

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

Date: 12/2/2024

Start: 7:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 8:15 p.m. EST

Present (X):

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

Agenda:

1. Call to order and attendance
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting
3. President's Report
4. World Council Meeting Report
5. Class Office Report
6. Financial Report / Budget Approval
7. Youth Program Update
8. Election of Officers
9. 2026 Worlds Qualifiers
10. Technical Report
11. Regatta Reports & Future Planning
12. New Business
13. 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. **President's Report** – Marcus said it was a great year, especially with the Worlds in the USA. He has shared membership updates via the Governors e-mail reports. The USA Class is as strong as its Governors...well done! He shared that Australia and Japan require crew to be Class members, this is how we can boost our numbers going forward. In 2025, the Worlds head to England, and Marcus has already heard of 3 US teams committed (and hoping we can top out our berths). Contact him if you have questions on attending. Finn can pass along information regarding deck shipping.
4. **World Council Meeting Report** – Marcus represented the USA at the World Council Meeting. You can review the minutes at <https://j24class.org/organization/class-documents/wcm-minutes/>. The IJCA Executive Committee did not approve Curt Barnes as International Technical Committee Chair. The EC is meeting to discuss a replacement recommendation to be approved by the World Council. Future Worlds locations: England (2025), Australia (2026), Rochester, NY (2027) and newly approved Sardinia Italy (2028).
5. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the USJCA had 373 members in 2024 (351 full). The membership dues late fee will again take effect April 1. The 2025 wall calendars were

mailed to all 2024 members. Sponsors supported the calendar at \$200 per page + the cover; thank you sponsors! Calendars are also available for general sale.

6. **Financial Report** – Chris circulated the USJCA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2024 and Budget 2025. Joe summarized that there hasn't been much change annually in the last couple years. NCAs submit \$20 per Full member to the IJCA. Chris clarified that he is pausing Executive Director travel, and shifting onsite tasks to a regional level such as technical and media. He suggested that the Class consider allocating funds for media purposes. *Dan Busch made a motion to add \$1,000 to the regatta support expense, seconded by Joe Buonasera. The motion passed unanimously.* Dan commended everyone for keeping the Class in the red. *Joe Buonasera made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as amended here, seconded by Dan Busch. The motion passed unanimously.*

Aidan has two sets of templates. He reiterated the importance of crew memberships, and thought boat owners could purchase memberships for their crew.

7. **Youth Program Update** – The Kelly Holmes-Moon Youth Program website is at <https://j24usa.com/j24-youth-grant-program/>. Marcus is working on the process for the upcoming cycle. It's a great program...spread the word in your District! Look for an e-mail in the coming weeks regarding the application details and timeframe. Approved recipients receive \$500, mentorship and often donated sails, equipment, etc.

8. **Election of Officers** – Dan is the Past President and therefore the Nominating Chair. Denny will be retiring from the Executive Committee (thank you Denny for your service!). Marcus is able to stay as President for one more year. The slate of Officers is as follows (elections annually):

President: Marcus Rogers

Vice President: Lee Ann Zaretsky

Technical Chair: Finn Hadlock

Finance Chair: Joseph Buonasera

Governors' Representative: Kelly FitzGerald

Aidan Glackin made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Steve Callison. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **2026 Worlds Qualifiers** – The USJCA will have 10 qualifying berths in 2025 for the 2026 World Championship in Australia. The following events are proposed:

Midwinters (1)

Nationals (1)

North Americans (1)

Northeast Regionals (1)

Southeast Regionals (1)

Southwest Regionals (1)

Western Regionals (1)

Great Lakes Regionals (1)

East Coast Championship (1)

Corinthian Nationals (1)

The berths at Nationals and North Americans are in addition to the IJCA berths. We will also have berths for women and youth teams that don't count against our 10 berths.

Marcus Rogers made a motion to accept the 2026 Worlds qualifiers as presented, seconded by Dan Busch. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Technical Report** – Finn stated that we will miss Curt...questions can be directed to the IJCA Executive Committee. Finn will continue the mission of a fast/speedy regatta process and inspecting the important items. The ITC is working on a clean-up of the Rules with a few proposals currently in the review process among the Committee. The goal is to firm up some

of the language, so people are clearer (ex. written clarification on balsa). Look for more information in 2025. Finn is now a member of the International Technical Committee so feel free to send him ideas/feedback/questions.

Steve inquired about previous discussions on genoa durability; Finn shared that this topic is not in the current draft Rules proposals. Steve requested the ITC to further research materials, costs, longevity, etc. A couple Governors have data on demo sails. A factor is the perception of how often you replace sails to be competitive. Discussions have taken place regarding changing crew #s and a genoa wind limit. If the USJCA feels strongly, they should submit a specific proposal to Finn for the ITC. Perhaps we could test ideas at a local level to gather information.

11. Regatta Reports & Future Planning –

--2025 Midwinter Championship, Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, March 21-23: 10 boats are registered...sign up on Yacht Scoring. The event will be well organized, Mark Foster is PRO, and RaceSense will be utilized. There should be no additional cost to competitors for this. (Almost all Miami events are using the technology this winter.) Finn pointed out that our NOR notes “a fee,” which Rick will check on. Chris expects Vakaros to switch to a yearly licensing fee for the unit.

--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 Midwinter Championship, Florida YC, Jacksonville, FL...details/dates to come.

--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

--2026 North Americans? (Mexico declined to host)

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

12. New Business – Aidan is seeing a drop in attendance at weekend regattas. He shared that John Mollicone changed his college sailing schedule to start sailing Friday afternoons. This allows people to get a couple more races in, and to still arrive on Friday. This is especially advantageous if you lose a weekend race day to weather. The Governors agreed that it’s a valuable trend to promote for traditional two-day events. Kelly added that competitors should also encourage our Race Committees to race earlier and/or later into the day.

Marcus recognized new District 12 Governor Ken Ruppel and new District 6 Governor Alan Bomar.

13. Next Meeting – Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm ET

Action Items:

--Marcus will work on the Kelly Holmes-Moon Youth Program for the upcoming cycle.

--Rick will check on the RaceSense costs for Midwinters.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm ET