

NA J/80 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/15/2024

Start: 7:04 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 7:50 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell
Ramzi Bannura
Stephen Bardon
Cristian Bieder
Andrew Cumming
Peter d'Anjou
David Doyle
Matt Emerson
Janet Geisberger
Brian Gibbs
Doug Gibson
Jason Goncalves
Kevin Hayes
Conor Hayes
Christopher Hobbs
Bengt Johansson
Hugh McGugan
Steven Mikes
Jeffrey Rabinowitz
Martin Rutter
Darin Sameshima
Don Venn
Steve Yates

Agenda:

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

Description:

1. **Welcome & Opening** – Jeff opened the 2024 Annual Meeting, welcome all! He introduced Vice President Brian Gibbs, Secretary David Doyle and Treasurer Kevin Hayes. Thank you everyone for taking the time to support the Class. Jeff praised Ramzi for leading the Class, thank you Ramzi! The Class is strong and vibrant. A lot happens behind the scenes at the Executive Committee level and local Fleet level. The strength of our Class is proportionate to effort. Boats are holding worth, and there are some new hulls coming from France. Jeff emphasized that all of this effort leads to the value of our Class. People still want J/80s!

Meeting materials are available via Dropbox: [J80 NACA AGM 2024 - Dropbox](#).

2. **Year in Review/Regatta Recaps** – The East Coast Championship was in Ottawa, a fantastic three-day event on and off the water. Five races were held the first day, no racing Saturday, and three more races on Sunday. Conditions were amazing! Congratulations Conor Hayes, Doug Gibson and Martin Rutter! A new perpetual trophy was presented.

The 2024 North American Championship was hosted by National YC, Toronto, ON, October 4-6, and 30 teams attended from all over. Kudos to Fleet 20! Congratulations to the top three: Christopher Hobbs, Graham Philpot and Conor Hayes!

Jeff summarized lots of J/80 racing in North America, more value within our fleet!

3. **Upcoming Events** –

The 2025 East Coast Championship is looking to be in Sodus Bay. Overall, expect a similar calendar of events as this year, adding Block Island Race Week.

2025 North American Championship @ Southern YC, New Orleans, LA, October 9-12: Mark Foster has been confirmed as PRO. David Sprague is in discussions with the OA to arrange a measurement day for local boats. SYC has the Sugar Bowl regatta mid-November. Dates have not been finalized yet, and they are discussing a separate standalone event (such as Midwinters 2026). Mast-up storage will be available at SYC and working on overflow storage at NOYC. Steven Mikes shared that the weather is great, plan to come on down!

2026 North American Championship @ CORK, Kingston, ON, July 9-12

2026 World Championship @ CORK, Kingston, ON, July 18-26

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

- 4. Class Office / Financial Report** – The NA Class has officially obtained c3 status so we can accept tax-deductible donations (in the USA) via the membership module during 2025 renewals. Specific projects will be identified.

Chris reported that the Class had 83 Full members in 2024 (72 reported at 2023 AGM) + 6 Associates. He circulated the Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2024 and Budget 2025, including a one-time expense in 2025 for a redesign/modernization of the NA Class website. Kevin stated that we have sold 139 sail royalties in 2024 (\$75.00 each), and we have more than \$29,000 in the bank (plus approximately \$2,000 in Accounts Receivable). He noted that some sail tags were sold to owners who are not Class members (49 royalties were purchased through lofts by 32 non-members)...this is an area of improvement!

Kevin Hayes made a motion to accept the financials as presented, seconded by Jeff Rabinowitz. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Elections** – The Constitution states in 8.1: The Executive Committee shall consist of the following Officers and Members: (a) President, (b) Vice President, (c) Secretary, (d) Treasurer, (e) immediate past-President, and, (f) If appointed, the Fleet Representative of each NA J/80 Fleet, who shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee. The past-President shall vote only in the event to break a tie vote of the Executive Committee.

The slate is as follows (bios in Dropbox):

President: Hugh McGugan

Vice President: Brian Gibbs

Secretary: David Doyle

Treasurer: Kevin Hayes

Jeff Rabinowitz becomes Past President. No further nominations were made from the floor.

Darin Sameshima made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hugh said the J/80 is a once in a generation sport boat, standing the test of time (35 years). As Classes age, it's even more important to have a strong Association. We all must work together to promote our Class! We enjoy our time on the water and the friendships in our fleets. A healthy Class increases the worth of the boats. Let's increase communications between Fleets, the Executive Committee and the International Class. We welcome Fleet representatives and their input. Expect a member survey in 2025.

Hugh thanked Jeff, Ramzi and the Executive Committee! Chris echoed the sentiments for Ramzi!

6. **Open Business** – Jeff summarized that we want to get more people involved in a leadership role, we want to hear from you.

Christopher Hobbs reiterated a request from prior years in regard to the backstay return (when you release the backstay, it doesn't just release). This is an annoyance and also a safety concern in having to turn around and deal with the backstay at the windward mark. He would prefer a 2:1 shock chord, as used on other J/Boats. He volunteered to work offline with the International Class to start the Rules proposal process. Ramzi clarified that a bungee cord is allowed. The Class Rule in question is C.8.5v. Hugh encouraged more feedback/ideas as our boats are aging. It's good to keep the lines open with the International Class.

Ramzi highlighted Performance Race Week in Austin, sailing with North U.

Ramzi shared that a proposal is pending from Spar Craft for a mast upgrade package. Stay tuned for details...

David D. stated that Fleet 20 has 33 boats in five locations. Kingston is a landmark venue in North America...looking forward to 2026! It's good to see new members, including Stephen B. with hull 12! It can be a challenge to pair potential owners with boats. Hugh added that CORK will offer a keelboat regatta in June 2025, a good opportunity for those looking to practice in Kingston. It is close in dates to the Nepean Regatta.

Action Items:

- Christopher Hobbs will draft a Rules change proposal regarding the backstay return.
- The Class Office/EC will prepare a member survey.

Next Meeting: TBA