

J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/3/19

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 7:35 p.m. EDT

Present:

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

Agenda:

1. President's Report
2. Class Office Report
3. Fleet Merge
4. Technical Report
5. Major Championship Updates
6. Fleet Reports
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting

Description:

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

1. **President's Report** – Jim said the Executive Committee has been meeting to work on regatta planning, etc. Funds coming in from the new Group 3 memberships will be focused on Corinthian sailors. In addition to Open and Corinthian perpetual Midwinter Championship trophies and a perpetual Corinthian National Championship trophy, the USJ70CA is sponsoring \$2,000 for the 2019 Corinthian National Championship. Tim Healy, Travis Odenbach and Jud Smith will be coaching on the water, in addition to debriefs.

The US Class will now be managing the annual Youth Championship, taking over from J/Boats. The 2019 edition will be in November in St. Petersburg FL, with attendance by resume. Look for an official announcement this month.

2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 354 members so far in 2019, including 67 Group 3 members and 12 Associates. A membership push by Fleet Captains at local events is strongly encouraged.

The USJ70CA has recently debuted a new, more modern website. Let us know if you see anything out of place or if you have suggestions for improvement. The calendar layout has been upgraded.

3. **Fleet Merge** – Chris summarized that we have 28 Fleets, however our Constitution requires 10 boats represented by Active Members for a Fleet to have Voting rights. We have several areas where there are neighboring Fleets under the 10-boat threshold. You can view members by Fleet at <http://j70class.com/class-office/fleet-contacts/>. Fleets are asked to review their membership roster for merge suggestions and e-mail howell@j70office.com.

4. **Technical Report** – Polk was unable to attend the meeting but submitted this written report:

“Rules Changes Update

As of April 18, new versions of the J/70 Building Specification and J/70 FAQ came into effect and were posted. The key change was that boats may now replace their Southern Spars mast and boom with those made by Selden, and vice-versa. The details of this change are spelled out in J/70 FAQ #21 and the corresponding Technical Bulletin 2019-04-18. Importantly, this change may only be made once per year. Note as well that supplies of Selden J/70 mast and boom sets as well as the new mast base bracket required for installing a Selden mast on US-built boats are highly constrained. J/Boats expects general availability in Fall 2019. For all the current documents, see <http://j70ica.org/class-office-rules/>

Technical Committee Update

US Technical Committee Reconstituted. The US Class now has a full Technical Committee, as follows:

- Polk Wagner, Chair
- Chris Howell, Class Executive
- Jeff Johnstone, Copyright Holder
- Geoff Becker
- Ed Furry
- John Heaton
- Frank McNamara
- Harrison Turner

Polk is presently also the International Class Technical Chair, and therefore plans to rotate off the US Committee at the end of 2019.

Fleet Measurers

Under the J/70 Class Constitution, each fleet needs to have a “Fleet measurer.” This designee is charged with assisting Fleet members with compliance questions and weighing boats as needed to update Manufacturer's Declarations. Many Fleets have measurers listed, but we need to confirm, update and revise the list. Fleet Captains—please send Polk (polk@polkwagner.com) and/or Chris & Julie Howell (howell@j70office.com) contact info for your current Fleet Measurer, and we'll take it from there.

Technical Committee 2019 Agenda

Over the next months we will be:

- revising and updating our Regatta Guidelines, and our template/suggested NORs and Sis

- communicating about the new Rules changes to CR C.3.1
- communicating about lifeline tension and hiking Rules
- refining our measurement tools and techniques in the lead-up to the J/70 Worlds in the UK in September
- considering a number of relatively minor Rules changes, mostly for clarification or to bring the Class Rules in sync with other Racing Rules.

Measurers in Action

The Class plans to have Class Measurers at the J/70 Corinthian Nationals in Harbor Springs in August, and in Cleveland for the J/70 North Americans in September. We have three Class scales, and we can send those around and/or bring them to Fleets or regattas.

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 Polk or Chris Howell (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. Major Championship Updates –

2019 Corinthian National Championship, August 8-11, Little Traverse YC, Harbor Springs, MI

2019 World Championship, August 30-September 6, Royal Torbay YC, UK

2019 North American Championship, September 22-29, Edgewater YC, Cleveland, OH

2020 Midwinter Championship, February 20-23, Coral Reef YC, Miami, FL: Expect benefits arranged for Corinthian teams, perhaps discounted entry fee, housing, free launching/dockage at CRYC, etc.

2020 Corinthian US National Championship, June 11-14, Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA

2020 North American Championship, September 20-27, Port Credit YC, Toronto

2020 World Championship, July 27-August 2, California Yacht Club, Marina Del Ray, CA:

Qualifying is underway. Jim said they are working on lead-up events to the Worlds.

2021 North American Championship, May 13-16, Annapolis YC, MD

2021 Corinthian US National Championship, dates TBD, Cedar Point YC, Westport, CT

2021 World Championship, October 18-23, Yacht Club de Monaco

2022 Corinthian US National Championship, dates TBD, Bayview YC, Detroit, MI

2022 World Championship, September, Newport, RI

2022 North American Championship, October 31-November 6, St. Petersburg YC, St. Petersburg, FL

6. Fleet Reports –

Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club James Mitchell: Growth and interest has been a nice surprise, including more participation locally.

Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Ed Austin: The American YC Spring Series had good racing despite some challenging weather. They have a Friday night series, and some people were active at the Cedar Point Regatta.

Fleet 19 San Francisco Harrison Turner: They are trying to raise interest in the Big Boat Series (currently at 12 of 15 boats needed). Charters are available.

Fleet 20 Galveston Bay Kelly Gray: Some of their locals are heavy travelers and also race other boats, so the challenge is getting people more active locally.

Fleet 22 Cedar Point Josh Goldman: 10 J/70s were at the One Design Regatta. The Fleet is trying to raise participation, especially with the Corinthian National Championship in 2021.

Fleet 26 Detroit Mike Welch: Their Tuesday Series started in April (usually eight boats), and they had the Bayview One Design Regatta last weekend (nine boats).

Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay Joe Kolisch: They have just one more regatta this summer. Joe is conducting demos to build the fleet, but as Miami is a transient place, it's hard to maintain local racing. Some international boats have arrived in the Fleet. Boat storage is an issue. Jim shared that top boats in his Fleet give dock debriefs, which often catch the eye of racers in other Fleets. Joe also wants to focus on attracting more Corinthians.

Chris noted that the Class Office is happy to send an e-blast and/or social media posts for your regatta promotion...just send us the text/links!

7. **New Business** – N/A

8. **Next Meeting** – Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

Action Items:

--Fleets will review their membership roster for Fleet merge suggestions.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. EDT