

J/109 Class Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Executive Board, November 14, 2006

The meeting was held by telephone conference and was called to order at 2000 (Eastern) by Class President and Fleet Eleven Captain, Len Siegal. Participating were Vice President and Fleet Ten Captain, , Rick Lyall; Treasurer, Barry Gold; Secretary, Ed Dailey; Kendra Muentner; Jeff Johnstone; Fleet One Captain, Dave Dack; Fleet Three Captain, Anthony Weatherbee; Fleet Four captain, Bill Sweetser; Fleet Six Captain, Dan Grossman; and Kevin Hayes for Fleet Twelve.

Len chaired the meeting.

Fleet Reports

US Fleet Captains filed reports which generally indicate successful seasons in 2006 and growth and enthusiasm for the J/109. Jeff noted that 305 J/109's have been delivered in the EC and US, an impressive start for the Class.

An observation during the meeting was that fleets should encourage cruising boats to join the Class and offer activities which may attract both racing and cruising members. Suggestions included cruising events and pursuit races. Copies of the Fleet reports are attached to the minutes.

Team Racing

Len summarized the officers' earlier discussion and concerns about team racing which is prohibited. At major events, informal efforts will be made to reinforce these concerns and to discourage such tactics at major events.

Treasurers Report

Barry reported that 145 members and associate members registered in 2006, representing 87 boats, most of which appear to be racing boats. Membership revenues were \$7,801.61; expenses \$290.60; and the present balance on account is \$6,818.01.

Barry's budget for 2007 projects \$8000 in dues, \$7000 in new sailtag revenue, and expenses of about \$10,800. Expenses will include maintenance and operation of the website, the newsletter, expenses for the chief measurer at major events, social gatherings at major class events, and awards and "brag" flags for Key West and the North Americans. A copy of the 2007 budget is attached.

Technical Committee

Len noted that Karl de Ham will serve as chief measurer together with Jeff, and a third member from the fleets.

Jeff described the Technical Committee's role as education and compliance. It will interpret and enforce Class Rules and J/Boats specifications upon reasonable request.

Key West - 2007 (update)

Kendra reported that eight J/109's are registered to date for the Key West winter regatta in January - with two more boats possible. The event will be sailed under the Class Rules. All drivers must be registered as Class members for 2007. Additionally, all crew members must have a current ISAF competitor level registration. All sails used in the event will be marked or stamped for identification and are subject to measurement. This is not a weigh-in event but will be sailed under Rule 6.1.

Measurer / technical committee

The officers agreed to invite Karl deHam, a experienced sailor and measurer to serve as Class Measurer. The Chief Measurer will serve as a member of the Technical Committee together with Jeff Johnstone and a third member to be recommended from the fleets or at large membership. The Chief Measurer will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses and travel.

North American Championship

The second annual North Americans will be held from the Long Beach Yacht Club on October 26-28, 2007. Anthony noted that the SoCal fleet has 14 racing boats, so this should assure a good core group for the event. He will check on the availability of charter boats.

Web Site

There was a general discussion of proposed enhancements to the web site, including the planned "rules corner", a proposal to open the forum to public access, online publication of J/109 handbook and change specifications, and development and implementation of an on line voting capability.

The Fleet captains agreed to the proposal to develop a "skeletal" template so that for each fleet can have its own web page. The cost for this development and operation during 2007 will be paid by the Class. For each Fleet interested in a web page, the Fleet captain is asked to designate a web page liaison and inform Len of the person's name and contact information.

There being no further business, the conference adjourned at 2100.

/s/ Ed Dailey
Secretary

Attachments:

Fleet Reports
2007 Budget

Fleet Reports:

Fleet 1 Seattle, WA Dave Dack/Rick Nordquist

Fleet #1 has 9 boats of which 6 are active racers, 2 cruisers and 1 former racer (Bob Riggle) who is getting ready to take his boat " Gaia " off shore in Sept 2007 to go around the world. We have just completed our fleet championship series (6 regattas) with Stuart Burnell named champion. An award ceremony (ie. party) will be held Friday, Dec. 8 hosted by local J-boat dealer, Sail Northwest. We usually meet at least 3 times a year to discuss upcoming events, talk boat maintenance issues, complain about PHRF racing, etc.

One proposal banter about is the possibility of Fleet #1 hosting a J-109 West Coast Championship or at a minimum a Northwest Championship in July 2008. This would be in conjunction with Whidbey Island Race Week which is a 5 day event. We would hope the opportunity of racing for 5 days and then enjoying 1 - ? weeks of cruising in one of the best cruising areas on this planet would draw some out of area competitors. I know we are a little up the road from most of you but it would be an experience you would not forget. Trust me, I am the local fleet Captain !

Fleet #2 New Jersey, David Johnson (unable to make tonight's call)

NJ fleet has 5 active members, all of which have been members for at least one year. One member, "Rocky Racer" is recovering from a medical problem but was able to race in our inaugural NJ championship held as a part of the Atlantic Highlands Bluewater regatta on the 2nd weekend in August. All five boats were on the line for the 4 race regatta. The winner was Adrian Begley and the crew of Mad Dogs (and Englishmen)

We had 4 boats at 2 other regattas.....Keyport in June and Raritan in July. Then come September four NJ boats went to the NOODs at Larchmont..The overall winner of the NOODs was the Mad Dog himself....Adrian.. (To the LI Sound fleet...catch the East River current and you are in Sandy Hook Bay in 3 1/2 hours)

They are planning on 3 boats attending the ECC and 5 going to BIRW.

