

J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/17/14

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 8:15 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder) X
Ned Jones (IJ70CA Technical Chair) X
Joe Colling (President) X
Henry Brauer (Vice President) X
Kathy Parks (Secretary) X
Sean O'Keefe (Technical Chair) X
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay - Will Keyworth X
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech X
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central - Richard Nesbett X
Fleet 4 Southern California - Karl Pomeroy X
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Noel Clinard X
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel
Fleet 7 Niagara – Tim Finkle for Don Finkle X
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley X
Fleet 9 Marblehead - Henry Brauer X
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff X
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 X
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 - Drew Harper, Ellen Hoke X
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter X
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay

Agenda:

1. Class Office/Finance Report
2. NAC/Worlds Recap
3. Technical Report
4. Regional/Championship RFPs
5. Officer Nominations
6. New Business
7. Annual 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/Finance Report** – Chris reported that the Class has 385 total members in 2014. He distributed a current USJ70CA Profit & Loss Summary and Balance Sheet via e-mail. The areas named “other costs” and “miscellaneous revenue” reflect lead bought and sold for our boat weighing initiative.
2. **NAC/Worlds Recap** –
NAC: Corbo said the Rochester Yacht Club broke even on the NAC, and the feedback from the competitors was very positive. Chris added that the facility was excellent for the increased measurement that took place there. Ned continued that measurement was well received, and they met their goal of keeping measurement at about 12-15 minutes per boat while still adding measurement points. Everyone learned a lot. Jeff thought a positive addition was bringing sail measurement from the ground to table level. Many sails had ISAF certifications, which is a time-saver. This was also true at Worlds.
Worlds: Jeff recapped that the Worlds was pulled together in just nine months, after we gained ISAF status. Kendra, Ned and Fleet 2 are to be credited. There were 14 countries there, the widest

geography of any Worlds he can recall. The wind/waves/seaweed were all present. They hope to break even financially, but if any funds are left over, it will go to Sail Newport's initiatives.

- 3. Technical Report** – Chris e-mailed a letter today with the resignation of Bennet Greenwald as an Officer, following the reveal of a carbon fiber rudder on his boat in August. Bennet does not wish the Class to have negativity because of this incident. Ned added that this rudder was not used in any regatta. The Technical Committee was prepared to check all boats at Worlds in this regard, and everyone passed. ISAF's Dina Kowalyshyn was onsite to share her expertise on performance enhancements and how to detect subtle changes. All feedback will be utilized for potential Rules changes and Builders Specs updates in the future. Ned will prepare a more detailed report. Morning checks were made every race morning to look for any changes to the boats. Competitors were pleased with this process. Jeff thought that the morning briefings were helpful for information distribution as well as measurement enforcement. Noel asked about bottom paint being used on boats that are not wet-sailed? Ned believes that more requirements (such as showing a mooring permit/dock slip agreement) will be needed for better enforcement. The Builders Spec update included improving the center seam. Everyone at Worlds passed the measurement of this area. Rich asked about a boat that did not pass measurement at the NAC which did sail at Worlds. Ned clarified that the boat had a complete re-measurement. It had other issues with trailing edges and equipment, which were corrected. Al inquired about the negative press following the Sailing Anarchy report of the broken rudder? He suggested that the Class issue a bulletin. After further group discussion, Chris summarized that a statement to the membership would be made as soon as possible regarding the rudder, it being unrelated to the Worlds, as well as a summary of the measurement process at the Worlds.

Chris explained that we are in our first Rules modification cycle. The IJ70CA Constitution requires 60 days review of the Rules proposals. The International World Council will meet in December, so the 60-day review will commence in October. The Rules changes will be distributed, and it's important for the Fleet Captains to get consensus from their fleets on how to proceed. This is what guides the USJ70CA vote(s). Owners are able to submit ideas to the IJ70CA Technical Committee, and then that committee researches the ideas. E-mails can be sent to Ned Jones and/or Chris Howell. Suzy would like to recommend that the Class consider a Rule change regarding five crew, based on her experience at Worlds with four females. Chris stated that this topic is already on the Technical Committee radar for this cycle, but he encouraged her to submit her recommended wording. Some fleets are using five crew now in non-Class events when females or juniors are on board. Brandon Flack has expressed that a no-crew-weight philosophy is self-policing. Corbo agreed. Sean thinks anything to encourage females and junior sailing is best for Class growth. Will has heard much about this in Fleet 1, and he thinks all-female or all-family crews are great, but there should be limitations.

- 4. Regional/Championship RFPs** – Chris has received proposals for major championships, but very few for regional championships. The RFP is online, and the deadline is September 30. These will be voted on at our December meeting. These regattas are very important, as the 2015 events are qualifiers for the 2016 Worlds.
- 5. Officer Nominations** – Chris stated that the USJ70CA Nominating Committee is comprised of Karl Pomeroy, Rich Stearns and Will Keyworth. Anyone interested in becoming an Officer should reach out to this Committee and/or Chris. The Officers will be voted on at the December meeting.
- 6. New Business** – Scott asked about the percentage of professionals in our Class. They lost a fleet member for this reason. Chris stated that the Technical Committee is discussing this, and one scenario may limit professionals per boat. Jeff recalled that the industry support of the J/24 launched that Class, but fell off over time. We will get to a balance in the J/70 Class. Scott is not concerned about top sailmakers with their boats, but a Group 1 skipper hiring three pros. Jeff had language in the initial Rules about not compensating crew, but ISAF rejected that due to inability

of enforcement. This topic will be vetted through the Rules proposal process. Al wondered if the pros and amateurs should compete in separate fleets, but Henry thought most Corinthians would not even be in favor of that. Blane concurred. Henry added that successful teams are more based on racing time together, than ISAF Group status. Of course, there is always the issue of perception. Will recapped that as long as the industry is offering its support of the sport/Class, everyone benefits. He's not opposed to some limitations, but we need latitude to sort itself out. The J/70 Class is strong at the fleet level, where this concern is lessened.

Kathy encouraged the fleets to really develop themselves, hold meetings and communicate. Some owners feel that they don't have a voice, so she asked Fleets to strengthen themselves over the fall and winter.

7. **Next Meeting** – Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. EST

Julie Howell

Action Items:

- Ned will prepare a detailed report based on J/70 Worlds measurement.
- J Boats and the IJ70CA will issue a technical bulletin.
- Fleet Captains will communicate with their members regarding the Rules modification cycle/process.
- Fleet Captains will hold meetings with their members.

Next Meeting: Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. EST