

## A Message from the Class President - January 2019

Dear North American J/109 Class Association Members and J/109 Owners,

The J/109 Executive Board wishes you a Happy New Year and looks forward to a successful 2019. J/109 Class elections were held in the fall with the following positions filled by both elections and positions appointed by the Executive Board to serve through the end of 2020:

**President:** Bill Kneller – owns *Vento Solare* hull number 266 home port Newport, RI. Bill previously served on the J/109 Class board as President & Treasurer.

**Vice President:** John Greifzu, Jr. – owns *Growth Spurt* hull number 261 home port Stamford, CT. John previously served as the Long Island Fleet Captain.

**Secretary:** Cory Eaves – owns *Freedom* hull number 255 home port Larchmont, NY. This is Corey's first time on the J/109 board. He was a major player organizing the 2018 J/109 North American Championship at Larchmont YC.

**Treasurer:** Bud Rogers – owns *Big Boat* hull number 360 home port Sag Harbor, NY. Bud previously served on the J/109 Class board as Treasurer & Secretary.

**Measurer:** Fred Beckham – owns *Augenblick* hull number 243 home port Westbrook, CT. This is Fred's first time on the J/109 board. He also leads the Technical Committee.

**At-Large:** Jim Goldberg – owns *Junkyard Dog* hull number 168 home port Sausalito, CA. Jim continues in this role but has his boat up for sale. If anyone is interested in being the Member at Large, please contact any of the Class Officers.

**Copyright Holder:** Jeff Johnstone – is the President of J/Boats Inc. Newport, RI.

**Assistant Measurer:** Ted Herlihy – owns *Gut Feeling* hull number 72 home port Padanaram, MA. Ted previously served as Assistant Measurer and serves on the Technical Committee, appointed by the President.

**Technical Committee:** Jonathan (JR) Rechtschaffer – owns *Emoticon* hull number 200 home port Stony Point, NY. JR previously served on the J/109 Class board as Vice President and the Technical Committee. He also serves as the Long Island Sound fleet captain in addition to his role as the Technical Committee Copyright Holder Representative.

Listed below are some highlights from 2018:

- J/109 Class Association had 62 active dues paying members
- First “stand-alone” J/109 North American Championship held at Larchmont YC was resounding success with 20 boats
- Technical Committee continued active role by researching issues which impact rules, evaluating changes proposed by members, identifying acceptable substitutes for parts no longer available, streamlining measurement process and updating rules referencing external requirements that changed over time.
- Class finances are the best they have ever been with a balance just over \$29,000 as we start 2019.

Increased regatta participation made racing more fun. The Class started to award a Corinthian Trophy in 2016 at the North American Championship to recognize the top finishing boat without any sailing professionals onboard. This has been continued with a [new permanent half hull trophy](#) established with the annual winner inscribed on the trophy. Additionally, many of the regional regattas now recognize the top Corinthian winners with a trophy. Congratulations to the 2018 winners of our major regattas:

- 2018 North American Championship overall winner: *Loki* (David Rosow)
- 2018 North American Championship Corinthian Trophy winner: *Growth Spurt* (John Greifzu, Jr.)
- 2018 East Coast Championship at Ida Lewis YC - *Gut Feeling* (Ted Herlihy) 1st of 9 Boats, *Hamburg* (Al Goethe) 1st Corinthian
- 2018 East Coast Regatta Series Results - *Loki* (David Rosow) 1st of 11 Boats Qualified
  - Cedar Point OD Regatta (The mandatory event)  
18 J/109s in OD Class - *Loki* 1st, *Morning Glory* 2nd, *Zig Zag* 3rd
  - New York YC Race Week Part 2  
8 J/109s in OD Class - (*Rush* 1st, *Hamburg* 2nd, *Leading Edge* 3rd)
  - American YC Fall Series 2nd Weekend  
14 J/109s in OD Class - (*Zig Zag* 1st, *Hamburg* 2nd, *Loki* 3rd)
- Conanicut Around the Island Race - 6 J/109s OD Class (*Vento Solare* 1st, *Gut Feeling* 2nd, *Picante* 3rd)
- 2018 Macinac Cup J/109 Division - *Goat Rodeo* 1st of 13 J/109s (10 finished)
- 2018 Great Lakes Championship – *Callisto* 1st, *Goat Rodeo* 2nd, *Vanda III* 3rd

## 2019 J/109 Major Regattas

The complete schedule will appear on the J/109 website and be updated regularly as events are added and regatta documents are posted by the host organizations. If there is a regatta planned that does not appear on the website, please let us know, so we can help spread the word. Here is an overview of the major J/109 events for 2019:

- [J/109 North American Championship](#)—August 20-24 at New Bedford YC – New Bedford, MA