Fleet #3, Southern CA, Anthony Weatherbee

Fleet 3 (Southern California) presently has 19 boats. Our goal for 2007 is to have all our boats become members of both our local and national class organizations.

Fleet 3 conducted a modified high point series consisting of 6 series averaging 5 races per series. In all 14 boats participated with the largest single series drawing 9 boats. The Fleet has become very competitive, in our last series a different boat won each race. The top 4

or so boats are virtually evenly matched. This level of competition is drawing more than a little interest.

Besides class racing our boats have been active in club racing as well. Linstar did the Big Boat series in San Francisco, Commotion took second in class in the Newport to Cabo race and many 109's did the Ensenada race. Many of us actively cruise as well.

2 boats have experienced mast problems while sailing in the big winds of San Francisco. One boat was dismasted and another mast was bent. I believe both were near the deck. At least 2 boats, including my boat Commotion, have also had the mast collar crack but this has not caused further damage as of yet. After the Cabo race sailing all night our second night out in 25 plus knots of wind and finishing in 37 knots I can say the boat is very solid. We hit boat speeds of 17 knots and finished the 800 miles in 5 days. I don't know why we didn't experience the same mast problems the other boats did in San Francisco.

John Sculze of Linstar has offered to serve on the national technical committee, on behalf of our fleet, if needed or give the committee any input they may desire. He is graduate engineer and keenly interested in all matters related to J109's specifications, construction, and performance. John Sculze [j.shulze@biosensors.com]

I think one major reason our fleet has done so well is the fact that every member is just nice to be around. The fleet is competitive but always willing to share information or help another boat in any way possible. We conducted a sail maker seminar that was useful to all and plan a weekend of racing this year where we will rotate drivers and crew on different boats to help all the boats get up to speed.

The only issue that has concerned the fleet is the amount of talent the top boats attract and whether this should be somewhat limited to equalize our boats or encouraged to elevate our level of development.

We don't have a website as of yet but we are exploring some possibilities

Fleet 4 Chesapeake Bay, Bill Sweetser

We have seven boats registered in the fleet. During 2006 six have competed in races in the Chesapeake area including Annapolis Yacht Club and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association events such as Screwpile and the AYC Fall Series, Frostbite Series and Wednesday Night Races. One of the fleet members recently won its class in the 2006 IRC East Coast Championship. Two of our boats traveled to Block Island and Newport to compete in major East Coast regattas.

In 2007 we will continue to have fleet member lunches three or four times a year. All owners are members of the Class Association. At least one boat will compete in Key West Race Week in January. At least one boat will compete in the J/109 East Coast Championships.

We are working to build communications among Fleet members and to encourage more racing involvement. We do not have a local website.

Fleet 5, Texas No Captain

Fleet 6, New England Dan Grossman

Fleet 6 has 18 boats, plus a number of associate members. There are several boats in the region which have not joined the class association.

The big events of the season were Block Island Race Week, the North Americans at New York Yacht Club Race Week, and Buzzards Bay Regatta.

BIRW was an "off" year. The J/109 OD class had 14 boats. One additional boat raced in the PHRF non-spinnaker class. Ted Herlihey's *Gut Feeling* put in a dominating performance for the series. Fleet 6 organized a class get-together, which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Special thanks to the Tom Burrows and the *Warrior2* crew for sharing their house, and Steve Kenney, Kathryn Briefs and the Gossip crew for bringing in the heavy artillery and getting the food done.

The North Americans had 19 boats and a cancellation. Ted Herlihey again dominated the series, only to be upset in the protest room. Vitesse is the North American champion.

BBR, hosted this year by Beverly Yacht Club in Marion, had 5 boats. Raptor, skippered by Wiley Wakeman and Ed Dailey, walked away with bullets in every race.

Beverly Yacht Club's Thursday Night Twilight series featured J/109 OD racing, sharing a start with the J/105 class. Turnout varied from 3 to 5 boats. We are optimistic that we will have more boats in 2007.

J/109 owners did well in a number of PHRF events in the Fleet 6 region.

In addition to post-race social events, Fleet 6 organized a dinner after the factory rendezvous in March. We had hoped for an on-the-water rendezvous in September, but there was insufficient interest.

For 2007, the big events will likely be Block Island Race Week and BBR. We will also try to designate one other event. Another dinner after the factory rendezvous is planned, and we will once again try to put together an on-the-water rendezvous.

For the first time, there has been noticeable turnover in Fleet 6, as owners have moved on or out. Several boats which had been quite active in OD racing have been, or will soon be, sold.

Issues: The allegations of team racing and unsportsman-like behavior at the NAs were highly regrettable. The exec committee is to be commended for getting out front on this issue. We need to maintain vigilance to make sure that a few "beady-eyed competitors" (and their sailmakers) don't ruin the class.

