Dennison
Fleet 6 Cohasset MA – Charlie Henry X
Fleet 7 Eastern Great Lakes - Tim Finkle
Fleet 8 Solomons Island - Spencer Wait X
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Patrick Andreasen X
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell X
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara – Pat Toole
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Doug Fritz
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Jean-Marc Papin
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 – Matt York X
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs – Sean O’Brien
Fleet 26 Detroit – Don Glover
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Ryan McKillen

Agenda:

1. Class Office Report
2. Technical Report
3. Championship Updates
4. Regional Regattas
5. Fleet Engagement
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting

Description: John welcomed everyone!

1. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 172 members so far in 2026, including 16 Group 3 and 9 Associate (2025 total was 339). Remember to confirm membership at your local/regional regattas. Database at [J70 Class Association](#).
2. **Technical Report** – The updated 2026 J/70 Class Rules have been approved by World Sailing and are available at [World Sailing - J/70](#). The most significant change is that the winches are now optional equipment...see guidance at [CRC-2026-C.5.2-V.1.61.pdf](#) (scenarios depend on your boat weight). Contact the Class Office if you are in need of finding a US Class Measurer to schedule a re-weight. Boat owners who remove the winches need to fill the holes to prevent boat leakage. A few designed plates are now on the market. There is no mandatory method...use seamanship as your guide. Ron extended his appreciation to everyone who advocated for this Rules change and

made it happen! Chris added that World Sailing is requiring Classes to move the Event Rules within the Class Rules body and/or Regatta Guidelines, so expect some numbering changes as language is shifted in its placement.

3. **Championship Updates** –

--2026 Midwinter Championship, Shake-A-Leg Miami, March 27-29

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

--2026 US National Championship, Santa Barbara YC, Santa Barbara, CA, July 10-12: nice to see 25+boats registered on the west coast!

--2026 Mixed Plus World Championship, Royal Danish YC, Copenhagen Denmark, August 13-16

--2026 World Championship, Clube Naval de Cascais Portugal, September 4-12

--2026 North American Championship, Annapolis YC, October 27-November 1: Paul said the fleet will have warm-up events such as the Fall Brawl. See the Fleet 1 website for this and more.

--2026 Mixed-Plus US National Championship, St. Pete YC, St. Petersburg, FL, November 19-22

--2027 World Championship, Annapolis YC, October 23-30: qualification details available at [Calendar – J/70 USA](#) (majors + standing events). There will be 30 US berths, with hopefully more by a petition (or similar) process.

4. **Regional Regattas** – Please send your event details including website to howell@j70office.com. Brian noted some areas struggling with participation.

5. **Fleet Engagement** –

Fleet 1 Annapolis Paul Green: Numbers have remained steady, and the next two years are positioned perfectly with two major Championships. This should bring the quality of the Fleet up, learning from visiting boats. A Fleet 1 meeting was held this past weekend. Fleet travel decreased but mostly because of recent trends in the government workforce.

Fleet 2 Wayzata Bob Garlinghouse: 22 boats are in the Fleet, and participation is consistent, including a few boats that get on the road. They see interest from other fleets to move into the J/70, but finding used boats is the tricky part.

Fleet 6 Cohasset MA Charlie Henry: They've added one boat from Marblehead, bringing them to seven on the line.

Fleet 8 Solomons Island Spencer Wait: Six boats strong and hoping to build. Being close to Annapolis, they plan to get more involved in their circuit.

Fleet 9 Marblehead Patrick Andreasen: Last year was solid with Corinthian Worlds, but experiencing a little compression right now (including into Etchells). Two big regattas annually: HH Sailing World Regatta + Ted Hood Regatta.

Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest Ron Rosenberg: the momentum continues, now at 60-65 boats. Ron has been in the southeast for most of the winter. Their Fleet travelers are keeping the excitement high, sharing details and communicating about their experiences to those back home. Feedback on the optional winches has been very popular.

Fleet 24 Cape May NJ Matt York: There has been turnover locally, now at 6 boats at the club plus a few others nearby. A few folks do travel. The Club would like to host the Corinthian Nationals again, possibly in 2027.

In Southwest MA, Brian said there is really no fleet as people go either to Marblehead or Cohasset.

John noted that Chicago has a new Fleet Captain. Frostbiting is starting soon, and they are working on a series as well as stepping up communications. While there are boats in the area, getting crews on the water can be a challenge.

6. **New Business** – Chris encouraged Fleets seeking boats to reach out to local dealers and/or J/Boats Newport, as J/70s have not been built in the USA for a while.

John noted the numbers were down for the Davis Island Winter Series and wondered if we should send a survey or similar. Chris's opinion is that having the NAC as the first event actually hindered the storage/participation. Ron thinks that economic timing had an impact.

7. **Next Meeting** – Monday, June 8 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT

Action Items:

Next Meeting: Monday, June 8 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT