

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 5/8/13

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

**Adjourn:** 8:05 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell **X**  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder) **X**  
Joe Colling (President) **X**  
Henry Brauer (Vice President) **X**  
Kathy Parks (Secretary) **X**  
Chris Groobey (Treasurer) **X**  
Sean O'Keefe (Technical Chair) and Fleet 4 **X**  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay - Will Keyworth **X**  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Morgan Paxhia **X**  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central - Richard Nesbett **X**  
Fleet 4 Southern California - Karl Pomeroy  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay- Noel Clinard **X**  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel  
Fleet 7 Niagara- Don Finkle  
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley **X**  
Fleet 9 Marblehead - Stein Skaane for Henry Brauer **X**  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - John Coye  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Betts  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan - Richard Stearns  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg **X**  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin **X**  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - Kevin Grant  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt

## **Agenda:**

1. Introduction of Officers and roll call of Fleet Captains
2. Call-etiquette
3. Office Report
4. Review of Constitution
5. Sub-committees
6. Class Rules overview
7. Questions on Rules
8. Next Meeting

## **Description:**

1. **Introduction of Officers and roll call of Fleet Captains** – Chris H. conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above).
2. **Call-etiquette** – Chris H. asked each participant to identify his/herself plus the fleet when speaking. He advised against the use of speaker phones, and asked for muting when not speaking.
3. **Office Report** – Chris H. reported that the Class has 152 members so far in 2013. 193 sail royalties were sold in 2012, and 740 in 2013. Jeff spoke to the development of the J/70 both domestically and worldwide. Hull #250 shipped today, and they are up to hull #425 as the next available hull in the Fall. Hull #500 is possible for Key West 2014. There are 5 boats being produced per week in the USA, and the French are producing 2 per week. Production is likely in Asia by the end of this year. Kathy welcomed everyone to the 2013 North American Championship in Annapolis this September. They are evaluating their resources following last weekend's Annapolis NOOD. The NOR is in the final stages and should be published in the coming weeks. Chris G. is pleased with sponsorship progress thus far, and he will be sharing a marketing document in an effort to receive more feedback.
4. **Review of Constitution** – Chris H. explained the Constitution wording of voting fleets, where each fleet with 10 or more member boats receives 1 vote on the Board of Directors (in 2013 only, it's 7 boats or more). For every multiple of 10 member boats beyond the original 10, another vote

is obtained. The Constitution calls for an Annual Meeting each Fall, with an election of Officers. Chris H. noted that the Class is moving quickly toward ISAF status. Paperwork will be submitted this summer, and should be confirmed at the ISAF meeting in November. There will be an International J/70 Class Association at that time, meaning that the current published Constitution will become the US Constitution with some small changes.

5. **Sub-committees** – Chris H. advised that the Class will be seeking Committee participation, such as Technical, Marketing, Events, Sponsorship, etc. Interested individuals should contact the Class Office at [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com).
6. **Class Rules overview** – Chris H. recapped that the Class Rules were primarily authored by Jeff Johnstone and a committee of one-design and ISAF specialists. They were written in ISAF format, and he clarified that the Rules are “Closed Class” Rules, meaning that if it doesn’t say you can, then you cannot. The only exception to this is the Builders Specifications. Jeff and Sean are working on a detailed sheet of the Builders Specifications, which will be made public upon completion. Certain “hot button” items such as weight limit, hiking, etc. are under consideration, but there will not be any major changes until after the North American Championship this Fall. This allows both United States and International competitors a year of racing under the current Rules to work through any needs for updates.
7. **Questions on Rules** – Noel inquired about the Cunningham kit. Jeff explained that there are two systems--one in the US and one in Europe. The upcoming Builders Specs will be a 100+ item spreadsheet in accordance with ISAF. For items that are differently spec-ed (such as the Cunningham), the sheet will quantify the options, and people can use whichever they prefer. Kathy asked about a bungee cord for retrieving the pole as a safety issue. Jeff has no objection to this in the Builders Specs. Charles wondered about the hull weights. Jeff clarified that every boat is weighed, although there is an allowance for an outboard. On average, given the outboard weights of the two primary US suppliers, boats should come in at 5-25 lbs. under minimum. (Chris H. noted that minimum as 812 kg.) Ed asked if there will be sail purchase restrictions, and Chris H. said that it is not on the radar at the moment. Two issues being worked through are the carrying of an extra spinnaker and no-assistance rule. These would need to be implemented in NORs or SIs on a regatta-specific basis. Joe suggested that we should consider more limitations on pros as crew. Chris H. also noted that we may need to address situations of a crew of five people, when children are involved. Henry thought the Class should prepare championship regatta guidelines, and everyone agreed. Charles asked about future major regatta locations. Chris H. said that Key West Race Week will again be the Midwinters, and an RFP will be distributed for the 2014 Championships (Worlds, North Americans, Nationals, etc.). Davis Island Yacht Club has submitted a proposal for a Winter Series, providing storage amongst a few events. This is being evaluated, and more information will be forthcoming. Chris H. inquired whether the Fleet Captains feel comfortable with the level of communication. Will thought that the structure is in place for the Class to move forward, and he suggested that fleets submit activity reports through the website and social media so other fleets can hear more ideas. Chris H. expects a Class newsletter soon, and the Forum, Yahoo group, Facebook, etc. are also available. Joe encouraged a shift to the Forum on the Class site.
8. **Next Meeting** – a Monday in the next quarter, exact date TBD

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

--Jeff and Sean will work through the Builders Specs with input from this group.

**Next Meeting:** a Monday in the next quarter, exact date TBD