

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 9/1/16

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

**Adjourn:** 7:50 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell **X**  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Henry Brauer (President) **X**  
Craig Tallman (Vice President) **X**  
Kristen Robinson (Secretary) **X**  
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer) **X**  
Frank McNamara (Technical Chair) **X**  
Joe Colling (Past President) **X**  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Jonathan Pollak **X**  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech **X**  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Joe Colling for Tim Gibbs **X**  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Dave Viereg  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Blake Kimbrough & Matt Braun  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel  
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tim Finkle  
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley  
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Daan Goedkoop  
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 – John Heaton for Amy Neill  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Dan Goldberg for Ed Austin **X**  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - Brad Gibbs **X**  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt  
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Anne Lambert  
Fleet 19 San Francisco - Justin Kromelow **X**  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Trevor Roach **X**  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel **X**  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Polk Wagner **X**  
Fleet 26 Detroit - Jason Geisz

## **Agenda:**

1. Class Office Report
2. President's Report
3. Worlds Update
4. Technical Report
5. Regatta Committee Report
6. Fleet Reports
7. New Business
8. Annual Meeting/Officers

## **Description:**

Chris Howell conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above).

1. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 377 members so far in 2016 (we had 394 in all of 2015, including some international members who now join their own NCAs). A full financial report will be prepared at the end of the fiscal year which is September 30. We will be comfortably in the black. The Summer newsletter was distributed today.
2. **President's Report** – Henry said the Regatta Committee has been active. The first Corinthian US National Championship takes place at Eastport Yacht Club in Annapolis from October 20-23,

2016. The next edition will be part of the Buzzards Bay Regatta from August 4-6, 2017 at New Bedford Yacht Club, South Dartmouth, MA. The 2017 Midwinter Championship at St. Petersburg Yacht Club in Florida will be limited to only one ISAF Group 3 sailor per boat from February 24-26, 2017. Feedback thus far has come from those both for and against these initiatives. Remember, these are experiments, and not a Class Rule change. On the IJ70CA level, the European countries are split on the “pro” discussion. The Women’s International Keelboat Championship just concluded in August. Suzy was there, and noted a wide range of ages and talent on hand. It was short race format in provided boats/sails. Some sailors were new to the J/70 but picked it up quickly based on their overall experience. They loved sailing the boat, but the financial commitment would be a lot for a college student to buy new (although they’d love to race them). The next IWKC will be in Bermuda, likely in J/70s.

3. **Worlds Update** – The 2016 J/70 World Championship is September 24-October 1 at St. Francis Yacht Club in California. 83 boats are signed up, and registration is closed. Chris is working with the organizers on a strict measurement plan. Justin added that there are many social events planned, and measurement sign-up is based on the order of event entry. There will only be one start line, on the Berkeley Circle. Alcatel is the title sponsor. It will be a great event!
4. **Technical Report** – Frank works through regular inquiries on Rules questions, which are always encouraged. It helps the Class keep in touch with hot topics, and we can update the FAQs accordingly. Boats continue to get weighed so that database is becoming even more solid.
5. **Regatta Committee Report** – Joe thanked Eastport YC for stepping up quickly to host the Corinthian Nationals this fall. They have an established fleet and an established event at the Fall Brawl. Twenty people have signed up in just a couple weeks, and 40 boats are expected. They are orchestrating on-water clinics and focusing sponsorship from within the industry to double up finances + onsite involvement. J/World is managing the practice race. Sail22 will be the rigger, and donated their boat to the event for a junior team. Kristen and Thom Bowen will donate sails. Hopefully other professional boats will do the same. Storage will be available in Annapolis until the DIYC Series begins. CRSA is doing the apparel. A flyer was e-mailed this week to all members with this information.  
The Midwinters with the “one pro” event rule will be a good chance to gather feedback from our members.
6. **Fleet Reports** –  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay Jonathan Pollak: the summer season is ending, although several fall events are still planned with 15-20 boats likely at each. A few new boats + turnover have occurred, but the overall number is steady.  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay Suzy Leech: Their big event of the summer was the Newport Regatta/NE Championship. The hurricane may affect their race this weekend.  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Joe Colling: the fleet numbers are consistent, but they struggle with participation. Joe is working to get more juniors on the helm.  
Fleet 4 Southern California Craig Tallman: Long Beach Race Week and Cal Race Week had good participation. The fleet has a new owner who is going to Worlds.  
Fleet 9 Marblehead Henry Brauer: The fleet holds a roll call in advance of racing, which helps attendance. Usually 12 boats race locally, and 26 J/70s were at Marblehead NOOD including many Corinthians. The ONE Regatta was last weekend with eight J/70s and tight racing. Planning is underway for the 2018 Worlds, with Doug Morgan as chair (he chaired the J/105 NAC a few years ago). Hank Stuart is PRO, and judges are being secured.  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff: West Coast Championship was great with 11 boats. They had a late start on Friday so it helped with people taking time off from work (this schedule was well received). They provided beer after racing which assisted with the social aspect. The fleet has grown by 2-3 overall.

Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan John Heaton: Verve Cup had 19 boats, and was won by a Corinthian team. A couple new owners are in the area. They'll be frostbiting before putting the boats away.

Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Dan Goldberg: They had a successful season with Friday racing and weekend regattas. The American YC Fall Series has a J/70 start over two weekends as a part of the Leukemia Cup. The East Coast Championship follows the Fall Series, so come on over for three weekends of sailing with storage in between.

Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound Brad Gibbs: Eight boats were in the July Series, and August has had five boats on the line. They are rallying boats to participate in the winter events. The Coast Guard Academy boats have been more active.

Fleet 19 San Francisco Justin Kromelow: They have had a theme of more coached clinics, which caused even more practicing as we lead up to Worlds. This summer saw the Elite Summer Keel and Pacific Coast Championship. Usually about 20 boats are on the line, and boats that have sold have stayed in the area. 32 J/70s are registered for Rolex Big Boat Series.

Fleet 22 Cedar Point Trevor Roach: Usually six boats are on the starting line

Fleet 23 Tampa Bay Steve Liebel: They hope everyone is planning on coming south this winter to participate in any/all of the winter events planned in Florida (3 DIYC events, Key West Race Week, St. Pete NOOD, Midwinters, Bacardi Miami). There is a budget for anyone. Contact Steve with any questions at [steve@duncanseawall.com](mailto:steve@duncanseawall.com).

Fleet 25 Harbor Springs Polk Wagner: Labor Day regatta is their last event, following twice a week racing over the summer with 5-8 boats on the line (up from the past). A boat was donated to the junior program. Two fleet development days took place, with assigned skippers to organize drills on boat speed, starting, handling, etc. The Ugotta Regatta had 19 J/70s, which was educational for many.

Fleet 26 Detroit Jason Geisz (via e-mail): The Detroit J/70 Fleet is having an awesome inaugural year. After our 26-boat Bayview One Design in early June, we filled out the calendar with racing and training. We had an 8-week, 17-race Tuesday series that attracted 10 boats. It was completed Tuesday. The top three were Mike Welch 1034 in first, Kevin Morin 1028 in second, and Jason Geisz 1022 in third. We also had numerous Thursday fleet practices led by coaches and pros like Skip Dieball and Wally Cross. The fleet has improved significantly in its boat handling, boat prep, and on-the-water strategy. We have captured racing on video and are working on drone coverage also. We have a great September to finish off the year with a Grand Championship consisting of three regattas. First is the Lake St. Clair J/70 Championship next Tuesday the 6th, which will be at least three races (and more like four). Next is September 10 with the Premier Sailing League in conjunction with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, and lastly is the GPYC Bluenose point to point race where the J/70s will have our their start. Each regatta goes into the final tally for a 2016 J/70 Detroit Grand Champion. Should be a ball.

7. **New Business** – N/A

8. **Annual Meeting/Officers** – As Past President, Joe Colling is the Nominating Chair, and will be confirming the current officers who wish to remain on board. A new Officer will be needed. Send your ideas to Joe at [usa3757@gmail.com](mailto:usa3757@gmail.com). A separate meeting from the Annual Meeting may be needed to discuss Rule proposals, but only clerical updates are expected. The Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

--Officer suggestions will be sent to Joe Colling at [usa3757@gmail.com](mailto:usa3757@gmail.com).

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. EST