

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the J109 Class Association's Executive Board held on October 12, 2017 at Sail Newport, Newport RI at 6:30pm EST.

Present

Bill Kneller	President	Vento Solare
Bengt Johansson	Measurer, NJ Fleet FC	Zig Zag
Ted Herlihy	Asst Measurer	Gut Feeling
John Sahagian	Member	Picante
Sam Goldblatt	Member	Marquise II
Brooke Mastrorio	NE Fleet FC	URSA

Participating by Phone

John Greifzu	LI Fleet FC	Growth Spurt
Heinz Butner	CA Fleet FC	Raptor
Dan Corcoran	Member	Strider
Bob Schwartz	Member	Nordlys
JR Rechtschaffer	Vice President	Emoticon
Pete Priede	Great Lakes FC	Full Tilt
Al Goethe	Member	Hamburg
David Rosow	Secretary	Loki
Bud Rogers	Treasurer	Big Boat
Dan Boyd	Member	Wild Thing
Dwight McMillan	Member	Aviato
Andy Wescoat	TX Fleet FC	Harms Way
Adrian Begley	Member	Mad Dogs & Englishmen

Welcome

At 6:35pm on Thursday October 12, 2017, Secretary, David Rosow, called the Annual Meeting of the J109 Class Association's Executive Board to order.

The Secretary announced that he would be taking recording minutes for the meeting. A poll of attendees was taken and the Secretary confirmed that the necessary quorum was present. Lastly, the Secretary called for a motion to accept the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Bud Rogers. The financials were presented in the meeting documents and outlined the Class's profit and loss statement and cash flow. Bud stated that the Class's cash position was healthy and had grown in recent years due to slight annual profits each year. It

currently stands at \$23,000. He further reported that due to very limited outstanding liabilities, the cash balance roughly equals the Class's net equity.

A discussion of the profit and loss statement ensued. Income, from dues and sail tag licenses, is expected to remain stable. 2017 annual expenses are in line within historical levels. There is some uncertainty related the budgeted cost for the Class's North American Championships next fall due to it being the first attempt at a stand-alone championship event.

On September 7, 2017, the Class received tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(7) effective retroactively to May 15, 2014.

President's Report

President, Bill Kneller, recapped the 2017 regattas and results. He offered congratulations to Loki for its successes including winning the North American Championships, to Gut Feeling for winning the Corinthian Trophy at the NA's, and to others for their strong performance throughout the year including Emoticon, Rush, Vento Solare, Picante, Zig Zag, Goat Rodeo and Full Tilt. Bob Schwartz was thanked for hosting the Class party during the NA's at Block Island Race Week.

Bill discussed the migration of boats and how that has affected fleet health and event participation. In general, he was pleased at the strong schedule and good participation levels at each event. However, he did note that as boats migrate out of certain locations that it has been harder to get one design starts. Generally, fleets in the Chesapeake, NJ and TX have lost boats while fleets in New England and Long Island Sound have grown. Elsewhere, he reported that fleets have remained steady.

Bill thanked the Technical Committee, lead by Bengt Johansson, for their hard work.

He reported that the IRS had granted the Class tax exempt status.

He also reported the Class had issued a successful RFP seeking hosts for the 2018 and 2019 North American Championships. and, the Class had instituted a Corinthian Trophy for the NA's.

Bill ended his report by summarizing that the future looks good for the Class due to robust participation, good camaraderie, and plenty of racing and cruising opportunities.

Fleet Captain's Report

The Secretary asked each Fleet Captain present to report on the activities within their fleet, the participation, events, initiatives, and challenges.

Fleet 2 – Due to a drop in boats in the New Jersey Fleet, Fleet 2 will now merge with Long Island Sound (Fleet 10).

Fleet 3 – Unfortunately, Tom Brott has stepped down. Heinz Butner will be the new FC. Due to a large geographic spread and low density, much of their racing has been PHRF. They are losing boats to other classes and other non-sailing activities. Those remaining have seen good success in PHRF racing.

Fleet 5 – Andy Westcoat reported that the fleet numbers have remained the same and there is a possibility that a new boat from Europe will join. They are getting 3-4 boats on the line for one design events.

Fleet 6 – Brooke Mastrorio reports that her fleet continues to grow and it boasts plenty of events to choose from.

Fleet 10 – John Greifzu reported growing numbers for the Long Island Sound fleet. There is good competition, boats are traveling to other events, and there are plenty to choose from. The fleet will host the North American Championships during the fall of 2018 at Larchmont Yacht Club.

Fleet 11 – Peter Preide reported their fleet is strong and getting stronger. There are two pockets of boats: Chicago and Milwaukee with the rest spread out across the territory. The class had a large turnout for the 300+ mile Chicago Mackinaw race. Also, they created a new event series based on near shore one design events and offshore handicap/OD events.

