

J/88 Class Association General Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/9/17

Start: 12:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 1:45 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone X
Elizabeth Barry X
John Barry
Denise Bienvenu
Bernie Blum X
Mike Bruno X
Rob Butler
Peter Chirlian X
Tim Finkle
Andy Graff X
Ken Hall X
Drew Hall X
Will Harris X
Jim Hopp
David Malkin
Doug McKeige (proxy to Mike Bruno) X
Al Minella X
Doug Newhouse X
Brian O'Malley
Gary Panariello X
Tod Patton X
Heidi Patton
Jeff Pawlowski X
John Pearson
Keith Rehder X
John Sommi
Richard Stearns X
Iris Vogel X
Laura Weyler X
Benjamin Wilson

Agenda:

1. Class Office Report
2. Ratify Constitution
3. Election of Officers
4. Ratify Class Rules
5. Member Discussion
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting

Description:

1. **Class Office Report** – The Class Office has been in place since early 2017, and is located in Florida with Chris & Julie Howell, who also administer several other J/Boats Classes. A membership appeal was made, and the Class has 23 boats with Full members (27 Full Members overall). There are 36 total members, which includes Associate members. The Class will be a non-profit (c)7. The J/88 Class Association has about \$4,000 in the bank, and a 2018 budget will be presented toward the end of this year. There was a question as to whether the meeting was announced four weeks in advance, as proposed in the Constitution. Chris confirmed after the meeting that the initial announcement was sent via e-mail on March 30.
2. **Ratify Constitution** – Chris distributed the Class Constitution via e-mail. He explained that the Constitution is the first step to establish this Class Association to be able to elect Officers and ratify Rules. Any Rules proposals will follow the Class Constitution, which encompasses a vote of the membership. Typically, Rules proposals are brought by a person or Fleet to the Technical Committee and/or Executive Committee so that they can be researched. Jeff

J.clarified that the Constitution was modeled after the J/111 Class, which went through significant editing including by World Sailing. Voting by the members can occur at an Annual Meeting or can be called specially (15 members can put forward a resolution). Doug Newhouse noted 6.2 ‘The Members shall delegate responsibility for the day-to-day management and administration of the affairs, activities and property of the J/88 Class Association to the Executive Committee in accordance with the objectives of the J/88 Class Association and subject to any regulations or policy decisions made by the members at general meetings.’ Jeff summarized that the Constitution protects the Class from quick decisions (as in all Class Associations), and this is needed to give structure to the Class and give the power of the Class to the owners per non-profit guidelines. The Class Rules have been in place for multiple years with very few changes. The J/105 Class has the strictest ‘owner/driver’ Rule which still has provisions for long-term shipmates, family members, etc., and the J/88 Class is more similar to the J/109 and J/111. *Laura Weyler made a motion to table ratification of the Constitution, seconded by Mike Bruno. The motion failed by a vote of 9 to 5 (1 abstain). Gary Panariello made a motion to ratify the Constitution, seconded by Peter Chirlian. The motion passed by 11 votes to 4.*

3. **Election of Officers** – Chris read the proposed slate of Officers:

President: Iris Vogel, Hull 24, New Rochelle, NY

Secretary/Treasurer: Heidi Patton, Hull 82, Northbrook, IL

At Large: Gary Panariello, Hull 77, Sausalito, CA

Chief Measurer: Jeff Pawlowski, Hull 2, Rochester, NY

Andy Graff made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Mike Bruno. The slate passed unanimously.

4. **Ratify Class Rules** – Chris distributed the Class Rules via e-mail and confirmed that the Rules have been posted/in effect for multiple years. *Gary Panariello made a motion to ratify the Class Rules, seconded by Iris Vogel. The Class Rules passed, with two votes against.*

5. **Member Discussion** – Chris summarized that members of the Class have asked to discuss the following CR items:

--Should the sail limits referenced in CR 5.4 be modified or implementation be postponed?

