

Minutes
J/109 Class Association

Annual Meeting
October 26, 2016

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the J/109 Class Association held on October 26, 2016 at the offices of Building Conservation Associates, Inc., 32nd Street New York, NY 10016 at 6:30 pm New York time.

PRESENT: Jim Vos (President)
JR Rechtschaffer (Vice President)
Bill Kneller (Treasurer)
Bud Rogers (Secretary)
Dave Rosow (Class Member)
Don Dwyer (Class Member)
Bengt Johansson (Fleet 2 Representative)
Ray Pepi (At-Large Board Member)

**PARTICIPATING
BY TELEPHONE:** Rick Hanson (Class Measurer)
Bill Sweetser (Fleet 4 Representative)
Brooke Mastrorio (Fleet 6 Representative)
John Greifzu (Fleet 10 Representative)
Peter Priede (Fleet 11 Representative)
Andy Wescoat (Fleet 12 Representative)
Bob Schwartz (J/109 Class Member)
Scott Sims (J/109 Class Member)
Dan Boyd (J/109 Class Member)
John Sahagian (Class Member)
Carl Braden (Fleet 12 Representative)
Tom Sitar (Class Member)
Heinz Butner (Class Member)
Ted Herlihy (Class Member)
Carl Olsson (Class Member)

I. CONVENING OF THE MEETING

As President of the Class Association, Mr. Vos convened the meeting. As Secretary, Mr. Rogers confirmed that he would keep the minutes of the Meeting. Mr. Rogers also noted that the attendance at the meeting included a quorum of Executive Board members and would also constitute the annual meeting of the Executive Board.

II. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Vos noted that the election of new officers had been completed and that effective January 1, 2017 the Class officers would be:

President: Bill Kneller
Vice President: JR Rechtschaffer
Treasurer: Bud Rogers
Secretary: Dave Rosow
Class Measurer: Bengt Johansson
Member-at-Large: To be determined
Copyright Holder: Jeff Johnstone

Mr. Vos commented on the overall increase in Class memberships over the year as well as the excellent level of participation in the North American Championships, AYC Spring and Fall Series, Cedar Point One Design Regatta, J Fest, the Vineyard Race and the Annapolis NOOD, as well as other regattas during the year in other parts of the country. Mr. Vos noted that no boat qualified for the East Coast Regatta Series trophy in 2016. He stated that he hoped that in selecting the qualifying regattas for 2017, every effort would be made to ensure that there will likely be multiple qualifying boats. It was noted that the criteria were governed by the Deed of Gift.

Mr. Vos also reported that used J/109 were being sold in North America for prices generally ranging between \$125,000 and \$160,00 and in Europe for slightly lower prices, based on his conversations with a number of boat dealers. He also noted that the latest J/Boat competitor, the J/112E was priced considerably higher and was not as flexible a boat for owners looking to cruise with their family as well as race.

III. REPORTS OF THE FLEET REPRESENTATIVES

At the request of Mr. Vos, each of the Fleet Representatives participating in the meeting gave a brief report on the number of active boats in the Fleet, the participation of Fleet

members in area regattas and any thoughts on whether the Fleet members had any issues or questions relating to the Class Rules. There next followed brief reports from Andy Wescoat (Texas), Pete Priede (Great Lakes), Bengt Johansson (New Jersey), Brooke Mastrorio (Narragansett Bay), Bill Sweetser (Annapolis), John Greifzu (Long Island Sound), Tom Sitar (Vancouver), Carl Braden (Australia), and Heinz Butner (Long Beach).

Among other things, it was noted that the Midwest fleet would be interested in hosting a return of the North American Championships. In addition, Mr. Rechtschaffer commented on the excellent regatta participation and boat chartering available in the UK and Ireland

IV. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Kneller gave the report of the Class Treasurer. He referred to the slides on financial matters included in the meeting materials. He noted that the Class had a positive cash balance at the end of each of the last two years and explained that the cash balance had increased in 2016 because certain budgeted expenditures had not been made, including for loaner boat insurance (there were no loaner boats at the 2016 North American Championships) and for trophies for the North American Championships (the trophies were supplied by the New York Yacht Club in 2016). He stated that the 2017 budget would include these items because he hoped and expected those costs to be incurred in 2017. Based on an assumption of flat membership levels and some changes in expenses, the 2017 budget showed a small excess of revenue over expenses.

