**North American J80 Class, November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Zoom / virtual meeting called to order at 8:05pm EST November 17, 2020

**Present**: 25+ Class members representing US and Canada fleets

Ramzi Bannura (RB), David Doyle (DD), Jeffrey Rabinowitz (JR), Kevin Hayes (KH),

Conor Hayes (CH),

Introductions:

J/80 North American Class Board introduced:

Ramzi Bannura – Class President

Jeff Rabinowitz - VP

Kevin Hayes - Treasurer

David Doyle - Secretary

Conor Hayes - representing past J/80 Class presidents

**2020 - Year In Summary – regional updates provided by:**

Lek Dimarukot – Seattle (11 boats)

David Stowe – Winnipesaukee (15 boats)

Peter D’Anjou Marion and Massachussetts)

Ken Colborne Booth Bay Maine (4 boats)

Eunice, Annapolis (25 boats)

David Doyle – Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Ottawa (25 boats in 4 fleets / areas)

The following were consistent 2020 themes across fleets / regions:

* Each region noted that 2020 was heavily impacted for all fleets by COVID pandemic.
* Late start to the season for many fleets.
* Clubs and fleets complying with local guidelines regarding gatherings / events while sailing as much as possible.
* Flexible approach to crewing, social bubble, etc. ensured as much racing as possible for each fleet.
* Limitations on social activity and gatherings impacted the most important part of sailing – the social aspects.
* Annapolis fleet activity continued into te fall with Fall Brawl, and frostbite series to round out a busy Thursday night series.
* All fleets are looking forward to a better season and return to normal for 2021.

**State of the class**

Fielding interest across many regions with renewed interest in several areas, including growth in Texas and interest from Lake Dillon CO and Tulsa OK.

Kevin Hayes provided and update on financial status:

* Bank balance: $20420.07, combined with receivables for a total balance of $22454.11.
* Only 38 dues-paying members in 2020 as many members did not renew membership anticipating a curtailed season. This is down from >100 in 2019.
* Class membership dues are the primary source of revenue for the Class. Members / skippers are reminded that boats racing under J/80 Class are expected to have a current class sticker displayed and skipper to be a Class member in good standing.
* Other revenue sources: Sail Royalties, Hats etc.

**Benefits of Class membership:**

* US Sailing membership discount; individual discounts (partnerships)
* Web Site - information repository, selling boats and accessories
* Representation with World Sailing
* Coordinate championship events (Measurers, scale, logistics, etc.)
* Local events; national events (West Coast Championships,East Coast)

**J/80 Class Rules (International Class update)**

- 2 rules up for vote in 2020

a) sail maker proprietary material and process

b) concurrent cleat (deck top and mast cleat) for spin halyard

**UPDATE: On Nov 25 International Class Assoc approved Amendment (b)(cleat) and rejected (a) (proposed approach to new technologies for jibs). Details to follow.**

**J/80 North American Class – Constitution**

Review of NA Class by J Rabinowitz concludes Class rules as written not felt to reflect current needs of fleet (size of fleet, nature of activity, etc.). and will be updated to better address:

* Reflect change to name of class - since merger of USA, Canada
  + promote inclusion of participants
  + simplify organization; voting distribution
  + Simplify to better reflect size of class
* Updated Class Constitution to be presented in 2021.

**Key Future Events**

**2021 J/80 World Championship** – Kongelig Dansk Yacht Klub, Copenhagen, Denmark **3-10 July 2021**.

2021 NAs in Annapolis (EYC) – Fall 2021 (date TBD)

2021 East Coast Championships (proposed) Lake Winnipesaukee Fall 2021

**2022 Worlds** - Sail Newport, Newport RI. Sept 26-Oct 2, 2022

2022 North Americans: (proposed) Newport RI, 2-4 wks prior to 2022 Worlds.

**Open discussion / Summary**

* Fleets continue to field inquiries from interested prospects.
* Boats have maintained their value for years and are in demand and sell quickly.
* Class is ready to help match sellers with buyers – all are encouraged to continue to promote the fleet in their regions.
* Noteworthy that Canadians can import a boat directly from Europe duty-free under new free-trade agreement. Broadens the market of available boats and creates new opportunities when boats are hard to find.

All are looking forward to a great 2021 J/80 season.

Meeting adjourned 9:33pm EST.