Fleet 6 seems to have an impenetrable barrier at the Cape Cod Canal. Only one boat from east of the canal crossed to attend a class event west of the canal, and there was no interest from boats west of the canal in having a class event east of the canal. We ought to consider splitting fleet 6 as soon as there is critical mass of boats east of the canal.

As noted, several non-racing owners have not chosen to join the class. We should consider ways to create a value proposition for cruisers and casual PHRF racers.

Fleet 6 does not have a website. We have also decided not to collect Fleet dues. These things will be discussed this winter.

Fleet 7, 8, 9 European Fleets

Fleet 10, LIS (NY/CT) Rick Lyall

Fleet 10 completed another busy season with 6 major regattas in Long Island Sound along with several Fleet 10 members also supporting Block Island Race Week (16 total boats) and the J109 NA's in Newport (20 total boats). Looking at the Member list, I count 28 boats in Fleet 10, most of whom participated in at least one regatta. Our racing is generally very close with only a few points separating the top 3 or 4 boats at most events. Here is a summary of the events, number of participants and winning skipper/boat:

See email for results

Fleet 10 had 7 of the 20 (19?) participants at the inaugural J109 NA's and three of those boats finished in the top 5 (Relentless 2nd, Storm 4th, Tastes Like Chicken 5th).

We are fortunate to have a large number of boats in the vicinity of Long Island Sound and certainly want to thank the New Jersey fleet for providing so much support. They will typically send 3-4 boats to LIS events and they increase the competitiveness of the fleet. In fact, Adrian Begley hails from NJ. He was the only skipper to win two J109 events in our area this year (including best overall performance at the Larchmont NOOD which provided Adrian and crew with a chance to compete against other NOOD winners in the sunny Caribbean this winter!). I'd also like to acknowledge AL Minella's performance at the Manhasset Bay Fall Series where he absolutely "smoked" a fleet of 8 very well sailed boats (including a J133, a J130, and a few Express 37s) sailing IRC in big breeze at the end of the season.

Looking forward to 2007 we will enjoy the same schedule with the addition of the "on year" at Block Island Race Week (hosted by Storm Trysail Club) and the East Coast Championships at Sag Harbor in early June. The Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound has also expressed interest in having the J109 fleet participate at some of their events next year. It should be an even busier year next year!

We don't have a web site yet but are hoping to attach a page to the Class web site if that is feasible. We are also broke because we spent "all" of the 2006 fleet dues on trophies for the Long Island Sound Championship regatta!

Fleet 11, Southern MI Lake, Len Siegal

We are growing in participation. We were able to get a one design section for the Chicago NOODS, and the Verve Cup. These are very big local events in the Chicago area.

In addition, we managed to have enough boats for the first one design section of J109's in the Chicago to Mackinac race. We complied with all requirements and they rewarded us with the section. We configured ourselves with the class jib and a 120 chute. Given the light air conditions in the first 24 hours, this may not have been the best headsail. We hope to have at least 10-12 boats in this race in 2007. The key issue is the visibility (publicity) that this race has in the midwest. We race under ORR rules which do not necessarily favor our design.

The rest of the season was sailed under PHRF rules on a weekly basis. The 109's acquitted themselves well and we hope to grow next summer. Irv Kerbel's K3 has won our newly created fleet championship.

We have decided to start a web site, but it remains in its infancy. We have created a local administration. We have a treasury with a few bucks in it. We are excited about the future of our fleet.

Fleet 12, Galveston Bay TX, Steve Rhyne Captain (Kevin Hayes sitting in on call)

We currently have 8 boats registered in our fleet. One boat is for sale. We have 6 active boats and expect the fleet to at least maintain current levels.

We recently wrapped up our second season championship, involving 5 regattas. We score cumulative regatta finishes with one throw out to determine a season champion. We will continue this format next year. Our best turn out for the year was the NOOD, for which we had 7 boats. We routinely have 3 to 4 boats out for most events, including the weekend rum race series and offshore events.

Fleet 12 socials generally evolve around regatta parties. We have one annual Fleet party, which ties into our opening season regatta. We also threw in a tuning session/social prior to the NOOD this year.

Our web site is www.j109.org/fleet12

Kevin Hayes will attend the conference call for Fleet 12.

J 109 Class Association

2007 BUDGET

	<u>2006 Actual*</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>
<u>SOURCES OF CASH</u>		
Beginning Cash Balance	\$1,251	\$7,833
Dues	5,858	7,950
\$50 per member		
Sail tag fees (payable or paid)	1,015	7,070
\$35 per tag		
Other	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Sources of Cash	\$8,124	\$22,853
<u>USES OF CASH</u>		
Class Measurer	\$0	\$1,600
Expense reimbursement		
Website		
\$100/month + \$1,000 for changes	0	2,200
Newsletter	0	4,400
\$2,200 per issue		
Events/Awards	0	2,500
Other	<u>291</u>	<u>500</u>
Total Uses of Cash	\$291	\$11,200
Ending Cash Balance	<u>\$7,833</u>	<u>\$11,653</u>

* Through November 1, 2006