Chris circulated a draft process document, stating: “Each boat with a Full Member in 2017 will receive five sail royalty tags with his/her membership, at no additional cost, to place on sails already in inventory. This shall be considered the five tags/sails in the first year of ownership referenced in CR 5.4. After tags are placed on inventoried sails, owners shall complete the Sail Royalty Tag Registration Form (listing these five royalty tags) and return it to the Class Office to be listed in the online Sail Tag Database. In addition to the inventoried tags, each owner may buy three additional tagged sails this year (2017) and every subsequent year of their membership per CR 5.4. The Sailmaker shall make three copies of the completed Sail Royalty Tag Registration Form. The original shall be delivered to the Class Manager via scan or fax. One copy shall be delivered to the owner with the sail(s). One copy shall be kept on file by the Sailmaker. The sail(s) shall be measured, and the form signed by the Sailmaker. The sail tag(s) shall be attached/sewn to the tack of the sail(s) on starboard side. The sail royalty tag fee charged to Sailmakers will be \$50.00 per tag.” Iris said that we don’t want to penalize boats that race often, so she’d like to have those boats document their schedule and petition the Class for additional tags. Al asked if Fleets can waive the Rule for local events. Gary said we could just measure one set of sails for national events. Jeff J. thinks there is a natural market that develops, and we will need to acknowledge certain provisions for heavy air events (i.e., in San Francisco). We could grandfather sails prior to a certain date. Chris summarized that we have two paths: suspend the limits for now, or have a start date for the limit but describe a way to

qualify for additional tags. The members agreed to suspend the sail purchase limits for this year (one opposed). The Class Office will proceed with the five tags per 2017 Full member and start selling tags to sailmakers. The tracking is consistent with other Classes to bring income into the Class and provide accountability that the sailmaker certifies the sails. If/when we decide to limit purchases, we will review any modifications that need to be made.

--Should there be modification to the Class Rule on driver eligibility as described in CR 2.2? Doug Newhouse suggests that only Group 1 or Group 3 owners and/or their family should steer in one-design racing. He feels that some Classes have had their demise based on an arms race of skippers. Mike Bruno agreed. If we were to propose a change, Chris asked everyone to consider how we would handle the ability to charter and the ability get young people involved. Laura said that a Rule proposal requiring 100% ownership would hurt Fleet 1. Jeff J. suggested everyone review the J/105 Class Rules on Long-Term Shipmates. Chris said that another approach would be to add a Rule to designate events at a certain level to be owner/driver only, but reduce the designation for lower events to help grow the Class at a grassroots level. Iris emphasized that we need to think about charterers so that we don't lose people and/or discourage new folks while we are in this growth period. She doesn't see the owner/driver issue as a huge problem, and thinks a slight language change would satisfy the Class' needs. Mike thinks it would be more encouraging to tighten up the Rules. Laura said that she bought her boat in 2014 and often uses a Group 1 helmsman, and she would not be racing nationally if a new Rules proposal were to pass this summer. Chris conducted a straw poll on who wants to leave the Rules as is: six people said yes, five voted for some change to the Rules, two abstained. The Executive Committee will review the Rule and draft language to tighten the Rule while maintaining the spirit of the Class. Iris wants to research and talk to the owners to help develop language.

6. **New Business** – The Constitution allows each Fleet with four members to designate one person to sit on the Executive Committee. E-mail Chris Howell with the name of this person.

Ken Hall asked for clarification on the material used for lifelines. Jeff J. said that the specification is for wire lifelines for safety purposes. A Fleet should suggest a Rules proposal if they feel strongly on this issue. We will need to research how other authorities stand on this topic, such as the Coast Guard, World Sailing and Offshore Regulations. Mike Bruno commented that he has seen variations to the backstay, but Gary noted that the Rules do allow variations in this area.

7. **Next Meeting** – TBD based on Rules proposals

Julie Howell

Action Items:

- The Class Office will issue five sail tags per 2017 Full member and start selling tags to sailmakers.
- The Executive Committee will review the 'owner/driver' topic and draft language to tighten the Rule while maintaining the spirit of the Class.
- Fleets with four members will designate one person to sit on the Executive Committee.

Next Meeting: TBD based on Rules proposals