

NA J/80 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/18/2023

Start: 8:08 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 8:56 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell
Jason Balich
Ramzi Bannura
Cristian Bieder
Mark Boerkamp
Peter d'Anjou
David Doyle
Janet Geisberger
Brian Gibbs
Doug Gibson
John Haverstock
Conor Hayes
Kevin Hayes
Christopher Hobbs
Derek Lay
Cat McLaughlin
Hugh McGugan
Greg Nourjian
Allan Powell
Peter Quandt
Jeffrey Rabinowitz
Martin Rutter
Darin Sameshima
Owen Schneider
Michelle Tan
Don Venn
Lawrence Waters
Daniel Wittig

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Opening Comments
2. Year in Review/Regatta Recaps
3. Upcoming Events
4. Class Office / Financial Report
5. Elections
6. Membership
7. Open business

Description:

Opening/Welcome – Jeff opened the 2023 Annual Meeting, welcome all! He introduced Vice President Brian Gibbs, Secretary David Doyle and Treasurer Kevin Hayes.

1. **Year in Review/Regatta Recaps** – Jeff recapped it was a great year, including the challenging Annapolis Sailing World Regatta in May. Congratulations *Black Sheep*! Next was beautiful Block Island Race Week with three J/80s in June. The East Coast Championship was in Kingston, ON in July as part of the LYRA Annual Regatta. Congratulations Conor Hayes. Great host and city! The Annapolis Fall Series occurred over two weekends, however the first was cancelled due to a hurricane. Well done Connor McKee. The North American Championship was held at Lake Winnepesaukee Sailing Association in Gilford, NH in October. Twenty-two teams battled during varied weather conditions, culminating in a sporty Sunday. Great Race Committee, including U-flag starts. Conor Hayes was at the top again...thanks to all participants!

Jeff summarized that the Class retained an experienced Class management company to handle day-to-day Class business and planning. This follows years of volunteer management of the NA Class. The Board prepared the scope of this position prior to last year's Annual Meeting, which is available.

2. **Upcoming Events** –

2024 NAC @ National Yacht Club, Toronto, October 4-6

2024 ECC @ Nepean Sailing Club, Ottawa, June 22-23

There will be a proposal for Worlds in Kingston 2026. This is an awesome location, but it takes a village to plan a Worlds. Hoping everyone can support this!

Let's get the calendar filled with more events...send details to howell@j80naca.com, including regatta name, dates, host yacht club + its city, and event website.

3. **Class Office / Financial Report** – Chris H. reported that the Class had 72 Full members in 2023 and sold 121 sail royalty tags. He circulated the Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2023 and Budget 2024 (\$22,000+ in the bank). Owen asked to see the financials from last year, which Kevin Hayes should be able to provide. He would also like to see a list of assets provided by the Board. *Jeff Rabinowitz made a motion to accept the financials as presented, seconded by Larry Waters. The motion passed unanimously.*

Jeff added that the regatta support expense is being reviewed by the Board for future years. This year, \$2,000 of sponsorship was approved for the NAC. The 2024 proposed budget lists this amount at \$500 but will be further discussed (and potentially amended) soon.

4. **Elections** – This is a re-election...

President: Jeffrey Rabinowitz

Vice President: Brian Gibbs

Secretary: David Doyle

Treasurer: Kevin Hayes

No further nominations were made from the floor.

5. **Membership** – Jeff stressed that membership is the key to the Class and protects the value of all J/80s. It's vital to encourage and enforce membership annually.

6. **Open Business** – Christopher Hobbs inquired about a cascading backstay return, which can cause issues at a mark rounding (you must be looking forward, not back). The cost of two turning blocks should not be a deterrent for something that would keep our racers more safe. Ramzi clarified that the IJ80CA has allowed a flicker. Remember that the Class has Closed Rules. The NA Class is able to suggest a Rules proposal to the International Class, although this can be a long process. There are other proposals on the horizon, such as reviewing crew weight. Chris H. summarized that the International Rules govern all national/continental Classes. Any changes to the Class Rules require Rule 87 approval of the IJ80CA. Changes outside of this process are protest-able. Owen offered to volunteer on this idea. Christopher Hobbs prefers the NA Class stay in line with the Class Rules and follow the international Rules proposal method. John Haverstock agreed that our Class is mature, and we should respect official channels. Other proposal ideas are always welcome!

David Doyle noted the strength of Canada with 30+ boats in five locations, including some new boats. *Feisty* was the LYRA Boat of the Year for their performance and for building the fleet. Looking forward to seeing folks in Toronto in 2024! They may plan a warm-up regatta before the NAC in mid-September. The LYRA regatta next year will be in Rochester, NY in late August.

Jeff thanked all for attending...meeting adjourned.

Action Items:

Happy Holidays!

Next Meeting: TBA