

US J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 8/24/2026

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 7:55 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
John Heaton (President)
Andrew Loe (Vice President) X
James Mitchell (Treasurer) X
Lee Sackett (Secretary) X
Ron Rosenberg (Technical Chair) X
Brian Keane (Past President)
Fleet 1 Annapolis – Paul Green
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
Fleet 7 Eastern Great Lakes - Tim Finkle
Fleet 8 Solomons Island - Spencer Wait
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Patrick Andreasen
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 – Kat Dippel X
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay – Kelly Gray
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Crawford Phillips
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Knoop X
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 Planning
4. Fleet Engagement
5. Annual Meeting

Description:

1. **Class Office Report** – Good luck to everyone competing in the Worlds next week in Cascais! Welcome Lee Sackett from Cleveland as Class Secretary, filling the vacancy after Cate resigned. Lee is a Corinthian sailor who has been in the Class for a while. Ron Rosenberg from Seattle has filled the US Technical Chair position, replacing Dina Kowalyszyn. Dina is very busy with her roles for US Sailing, World Sailing and the next Olympics. Dina will stay on as a member of the International Technical Committee and is a boat owner in Annapolis. Thank you Dina for your J/70 support! Also, welcome new Fleet 19 Captain for San Francisco: Kat Dippel!

Chris reported that the US Class has 276 members so far in 2026, including 64 Group 3 and 13 Associate (2025 total was 339). Remember to confirm membership at your local/regional

regattas...a little work to do! Database at [J70 Class Association](#).

The IJ70CA Executive Committee has issued a tender for a new Executive Director. Chris and Julie are still in the role, until a new ED is identified and fully transitioned. There has been IJ70CA discussion about the Class growth in Europe and seeking a change for the ED. Chris and Julie look forward to continuing their role with the US Class. Chris elaborated that each National Class Association is managed/budgeted individually, depending on the number of members. The USA has the highest membership numbers of any country. Including continental numbers, Europe has about 600 total. The US Class is the origin of the Association, as the Copyright Holder is here. Steve and Andrew expressed concern about US representation internationally.

2. **Technical Report** – The ITC has one Class Rules proposal that they have been discussing based on feedback from the measurement teams at recent Championships. This Class Rules change has to do with relaxing tension and changing how the safety lines are attached. The change is to allow more leniency in the tightness of the safety line and to ensure the attachment to the pushpit is by lashing and not mechanical to the welded part of the pushpit.

World Sailing is requiring the Event Rules section to be merged into the body of the Class Rules. Note that the NOR and SI templates will have updated numbering.

The Copyright Holder has made a Building Specification change on line 21a by only having a minimum measurement on the main strop and eliminating the max measurement.

Bookmark the International ‘Documents’ page: [J/70 Class Rules & Resources – J/70 INT](#)

3. **Championship Updates** – The Nationals in Santa Barbara was a great event with a strong fleet. Lee thinks it’s unique that the Class can succeed so well on both coasts. Ron added that the sport is evolving...people are appreciating a more user-friendly Class to learn + enjoy the social side. Our Class should take the lead on this positive theme. We are a very competitive Class and can extend the movement.

--2026 North American Championship, Annapolis YC, October 27-November 1: hoping for 50+ boats.

--2026 Mixed-Plus US National Championship, St. Pete YC, St. Petersburg, FL, November 19-22: start your winter season and support this format.

--2027 Midwinter Championship at Bacardi Race, Week Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, April 1-4

--2027 Corinthian World Championship, Real Club Náutico de Vigo Spain, June 12-19

--2027 North American Championship, CORK Kingston, ON, July 8-11: this is an excellent spot!

--2027 World Championship, Annapolis YC, October 23-30: qualification details available at

[Calendar – J/70 USA](#)

(2027 Mixed-Plus World Championship in Italy details TBA)

For 2027, do we also want to schedule a US Nationals, Corinthian Nationals and Mixed-Plus Nationals, and if so, where and when? Chris has drafted a JotForm submission where clubs can submit a concise form for consideration. The Class welcomes interest! Chris noted that he expects a proposal from Seattle for the 2028 North Americans. He shared a spreadsheet listing the various Championships with the past/current locations and showing the holes. Ideally, we can reach the whole membership with our various host locations. Matt is hoping that Cape May may consider hosting a Nationals or Corinthian Nationals in 2027, but he does not yet have YC Board agreement. There would likely be a cap at 40, with timing leading up to the Worlds.

4. Fleet Engagement –

Fleet 2 Wayzata Bob Garlinghouse: Great season! Come on up this fall for their Ugotta Regatta, a fun and breezy time. They are hoping to integrate Vakaros RaceSense into the fleet by 2027. Chris explained the Class has some units that can be used for Fleets for larger events.

Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Lee Sackett: the summer series has struggled with weather and participation, hoping for a better fall. There should be a couple boats coming south for the winter. Chris wondered if Cleveland might want to host another Championship (hosted NAC in 2019).

Fleet 6 Cohasset MA Charlie Henry (via e-mail): We had a fantastic summer of J/70 sailing out of the Cohasset Yacht Club. Our focus this summer “Have Fun, Learn More, Sail FAST.” It’s working. We had 5-7 boats on the line every Saturday all summer. We’ve introduced a boat into our fleet that has a college group and post college sailors getting the boat to the line every weekend. We will try to add another boat next summer. Additionally, the club and two of our boat owners/skippers Sarah Leggat and Sarah Evans Decker have been promoting women on the water. It’s had a lot of interest, and we look to continue to promote it over the winter and into next summer. Our goal is to double our fleet in the next three years. For next summer, we are going to introduce Wednesday night racing in the months of July and August. Lastly, and new this year, we have extended racing with a fall series every Saturday in September.

Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club James Mitchell: this is a slow time in the south, looking forward to fall sailing.

Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest Ron Rosenberg: Wednesday nights see 27-33 boats on the line (of 60+ boats in the fleet), great breeze this summer and lots of racing. About a dozen boats went to Nationals in CA. They’ve been cultivating a desire for boats to travel...FOMO! Several teams enjoyed the breezy annual regatta in Hood River, OR. Ron will be working with Fleet 19 on momentum for a circuit. The collaboration is growing in the region, and networking face-to-face at events has proved fruitful. Andrew shared a goal for a West Coast Winter Series including storage.

Fleet 19 San Francisco Kat Dippel: The Fleet is across northern California. A goal for 2027 is to get the J/70s back to Rolex Big Boat Series, needing 10 boats. St. Francis has shown some interest in hosting a Class Championship, and Kat is in Richmond...perhaps there could be some coordination to bring a major event there. Depending on the timing, Richmond might be a better fit for the fleet to race in more manageable conditions.

Fleet 23 Tampa Bay Steve Knoop: The entry list for the Davis Island Winter Series is a little slow, and Steve sees some cannibalization to Miami. Maybe the DIYC storage fees could be lowered? Tampa Bay YC bought a few J/70s, and they are coordinating weeknight racing with DIYC.

Fleet 24 Cape May NJ Matt York: About 8 boats in the yard, but really 4 are active. There is a new relationship with boats in Delaware. A few teams will be participating in Annapolis, and one to the Mixed Plus Nationals.

5. Annual Meeting – Monday, November 30 @ 7:00 p.m. EST

Action Items:

- Chris will distribute the JotForm for event hosting.
- Fleet Captains will push for membership.

Next Meeting: AGM on Monday, November 30 @ 7:00 p.m. EST