

US J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/8/2026

Start: 7:20 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 8:20 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)
John Heaton (President) X
Andrew Loe (Vice President) X
James Mitchell (Treasurer)
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
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
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara – Pat Toole
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Doug Fritz X
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 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 X
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: Sorry for the technical difficulties.

1. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 242 members so far in 2026, including 52 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** – World Sailing is requiring the Event Rules section to be merged into the body of the Class Rules, which will take effect in early December. Note that the NOR and SI templates will have updated numbering as of that time. The IJ70CA is continually updating the Regatta Regulations to keep in line with current trends, such as for Vakaros usage.
3. **Championship Updates** –
--2026 US National Championship, Santa Barbara YC, Santa Barbara, CA, July 10-12: 36 boats registered, mostly Corinthian...well done!

--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
--2026 Mixed-Plus US National Championship, St. Pete YC, St. Petersburg, FL, November 19-22:
Notice of Race being finalized.

There is no host for the Corinthian Nationals this year...should we award the trophy at the US Nationals or North Americans? Brian supported Nationals, given the high amateur turnout. And maybe we can gather a couple more boats. John agreed for 2026, but clarifying (possibly by survey) how the scoring would best be received by Corinthian sailors. Don understands the urgency of 2026 but thinks having a stand-alone Corinthian Championship is preferred. Smaller numbers can still make a successful Championship. An alternate idea is merging the Corinthian title into a multi-Class regatta (ex. Helly Hansen Sailing World Regattas). David noted that Rolex Big Boat Series would welcome the Corinthian Nationals. Doug highlighted the strong Corinthian turnout at the DIYC Series. (Overall participation at DIYC has dropped, and Chris agreed that this is increasingly true for many one-design Classes.) Andrew endorsed an independent North American Corinthian Championship and hopes we can promote this in the high regard it deserves. Steve wondered whether we should consider separate Corinthian starts.

John made a motion to award the 2026 Corinthian Nationals perpetual trophy at the US Nationals, seconded by Ron. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve wondered why more Championship hosts aren't coming forward? Chris cited increased event expenses and decreased sponsorship leaving a financial cloud over the process. The Class Office has a lot of regatta budget data if anyone needs guidance. Brian wondered if funds can be managed through 501c operations where applicable, such as Sail Newport.

--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
--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.

Matt advised that Cape May is working toward a proposal for Nationals 2027 (pending YC approval), leading up to Annapolis Worlds.

4. **Regional Regattas** – Send your event details including website to howell@j70office.com. The Class is counting on you for pre-event calendar data, social media help and post-race recaps.

5. **Fleet Engagement** –

Fleet 1 Annapolis: Paul said the fleet is getting up to speed on RaceSense. Check out the most recent technical article on the Fleet 1 website with Doug Wake of Vakaros.

Fleet 2 Wayzata: Bob shared they have 22 J/70s, many racing Thursdays. About 75% of the local fleets are using Vakaros but need to get full Race Committee commitment. Chris estimates that package at about \$3,000.

Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan: Doug stated the fleet is tracking upward. 11 boats raced at this weekend's Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta Chicago. Some area high school/college sailors and their coaches have been brought into the fleet. John has been coaching (among others), helping to bring up newer owners. There is a push to develop crews during winter/southern racing. Chris reminded that the Mixed Plus Nationals is in St. Pete in November to kick off the season.

Fleets 2 and 13 will be working together on scheduling. Doug offered to provide some contacts for corporate sponsorship.

Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest: Personal energy grows fleets! This region is up to 60+ boats. 25-30 boats are out every Wednesday; the breeze has been amazing and fun. RaceSense is working well...reach out to Doug Wake at Vakaros to get set up. The fleet is becoming more comfortable getting on the road (it takes time). Andrew has helped educate the group in this effort, as well as others who have traveled. It takes that personal connection from the travelers to local racers.

Fleet 19 San Francisco: David noted struggles in recent years with one-design local participation. Their radius is wide, and the fleet is in a re-building mode. San Francisco racing is year-round, but there are a few months where the winds can be brutal. David is hoping to get the J/70s back involved in Rolex Big Boat Series.

Fleet 23 Tampa Bay: Steve discussed new DIYC Series ideas, such as racing for three days. There are some new J/70s at Tampa Bay YC. Steve was just at the Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta Chicago and noticed quite a few Rules infractions. We need to reinforce how the Class operates.

Fleet 24 Cape May NJ: Matt explained that the season starts this weekend. Six boats are active, and three also travel. Hope to be able to host Nationals next year.

Fleet 26 Detroit: Don described there are seven boats at two nearby clubs with active Tuesday night racing including RaceSense and MarkSetBots. They send out the tracking link for post-race review...highly recommended!

6. **New Business** – Andrew explained that there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee after Cate's resignation. We welcome your ideas for someone interested in this commitment.

7. **Next Meeting** – Monday, August 24 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT

Action Items:

--Chris will advise that the 2026 Corinthian Nationals perpetual trophy will be presented at Nationals.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 24 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT