

# J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 6/6/16

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

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

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Henry Brauer (President) X  
Craig Tallman (Vice President) X  
Kristen Robinson (Secretary) X  
Scott Deardorff (Treasurer) X  
Frank McNamara (Technical Chair) X  
Joe Colling (Past President) X  
Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay – Jonathan Pollak X  
Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay - Suzy Leech  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Tim Gibbs  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Dave Vieregg X  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay - Blake Kimbrough  
Fleet 6 Erie - Tim Weibel  
Fleet 7 Niagara - Tim Finkle  
Fleet 8 Rochester - Charles Corbishley  
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Daan Goedkoop X  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara - Scott Deardorff X  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Amy Neill 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 - Anne Lambert  
Fleet 19 San Francisco - Justin Kromelow  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay - Alfred Poindexter X  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Harald Findlay  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Trevor Roach  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Liebel  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ - Bob Herzog  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs - Polk Wagner X  
Fleet 26 Detroit - Jason Geisz

## **Agenda:**

1. Class Office Report
2. President's Report
3. NAC Recap
4. Worlds Update
5. Technical Report
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. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 358 members so far in 2016. The Class Office just moved from Ohio to: 1604 Ventana Dr., Ruskin, FL 33573. Cell phone and e-mail address are unchanged.
2. **President's Report** – Henry thanked all the volunteers at the North American Championship at Lakewood Yacht Club in Texas. The PRO did a great job in challenging conditions over seven races. Our next big event is the World Championship in San Francisco this fall. Last weekend was good for the Class around the States: Cal Race Week had 12 boats, Bayview One Design had 26, and Cedar Point had 17. Henry heard an idea at the NAC about a Corinthian National Championship including Olympic coaches. Polk thinks it's a great idea but we need to hone in on

a family-friendly date/location. Dave added that we'll have to police the "Corinthians" who are getting paid. He'd also like to see limits on sail purchases. Henry suggested that we experiment with the "one pro rule" for events such as a Midwinter Championship. The Regatta Committee will explore this concept. Chris H. will be at the European Championship this month and get a better pulse on the IJ70CA's opinion, but it currently seems unlikely that a Rule change could take effect earlier than 2018. Henry encouraged people to forward their comments to him. John Brim noted that we recently went through a vote on this topic, and this is how the Class is getting such a large turnout at repeated events. Joe sees that the "pro" trend is increasing. Let's discuss this topic among our fleets and continue the conversation via e-mail.

3. **NAC Recap** – The 2016 J/70 North American Championship took place May 19-22 at Lakewood Yacht Club in Texas with 39 boats. Al strongly recommends that the previous NAC host debriefs the future NAC host. He'd like to see onshore event guidelines to supplement our on-water guidelines. Chris said that this is in the works, and he thought it was impressive to see so many World Champions in our fleet. Frank has spearheaded the pattern NOR and SI project, which is now being reviewed by our next two Worlds PROs.
4. **Worlds Update** – The 2016 J/70 World Championship is September 24-October 1 at St. Francis Yacht Club in California. The website is <https://www.stfyc.com/j70worlds2016>. Any questions can be directed to Justin Kromelow at [justin@kromelow.com](mailto:justin@kromelow.com). 40 boats are signed up as of today, and information on boat storage should be up on the Worlds site in the next week. Chris held a post-NAC debrief with the Worlds organizers, including the PRO Mark Foster who was at the NAC. If you're going, get your name on the list!

2016 J/70 NorCal Summer Series		
July 22-24	J/70 Pacific Coast Championship	StFYC
August 12-14	Summer Keel	SFYC
Sept 15-18	Rolex Big Boat Series	StFYC
Sept 24 - Oct 2	J/70 Worlds	StFYC

5. **Technical Report** – Frank said the measurement process at the NAC went very well with Chris, Ned Jones and a number of volunteers. The Technical Committee's projects: updates to Regatta Guidelines, drafting a model NOR and SI, and updating FAQs on the website. Scott asked about Bennett Greenwald's return to the Class. Frank noted a carry-over issue with a tight keel box, which was repaired overnight following a 10-boat sampling. Ned will ensure his other boat's compliance with this area.
6. **Fleet Reports** –
  - Fleet 9 Marblehead Daan Goedkoop: They've had two days of racing this season with 6-8 boats, following some fleet members' participation in the winter/spring events. Two big upcoming events are the Marblehead NOOD at Boston YC in July and then the ONE Regatta.
  - Fleet 11 Santa Barbara Scott Deardorff: They have a small fleet, but they travel. They have had organized practices and drills, which helps enthusiasm. He hopes to have a professional come in for a clinic. He'd like to get into a deeper conversation about the pro rule.
  - Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan Amy Neill: They are in their third week of club racing. 21 boats are signed up for the upcoming Chicago NOOD, and she expects participation to increase after that.
  - Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound Ed Austin: 17 boats were at the American YC Spring Series. The East Coast Championship takes place in October...look for the NOR soon.
  - Fleet 16 Fishers Island Sound - John Brim: About eight boats are in the fleet, but a couple of the members travel often. They race often, and include the Coast Guard Academy.
  - Fleet 20 Galveston Bay Alfred Poindexter: A new boat has been added to the fleet, and their summer series is getting underway.

Fleet 25 Harbor Springs Polk Wagner: Their short summer season is just getting started with 8-10 boats. The Ugotta Regatta is their big event, and they are planning some training as well.

Fleet 4 Southern California Dave Vieregg: The San Diego NOOD had a good turnout, and they also had the first Midwinters West. Between that event + Yachting Cup, the attendance was stretched out. Their goal is to have one decent sized regatta per month, including Long Beach Race Week in June.

Fleet 1 Chesapeake Bay Kristen Robinson: The fleet has experienced some turnover locally, and is now expanding south. They will be pushing Fall Brawl. The fleet spent money at the Annapolis NOOD to host post-race parties, which the J/70 entrants enjoyed and also promoted the boat to other fleets.

Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central Joe Colling: The fleet is holding course as boats stay in town when sold. He expects better participation this summer.

Fleet 2 Newport/Narragansett Bay Suzy Leech: She is frustrated to find a formula that works for the fleet. They were hoping to have a three-race Narragansett Bay series, but it looks like it will be just the Newport Regatta and J/Fest. They are changing from weekday racing to weekend racing with a family focus of racing + social functions.

7. **New Business** – Henry said that a few yacht clubs have made fleet purchases, including Bayview and St. Petersburg YC. J/Boats promoted this in the most recent J/Newsletter, so check that out if you think your club could be a fit. He noted that the mast and boom are identical but sails can be purchased smaller.

Al wants to see greater emphasis on Regional Championships, more than Continental and World Championships. Joe recapped that the regions have autonomy over their Championships, as long as the dates do not conflict with other major events. Henry suggested that the Regional and major Championships be highlighted on the USJ70CA calendar, but it is also the fleet's responsibility to promote their events. Henry and Joe reminded the Fleet Captains that they can send a promotional e-mail/flyer to [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com) for member distribution. The same is true with the J/Newsletter.

8. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Julie Howell

**Action Items:**

--Henry and the Regatta Committee will explore options regarding professionals in the Class (events, Rule proposals, etc.) within our Rules cycle.

--Anyone who is interested in becoming a Class Officer should send a brief summary to Joe Colling at [usa3757@gmail.com](mailto:usa3757@gmail.com).

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. EDT