

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 3/6/17

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

**Adjourn:** 7:55 p.m. EST

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Craig Tallman (President) X  
Kristen Robinson (Vice President)  
Jim Murrell (Secretary) X  
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer)  
Polk Wagner (Technical Chair)  
Henry Brauer (Past President) X  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Jonathan Pollak X  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech X  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Tim Gibbs X  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Jim Murrell X  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Matt Braun X  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel  
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tim Finkle  
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley  
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Daan Goedkoop X  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell X  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker X  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Amy Neill X  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - 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 - Christy Usher  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter X  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Joshua Goldman X  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel X  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Polk Wagner  
Fleet 26 Detroit - Jason Geisz  
Fleet 27 Lake Champlain - James Unsworth X

## **Agenda:**

1. Class Office Report
2. Technical Report
3. 2018 Worlds
4. Regatta Committee Report
5. Fleet Reports
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting

## **Description:**

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

1. **Class Office Report** – Craig welcomed everyone. Chris reported that the US Class has 273 members so far in 2017 (we had 408 in all of 2016). This is a healthy start. You can view 2017 members by fleet at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/officer-and-fleets/>.
2. **Technical Report** – Polk Wagner was unable to join the call. Chris reported that a new FAQ document is posted at <http://www.j70ica.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/J70FAQ2017-Final.pdf>. Note two new FAQs:  
#20. Is it legal to replace one J/70 mast with another manufacturer: Selden to Southern Spar or Southern Spar to Selden?

No. As stated in the introduction to the rules “J/70 hulls, hull appendages and rigs shall be manufacturer controlled and shall only be produced by a manufacturer licensed by J Boats, Inc. Equipment is built in accordance with the J/70 Building Specification and Configuration Manual. These parts having left the manufacturer may only be altered to the extent permitted in Section C of the class rules”. Section C does not allow for the mast to be changed. In fact, Section C.9.1 MAST (b) USE (1) of the Class rules says “The mast as supplied and assembled.” Furthermore, the Builder Specifications require all spar parts to be used as supplied and located by the builder. Also, if you have a Southern mast, you must use the mast step, boom and spreaders designed for that mast and likewise for the Selden mast. In other words, you cannot “mix and match” Southern and Selden components. In the event that a mast is damaged beyond repair during an event, and a like replacement mast is not available, then a competitor can install a mast from the alternate manufacturer, for that event only, as long as the installation is supervised by the event technical committee.

#21 Is it legal to alter spreader sweep?

No. Nor is it legal to have more than one set of spreaders to be used for racing in different conditions. Line 48 of the Building Specification allows the boat to have a “single set of spreaders and brackets,” which must be “builder supplied and located.” The Class Rules do not provide permission to change the builder supplied and located positioning of the spreaders. In the event that a spreader or bracket fails, this is the type of repair that would need to be made by a licensed manufacturer or approved by a Class Measurer, and would require the issuance of a new or revised Manufacturers Declaration., and the Technical Committee is making tweaks to the Regatta Regulations.

(The Class is aware of two affected boats, and a solution is being worked out with them, the Class and J/Boats.)

Chris summarized that a couple boats were noticed at Worlds with modifications to headsails for the purpose of raising the clew height for further in-hauling. J/Boats designed the boat to allow in-hauling, so a prohibition is not something they would favor. The best solution seems to be restrictions on the clew attachment point. The IJ70CA Technical Committee (with agreement from the sailmakers) is working through this issue to determine a fair outcome in accordance with the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS). This would be a Rules proposal for the next cycle. Steve asked about sails purchased before the Rule proposal, but Chris said that most sails should measure in because they have been designed under the ERS. The Rule change would only affect sails that have been modified.

3. **2018 Worlds** – Henry said that preparations for the event at Eastern YC in Marblehead, MA are well underway. Hank Stuart is the PRO, and a Jury is secured. The OA has recommended limiting the event to 100 boats so we can start on one line and all competitors will have the best possible experience. The US Qualifying System was recently finalized and is posted at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/event-calendar2/> (and was also distributed via e-mail to members). There are 50 qualifying spots for the USA and 50 International. There will be a good opportunity for charter boats. Come sail the July Marblehead NOOD or the August Ted Hood Regatta to check out the area. The New England Championship, the Corinthian US National Championship and the North American Championship are all in the northeast this year. The Worlds organizers are working on sponsors. When looking for accommodations, consider one of the local yacht clubs and book early.
4. **Regatta Committee Report** – The Midwinter Championship concluded last weekend with 52 boats. Several bids have been received for the 2018 Midwinters and Corinthian US Nationals, which the Regatta Committee will review soon. The 2018 North American Championship will be in Mexico. Look for more details soon.

## 5. **Fleet Reports** –

*Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay Jonathan Pollak:* Their schedule is recently finalized, and they are downsizing a bit on the weekend racing. They expect 20 boats for the Thursday Night Series, although the Wednesday Night Series is still unclear. The fleet has sustained their amount of boats. The East Coast Championship is at Fishing Bay this year, and it's a qualifier for 2018 Worlds.

*Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay Suzy Leech:* NYYC will have a one-design regatta with hopefully a J/70 start. The Sail Newport Regatta is the New England Championship. The J/Fest New England is the U.S. Youth Championship from August 11-13. The International Womens Keelboat Championship was meant to be in Bermuda but they are unable to host in August. US Sailing is now looking for a US fleet to host. Last year, 12 boats were used.

*Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Tim Gibbs:* The fleet is stable in its numbers. They are coordinating regional events between Detroit, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago. Cleveland Race Week in June is the Great Lakes Championship and therefore a 2018 Worlds qualifier.

*Fleet 4 Southern California Jim Murrell:* Their schedule is posted with eight weekend regattas. The San Diego NOOD is coming up this month with several youth boats racing. They hope to coordinate more racing with the other California fleets.

*Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay Matt Braun:* Their schedule is posted, and they are excited to host the East Coast Championship in September. They have sponsorship...expect a great event. With so much interest from juniors, they'll be awarding the youth. Looks like 11 boats for the Friday Series with an emphasis on the social piece. The fleet is trying to travel more.

*Fleet 9 Marblehead Daan Goedkoop:* The fleet is pretty big, and their calendar is posted. The Marblehead Race Association kicks off around Memorial Day weekend. The NOOD is well attended by locals and others, and they're also seeing more interest in the Ted Hood Regatta. The fleet intends to ramp up its social efforts. For those locals who don't qualify for the 2018 Worlds, they will try to engage them in other ways during the regatta and beyond.

*Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club James Mitchell:* Their five boats participate in the Southwest Circuit.

*Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island David Becker:* Their fleet is seasonal/snow birds, so their planning meeting will take place in April.

*Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan Amy Neill:* The Saturday schedule is out, and their focus is increasing participation and the social factor. Their fleet number is stable. The Chicago NOOD attendance should be 20+. They have good travelers.

*Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Ed Austin:* They have a weekend schedule and Friday schedule. The North Americans is at American YC in Rye, NY and will be capped at 100 boats so sign up! There are many practice opportunities leading up to the NAC.

*Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound Brad Gibbs:* Three boats did the winter circuit. Their summer calendar will be posted in the coming weeks.

*Fleet 20 Galveston Bay Alfred Poindexter:* Their schedule is posted, including J/Fest as their 2018 Worlds qualifier. Speed clinics will be used to hopefully increase participation locally. The fleet number has remained the same.

*Fleet 22 Cedar Point Joshua Goldman:* They have eight boats, and their major event is the Cedar Point One Design Regatta in June.

*Fleet 23 Tampa Bay Steve Liebel:* It was a great winter of racing in Florida with the Davis Island YC Series, Key West Race Week, St. Pete NOOD, Midwinters and Bacardi!

*Fleet 27 Lake Champlain James Unsworth:* They have gone from two boats to five, and are the newest fleet. They intend to travel in addition to their Wednesday Night Series + some Mondays. It is a goal to host a Championship soon.

## 6. **New Business** – The first annual J/70 U.S. Youth Championship will take place concurrent with the J/Fest New England Regatta on August 11-13. The goal of this event is to help develop and build leading-edge junior keelboat sailing programs across America. The winning club of this

event will get "free" usage of fully equipped J/70s, with sails and trailer, provided "free of charge" by J/Boats, to the winning club and its membership for 12 months. The U.S. J/70 Youth Championship is open to 10 youth teams representing US Sailing recognized sailing clubs or organizations. Sailing clubs may enter more than one youth team per event, but may only qualify one team for the Championship in Newport, RI. The 10 youth teams will compete on 10 brand new J/70s with class sails (main, jib, spinnaker) that comply with J/70 Class Rules. The boats will be identically rigged and tuned at "base settings" that are recommended by the sailmaker. In order to qualify for the 10 slots, youth teams must qualify for entry by being the top scoring youth team in the J/70 Class at one of the following regattas:

February 24-26 – Midwinter Championship (2 teams participated)

March 9-11 – Bacardi Miami Sailing Week

March 17-19 – San Diego NOOD

April 20-23 – Charleston Race Week

May 5-7 – Annapolis NOOD

June 3-4 – Cedar Point (CT) One Design Regatta

June 9-11 – Chicago NOOD

June 16-18 – Great Lakes at Cleveland Race Week

July 15-16 – St. Francis YC Sportboat Regatta

July 27-30 – Marblehead NOOD

Here is the USJYC Notice of Race:

[http://www.jboats.com/images/stories/pdf/J70\\_Youth\\_NOR\\_011217.pdf](http://www.jboats.com/images/stories/pdf/J70_Youth_NOR_011217.pdf)

For more U.S. J/70 Youth Championship information, visit <http://www.jboats.com/j70-youth-championship>.

Encourage your fleets to support a team!

7. **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00 pm EDT (changed from 6/5)

Julie Howell

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**Action Items:**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00 pm EDT