

# US J/70 Class Association Fleet Captain Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 6/2/2025

**Start:** 7:07 p.m. EDT

**Adjourn:** 8:10 p.m. EDT

## **Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone (Copyright Holder)  
Brian Keane (President) X  
John Heaton (Vice President) X  
Cate Muller-Terhune (Secretary)  
Andrew Loe (Treasurer) X  
Dina Kowalyshyn (Technical Chair)  
Al Poindexter (Past President)  
Fleet 1 Annapolis – John White  
Fleet 2 Wayzata – Sean Hendrickson  
Fleet 3 Lake Erie Central – Ted Pinkerton  
Fleet 4 Southern California – Karl Herbst X  
Fleet 5 Southern Chesapeake Bay – Clark Dennison  
Fleet 6 Cohasset MA – Charlie Henry  
Fleet 7 Eastern Great Lakes - Tim Finkle  
Fleet 8 Solomons Island - Larry Ray  
Fleet 9 Marblehead – Patrick Andreasen  
Fleet 10 Fort Worth Boat Club - James Mitchell  
Fleet 11 Santa Barbara – Pat Toole  
Fleet 12 Eastern Long Island - David Becker  
Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan – Will Howard  
Fleet 14 Austin - Matthew Romberg  
Fleet 15 Western Long Island Sound - Jean-Marc Papin  
Fleet 16 Fishers Island/Newport - Brad Gibbs  
Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest - Ron Rosenberg X  
Fleet 18 Sag Harbor – Jim Vos  
Fleet 19 San Francisco – David Fried  
Fleet 20 Galveston Bay – Kelly Gray  
Fleet 21 Edgartown - Crawford Phillips  
Fleet 22 Cedar Point – Josh Goldman X  
Fleet 23 Tampa Bay - Steve Knoop  
Fleet 24 Cape May NJ – Jack Lord  
Fleet 25 Harbor Springs – Sean O’Brien X  
Fleet 26 Detroit – Don Glover  
Fleet 28 Biscayne Bay – Ryan McKillen

## **Agenda:**

1. Class Office Report
2. Technical Report
3. USA Championships and Corinthian World Championship
4. Regional Regatta Planning
5. Fleet Roundtable
6. Next Meeting

## **Description:**

1. **Class Office/Technical Report** – Chris reported that the US Class has 297 members so far in 2025, including 67 Group 3 and 15 Associate (2024 total was 298). Remember to confirm membership at your local/regional regattas. Database at [J70 Class Association](#).
2. **Technical Report** – Chris summarized that a few clerical updates will be made to the Class Rules. The IJ70CA Regatta Guidelines (via J/Boats) will be revised to reflect max wind speeds from 25 knots to 22 knots and gusts to 27 and waves at 2 meters. This is based on EU standards as to how the boat was built and is a liability regulation. Brian questioned certain locations where this might be a challenge such as Porto Cervo. The Technical Committee keeps a log of the wind speeds and sea-state and endorses this recommendation. Perhaps Mark Foster can circulate data as such. Ron recalled the conditions in Cascais, and is concerned that we will lose race days going forward.

John agreed that there is great sailing in these conditions. Chris clarified that the Race Committee has discretion to consider wind speed/swells and impact on competitors. RCs consider the more amateur teams. Look for documents from the IJ70CA this summer.

3. **USA Championships and Corinthian World Championship** – A Request for Proposal was circulated via e-mail. Sean is interested in 2027.

Great job in Minnesota at the Nationals...good to see new people and boats!

Upcoming Championships:

--2025 Mixed Plus US National Championship, Corinthian YC, Seattle, WA, June 13-15: Looking to be numbers in the mid-teens. Charter boats are available...contact Ron.

--2025 Mixed Plus World Championship, Circolo Vela Torbole, Italy, June 26-29: 52 boats registered

--2025 Corinthian World Championship, Eastern YC, Marblehead, MA, September 22-28: there is discussion at the international level as to how much the US Class is supporting major events. We need the Fleets to rally the US Class and back this Championship. The US Class is pro-heavy, but teams can consolidate. Insurance is a concern for international charters (US Sailing via Gowrie can cover "borrowed" boats), but the USJ70CA should ramp up their contribution. This is a World Championship! The US needs to prove they can support these Championships to maintain rotation with other continents. Please rally support for the Corinthian World Championship among your fleet members. John wondered if there are too many events overall. We welcome feedback from the Fleets as to number and spacing of regattas.

--2025 World Championship, Yacht Club Argentino Buenos Aires, October 24-November 1

--2025 North American Championship, Davis Island YC, Tampa, FL, December 1-6: the NOR/registration is open as of today

--2026 Midwinter Championship at Shake-A-Leg Miami, March 27-29

--2026 Corinthian World Championship, Union Nautique/Club La Pelle, Marseilles France, May 23-30

--2026 World Championship, Clube Naval de Cascais Portugal, September 4-12

--2026 North American Championship, Annapolis YC, October 27-November 1

--2027 World Championship, Annapolis YC, October 23-30

4. **Regional Regatta Planning** – A sub committee is needed. John offered to serve. Discussion points include whether to keep the same events/dates per year.

5. **Fleet Roundtable** –

Fleet 17 Pacific Northwest Ron Rosenberg: 25-30 J/70s are out on weeknight racing. Vakaros keeps the racing moving. They have 60+ boats in the fleet, more are welcome! There are a handful of travel teams, but enthusiasm is more for local racing. Really excited for the Mixed+ Nationals. Well done Andrew on the fleet membership drive! What do other fleets charge for Fleet dues? Seems that up to \$100/boat is common in Classes, depending the purpose of the funds. John asked Fleet 17 to share their best practices.

Fleet 25 Harbor Springs Sean O'Brien: They have eight boats and will submit a Championship bid for 2027. Promotion is ongoing.

Fleet 4 Southern California Karl Herbst: 15 boats are active but scattered. It's tough to get boats to cross over in SoCal, as many are in the water. Cal YC is caught up in county politics, but the yard is open with member services (without clubhouse). This region is perfect for a National Championship, such as Long Beach. We welcome a proposal. There is potential for a winter

series, to be discussed among the regional fleets.

Fleet 13 Southern Lake Michigan John Heaton: 21 boats are signed up for the Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta, comprising both locals and travelers. Local sailing is a struggle with crew as folks sail various boats.

Fleet 9 Marblehead Brain Keane: come to Marblehead for the Corinthian Worlds, the club is friendly, and charter boats are available.

6. **Next Meeting** – Monday, September 8 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT. Maybe we should try an earlier time.

**Action Items:**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 8 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT