



J/109 Class Association 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2021

7:00pm EDT

The 2021 Annual Meeting was held via Zoom & teleconference. Minutes were taken by Bill Kneller, Treasurer, since Secretary Cory Eaves had a conflicting meeting.

Attending via Zoom / Phone

John Greifzu Jr. (*Growth Spurt*), President
Bill Kneller (*Vento Solare*), Treasurer & Fleet 6 - New England & Maritimes
Bengt Johansson (*Zig Zag*), Chief Measurer
Heinz Butner (*Raptor*), Fleet 3 - California & Hawaii
JR Rechtschaffer (*Emoticon*), Fleet 10 - Long Island Sound
Keith Eickenberg (*Blackfin*), Fleet 11 - Great Lakes & Lake Champlain
Carl Braden (*Blue Sky*), Fleet 12 - Pacific Rim
Tom & Diana Sutton (*Leading Edge*)
Chris Dees (*Leading Edge*) Crew
Dan Corcoran (*Strider*)
Bob Schwartz (*Nordlys*)
Tom Sitar (*Serendipity*)
Chris Chatain (*Daybreak*)
Kris Maybach & Ray Douglas (*Courageous*)
Peter Dreher (*Smee Again*)
Julia & George O'Dowd (*TBD*)
Tom Sitar (*Serendipity*)
Dan Montero (*Holiday*)
Ted Herlihy (*Gut Feeling*)
Jim Caesar (*Liquid Lounge II*)

Welcome

At 7:05, John Greifzu, Jr., President, called the Annual Meeting of the J/109 Class Association to order.



J/109 Class Association 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Bill Kneller, Treasurer, took attendance using the Zoom participant panel. It was determined that per the Class Constitution 6.1 and 6.4 a quorum of the Executive Board was not present. Therefore, votes taken were provisional, pending a follow-up vote to be taken by email subsequent to the meeting.

The President asked for a motion to approve the 2020 minutes, which are posted on the class website. A vote was taken and the 2020 minutes were unanimously accepted.

Finance Report

Treasurer Bill Kneller provided a finance report. A copy of this report can be found on the presentation posted to the Class website. In summary, Bill reported that the class's finances remain strong with record income from Class dues and class fees. He noted that revenue from sail tags went down significantly due to the global COVID pandemic. The ending 2021 cash position is expected to be very strong at approximately \$34,500. The 2022 budget was also presented and includes \$500 for regatta photos and website photo upgrades. The 2022 budget is expected to be more like 2019 than 2020 & 2021, which were adversely affected by the pandemic. The 2022 budget was unanimously approved.

President's Report

President John Griefzu, Jr., provided the President's report. Membership for the year is the highest ever at 78 with 74 owners. One design racing improved as the pandemic impact is diminishing. Class events were revived and were well attended with 10 or more boats participating. John will be writing an article to discuss sail configuration options for crewed and short-handed distance racing. Bengt Johansson suggested that this be done being mindful of class rules so that any modifications made are consistent with the rules.

Measurer's Report

Chief Measurer Bengt Johansson provided a report on class measurement and rule activities. The NA Championship was reviewed with comments and pictures in the presentation showing non-compliant findings during NA measurement checks. The TC has agreed to look at the use of Lithium-Ion batteries since some French built boats in



J/109 Class Association 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Fleet 11 have been modified to use Lithium-Ion batteries. On the topic of cabintop handrails, it was stated that the use of shorter cabin top handrails installed on some French built boats is allowed as original equipment for French built boats but may not be used on US built boats.

Ray Douglas thanked Bengt and the class for the measurement diligence and agreed that Fleet 11 will continue to work on improving compliance for OD racing with the various events held throughout the season. Bengt summarized the themes from the Measurer's Report as follows:

- (1) Waiting until the last minute for sail tags, crew classification, pay dues/fees and installation of required equipment is not feasible. It puts undue strain on volunteers. The Class officers should not allow this going forward, even if it means excluding boats from events.
- (2) It is Class Measurer's and the Class TC's opinion that Fleet 11 needs to improve compliance with the Class rules, which starts by getting fleet-wide buy-in that the rules are good for the class and preserving the value of the boats. Any future requests by Fleet 11 for Class Championships should be accompanied by concrete plans to achieve compliance.
- (3) The Technical Committee will always support and help local fleets meet Class Rule and other Class Requirements – just ask.

Fleet Captains Reports

The Acting Secretary asked each Fleet Captain to report on the fleet's status and activities. The following fleets provided a report:

Fleet 1 Pacific Northwest. Tom Scitar provided a report in the absence of Fleet Captain Jerry Woodfield. There are 4 J/109s racing in the Vancouver area. Most are racing ORC. COVID has precluded crossing the US/Canada border, thus limiting races that are normally scheduled.

