

J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/9/14

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 7:45 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Ned Jones for Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder) X
Joe Colling (President) X
Henry Brauer (Vice President)
Kathy Parks (Secretary)
Bennet Greenwald (Treasurer)
Sean O'Keefe (Technical Chair)
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay - Walt Pletcher for Will Keyworth X
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central - Richard Nesbett
Fleet 4 Southern California - Dave Vieregg for Karl Pomeroy X
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Noel Clinard X
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel X
Fleet 7 Niagara - Don Finkle
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley
Fleet 9 Marblehead - Stein Skaane for Henry Brauer X
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker X
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan - Blane Shea X
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Ed Austin
Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - John Brim X
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Michael Pitt
Fleet 18 Canandaigua Finger Lakes - Jan Richmond
Fleet 19 San Francisco Bay - Drew Harper X
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter

Agenda:

1. Class Office Report
2. Regatta Reports
3. Technical Report
4. International Class Update
5. New Business
6. Next Meeting

Description:

Chris Howell conducted a roll call of the Officers and Fleet Captains (attendance noted above). He asked each participant to identify him/herself plus the fleet when speaking.

1. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the Class has 333 total members so far in 2014. Our goal for the year was 325 so we have surpassed that. We should still see several more members this year. At our fall meeting, we will approve a new budget for the next fiscal year which starts October 1.
2. **Regatta Reports** – Chris stated that the North Americans is sold out, with a waiting list. Rochester Yacht Club has done a great job in organizing the event, including sponsorship and promotion. Chris has been working closely with J Boats on the measurement process: as boats pull into the parking lot, they will receive a short inspection utilizing templates to check key areas of the boat, as well as equipment and weight certificates. If it appears that the boat has not been altered and the lead matches the weight certificate, these boats will be fast tracked to the water. (They will still need sail measurement and a safety check.) Obviously boats without a weight certificate will be weighed, and all boats have the option to re weigh even if they have a certificate. If, in the initial inspection, a boat raises a red flag, it will move to a keel-down

inspection spot. The overall goal is to make the measurement process efficient yet fair to all. Ned added that we are implementing the Rules as they are written now, while keeping things simple and fun. John Brim asked about the Worlds qualification. Chris explained that every boat that qualifies includes criteria as follows: being a member, boat being weighed, owner on board. In some cases, the winner of an Open berth may already be qualified as Corinthian. In this instance, the Corinthian berth would move down to the next competitor in the original regatta. It's possible we will reach a point of accepting petitions, although we are in an abbreviated cycle with this being our first Worlds. In the future, we will qualify in the year prior. We anticipate the 2016 Worlds to return to the USA, and we will qualify teams in 2015. The Executive Committee will be working on this process.

3. **Technical Report** – Ned asked the group to advise him of any Rules interpretations, questions, etc., as this is the feedback that drives the future. Walt asked about moving spinnaker blocks forward up to where the jib blocks are (on same eye), and Ned confirmed that this change is reflected in the builders specs. Noel explained a recent safety situation with the rudder pin pulled out. The result was an accident that cracked the transom. Noel will send a photo to Ned. Ned stated that there is a French builder that has built around 100 boats. They are Class legal, although there are slight variations due to different hardware vendors in the area. They have spars from a different manufacturer, and the boats are standard without the kelp cutter. An Asian builder is also active, and is producing its first hull. J Boats and the builders are learning from each other. Chris said that he gets questions about devices keeping lines from getting caught, which would fall under the anti-chaffing rule. Drew asked if anyone has sailed a French boat against a US built boat. Ned said that there are no reported comparisons of US versus French boats, but they are satisfied the boats are consistent.
4. **International Class Update** – Chris shared that the IJ70CA has an Executive Committee now in place:
President: Jürgen Waldheim, Germany (very experienced with J/80 and other classes in Europe)
Vice President: Malcolm Jaques , UK
Secretary: Scott Weakley, Canada
Treasurer: Henry Brauer, USA
Technical Chair: Ned Jones, USA (Acting Chair)
The International Class has a World Council, and every country has votes in proportion to the number of members in their country. The USA currently has 6 votes with it 333 members. An NCA has one vote for 50 members, plus another vote for every group of 50 thereafter. No other nations have reached additional votes yet. Rule change proposals will be prepared this year by the IJ70CA, and the US members will be informed in preparation of a vote on the Rules.
5. **New Business** – Ned provided his e-mail address: ned@jboats.com.
6. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

Action Items:

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. EDT