

U.S. J/24 Class Association Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/15/2026

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 8:05 p.m. EDT

Present (X):

Chris & Julie Howell X

1 – Steve Callison

2 – Hillary Keimig

3 – Chris Fischer X

4 – Ted Wiedeke

6 – Alan Bomar X

7 – Mike Stasko X

8 – James Howard

10 – Rick Jarchow X

12 –

14 – Chris Holmes X

15 – Cory Huseby

18 – Cameron Robinson

19 – Melanie Edwards

20 – Jasper Van Vliet X

21 – Victor Felice

22 – James Foster

Lee Ann Zaretsky X

Kelly FitzGerald X

Joe Buonasera X

Aidan Glackin X

James Freedman X

Marcus Rogers X

Agenda:

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

Description:

1. **Call to Order and Attendance** – A quorum is present. The USJCA was saddened to learn of the passing of District 12 Governor Ken Ruppel. Ken was a passionate supporter of the J/24 Class and sailing community, leaving a lasting impact on so many sailors and programs. He will be missed!
2. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting** – Chris H. 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** – Lee Ann knows it's a busy summer season! She's impressed with the collaborative leadership of the Executive Committee to reflect the flavor of all the Districts. Looking forward to various updates tonight and in this week's e-newsletter. Thank you Marcus for your membership efforts...congratulations to District 14, edging out District 1 on membership numbers this year. District 10 is third. Reach out to your local racers!

The IJCA Executive Committee has agreed to expand the 2027 World Championship entry process after an initial registration of all qualified people, roughly mid-March. Petitions will then be sought, and people meeting 2026 participation/results criteria will be scored for entry (not an "open" event) by the USJCA EC. Encourage 2026 participation! The entry goal is 80 boats internationally. Exact details will be forthcoming after being finalized by the IJCA and Rochester YC OA, hopefully this month. Thank you Lee Ann for all your efforts!

How are we reallocating the two berths from Corinthian Nationals? Aidan suggested the regattas with the highest attendance, such as East Coast Championship (1) and US Nationals

(1). *Jasper Van Vliet made the motion as stated, seconded by Lee Ann Zaretsky. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. **Class Office Report** – Chris H. reported that the USJCA has 299 members so far in 2026, including 276 Full (budgeted 350). You can view current members at <http://j24usa.com/j24-fleet/view-members/>. \$755 in youth donations have been received in calendar year 2026 to date. \$1,295 has been raised thus far in calendar year 2026 charitable contributions.

Chris has been researching how to move some Class funds into an interest-bearing account, such as a CD or high-yield savings account. The goal is a significant rate more than 3%. *Kelly FitzGerald made a motion for the Class to move \$40,000 into either a CD or money market account, seconded by Aidan Glackin. The motion passed unanimously.*

5. **Committee Status** – Kelly and Julie are putting together an e-newsletter, highlighting the youth grant class, 2027 Midwinters and NAC announcements, 2026 upcoming regattas and Class social media. Kelly would like to include a link to the IJCA Technical Committee report from the Spring newsletter, with an introduction from the US Class. Rick also noted the helpful article from Nancy Zangerle. The group suggested these articles get sent directly to the Governors. Kelly added that the Class Office can provide a current Excel list of your District members, just ask! Please submit social media content to Kelly, and tag and share...

6. **Championship Updates/Planning** –

--2026 US National Championship, Portland Yacht Services, Falmouth, ME, September 9-13: Chris and Julie were not budgeted/planned, so the hope is to put together a media plan with a stipend coming from the USJCA. Kelly will come back with details for an e-mail vote.
--2026 North American Championship, Port Credit YC, Mississauga, ON Canada, September 30-October 4
--2026 World Championship, Sandringham YC, Melbourne, Australia, November 9-16

--2027 Midwinter Championship, Houston YC, La Porte, TX, March 10-14
--2027 North American Championship, Seawanhaka Corinthian YC, Oyster Bay, NY, May 20-23
--2027 World Championship, Rochester YC, Rochester, NY, October 2-9
Excited to cover such wide geography in 2027!

2027 Proposals Received & Reviewed

--Nationals - Fort Worth Boat Club
--Corinthian Nationals - Southwestern Yacht Club

The intention is to ask Southwestern Yacht Club to switch from Corinthian Nationals to Nationals, and award Corinthian Nationals at another event. Marcus will contact SYC.

2028 Potential Hosts

--Midwinters - Sarasota, Columbia, Davis Island
--North Americans - Newport (in discussion with Sail Newport), Corpus Christi (proposal received)
--Nationals - Fort Worth, Milwaukee

2029 Potential Hosts

--Midwinters - Miami, Jacksonville, Davis Island
--North Americans - Corpus Christi
--Nationals – TBD
--For 2029, the IJCA is seeking a World Championship proposal from North America.

Clubs Interested in Hosting an Upcoming Championship:

--Milwaukee

- Fort Worth
- Corpus Christi
- Columbia Sailing

7. **Youth Program Update** – The Class of 2026:

Alex Tooker - *Forward Pressure Racing* - District 7 Upstate NY Mentor Kirk Reynolds

Piper Easton - *Saltine & Pringle* - District 19 Portland, OR - Mentor Keith Whittemore

Elliott Gear - *Tasmanian Devil* - District 1 Casco Bay, ME - Mentor Carter White

Andrew Mouacdie, Jr. - *Makani Kai* - District 10 Miami, FL - Mentor Eamonn DeLisser (Rick noted that Andrew has not yet joined the Class and the boat has been inactive.)

Pending confirmation:

Annika Kaelin - Reflex - *Georgia Tech Sailing Team* - District 8 Lake Lanier, GA - Mentor

8. **Technical Report** – Discussed above.

9. **New Business** – Lee Ann shared that there is a growing desire to retain a social media specialist for overall Class promotion. The Class has funds on hand, and marketing/promotion would be a great use of the money. Chris noted other Classes have engaged a professional at up to \$1,000 a month.

Regarding the Vakaros units, Chris explained that there is a fuel gauge issue on three of the devices, which are in the process of being replaced. The next regatta where it will be used is the Northeast Regionals in July. Perhaps Chip and/or a Vakaros representative could conduct an online training course for the Class with question/answer. Rick suggested an online request form/instructions for the Class units. Let's reserve this equipment for Regional Championships and higher.

Chris F. noted that next Monday is the end of regular registration and the start of late registration for the NE Regionals (+\$100).

10. **Next Meeting** – Monday, August 31 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT

Action Items:

- Joe and Chris will create an online request form/instructions for the Class Vakaros units.
- Kelly and Julie will send an e-newsletter.
- Marcus will contact Southwestern YC about 2027 Nationals.
- Chris will move \$40,000 into a savings product.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 31 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT