

# J/70 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12/3/18

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

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

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell **X**  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Jim Murrell (President) **X**  
Scott Deardorff (Vice President) **X**  
Al Poindexter (Secretary) **X**  
Steve Liebel (Treasurer) **X**  
Polk Wagner (Technical Chair) **X**  
Henry Brauer (Past President) **X**  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Mike McNamara **X**  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Chris Murray  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Caroline Sundman for Tod Sackett **X**  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Bruce Cooper **X**  
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 – Kathy Andreasen **X**  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell **X**  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff **X**  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Adam Bowen  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - Brad Gibbs  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt  
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Anne Lambert  
Fleet 19 San Francisco - Christy Usher  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Al Poindexter **X**  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel **X**  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog **X**  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Scott Sellers **X**  
Fleet 26 Detroit – Mike Welch  
Fleet 27 Lake Champlain - James Unsworth  
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Pamela Rose

## **Agenda:**

1. Election of Officers
2. Office and Copyright Holder Reports
3. 2019 Championship Updates/Planning
4. Technical Report
5. 2019 Budget Proposal and Approval
6. New Business
7. Tentative 2019 Meeting Dates

## **Description:**

Chris Howell conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above). A quorum of the Voting Fleets is present. Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Election of Officers** – Chris summarized that we are voting on a re-election of the current Officers for a second one-year term: <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/officer-and-fleets/>  
*Bob Herzog made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Mike McNamara. The slate passed unanimously.*

2. **Office and Copyright Holder Reports** – Chris reported that the US Class had 319 members in 2018 (we had 368 in all of 2017). There are a few fleets that did not renew this year. Fleet Captains need to keep their locals honest, and remember that 10 member boats makes you a voting fleet. 2019 membership invoices are being mailed this week.

Twenty boats are being built in the USA, building will continue in France in March, and Argentina is very active. Hull #s are at approximately 1448.

3. **2019 Championship Updates & Future Planning** – Jim explained that the Executive Committee is finalizing 2020 Worlds qualifiers. Look for an announcement soon.
  - 2019 Midwinter Championship, February 20-24, Coral Reef YC, Miami, FL
  - 2019 Corinthian National Championship, August 8-11, Little Traverse YC, Harbor Springs, MI: Polk said the Jury and PRO are secured, and look for the NOR in December.
  - 2019 World Championship, August 30-September 6, Royal Torbay YC, UK
  - 2019 North American Championship, September 22-29, Edgewater YC, Cleveland, OH: Caroline noted events prior to the NAC so you can practice at the same venue (Cleveland Race Week in June and the 216 Regatta in September, the weekend prior). Mark Foster is the PRO.
  - 2020 Corinthian National Championship, June 11-14, Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA
  - 2020 North American Championship, September 20-27, Port Credit YC, Mississauga, Ontario
  - 2020 World Championship, July 14-19, California YC, Marina Del Ray, CA: Chris said this event will be a qualifying Worlds with around 80 boats. Scott S. thinks we could re-active the San Francisco fleet with a qualifying series for the region. Chris confirmed that Fleets can decide how to manage their designated berths.
  - 2021 North American Championship, May 13-16, Annapolis YC, MD
  - 2021 World Championship, October 18-23, Yacht Club de Monaco

A Request for Proposal was issued for the 2022 North American Championship and the Corinthian US National Championship in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (deadline April 1, 2019).

Mike asked about adding Fall Brawl to the US J/70 online calendar. Just send the pertinent event details to the Class Office (regatta name, dates, host yacht club + its city/state, event website and contact person + his/her phone number & e-mail address). You can review the Regional Championship Rotation at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/event-calendar2/>.

4. **Technical Report** – Polk prepared a technical summary which was e-mailed to all earlier today: “The International J/70 Class Rules changes that were approved earlier this year have been ratified by World Sailing and will be in effect on January 1. These will require all sailors who are World Sailing Group 3 to join the J/70 Class in order to sail in any event. They also require all crew to be listed for every event, and the crew list published with the entry list and results. Tech Chair’s remarks: This will be an important step for the Class for better transparency and enable more meaningful disciplinary penalties in the rare cases that these may be required. There will be something of a transitional period ahead with what we hope is a minimum of confusion. We at present do not have any further changes to the Class Rules on the table, but as always we welcome your feedback and suggestions.  
*Chris noted that Yacht Scoring and Regatta Network track World Sailing classification status on event websites. The IJ70CA is working on a public database so that Organizing Authorities can verify Class membership. You can already view current US J/70 Class members at <http://www.j70class.com/index.php/officer-and-fleets/>. Jim added that obtaining a World Sailing classification is very simple, quick, free and lasts two years.*

We have a series of changes to the J/70 Builder’s Specification pending and in discussion with J/boats; we expect final approval and publication of these effective early in the new year.

Tech Chair's remarks: The major substantive change is the allowance of the new winches. The rest of these changes are intended to codify and clarify the current practices of the licensed manufacturers.

I would expect that at some point in the near future we may have an iteration of the official J/70 Class Rules FAQ, which will be announced and posted on the class website.