Class Measurer's Report

On November 29, 2016, a Technical Committee was implemented and named Bengt Johansson chair. Other members of this committee include JR Rechtschaffer, David Rosow, and Ted Herlihy.

Bengt reported on the various rule changes and rules interpretations made since the last meeting. These included permitting a more powerful purchase system for the jib car adjuster, number of sails permitted to be purchased each year, clarifying rigging and specifications, interpreting the legality of new sprit end fittings, enforcing sprit extension limits, interpreting clutch replacements, changes to the mainsheet system, traveler and windward sheeting cars, and updating the 2017 North American measurement checklist.

There are no rules interpretations pending. Bengt explained the procedure to ask for a rules interpretation and outlined some of the challenges the Class has due to the boat's age and the process to approve complementary replacement parts when the original is no longer made.

Bengt reported that the Class will purchase an official scale with calibration weights for the NA's.

There is one rule change pending. The change is mostly administrative as it seeks to replace references to World Sailing with the now defunct ISAF as found in the Class constitution and rules. The ballot will be issued immediately after the meeting and if passed, the rules change will be effective January 1, 2018.

North American Championships

Bill Kneller reported on the 2017 North American Championships held during Block Island Race Week and deemed it very successful. There were 21 competing boats including 5 first timers. David Rosow of Loki was congratulated for winning and Ted Herlihy of Gut Feeling was congratulated for winning the Corinthian Trophy. He applauded the great crew events including the North U Starting Clinic and the Class party hosted again by Bob Schwartz.

Bill discussed the process by which the Class identified and selected the two host clubs for the 2018 and 2019 North American Championships. The 2018 event will be at Larchmont Yacht Club during October 10-14, 2018. The 2019 NA's will be hosted by New Bedford Yacht Club during August 20-24, 2019.

Bill stressed the need to assemble a planning and logistics committee for the 2018 event.

There is potential for European crews to attend the 2018 NA's if the Class can identify loaner boats. Already, the Class has an insurance solution through Gowrie. Bill explained how a charter could be structured between the crew and the owner.

Once the 2018 event has concluded, the Class will evaluate its desires for future NA locations – be it stand alone events, combined with another class, or as part of a larger pre-existing race week.

Proposed 2018 J109 Events

Discussion around the report centered on New England and Long Island Sound events including the East Coast Regatta Series and the East Coast Championships. Participation in the AYC Fall Series was encouraged as a primer weekend before the Larchmont NA's.

J109 Website

Email tools have been developed so individuals and groups can be contacted easily. The website will soon be moved to a faster server to correct some of the most recent issues experienced by users.

Future plans include a unified login for both the website and the forum. Sail tag registration will be improved including coordination with the UK/Ireland fleet.

Elections

As this is not an election year, the Executive Board must only identify a Nominating Committee by June 1, 2018 for the late fall elections for Class Officers.

Rules Change Discussion

Bengt drew attention to the Pending Rules Change Proposal that will be voted on imminently. He summarized how the rules change was primarily administrative because our constitution and rules refer to ISAF, an entity that no longer exists. The changes replace ISAF for World Sailing, the new entity.

Bengt reviewed the process to make changes to the rules, how the Technical Committee addresses concerns, and how it makes rules interpretations. Discussion ensued with specific focus on the age of the boats, the difficulty if not impossibility of finding replacement parts because some aren't made any more, and questioned how the Technical Committee weighs various options to determine what is an approved replacement. The Technical Committee consults with JBoats, surveys what other similar classes have used for solutions to similar problems, does its own research, and holds discussions within committee to develop a solution in line with the original specifications of the boat.

Other Business and Discussion

Bob Schwartz has generously donated his old mast to the Class for temporary loaner use by any boat owner in need. He explained that the rig had been sleeved and deemed unsatisfactory for his use, but wanted to make it available to the Class. The mast is currently being stored at McMichaels under favorable terms.

A new mast, fully dressed and stepped by McMichaels was estimated to be \$20,000. Bob's new mast cost \$6,000 direct from Sparcraft including all fittings. Bob recommends that all mast fittings be checked regularly to avoid the failure he experienced. Bob also thanked the Class officers and Fleet Captains for the dedication and hard work.

Al Goethe proposed that Lakewood Yacht Club (TX) host a mid-winter championship. To make the event attractive for the northern teams, he stated that he has access to a transportation solution. Further, he stated that his proposal makes economic sense. The cost to northern teams, including transportation, storage and housing for a couple winter events effectively equals the cost to attend Block Island Race Week.

There being no further business, the Secretary declared the meeting closed at 8:07pm.