Fleet 6 - New England. Bill Kneller reported on the New England fleet. Overall participation was down due to the pandemic. There are 17 boats in the fleet with 11 actively racing. The geographic distribution has 2 in Canada, 2 in Maine, 4 in Mass



J/109 Class Association 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Bay, 4 in Buzzards Bay and 5 in Narragansett Bay. A few events draw boats together from Narragansett Bay, Mass Bay and Buzzards Bay. The events where J/109 had notable participation were NYYC Annual (ORC Class 3 boats) and Block Island Race Week (14 Boats). Additional races that typically have J/109 participation include Ida Lewis Distance Race (canceled due to weather), Conanicut YC Around the Island and Buzzards Bay Regatta.

Fleet 10 - Long Island Sound. Jonathan Rechtschaffer reported that racing participation has been strong starting with the AYC Spring Series (2 boats), Cedar Point OD Regatta (17 boats), Pequot YC Invitational (11 boats), AYC Fall Series (7 boats) and the Stamford YC Fall Classic (7 boats).

Fleet 11 - Great Lakes & Lake Champlain. Keith Eickenberg provided the fleet report. The NA championship originally scheduled for 2020 was canceled due to the pandemic and held at Columbia YC in 2021 with 10 boats participating. In addition to the NAs the fleet has good participation in other major races including the race to Mackinac, NOOD, Verve Cup, and Hook race.

Fleet 12 - Pacific Rim. Carl Braden reported there are 3 J/109s with 2 actively racing in the Sydney area. Australia has been locked down due to the pandemic and just recently reopened for local travel. It was asked whether J/109s would do the Sydney to Hobart race. Carl indicated that the Category 1 offshore requirements were expensive to comply with, so typically there are no J/109s entered.

North American Championship

John Greifzu reported that the 2021 NA's were held in Chicago as they were originally scheduled there in 2020 but canceled due to the pandemic. There were 10 participants, including *Growth Spurt* who used *Slapshot II* as a loaner boat. Congratulations to Ray Douglas and the *Courageous* crew for taking first overall and the Corinthian trophy. John commented that the Columbia YC was a great venue for the NA festivities.

The 2022 NA Championship is scheduled at Pequot YC - Southport, CT. David Rosow (Loki) is taking the lead on the planning effort. Tom & Diana Sutton from *Leading Edge* have agreed to provide the entertainment for the party.



J/109 Class Association 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2023 NA Championship will be open for proposals including Block Island Race Week and Annapolis in the fall. There may be other options too. John indicated he will work with Bill Kneller to create a survey soliciting class inputs so a decision may be made.

2022 J/109 Regattas

- **2022 East Coast Regatta Series**

- Cedar Point OD Regatta (June 4-5) - J/109 OD Class (The mandatory event)
- Safe Harbor Race Weekend - Newport, RI (August 12-14)
- *AYC Fall Series (Sept. 24-25, Oct. 1-2)

*Note - the final event for the East Coast Regatta Series may change. It will be finalized and announced separately.

- **2022 East Coast Championship** - New York YC Race Week (12-16 July)
- **2022 J/109 North American Championship** 11 - 15 October at Pequot YC
- **Select Additional Events with J/109 Class Racing or Larger Fleets**
 - *Long Island Sound*
 - AYC Spring Series (Apr. 23-24, Apr. 30 - May 1)
 - Pequot Invitational (Aug. 6-7)
 - Vineyard Race (Sept. 2-3)
 - Fleet 10 Fall Classic (Oct. TBD)
 - Spring (10-11 June) & Fall (16-17 September) Off Soundings
 - *New England*
 - New York YC Annual Regatta (June 10-12)
 - Ida Lewis Distance Race (Aug. 19-20)
 - Conanicut YC ATI (Sept. 4)
 - *Great Lakes*
 - Chicago NOOD (early June)
 - Chicago YC Race to Mackinac (July)
 - Bayview YC Race to Mackinac (July)

Other business



J/109 Class Association 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

A discussion was held regarding enforcement of World Sailing Classification at non-NAC events. Those attending the meeting agreed that the “honor system” was preferred in most instances.

With respect to regattas that award Corinthian trophies, it was determined that the local Fleets, working with the Organizing Authorities, should determine the level of enforcement that best promotes participation.

There was some discussion about World Sailing’s timeliness on completing screenings, due to delays in the spring and summer. More recent requests were completed within a week, so the Class is hopeful this is no longer an issue.

Based on feedback from members, John Greifzu asked whether the class wants its own “pro” classification for events with Corinthian awards. It was stated that the IC37 class also struggled with this. The general consensus was that the Class does not want to get into the role of determining sailor classification, and we can continue to rely on World Sailing.

Tom Scitar asked if the class might consider adding the 120 sqm spinnaker to allowable sails. The comments that followed indicated that this sail has a limited range of use, and depending on the geographical area, benefits would be minimal. It was discussed that the temporary rules change for the 2021 NAs was to allow boats on the Great Lakes to race without having to purchase additional sails (class 108 sqm spinnaker) that they normally do not use. But the Class Officers had no intention of making their use more broad.

Adjournment

Business was completed at 2030 with a unanimous vote to end the meeting.

Following the meeting, absent Executive Board Members voted by email and all votes were ratified.