

U.S. J/24 Class Association Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/10/2025

Start: 7:04 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 8:00 p.m. EDT

Present (X):

Chris & Julie Howell X

1 – Steve Callison

2 – Hillary Keimig

3 – Aidan Glackin X

4 – Ted Wiedeke X

6 – Alan Bomar X

7 – Mike Stasko X

8 – James Howard X

10 – Rick Jarchow X

12 – Ken Ruppel X

14 – James Freedman

15 – Cory Huseby

18 – Cameron Robinson X

19 – Melanie Edwards

20 – Jasper Van Vliet

21 – Victor Felice

22 – James Foster

Marcus Rogers X

Lee Ann Zaretsky X

Joe Buonasera X

Kelly FitzGerald 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. Class Office Report
5. Survey
6. Championship Updates
7. Youth Program Update
8. Technical Report
9. District Reports
10. New Business
11. 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 distributed a report to the Governors via e-mail. Remember to renew your membership and sign up your crew too! There are some holes in the Championship schedule, which we will discuss shortly. Thank you to Kelly for drafting the member survey. Marcus spoke highly of the Worlds in Plymouth, which is a beautiful and reasonably priced location. Petitions are open on the USJCA website. So far, we are aware of a couple interested folks from the USA, including Tony Parker.
4. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the USJCA has 207 members so far in 2025. Dues are \$100, and a \$15 late fee will kick in on April 1. E-mail reminders have been/will be sent. You can view current members at <http://j24usa.com/j24-fleet/view-members/>.

\$410 in youth donations have been received in calendar year 2025 to date. \$885 has been raised thus far in calendar year 2025 charitable contributions. There were a few donations at the very end of 2024 including Tony Parker at \$1,000.
5. **Survey** – Kelly summarized it has been a few years since our last survey, so we have started a draft to send out to all members. The goal would also be to have District Governors and Fleet Captains forward the survey to members of their Fleets as well (not just Class members). Many of the questions incorporate items discussed in our previous Governors' calls. Here are some of

the goals of the survey:

- Select venues and host clubs for upcoming major Championships
- Identify priorities for the Technical Committee
- Develop a "Best Practices Guidance Document for Regatta Organizers and Race Officials"
- Seek new volunteers to organize and promote regattas, foster participation, grow membership and mentor under 30 teams
- Increase outreach to all J/24 sailors

District Governors should review and take the survey. We can edit, delete or add questions, or change the format of the questions based on feedback. Here is the link to take the survey:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIOmZ0PgHKcbxIGk9dcYX3gKhP6zXmg4uKkfmQH0FFYamljw/viewform>

The plan is to distribute the survey by March 18 to members. Send your feedback to Kelly by this Wednesday. Dan looks forward to the results being shared with the IJCA.

6. **Championship Updates** –

--2025 Midwinter Championship, Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, March 21-23: Rick said the OA is a bit disappointed with 25 boats, having a potentially negative effect on the Fleet. Chris recalled this is only down slightly on average. Shake a Leg has expenses for keeping boats per day, and the area has high demand every winter among several Classes (not cheap). Rick warned that Miami may not be a viable Midwinters host going forward. Unfortunately, the Florida fleets are in decline. Kelly hopes the Class can be more proactive to recruit people to help with funding, volunteers, promotion, etc. for our major events.

--2025 North American Championship, Houston YC, La Porte, TX, May 26-31: Entry fee is \$450, and Vakaros will require 35 boats for usage.

--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: Marcus is working with the OA to secure 3 judges. There was some discussion about the cost of a Jury, but note that this is a Class Rules issue (IJCA). Chip Till is PRO.

--2026 Midwinter Championship, Florida YC, Jacksonville, FL, March 13-15

--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, but Canada is resurging. They missed their last opportunity to host so they will be returning to the rotation soon.

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

We are seeking hosts to apply!

- ## 7. **Youth Program Update** – The Youth Grant Committee had a hard time picking one overall recipient. For the 2025 season, they decided to pick two winners: Sam Hopper from Portland, OR (won youth division at Worlds, Keith Whittemore is mentor) and Sam Parsons from Annapolis, MD (very active racer, Jeff Hayden is mentor). Help us welcome our two newest Youth Grant Recipients! Let's grow youth racing in our Districts...get the word out.

8. **Technical Report** – Finn explained that Nancy Zangerle is the current IJCA Technical Chair. He forwarded her the most recent wording for Rules proposals for consideration of the ITC.

9. **District Reports** –

3 Aidan Glackin: Looking forward to Corinthian Nationals next year (sister club to Sayville). They are planning to increase communications, including membership renewals and the survey.

4 Ted Wiedeke: Their geography is quite spread out, so the challenge is to bring resources together and/or with a nearby District. More youth involvement is needed.

6 Alan Bomar: There are a couple new/young racers in Hampton. Four local regattas are planned + Southern Bay Race Week. Alan's family has been racing J/24s since 1977.

7 Mike Stasko: Four regattas are on their schedule, maybe going back to five again next year. J/Daze kicks it off in May; Districts are in Onedia Lake. The Lambert Lai Regatta is in August in Rochester (Lee Ann aiming to make this a 2 ½ day format). Changing of the Colors will be the Great Lakes Championship in September.

10 Rick Jarchow: noted above in Midwinters section

12 Ken Ruppel: Thank you Marcus and Kelly for helping Ken get going as Governor. So far, there are 13 members + 1 Junior, with a goal of 25 full members. Ken is making personal contact with previous members. There is a potential new fleet in the area. Port Clinton will host Districts with their new clubhouse. The dates conflict with the Great Lakes Championship, but local boats are not traveling much (lack of trailers). Ken is reaching out to Fleet Captains about including J/24s more in their schedules. The Indianapolis Sailing Club has four J/24s available for youth use. There is an overall push for kids in keelboats...many opportunities and benefits! Ken asked about a supplier for a forestay banner. Chris is aware of other Classes with large/stout flags being sold around \$150. Other suggestions were discussed, to be continued offline.

15 Cory Huseby (via Marcus): two new fleets including Milwaukee

18 Cameron Robinson: 90% of their boats are in Dillon, but the schedule is delayed. The goal is to have three regattas and the District Championship. Cameron is the youngest now but hoping to grow.

19 Melanie Edwards (via Marcus): several locals have moved onto J/70s. Kurt (Worlds sponsor) will be in Miami.

10. **New Business** – Aidan pleaded with the Governors to send their event details to the Class Office for posting.

11. **Next Meeting** – Monday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Action Items:

--Governors will send survey feedback to Kelly by this Wednesday.

--Governors will forward their event details to the Class Office for posting.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. EDT