

J/109 Class Association

Minutes of the Executive Board Annual Meeting, October 30, 2007

The meeting was held by telephone conference and was called to order at 2000 (eastern) by Len Siegel. Len asked Secretary Ed Dailey and Treasurer Barry Gold to report on the results of the Class Officers election which was conducted on line.

Class Officers

It was reported that Rick Lyall was elected President; Steve Tedeschi, Vice President; Barry Gold, Treasurer; and Ed Dailey, Secretary. The Executive Board confirmed the election results.

Len reported that the Class is off to a very good start after just two seasons. Worldwide, there are now some 360 J/109's, with most in the United States and Europe. There is great enthusiasm for the boat as a highly competitive racing boat and as a superb family cruising boat.

Len then handed the meeting over to Rick. As his first act, Rick expressed the Class' appreciation and good wishes to Len Siegel, thanking him for serving as the J109 Class' first president and for his efforts to launch the Class. Board members seconded and restated these sentiments.

Treasurer's Report

Barry Gold reported that the Class account balance is \$9,763.00. Revenues for the year were generated by dues from 129 paid members and sailmaker purchase of 77 sailtags.

Primary expenses for the Class are those for operation and maintenance of the website, our newsletter which has been converted to digital format and e-mail delivery, and administrative expenses for major class events, including the North Americans.

Fleet Reports

Fleet captains reported on events and participation. A recurrent theme is that while J/109's participate in major racing events, turnout for weekly club racing has been inconsistent. Fleet captains reported also that almost half of the J/109's cruise and do not race. It would be good to encourage cruisers to join in racing events.

It was reported that a new fleet will be organized in San Francisco. Jim Vickers (JOYRIDE) (vickers@tau-Metrix.com) is leading the effort.

Jeff Johnstone reported that J/109 racing is robust in Europe, particularly in the UK. At least a third of the 55 boat UK fleet participates in every significant regatta.

All agreed it is important for the Class to support both cruising and racing. Rick stated that the officers will work with and support fleet captains in efforts to encourage regattas and cruising events during the 2008 season. Suggestions included:

- swapping crews so less experienced racing and cruising crews can move up the learning curve
- passage racing which can easily engage both cruising and racing crews
- overnight cruising events
- A/B fleet racing with a single start to encourage less experienced racing crews to bring their boats out to the line and compete against boats with similar skill
- Distance racing to complement round the buoys racing.

Website

Rick and Steve are working to add content to the website - with the hope it will become a "go-to" site for the Class and sailors interested in the J/109. Of particular note are the digital newsletter (available in the members area), the weekly rules quiz, and the forum which is a great vehicle for sharing information, advices, tips, and solutions for problems.

To further encourage use of the website, the Executive Board agreed to open the forum. It will no longer be restricted to members only. To guard against "trash talking on the website, the open forum will be monitored by class officers.

Keel Fix

Jeff Johnstone reported that Pearson Composites has developed an upgrade kit for strengthening keel attachments points. The upgrade has been developed to prevent keel flexing which was an issue for several J/109's. A number of boats have been upgraded under Pearson's supervision, and it has designated skilled yards to complete the upgrade during the winter. Owners should contact JBoats dealers to arrange for the upgrade which is a warranty item.

2008 Season

Early in the new year, the officers will meet to discuss formation of a permanent Technical Committee, racing and cruising for the new season, and the schedule for the North Americans and other major regattas.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2210

/Ed Dailey
Secretary