

# U.S. J/24 Class Association Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 5/6/2024

**Start:** 7:05 p.m. EDT

**Adjourn:** 7:50 p.m. EDT

## **Present (X):**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
1 – Steve Callison X  
2 – Hillary Keimig  
3 – Aidan Glackin X  
4 – Ted Wiedeke  
6 – Kelly FitzGerald X  
7 – Mike Stasko X  
8 – James Howard X  
10 – Rick Jarchow  
12 – Drew Blackburn  
14 – James Freedman X  
15 – Cory Huseby  
18 – Cameron Robinson  
19 – Melanie Edwards X  
20 – Jasper Van Vliet  
21 – Victor Felice  
22 – James Foster  
Marcus Rogers X  
Denny Vaughan X  
Joe Buonasera X  
Lee Ann Zaretsky X  
Finn Hadlock  
Dan Busch X

## **Agenda:**

1. Call to order and attendance
2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
3. NAC Recap
4. President's Report
5. Class Office Report
6. Championship Updates
7. Youth Program Update
8. Technical Report
9. New Business
10. Next Meeting

## **Description:**

1. **Call to Order and Attendance** – A quorum is present.
2. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting** – Chris distributed the previous meeting minutes via e-mail. *No comments were made via e-mail or on this call, and the minutes were approved.*
3. **NAC Recap** – The North American Championship was held at St. Petersburg YC in FL on April 11-14. Twenty-three boats attended. Mike recapped that it was a great event with two good days on the water. The NAC was well organized, although the social could have been better communicated. Great venue! Dan echoed the same sentiments, and logistics went smoothly. The entry fee was a little high for what competitors were provided onsite. Todd did well managing the fleet as PRO. You will see further comments below in Rick Jarchow's District report. Chris agreed that the NOR should have been available sooner. Overall, we have quite a few US-based events this spring which is likely affecting attendance across the board.
4. **President's Report** – Marcus commended Denny and Keith Whittemore for making calls to get Worlds qualified folks entered online. We are at 25 of 35 US spots registered, with people still on the petition list. Going to be an awesome event! Marcus distributed a membership report by District via e-mail, including someone new from Hawaii. Thank you Governors!
5. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the USJCA has 310 members so far in 2024. You can view current members at <http://j24usa.com/j24-fleet/view-members/>. \$415 in youth donations have been received in calendar year 2024 to date. \$2,595 has been raised thus far in calendar year 2024 charitable contributions.

6. **Championship Updates** –

--2024 Corinthian US National Championship, Sayville YC, Blue Point, NY, May 15-19: Joe shared that 20 boats are expected. Daily social events are planned, and coaches available for the whole fleet. Joe will have the scale onsite so reach out if you want to make an appointment.

--2024 US National Championship, Wayzata YC, Wayzata, MN, September 6-8: Planning got started a little late. Some people will be using this as a feeder race to Worlds.

--2024 World Championship, Corinthian YC of Seattle, WA, September 28-October 5: Melanie said plans continue in regard to logistics with the port, accommodations, etc. They have a strong budget. Chris heard that there are more international teams who will be signing up. Denny expects good wind for the season!

--2025 Midwinter Championship, Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, March 21-23

--2025 North American Championship, Houston YC, La Porte, TX, May 26-31

--2025 Corinthian US National Championship, Southwestern YC, San Diego, CA, September 3-7

--2025 World Championship, Plym Yacht Club & Saltash Sailing Club, Plymouth, Great Britain, September 6-14

--2025 US National Championship, Florida YC, Jacksonville, FL, November 20-23

--2026 Corinthian US National Championship, Seawanhaka Corinthian YC, Oyster Bay, NY, May 14-17

--2026 US National Championship, Portland Yacht Services, Falmouth, ME, September 9-13

--2026 World Championship, Sandringham YC, Melbourne, Australia, November 9-16

--2027 World Championship, Rochester YC, Rochester, NY, October 2-9

7. **Youth Program Update** – Lee Ann reported that Seattle has lowered the entry fee for two youth boats attending Worlds. She spoke with Connor from her District who is excited to attend the Worlds as a petitioner.

8. **Technical Report** – Finn reported via e-mail: NAs went relatively well. As a technical group, we want to continue to push self-compliance, and if you don't know, ask. Many of the issues are not intentional but could be very easily fixed prior to the event with a simple email. We are also working on several Rules proposals for next year, so if you have any technical grey areas that you think need to be addressed, please send them my way. We are also working on a "library" of sorts for modifications. As Rick points out, it is harder to buy things, and things are getting older. Our intention with this library is to give a more straightforward view into what people are and are not allowed to change with the boats, with the intention that this will encourage people to invest time in their boats and subsequently have them last longer. Note the Vendor page linked at <https://j24class.org/useful-links/>.