New winches. The big news on the technical front is that the new Harken SnubbAir winches are imminently available. These new winches are shorter than the current Harken B8 winches, and have a top edge or lip. They are a bolt-for-bolt replacement with the B8s, and will be standard equipment on all new J/70s going forward. This winch is a first step toward addressing the many concerns your Technical Committee has heard about the current winches, including bumps, bruises and worse. Harken is working on a padding system specifically designed for the SnubbAir that should improve the situation as well. We have proposed amendments to the J/70 Builders Specification that would allow boats with the original Harken B8 winches to replace them with SnubbAir winches. The new winches are slightly lighter (about 1kg for the pair), so boats doing the swap will need to add 1kg of weight to the rear corrector weight location in order to keep their Manufacturer's Declaration valid.

*Tell the Class Office so the MD can be updated. There is no current change to the requirement of a winch handle. Bruce just used the new winch, and the crew liked it, although he noted no insert for the winch handle. They experimented with the winch in big breeze and found the trimming to be easier. Installation of the new winches was quick, and they determined it successful overall.*

Hiking. Over the last year, there has been much discussion about the hiking rules for the Class, and in particular what seemed like increasing noncompliance. In the lead-up to the Worlds in Marblehead, the Technical Committee prepared a document and diagrams intended to clarify the hiking rules. We also focused during Worlds measurement and inspection on maintaining the correct (tight) tension on the safety lines to help prevent droop hiking. The on-water jury at the Worlds reported few, if any, concerns about hiking. (Although to be fair, the conditions were not conducive to easy observation.) Going forward into 2019, enforcement of the hiking Rules will be a continuing priority—primarily through education about what the Rules are, and a focus on appropriate tension of the safety lines. We'd be happy to hear your feedback.

Measurement Process. At the Midwinters in Miami in February, we will be experimenting with a slightly different approach to the measurement/inspection process. After arriving onsite but prior to registration, each competing boat will complete a compliance form that certifies the boat has all the required equipment, meets the Class Rules, etc. Class measurers will be available onsite to assist with the form and to answer questions. The skipper will be required to sign this form prior to final registration. During the event, boats will be inspected randomly both on and off the water. (And penalties for noncompliance will be extremely severe.) We hope that this process will ease the inspection burden on participants and our measurers.

Measurers. The Class plans to have Class measurers at the Midwinters in Miami, the Corinthian Nationals in Harbor Springs in August, and in Cleveland for the North Americans in September. We have three Class scales, so we can send those around and/or bring them to fleets or regattas.

Manufacturer's Declaration. We're getting closer to our goal to have all the boats weighed and issued a current Manufacturer's Declaration. There's a web form you can use to get the process started, linked from the "Rules" tab. In general, Class members should contact the Class Office to get a copy of their Manufacturer's Declaration.

Please help us work on the Rules. Any system of Rules is only as good as the effort that the Class members put into thinking, revising and following them. No system of Rules is perfect, and we

should always be trying to improve the fairness, compliance and simplicity of the Class Rules. Please be in touch with me or Chris Howell (and preferably both) with your comments, observations and guidance with respect to the J/70 Class Rules system. The J/70 is increasingly regarded as one of the world's top Classes for high quality one-design racing. In my view, a big part of maintaining that success requires a transparent and respected system of Class Rules. And to do that we need every Class member's help."

5. **2019 Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the USJ70CA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2018 and Budget 2019. Let's all work on the membership renewals at the local level. Chris said the US Class website will be updated, along the lines of how the International site was recently upgraded.

*Jim Murrell made a motion to accept the Budget as presented, seconded by Polk Wagner. The motion passed unanimously.*

6. **New Business** –

*Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay Mike McNamara:* Mike is the new Fleet Captain. They are planning budgets and schedules for 2019. Fleet 1 hopes to coordinate combined events and clinics with neighboring fleets.

*Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Caroline Sundman:* Noted in the 2019 NAC report above.

*Fleet 4 Southern California Bruce Cooper:* They've started a three-race West Coast Winter Series to get boats more active leading up to 2020 Worlds. Six boats competed this past weekend, but the goal is 15+ for each of the next two. Fleet 4 plans to work more closely with Santa Barbara.

*Fleet 9 Marblehead Kathy Andreasen:* She thanked Daan for being the past Fleet Captain, as this is her first meeting. Enthusiasm is high following the 2018 Worlds. The fleet website is updated for 2019 including the Marblehead NOOD and Ted Hood Regatta. All are excited to host the 2020 Corinthian Nationals.

*Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club James Mitchell:* They hope the excitement from this year's Corinthian Nationals will boost the fleet locally. A Southwest Circuit of six to seven regattas is in the works for 2019.

*Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff:* Their year is now complete, with the final event being breezy and fun. A fairly new boat is for sale. The 2019 schedule will feature similar events to this year.

*Fleet 20 Galveston Bay Al Poindexter:* No report.

*Fleet 23 Tampa Bay Steve Liebel:* The first Davis Island event is this weekend, full at 60. A couple boats usually drop out, so you can get on the waiting list.

*Fleet 24 Cape May NJ Bob Herzog:* The 2019 calendar is being discussed, so stay tuned to the website.

*Fleet 25 Harbor Springs Scott Sellers:* Everyone is excited for the 2019 Corinthian Nationals. Scott is also active in Fleet 19, and hopes to get more coordination among the West Coast fleets.

7. **Tentative 2019 Meeting Dates** – 3/4/19, 6/3/19, 9/9/19, 12/2/19

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

--The Class Office will e-blast the membership when the January 1, 2019 updated Class Rules are posted.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. ET