

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 3/12/18

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

**Adjourn:** 8:00 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell **X**  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Jim Murrell (President) **X**  
Scott Deardorff (Vice President)  
Al Poindexter (Secretary)  
Steve Liebel (Treasurer) **X**  
Polk Wagner (Technical Chair) **X**  
Henry Brauer (Past President) **X**  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Jonathan Pollak  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Chris Murray  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Tim Gibbs  
Fleet 4 Southern California –Bruce Cooper  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - 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 **X**  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker **X**  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Adam Bowen for 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 **X**  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Al Poindexter  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman **X**  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel **X**  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog **X**  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Polk Wagner **X**  
Fleet 26 Detroit - Jason Geisz  
Fleet 27 Lake Champlain - James Unsworth  
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Pamela Rose **X**

## **Agenda:**

1. Class Office Report
2. Technical Report
3. 2018 Major Championship Updates
4. Fleet Reports
5. New Business
6. Next Meeting

## **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 254 members so far in 2018 (we had 368 in all of 2017). You can view 2018 members by fleet at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/officer-and-fleets/>.

Chris distributed an updated Regional Championship Host Fleet Rotation chart via e-mail. Please

review the document this week and e-mail [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com) with any questions or further updates. After that time, the chart will be posted on the US website.

2. **Technical Report** – Polk said the Technical Committee provided inspections at the Midwinters and will do so for the Corinthian Nationals, North Americans and World Championship.

The following Class Rules proposal was distributed:

“(CRC-1) Class Membership of Crew Members proposed Rule change

C.3 CREW C.3.1 LIMITATIONS ON THE CREW (b) All members of the crew shall be current class members in good standing, except that a crew member other than the driver is not required to be a class member if he or she holds a valid Group 1 Classification in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 22. (c) No crew member shall be substituted during the world championship and any event of 6 or less consecutive days, without the approval of the Race Committee or event Technical Committee. (d) For events of two or more consecutive day, all crew shall be registered and shall be identified in any entry list, scratch sheet and results listing where the helmsperson, skipper or owner is identified.

Current Rule

C.3 CREW C.3.1 LIMITATIONS ON THE CREW (b) No crew member shall be substituted during the world championship and any event of 6 or less consecutive days, without the approval of the Race Committee or event Technical Committee.

Reason for Changes: With the tremendous growth and popularity of the J/70 Class, there has been a significant influx of professional sailors into the class. The involvement of professional sailors has been a significant contributor to the strength of the class because of the expertise and knowledge they willingly and freely share with the class and its members, and because of the exciting high level of racing that they provide. Consistent with their important involvement in the class, it would be beneficial if they extended their involvement by becoming class members and partners with other class members. In those extremely rare cases where some discipline might be required, the class would have the ability to impose limitations on their participation. (This provision would apply to all crew except those who are classified Group 1 under World Sailing’s regulations. Many professional sailors choose not to be classified Group 3, and choose instead to simply remain unclassified, so they would be covered by this rule.)

It is also important for the Class if the public can see all members of the crews who are participating in an event, so that people are aware of the high level of racers who are participating in the class. Every member of the crew is an important contributor to the results of the competing team, and should be acknowledged as such.”

Ed said he’s heard some concern about the membership cost for some Group 3 sailors, but Polk sees the benefits outweighing the cons. Pamela added that insurance is higher with Group 3 sailors on board (“crew insurance”), which may be a topic to educate our members on. The individuals are not named on the policy, but it is an annual fee for crew (ex. \$500 per crew with Gowrie). Chris explained that Rules proposals require a 60-day review so discuss this language in your fleets, and at the same time it will be discussed internationally. There will be an e-mail vote of the USA Fleet Captains after the 60-day review.

The Technical Committee has been researching “spar swapping.” The current Rule says you must use the spar manufacturer that was provided with the boat. The research findings are showing that there is not a need to change our Rule, as the ITC surveyed many sailmakers and pro sailors, and the results were completely mixed. The Class does not desire an “arms race” with masts, nor for the members to undertake the change. This will be explained further in the next Class newsletter.

The updated Class Rules and Builders Specs are posted and were explained in the Winter newsletter, available here <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/news/>. Chris added that some rudder hardware sold recently was rusting, but J/Boats and the Class is actively researching a new option.