9. **New Business** –

*1 Steve Callison:* He will prod those who were members in 2023 but haven't renewed in 2024. The District Championship will be in Malletts Bay, event website to come.

*3 Aidan Glackin / Joe Buonasera:* There are two new boats in the area who will get more involved in 2025, but generally holding at about 8 boats. They will be onsite at the Corinthian Nationals to learn more about the Class. There is a lot of excitement for the Championship next week.

*6 Kelly FitzGerald:* The Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta kicked off the season last weekend. Some fleet members will attend Southern Bay Race Week, and there is interest from Hampton YC to host a future Championship. The East Coast Championship (three race days)

will be paired with the J/22 Pre-Worlds so there are some logistics to sort out. Look for the NOR in July.

*7 Mike Stasko:* There are four regattas in their Pennant Series, which kicked off with JDaze over the weekend. They had nine races and several practice starts, 16 boats, great racing! Rochester is the host of 2027 Worlds, so join the District in the coming years to practice. The District remains strong.

*8 James Howard:* The Easter Regatta struggled, perhaps due to the large number of events this spring and the date changing annually with the holiday. James will talk to the Fleet Captain to help this regatta get back on its feet. On the plus side, Atlanta is growing. Hoping to get the Charleston boats traveling more.

*10 Rick Jarchow* via e-mail: Fleet 55 is planning King's Day November 22-24, ahead of the 2025 Nationals, with an eye on boats coming to get some knowledge this year. They are averaging 10-12 boats every Wednesday night, and their dry storage is full at 10 boats (along with six boats stored off site). Fleet 87 is working on trying to find a way to offer a better sailing experience than was received at the 2023 Midwinters. This is ongoing, but I am expecting to hear good things. Fleet 10 is working hard to plan the 2025 Midwinters, more to come on this in the near future. Fleet 86 Tampa is hard at work planning the Rodeo on June 15-16. Finally, I wanted to give feedback that I got from certain members inside and outside of the District over the NAC.

- NOR very late coming out. I suggest that for any Continental Championship, National Championship or Midwinters, the OA, District Governor and the Board all be in communication with an NOR posting no later than six months prior to the event. Amendments to the NOR can be made, but having dates and times locked up is very important, and though SPYC posted ahead of the required 90 days it made things hard for those looking to plan.

- Late fees. I think that we need to seriously let the OA impose a reasonable late fee, with a reasonable early date. We all know these fees can be waived by the OA, but it would help to get boats signed up earlier.

- Storage options and housing. By having the NOR posted earlier with possible housing accommodations and boat storage accommodations. Easier is better.

Finally, I only had one other question and that is the ownership rights to molds and such. Does the Class own these and lease them to builders or does J/Boats own them? As the boats continue to age, I am hearing more about looking for used rudders. No one seems to have any information, and Waterline looks to have closed their online store, so I am wondering if as a Class we want to reacquire the molds and look for a builder. Someone who will be willing to work with the Class. (Note reply from Marcus: Your mold questions are good ones. There is a plan here and will be announced when the details are finalized. Currently, you can order rudders from Argentina, but they are costly. You can get toe rails from Vela now.)

*14 James Freedman:* The circuit has started, with two regattas in the books. Participation is typically 14 boats, and enthusiasm is high. Their biggest challenge is finding crew, so they are pushing to introduce new people. It's free to crew! The Ryan Miller Regatta in Houston is fun and aimed at getting people on the water. They started a four-event women's circuit (mixed crew) and hoping to see this grow. Some lakes in the District are too low and others too high so that is an ongoing concern.

*18 Cameron Robinson* via e-mail: The District 18 Championship is August 10-11 at Dillon Yacht Club.

*19 Melanie Edwards:* 14 boats typically race on Tuesdays, including full use of Vakaros (a Vakaros rep has been on the water). Pre-Worlds/Western Regionals is September 14-15, and local contacts can help with storage before the Worlds. The District is seeing more boats active this year, including clinics. Excitement is elevated! The YC is using Clubspot which has been

a challenge in learning this new software. Denny added that you don't have to ping when using Vakaros, which will be provided at the Worlds (including mounts if needed). Aidan agreed that it's a great and accurate system.

10. **Next Meeting** – Monday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

**Action Items:**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. EDT