V. CLASS MEASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Hanson gave the report of the Class Measurer. He noted that two rules changes had been instituted since the last Annual Meeting—a rule allowing in hauling aft of the mast; and a rule allowing a bobstay for certain racing. He also noted several questions that had been addressed as interpretive issues on the Class Forum, including questions relating to

stanchions, batteries, the mast track and the number of sails that can be purchased during a calendar year. Mr. Hanson noted that the new online system of recording and checking sail tags had improved the Class sail database and effectively addressed the questions relating to oversize spinnakers. Mr. Hanson also noted the need to harmonize how U.S.-built and French-built boats are treated under the rules.

Mr. Hanson next noted several rules interpretations that are pending, including the use of windward sheeting cars and the use of a bow sprit loop rather than a U-bolt attachment, as the spar manufacturer had changed its construction of the sprit. He stated that this would be studied for possible action in 2017. There next followed a discussion on whether rules changes, such as the in hauler rule, should be more prescriptive in the future in order to further the one design goal of the Class under its constitution. It was noted that the in hauler rule allowed wide flexibility in design, resulting in significant variations in the installed in haulers. It was agreed that the simplest designs are probably the best and Mr. Kneller agreed to post some of the better and more popular designs on the Class website. It was also noted that there are design and construction differences between the U.S.-built boats and the French-built boats. Mr. Johansson undertook to catalog those differences.

VI. REPORT ON NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PROPOSED 2017 J/109 EVENTS

Mr. Vos reported in detail on the very successful 2016 North American Championships held as part of NYYC Race Week at Newport, with 19 J/109s racing and a well received North U starting clinic run by Bill Gladstone. He congratulated Dave Rosow and the crew of Loki on its overall victory. He also noted that the Corinthian Trophy was awarded to John Sahagian and the Picante crew. He noted that the 2017 North American Championships would be held at Block Island as part of Block Island Race Week. Mr. Vos noted that there are

crews from the UK and Ireland, and possibly elsewhere, that would be interested in racing at Block Island if charter or loaner boats can be made available. Mr. Vos next led discussion of possible venues for the North American Championships for 2018 and beyond. It was agreed that the site of the 2018 North American Championships should be determined by April 2017. It was also agreed that the requirements for the 2017 East Coast Regatta Series and the East Coast Championship Regatta should be settled upon and announced by the end of 2016. Mr. Rogers agreed to assemble information on past participation and a forecast for 2017 participation in relevant regattas.

There next followed a discussion on two related issues potentially affecting the 2017 North American Championships: (i) the ability of boats to sail with Category 3 sailors and (ii) the criteria for the Corinthian Trophy. It was noted that only one boat qualified for the Corinthian Trophy in 2016. At the end of the discussion Mr. Kneller undertook that the Board would make a determination on these issues by the end of 2016

VII. J/109 WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Kneller reviewed the features of the new J/109 Class Association website, which went live on March 4, 2016. He noted in particular that the direct entry of sail specifications by sailmakers had resulted in more thorough review of the submissions and a more efficient tag issuance process. Mr. Kneller also noted that there are some “gremlins” in the website that need to be addressed. He further explained the information regarding the UK and Ireland fleets needs to be added to the database. He explained that those fleets use a Facebook page to communicate with local owners. Mr. Kneller asked the Board to consider whether to seek paid advertisers for the website to defray costs. He also noted that every owner could have a “J109.org” email address.

On behalf of the other directors Mr. Pepi expressed the gratitude of the Board for all of Mr. Kneller's work on the Class Website.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Vos noted that the position of At-Large Board Member needs to be filled for 2017-2018. He further explained that under the Class By-laws, that member can be appointed by the other Board members and hoped to find a candidate from the West Coast or Midwest. Mr. Pepi, as the outgoing At-Large Member, stated that it would be useful if the Board adopted a job description for the position of At-Large Member. He noted that it is the only position for which the By-laws do not provide a job description.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Kneller led the other directors in thanking Mr. Vos for all his work over the past two years.

There being no further business, Mr. Vos declared the meeting to be adjourned

/s/ William P. Rogers, Jr
William P. Rogers, Jr
Class Secretary