

2019 J/109 Class Annual Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2019 at the offices of East Coast Yacht Sales, Portsmouth, RI at 6:30pm EST

Present in person or attending via telephone

Bill Kneller (*Vento Solare*), President
John Greifzu Jr. (*Growth Spurt*), Vice President
Bud Rogers (*Big Boat*), Treasurer
Cory Eaves (*Freedom*), Secretary
Stuart Burnell (*Tantivy*) (for Jerry Woodfield (*Shada*), Fleet 1 Fleet Captain)
Dan Lewis (*Skoot*), Fleet 4 Fleet Captain
Andy Wescoat (*Harm's Way*), Fleet 5 Fleet Captain
Jonathan Rechtschaffer (*Emoticon*), Fleet 10 Fleet Captain
Jim Murray (*Callisto*) (for Pete Priede (*Full Tilt*), Fleet 11 Fleet Captain)
Carl Braden (*Blue Sky*), Fleet 12 Fleet Captain
Keith Eickenberg (*Blackfin*)
Tom Sitar (*Serendipity*)
Dan Corcoran (*Strider*)
Julia ODowd (*TBD*)
Bob Schwartz (*Nordlys*)
Scott Sims (*Slapshot II*)
Kirk Fraser (*Eclipse*)
Tim Kohl (Associate Member)

Welcome

At 6:36pm EST, Secretary Cory Eaves, called the Annual Meeting of the J/109 Class Association's Executive Board to order.

The Secretary announced that he would be recording minutes of the meeting. A quorum was established per the Class Constitution 6.1 and 6.4. The Secretary asked for a motion to approve the 2018 minutes, which are posted on the Class's web site. A vote was taken and the 2018 minutes were accepted unanimously.

Finance Report

Treasurer Bud Rogers provided a finance report. A copy of this report can be found on the presentation posted to the Class web site. In summary, Bud noted the class's finances remain healthy with a strong cash position. 2019 end of year cash balance is expected to be approximately \$30,000. Sources of revenue remain primarily dues and sail tags. Expenses remain primarily the NAs. Revenue and expenses for 2020 are expected to be similar to 2019.

President's Report

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Bill Kneller provided the President's report. This included a review of regatta results for 2019. Bill noted that participation was incrementally down in regional events. In addition, several boats continued to migrate around the country.

Fleet Captains Reports

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

Fleet 1 - PNW - George Stuart reported that they currently have 12 109's racing, with more racing around Seattle. Bob Ross hosted a J/Fest in Seattle with 5 J/109s. Seven J/109s expected to race around San Juan islands.

Fleet 3 - CA / HI - no report

Fleet 4 - Chesapeake - Dan Lewis reported that he recently took the responsibility and is just getting organized. He hopes to have more one-design racing in 2020.

Fleet 5 - Texas and Gulf Coast - Andy Wescoat reported that only 2 J/109 are actively racing in the area. Other boats have migrated to other locations.

Fleet 6 - New England. Book Masterino was not present, but Bill Kneller gave the report. The fleet is active with several local races. A few boats have moved out of Narragansett Bay.

Fleet 7 - UK & Ireland - Nobody from the fleet was present, but Bill indicated that he had received an email from the Fleet Captain. The fleet is considering chartering a boat for the 2020 J/109 NAs.

Fleet 8 - NL - no report

Fleet 9 - France - no report

Fleet 10 - LIS - Jonathan Rechtschaffer reported that Fleet 10 is healthy with several events, including AYC Spring & Fall, Cedar Point, and the Pequot Invitational. The Fall Classic has been added for the last event of the year. Considering some distance races for 2020.

Fleet 11 - Great Lakes - Peter Priede reported that the fleet participated in eight events this year. 5 Buoy races, and 3 distances races. Drawing in about 17 boats. The fleet awarded three trophies awarded each year. Overall, the fleet is active, growing, and healthy with great racing this year with several top J/109 placements.

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Fleet 12 - Pacific - Carl Braden reported there are a handful of boats doing handicap racing.

Fleet 14 - Europe - no report

Fleet 15 - Mediterranean - no report

Class Measurers Report

The Class Measurer was not present. No verbal report was given. Class Measurer materials are included in the presentation. There were no significant developments in 2019.

North American Championship

Bill Kneller gave a report on the NAs for 2019. They were hosted at New Bedford Yacht Club. The event was excellent overall. David Roskow on *Loki* won the overall event with an all Cat-1 crew. Special thanks to the organizing committee. Also, special thanks to Tom & Diana Sutton (*Leading Edge*) for sponsoring the music.

Bill Kneller shared the summary results of a survey of members related to NAs. There was good participation in the survey, especially in Fleet 11. The summary findings are as follows:

- Strong preference for 3-4 days
- No strong preference on stand alone vs. combined events
- Social events with class-only attendance should be considered
- Race format of W/L is preferred
- Except for Great Lakes fleet, other fleets want to stay with class sized (108 sqm) spinnakers
- Preference for NAs being held from mid June to mid August.

Bill Kneller shared the 2020 NA plans. They will be held with Fleet 11 - Great Lakes, at Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago. The Fleet captain is working on loaner boats. The issue of oversized spinnakers needs to be addressed.

Bill Kneller shared the NA plans for 2021. The 2021 NAs will return to Storm Trysail Block Island Race Week. The dates have not yet been determined, but are expected to be around the 3rd week of June.

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Proposed Schedule for 2020 Class Events

John Greifzu, Class Vice President, reviewed the planned 2020 class events. These are included in the presentation. They include the following events:

1. 2020 East Coast Regatta Series
 - a. Cedar Point OD Regatta (May 30-31) - J/109 OD Class (The mandatory event)
 - b. NYYC Annual Regatta (June 12-14)
 - c. AYC Fall Series (Sept. 26-27, Oct. 3-4)
2. 2020 East Coast Championship
 - a. New York YC Race Week (14-18 July)
3. 2020 J/109 North American Championship
 - a. Stand alone event August 13 - 16th at Columbia YC in Chicago, IL
 - b. Expecting 17 boats
4. Select Additional Events with J/109 Class Racing or Larger Fleets
 - a. Long Island Sound
 - i. AYC Spring Series (Apr. 25-26, May 2-3)
 - ii. Pequot Invitational (Aug. 8-9)
 - iii. Vineyard Race (Sept. 4-5)
 - iv. Fleet 10 Fall Classic (Oct. TBD)
 - v. Spring (12-13 June) & Fall (11-12 September) Off Soundings
 - b. New England
 - i. New York YC Annual Regatta (June 12-14)
 - ii. JFest (TBD)
 - iii. New York YC Race Week (14-18 July)
 - iv. Conanicut YC ATI (Sept. 6)
 - c. Great Lakes
 - i. Chicago NOOD (early June)
 - ii. Chicago YC Race to Mackinac (July 18)
 - iii. Bayview YC Race to Mackinac (July)

Elections

The current slate of officers was elected in October 2018 to serve until October 2020. On December 31st, 2019, however, Bill Kneller is stepping down as President and recommended an orderly transition to John Greifzu as President. Bill Kneller will assume Fleet Captain for Fleet 6.

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John Greifzu explained that the President and any other resulting vacancies must be filled by a vote of the Executive Board. This is expected to be resolved by the end of the year.

He added that elections will be held in 2020 for Officers serving 2021 and 2022 sailing seasons. A Nominating Committee will be formed in 2020.

Other business

There was no other business for discussion. There being no other business, a vote was taken, and the meeting was closed by unanimous vote at 7:31pm EST.