- [J/109 East Coast Championship](#)—August 10-11 at J/Fest New England, Sail Newport in Newport, RI
- **J/109 East Coast Regatta Series**—[Cedar Point OD regatta](#) (June 1-2); [Newport Regatta at Sail Newport](#) (July 6-7); and [American Yacht Club Fall Series](#) (September 21-22, 29-30)
- [Race to Macinac](#) – (July 13) Chicago YC
- [J/109 West Coast Championship](#)—June 21-23 in Long Beach, CA as part of Long Beach Race Week

If you are interested in chartering a J/109 for the North American Championship please let a board member know. Our J/109 colleagues in Europe do a lot of chartering for their regattas. The borrower would probably bring their own sails and the owner/lender might join the team for the regatta. Payment might be a good race bottom job (based on whatever the owner and person chartering agree to) and the class will pay the loaner boat insurance policy that covers the event.

### **Future J/109 North American Championships**

Subsequent to the 2019 North American Championship, the class will obtain feedback from participants to evaluate whether future North American Championships should be held as part of a larger event, or an event focused on one or two classes. During the fall of 2019 a decision will be made on the location and dates for the 2020 North American Championship.

### **2019 J/109 North American Championship**

Planning is underway with organizers from New Bedford YC and the J/109 Class working diligently to make sure that our second stand alone J/109 North American Championship is a great one. The [registration page is open](#). The New Bedford YC is providing complementary moorings from 17 through 27 August. Boat measurement and inspection will be conducted on Tuesday 20 August with racing Wednesday 21 through Saturday 24 August.

The Technical Committee is reviewing and updating the [previous inspection checklist](#) with an updated version to be used for boat measurement. The checklist will incorporate the latest rule changes and interpretations. It is expected the checklist will be posted on the [rules section of the J/109 forum](#) no later than 1 June. For boats and crews who are competing in their first J/109 North American Championship, we suggest that the checklist be used to self-inspect the boat. You are encouraged to post any questions on the forum so that the class measurer may provide responses to help all competing. The Class Measurer strives to provide complete answers within a few days. Sails to be used must be declared using the [Sail Declaration System](#). Sail tags will be verified during inspection and matched with those declared online. About 90 days before the regatta, a measurement schedule will be posted on the regatta site. Each boat will be asked to sign up online for a boat inspection time slot. A Measurement Team will be available for a limited time at Sail Newport for the East Coast

Championship August 10-11 weekend to conduct pre-measurement on boats that desire to better prepare for measurement at the NAs. This early measurement provides good training for anyone interested in helping the measurement teams at New Bedford YC. More details will be disseminated as we get closer to the event.

## **Class Rules Changes**

There are no pending changes subsequent to the current Class Rules approved by the Class with the updated [Constitution](#) and [Class Rules](#) effective 1 January 2018. The Class Measurer provided interpretations and clarifications on the following which are documented on the [Class Rules Discussion Forum](#):

- Battery requirement was clarified as two lead technology batteries with a combined minimum rating of 150 Ah as in the last published specification from J/Boats.
- Harken suggestion for two jib cars per track was not allowed.
- Suggestion to replace the standard deck/mooring cleats with roller cleats or recessed cleats was not allowed.
- Keel Extension deemed not class legal – prior the the North American Championship one boat was found with an extension at the bottom of the keel that was deemed not class legal. The modification was removed and the keel returned to specification prior to racing.

## **Technical Committee Initiatives**

The Technical Committee has been working initiatives intended to help with rules and material support for J/109s. The most recent initiatives are:

- Many boats have experienced issues with the mainsheet swivel deforming or breaking under load. A measurement ruling now allows a stronger swivel assembly to be substituted. Meetings with the manufacturer (Harken) resulted in Oyster Bay Boatshop designing an upgraded upper bearing race that may be easily retrofit on the existing swivel. This is being offered as a retrofit kit available for purchase online. Details are posted on the [forum at this link](#) including videos and a link to purchase the retrofit kit.
- Continuing to work with J/Boats to determine various equipment specifications used during J/109 production in the US and France from 2001 through 2012
- Working to identify and develop continued sources of supply for J/109 parts that may become obsolete over time.

## **J/109 Cruising and Social Events**

Some use their J/109 for cruising exclusively while others may race and cruise their boat. The J/109 Fleet Captains are interested in hearing from others in their fleets who may be interested in organized cruises and social events. A complete list of Fleet Captains is provided at <https://j109.org/class/fleet-list/> on the class website with email

addresses and phone numbers. You are encouraged to contact your Fleet Captain to help coordinate a cruise and / or social event.

### **J/109 Website Updates**

The J/109 website was updated in November 2018 with a new password system. The previous system had a tendency to forget passwords and was a nuisance. If you have not logged in since November, you will be required to reset your password. The log in button that used to appear at the top of the site has been moved to the menu bar. When a user is logged in, the dues payment status and expiration date is now prominently displayed in the green banner across the top of the screen. This should reduce the number of emails we received asking “did I already pay my dues this year”.

An attempt was made to merge the log in for the main website and the forum. It proved to cause more problems than benefits, so the effort has been dropped. This means that users will need one log in for the J/109 website dues and member lists with a another log in for the forum. The login for these two systems allows different user names and passwords. You have the option to “Remember me” when logging in to both systems. This keeps you logged in when you access the website or forum on the same computer.

### **J/109 Custom Boat Website Subscriptions Available**

The J/109 Class has arranged with Crew Manager LLC to make custom J/109 boat websites available. [Crew Manager](#) provides a boat website with features the Skipper & Crew will use throughout the sailing season. In a nutshell, the team website provides a “Who, What, When, Where and Wear” schedule with automatic reminders. After an event, the Skipper may post results and crew members may submit comments, pictures and stories about the event. Crew Manager works on most any device with a web browser including PC, Mac, iPad, Android tablet, iPhone and Android Phone. The cost for an [annual subscription is \\$90 and includes the website setup](#). Crew Manager LLC will donate 10% of all 2019 J/109 annual subscriptions to the J/109 Class. The following J/109s have Crew Manager websites.

- [J/109 Vento Solare](#)
- [J/109 URSA](#)
- [J/109 Marquise II](#)
- [J/109 Strider](#)
- [J/109 Leading Edge](#)

### **J/109 Class Membership**

One of the best ways to insure your investment in the J/109 is to support the Class. Owners and Co-owners are strongly encouraged to become Members of the J/109 Class Association. Others may become Associate Members. Members are owners or co-owners. Associate Members are crew and supporters of the J/109 Class. The membership fee is \$50.00 for Members and \$50.00 for Associate Members. Members

who are current with annual dues are provided access to restricted areas on the class website and are able to view complete lists of owners and members.

**Existing Members** – If you are already an owner with an email address on file, all you need to do is get a password by clicking the *Login* button located on the menu bar of the website <https://j109.org>. When in doubt, try this first. Use the Forgotten Password section of the Login page. Once you enter your email address, we will send you a link to reset your password at that address, or if no account exists, provide immediate indication on the screen. As an existing or previous member you can inspect and edit your contact information (after you have logged in) by clicking *Update My Info* under the *Members* menu. Existing or previous members can pay annual dues (after you have logged in) by clicking on *Renew Membership – Dues* under the *Members* menu.

**New Members** – If you are not currently registered or do not have an email address on file, register by filling in the form by navigating the menu on the class website <https://j109.org> – Mouse over *Market*, then click on *New Membership* to open that page. Submit your information, then once we review your contact information we will add you to the database. This may take a day or two.

More information about registration and passwords is available in the *Login* page available by clicking on the *Login* button located on the menu bar of the website.

Happy Sailing!

***Bill Kneller,***

J/109 Class President



**Additional Information and Links of Interest are provided below**

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## Register for the 2019 J/109 North American Championship at New Bedford Yacht Club



The 2019 North American Championship will be held 20 - 24 August at New Bedford Yacht Club. Make plans to join this great event, where we hope to exceed the 20 boats competing at the 2018 J/109 North American Championship held at Larchmont YC.

Details will be posted in the spring, but there will be a North U clinic lead by Bill Gladstone for the J/109 Class, a class parties and dinners at New Bedford with some great racing. [Register now](#) and pay the entry fee by 18 July in order to avoid late fees.

- Click [this link to register](#)
- Click [this link to see who is registered](#)

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**Click the Member Update logo below to update your information.**

Update your contact, boat and home port information.



Use the email address you received this message from as your login. Need more help? [Click on this link](#) and read the section labeled *Existing Members*. If you still have a problem logging in, email the [\*\*J/109 Class Administrator - admin@j109.org\*\*](mailto:admin@j109.org).

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**Click the J/109 Class Forum logo below to read and share boat information.**

The forum has information owners have shared on maintenance, sails, tuning, cruising and events. If you have something boating related to buy or sell, this is the place to look. The J/109 Class Forum is the designated method for people to ask the J/109 Class Measurer questions about rules and rules interpretations.



Anyone may read the forum without logging in, but to be able to post on the forum, you will need to register for a free account. Once you navigate to the forum, click *Register* near the top right to setup an account. If you already have a forum account, click on *Login* located next to the *Register*. There are helpful hints on using the forum [located at this link](#).

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**Click the J/109 Class Calendar logo below for upcoming events.**

Keep up to date on planned J/109 events via the website calendar.



For questions or comments, please contact the [J/109 Class Administrator](#).

This message was sent from the **J/109 Class Association** email system. We periodically send out messages about the J/109 Class including one design events, class rules, cruising, member updates, maintenance information, and technical advisories from equipment manufacturers concerning the J/109. If you would like to update your email preferences, please send a message the [J/109 Class Administrator](#).