The French option is not currently conducive to the US boats because the alignment does not match.

The Technical and Executive Committees are also discussing injuries attributed to the winches. Chris and Polk recapped that the original concept of the boat is that the winches are meant to equalize the boat for all who sail it, regardless of gender, size, etc. The J/70 is a “Manufacturers Class” so any solution needs to be done in coordination with J/Boats. Look for more information on this topic in the coming months.

Contact Polk anytime with technical questions.

### 3. **2018 Major Championship Updates –**

Chris said the Midwinter Championship in Miami last month was successful with 60+ votes. The Executive Committee is discussing a return to Coral Reef YC in 2019.

Corinthian National Championship, April 26- 29, Fort Worth Boat Club, Fort Worth, TX: 20+ boats are expected.

North American Championship, May 14-20, Club de Vela La Peña A.C., Valle de Bravo, Mexico: This is the first time to rotate the NAC outside of the USA. Charter boats are available.

World Championship, September 22- 29, Eastern Yacht Club, Marblehead, MA: All 48 qualified US people have been given the registration link, as well as those with perpetual berths. 36 total people are officially entered. The Yacht Scoring link is live at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=4512>, and more web updates will be available soon. Sponsors are being secured.

The 2019 Corinthian National Championship is August 8-11 at Little Traverse Yacht Club in Harbor Springs, MI. The 2019 World Championship is August 30-September 6 at Royal Torquay Yacht Club in the UK. The 2019 North American Championship is September 22-29 at Edgewater Yacht Club in Cleveland, OH. The 2020 NAC will be hosted by the Canadian Class, and the 2021 NAC will be in Annapolis, MD. California Yacht Club will host the 2020 Worlds, and Monaco in 2021.

### 4. **Fleet Reports –**

*Fleet 4 Southern California Jim Murrell:* The San Diego NOOD is this weekend with 26 J/70s, ahead of more fleet racing going forward.

*Fleet 9 Marblehead Henry Brauer:* Their energy is focused on hosting the World Championship. Come early this summer for the Marblehead NOOD Regatta/New England Championship in July and the Ted Hood Regatta in August. Logistics/storage information is on the Worlds Yacht Scoring page. Twenty new boats will be available for charter, as well as private charters.

*Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club James Mitchell:* Come to the Corinthian Nationals in Fort Worth next month. There is a warm-up regatta the weekend before. Free berthing is available at FWBC after the CNC leading up to the North Americans.

*Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island David Becker:* N/A

*Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan Adam Bowen:* Their Fleet meeting is next week, where they hope to find ways to increase participation. Clinics will be held this summer. Wilmette Harbor is a possible area of growth.

*Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Ed Austin:* Their big area events are the American YC Spring/Fall Series, Cedar Point One-Design Regatta, Larchmont Race Week, etc.

*Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound Brad Gibbs:* A couple locals have done the winter circuit, and they are working on their upcoming local schedule.

*Fleet 19 San Francisco Christy Usher:* She supports the Class Rule proposal stated above. Chris

expects this Rule to be in place by late summer. Crew listing can be enforced via registration software, and must be complete when event registration closes. In the meantime, this can be enforced via event NORs and/or SIs. For Corinthian Nationals, all crew must be listed to prove Group 1 status. Regarding the Regional Championship Host Fleet Rotation, Christy and Chris will work offline to possibly update the naming of the Northwest Championship.

*Fleet 22 Cedar Point Josh Goldman:* They have 8-9 boats in the fleet, and they look forward to hosting the Cedar Point One Design Regatta.

*Fleet 23 Tampa Bay Steve Liebel:* The winter season saw six major events in Florida...come back next year!

*Fleet 24 Cape May NJ Bob Herzog:* The Dead Crab Regatta will be in June...look for more details soon.

*Fleet 25 Harbor Springs Polk Wagner:* They have 11 local boats and have been growing fast. Their big event is the Ugotta Regatta in late June, where they expect 20-25 J/70s. Plan to come north next summer for the Corinthian Nationals.

*Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay Pamela Rose:* They're up to 9 boats, and hoping for 15 by next season.

5. **New Business** – N/A
6. **Next Meeting** – Monday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

- Chris will post the updated Regional Championship Host Fleet Rotation chart next week.
- Christy and Chris will work offline to possibly update the naming of the Northwest Championship.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. EDT