

U.S. J/24 Class Association Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/3/2026

Start: 7:04 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 7:59 p.m. EST

Present (X):

Chris & Julie Howell X

1 – Steve Callison X

2 – Hillary Keimig

3 – Chris Fischer X

4 – Ted Wiedeke

6 – Alan Bomar

7 – Mike Stasko

8 – James Howard X

10 – Rick Jarchow X

12 – Ken Ruppel X

14 – Chris Holmes

15 – Cory Huseby X

18 – Cameron Robinson

19 – Melanie Edwards

20 – Jasper Van Vliet

21 – Victor Felice

22 – James Foster

Lee Ann Zaretsky X

Kelly FitzGerald X

Joe Buonasera X

Aidan Glackin

James Freedman X

Marcus Rogers

Agenda:

1. Call to order and attendance
2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
3. President's Report
4. Class Office Report
5. Committee Volunteers
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 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 highlighted the collaboration among all of us! We look forward to having Class Representatives at US Championships. Thank you Kelly for pushing three major committees (social media, membership, Championship support)...lots of potential here. Please consider the most recent Request for Proposal, and let's expand our host pool. Congratulations District 14 for leading the current membership drive. Keep advocating in your area, including crew! Thank you everyone for keeping the Class growing.
4. **Class Office Report** – Chris H. reported that the USJCA has 193 members so far in 2026, including 181 Full (budgeted 350). You can view current members at <http://j24usa.com/j24-fleet/view-members/>. \$500 in youth donations have been received in calendar year 2026 to date. \$1,120 has been raised thus far in calendar year 2026 charitable contributions.
5. **Committee Volunteers** – Kelly summarized that committee progress continues, following the survey last year. A District Governor and/or Fleet Captain is ideal per committee to capitalize on geographical value. Kelly will circulate the current list, and hoping for broader representation. Who wants to nominate themselves or someone else capable and active?
6. **Championship Updates** –
--2026 Midwinter Championship, Florida YC, Jacksonville, FL, March 13-15: 40+

boats...well done!

--2026 Corinthian US National Championship, Seawanhaka Corinthian YC, Oyster Bay, NY, May 14-17: A working group is communicating regarding sponsorship. The Class Vakaros equipment will be needed onsite and with a proper operator. Ideas are welcome for trophy vendors and sponsorship (direct funds + in-kind). Perhaps there are ways to reduce expenses.

--2026 US National Championship, Portland Yacht Services, Falmouth, ME, September 9-13: like the Downeast Regatta, expect a great event!

--2026 North American Championship, Port Credit YC, Mississauga, ON Canada, September 30-October 4

--2026 World Championship, Sandringham YC, Melbourne, Australia, November 9-16: see online petition if you want to attend.

--2027 World Championship, Rochester YC, Rochester, NY, October 2-9: the local committee is off and running and hoping to secure a sponsor tier. Look for a website shortly. The Club will provide an excellent footprint, as they always do.

A Request for Proposal was issued. The USJCA is seeking proposals to host 2027 and 2028 major Championships in the USA: North American Championship, Midwinter Championship, US National Championship and Corinthian National Championship. Deadline April 10, 2026.

Houston Yacht Club submitted a proposal for the 2027 Midwinter Championship. Chris H. recapped that our Florida hosts have been consistent over the years, and this is an opportunity to expand our reach. Rick said that Sarasota Sailing Squadron is also receptive to hosting (perhaps a combination of Gulf and Bay sailing) and is meeting on March 17. Chris F. asked that we focus on a three-event series to motivate boats to get on the road for winter sailing, leaving boats throughout. Aidan thinks an east coast Midwinters makes more sense when the Worlds are in Rochester 2027. James F. said that Texas clubs could put together a 2027 or 2028 Championship series. Corey explained that upper Midwest boats are more accessible to Texas than Florida. Rick requested that we look back at event attendance geographically. The group decided to defer the 2027 Midwinters vote until after the April RFP deadline. Rick continued calendar discussion, and believes doing three regattas in a few months in different locations isn't very realistic for mostly amateur teams. This concept works best when in the same location with boat storage. It would be great to hear more feedback from Governors not present on this call.

7. **Youth Program Update** – Lee Ann recapped that five excellent candidates are in the Class of 2026:

Annika Kaelin (Georgia Tech/Lake Lanier)

Andrew Mouacdie (Miami)

Elliot Gear (Casco Bay, Maine)

Alex Tooker (Upstate NY)

Piper Easton (Portland, Oregon)

All are excited to race locally and join our Championships including the upcoming Midwinters. The current cycle is now being finalized, including mentors. Sail donations are welcome, starting in Jacksonville.

8. **Technical Report** – The updated 2026 J/24 Class Rules have been approved by World Sailing and are available at <https://www.sailing.org/classes/j24/#Documents>. You can also view the changes document. Read 'em!

9. **New Business** – Aidan summarized that the USJCA is a 501c3 organization, which is applicable with sail donation. Let's have a sub-committee within the boat grant committee to manage this. Assign a value based on sail age to receive the tax document from the USJCA.

10. **Next Meeting** – Monday, June 15 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT

Action Items:

- A boat grant sub-committee will manage sail donations.
- Kelly and the Class Office will send a member update on current topics.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15 @ 7:00 p.m. EDT