

**MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the J109 Class Association's Executive Board**  
**Held on October 23, 2018 at the offices of East Coast Yacht Sales, Portsmouth RI at 6:30 pm EST**

**Present in person or attending via telephone:**

Carl Braden, Blue Sky, Fleet Captain  
Heinz Butner, Raptor, Fleet Captain  
Dan Corcoran, Strider  
Cory Eaves, FREEDOM  
Kirk Fraser, Eclipse  
Sam Goldblatt, Marquise II  
John Greifzu, Jr., Growth Spurt, Fleet Captain  
Ted Herlihy, Gut Feeling  
Bill Kneller, Vento Solare, President  
Tim Kohl, URSA  
Brooke Mastrorio, URSA, Fleet Captain  
Peter Priede, FULL TILT, Fleet Captain  
Jonathan Rechtschaffer, Emoticon, Vice President  
David Rosow, Loki, Secretary  
Todd Santos, Moccasin  
Scott Sims, SLAPSHOT II  
Bill Sweetser, RUSH

**Welcome**

At 6:36 pm on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, Secretary, David Rosow, called the Annual Meeting of the J109 Class Association's Executive Board to order.

The Secretary announced that he would be recording the minutes from the meeting. A poll of attendees was taken and the Secretary confirmed that the necessary quorum was not present per Class Constitution 6.1 and 6.4. The Secretary noted that 2018 is an election year and the current officers would be serving through the end of meeting until the new slate was approved. The Secretary stated that the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes were posted on the Class's website and linked to the 2018 Annual Meeting Presentation notes and available for review.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Bud Rogers was not in attendance. In his absence, President, Bill Kneller presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy of this report can be found on the presentation, which will be posted to the website. In summary, Bill noted that while the report shows a partial year through September, the class's finance's remain healthy with a strong cash position. He expects that the October expenses related to the North American Championships will be such that the year-end results will be close to budget.

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**President's Report**

President, Bill Kneller presented some highlights from the season. The J109 Class exists primarily in pockets on the East Coast (Long Island Sound, New England) and in the Great Lakes. Elsewhere, fleet sizes are challenged.

East Coast events have benefited from "travelers" whose home port is out of the region. These travelers have maintained, or even increased the participation in the East Coast events. Bill thanked them for their efforts.

Participation was further highlighted when Bill reported that regional events are seeing more boats and new events have been created. He surmised that as the class has aged, there has been a migration to area of critical mass.

Summarily, Bill though the future of the class looks good.

Bill also highlighted the work of the Technical Committee and thanked its members, particularly its Chair, Bengt Johannsen, for his efforts that benefited the class through enforcement of Class Rules as these boats age and as replacement parts become more difficult to source.

**Fleet Captain's Report**

The Secretary asked each Fleet Captain to report on their fleet's status and activities with their fleet.

Fleet 1 – Kirk Fraser reported that a J/Fest event would be run next year.

Fleet 3 – The fleet is struggling a little. They lost two regular racers this year. There are no one design events anymore due to low numbers so the owners race PHRF. As boats get sold, they are becoming cruisers.

Fleet 4 – One owner in the area is selling his boat. The other owner, Bill Sweetser, has relocated his boat to the north. There is no Class racing in the Chesapeake.

Fleet 5 – no report

Fleet 6 – There is good growth in the fleet including a boat from the Chesapeake and two from Texas. PHRF racing has turned into Class racing due to the strong turnout. Just the same, there are boats on the market.

Fleet 7 – no report

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Fleet 8 – no report

Fleet 9 – no report

Fleet 10 – The fleet seems to be benefiting from others weakening as it welcomes new boats. Turnout to regattas is strong: AYC Spring (10), CPYC (18), AYC Fall (13), PYC (8), NA's (20). And, similar to other areas, there are boats for sale.

Fleet 11 – Most sailing is happening in Lake Michigan. The fleet hosts two series: an offshore series which includes the 300 mile Mac race (13 boats), and a near shore buoy race series. Jim Murray's Calista won both series and the overall trophy. A J111 owner is purchasing a J109 and a Farr 40 owner is considering purchasing a J109. Fleet 11 expressed interest to host the North American Champs.

Fleet 12 – There is no Class racing due to the low number of boats and their distance from one another. Still, in the handicap fleet, the boats are doing very well. There are a few on the market priced attractively.

Fleet 13 – no report

Fleet 14 – no report

**Class Measurer's Report**

Bengt Johansson, Chair of the Technical Committee, stepped down as of October 15, 2018, but nevertheless produced this year's report. Ted Herlihy, Assistant Measurer, presented the report. Ted thanked Bengt for his diligent work to keep the Class strictly one design. Ted reviewed some highlights of the Technical Committee's accomplishments including the NA's checklist and the measurement process, clarification of batteries required on board, resolution to the number of jib cars permitted, ruling on retractable bow cleats, and the discovery and decision to prohibit a boat with an altered keel to participate in the NA's or other Class racing until its keel had be reverted to its original class configuration. The report thanked Jeff and Allan Johnstone for their continued support of the Class.

**North American Championship**

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

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Bill enthusiastically thanked Cory Eaves, owner of Freedom and a Larchmont YC member, for his incredible efforts in planning the event, acting as a liaison, and his help to facilitate the Class needs throughout the event. Well done!

Bill Kneller reported on the 2018 North American Championships held at Larchmont Yacht Club and deemed it very successful. There were 20 competing boats including 4 first timers. David Rosow of Loki was congratulated for winning overall and John Greifzu of Growth Spurt was congratulated for winning the Corinthian Trophy. He applauded the great crew events including the North U Starting Clinic and the Class dinner hosted at the yacht club.

Bill stressed the need to assemble a planning and logistics committee for the 2019 NA event.

There is potential for European crews to attend the 2019 NA's if the Class can identify loaner boats. Already, the Class has an insurance solution through Gowrie.

Now that the 2018 event has concluded, the Class will seek event feedback from owners and other stakeholders through a survey which will be sent out shortly.

Once the 2019 event concludes, 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 2019 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. The report touched on potential strong participation at each of the events. A new late fall Long Island Sound event was proposed at Stamford Yacht Club.

**J109 Website**

The website and its back end has been leveraged to provide easier event sail registration and dues status reports for event measurement and registration. Sails can be transferred simply with a couple clicks of the mouse.

Future plans include a unified login for both the website and the forum, some changes to the website UX which will reflect a few back end changes, further coordination with the UK/Ireland fleet, and a potential crew finder/crew available section.

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**Elections**

The Secretary certified that the slate of officers elected for a term ending 2020 is as follows  
(24 voted yes for slate, 1 voted no)

President - Bill Kneller, *Vento Solare*

Vice President - John Greifzu Jr., *Growth Spurt*

Secretary - Cory Eaves (3 write-in votes), *Freedom*

Treasurer - Bud Rogers, *Big Boat*

The Executive Board will appoint the following other positions at their next meeting: Class Measurer, Assistant Class Measurer, Technical Committee members, Copyright Holder's representative, At-Large Member, and Copyright Holder.

**Other Business and Discussion**

At times during the meeting, there were discussions that were not germane to the reports. Those discussions are recorded here.

There was a proposal made to purchase and award a perpetual Corinthian Trophy to the top Corinthian team at the NA's.

There was a proposal made to award a trophy to the team who traveled the furthest to attend the NA's.

There being no further business, the Secretary declared the meeting closed at 7:36 pm EST.