

J/88 Class Association General Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/25/19

Start: 12:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 12:45 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell
Jeff Johnstone
Andy Graff
John Leahey
Ben Marden
Kevin Marks
Brian O'Malley
Gary Panariello
Heidi Patton
William Purdy
Tim Sweet
Iris Vogel
Laura Weyler

Agenda:

1. Attendance and Instructions
2. Class Office Report
3. Approval of Class Budget 2020
4. Re-election of Officers
5. Upcoming Major Events
6. Technical Discussion
7. New Business

Description:

1. **Attendance and Instructions** – Chris conducted a roll call and welcomed all to the 2019 Annual Meeting. A quorum is present. Please identify yourself while speaking.
2. **Class Office Report** – Iris said the North Americans in Larchmont was a great event with 11 races over three days. About \$1,000 was made in the sail auction/raffle tickets. Chris reported that the Class had 34 Full members this year, representing 28 boats, plus 13 Associate Members. Membership renewal e-mails will be sent in January.
3. **Approval of Class Budget 2020** – Chris circulated the J/88 Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2019 and Budget 2020. We are in the black, and there were no surprises in 2019. *Iris Vogel made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Kevin Marks. The motion passed unanimously.*
4. **Election of Officers** – The Constitution calls for a two-year term, which our current Officers have served. With our young Class, it is proposed that we re-elect the same Officers and look to make changes after this term:
President: Iris Vogel
Secretary/Treasurer: Heidi Patton
At Large: Gary Panariello
Chief Measurer: Andy Graff
Bill Purdy made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Laura Weyler. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Upcoming Major Events** –
--2020 Midwinter Championship at St. Pete J/Fest in St. Petersburg, FL, January 24-26: Chris said five boats are registered; another one or two are hopeful. The St. Pete NOOD follows in February. Spread the word locally! Participation is vital to our Class. The best way to get people to come to your events is to attend theirs. Charleston Race Week is looking good.

--2020 North American Championship host: At the owners' meeting in Larchmont, San Francisco was the top choice. Other ideas are Newport, Chicago, Annapolis and Rochester. For San Francisco, the timing would be a week before Rolex Big Boat Series (September 17-20) so you can get two events. Gary and other locals would need to take the lead...stay tuned for more

details. The Class Office will reach out to Gary and try to get a proposal by the end of 2019. There are about five boats racing in San Francisco, although around 9-10 in Northern California. Non-racers could charter their boats, although this will be limited.

Andy added that Chicago Yacht Club has a double-handed mixed offshore event on July 18, coinciding with the Mac Race. The J/88 is the qualifying boat, and J/88s will be available to charter. Look for a press release soon from US Sailing. The Class Office will share this information upon receipt of the official announcement.

6. **Technical Discussion** – The Rule change proposal regarding sail purchase limits was approved by a recent vote of the membership (10 to 3). The new Class Rule will go into effect in 2020.

Iris has received inquiries on the wording of the sails carried during a regatta. This is CR 5.3 “Sails carried on board and used for J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned events for inshore buoy racing shall be limited to no more than five sails: one Class mainsail, one Class #1 jib, one Class #2 jib, one Class #1 spinnaker and one Class #2 spinnaker. When in use, jibs are required to be attached to the furling system and capable of being furled. Each Class sail shall comply without exception with the provisions of these Rules.”

The issue is that the language “shall be limited to no more than five sails” leads people to believe they don’t have to carry five sails. Chris said that all sails that are “declared” must be carried onboard. Next year, we can clarify the language officially; in the meantime, this can be addressed in event NORs and SIs. Andy will prepare a draft proposal in 2020. Owner feedback is welcome. Bill suggested we could remove the words “no more than.” Another preference is to leave it up to the skipper, except for a National event.

Andy stated that he and the Technical Committee will be reviewing the Class Rules to make sure the Rules fit a broad spectrum of our sailors.

7. **New Business** – Iris shared that owners continue to discuss crew weighing. Although some people weren’t happy at the North Americans, it created a level playing field. We should continue to do so for a major Championship like the NAC.

Jeff added to the double-handed discussion, saying that the J/88 is a great fit for this initiative. At the fleet level, it would be fun to include this format for day racing. North American boat sales have been slow overall (one new J/88 in Long Island Sound in 2019). There were three new J/88s in Europe. The second-hand market is active.

Laura thanked Iris for her tireless work for the Class!

Julie Howell

Action Items:

- The Class Office will reach out to Gary and try to get a 2020 NAC proposal by the end of 2019.
- The Class Office will share details on the double-handed mixed offshore event in Chicago upon the announcement from US Sailing.
- Andy will prepare a draft Rules proposal in 2020 to clarify the language for sails carried onboard.

Next Meeting: TBD