

2017 J/109 Class Officers

President	Bill Kneller
Vice President	Jonathan Rechtschaffer
Secretary	David Rosow
Treasurer	Bud Rogers
Measurer	Bengt Johansson
At-Large	Jim Goldberg

January 11, 2017

Dear North American J/109 Class Association Members and J/109 Owners,

The J/109 Executive Board wishes you a Happy New Year and looks forward to continuing the resurgence the class has seen over the past two years. As the incoming Class President I would like to thank the outgoing class officers lead by Jim Voss for the great leadership and initiative during their term. Jim will be moving to a bigger boat (HH-66) and we wish him well with that. J/109 Class Officers who will serve through the end of 2018 include:

President: Bill Kneller – owns *Vento Solare* hull number 266 home port Newport, RI. Bill previously served on the J/109 Class board as Treasurer.

Vice President: Jonathan (JR) Rechtschaffer – owns *Emoticon* hull number 200 home port Stony Point, NY. JR previously served on the J/109 Class board as Vice President. He also serves on the Technical Committee.

Secretary: David Rosow – owns *Loki* hull number 125 home port Southport, CT. This is David's first time on the J/109 board. He also serves on the Technical Committee.

Treasurer: Bud Rogers – owns *Big Boat* hull number 360 home port Sag Harbor, NY. Bud previously served on the J/109 Class board as Secretary.

Measurer: Bengt Johansson – owns *Zig Zag* hull number 37 home port Perth Amboy, NJ. This is Bengt's first time on the J/109 board. He also leads the Technical Committee.

At-Large: Jim Goldberg – owns *Junkyard Dog* hull number 168 home port Sausalito, CA. This is Jim's first time on the J/109 board. Read more about Jim this link <https://j109.org/meet-jim-goldberg-member-at-large/> on the website.

Listed below are the results of the positive leadership from the past two years, thanks to the past class officers who served and made great impact on the class:

- Annual J/109 Class Association membership increased an average of 50% each year—at the end of 2016 there were 58 active members
- Participation in major J/109 regattas has doubled over previous levels—for our North American Championships there were 24 boats in 2015 and 19 boats in 2016
- The J/109 website (<http://j109.org>) was totally revamped to make it more useful, more informative and easier to navigate for all J/109 owners and sailors, including those who are not regular racers
- Class finances are the best they have ever been with a balance just over \$20,000 as we start 2017.

Increased regatta participation has made the racing more fun. The Class instituted a Corinthian Trophy in 2016 awarded at the North American Championship to recognize the top finishing boat without any sailing professionals onboard. Congratulations to the 2016 winners of our major regattas:

- 2016 North American Championship overall winner: *Loki* (David Rosow)
- 2016 North American Championship Corinthian Trophy winner: *Picante* (John Sahagian)
- 2016 J/Fest New England winner: *Gut Feeling* (Ted Herlihy)
- 2016 J/109 West Coast Championship: *Electra* (Tom Brott)
- 2016 J/109 Great Lakes Championship Series: *Full Tilt* (Pete Priede)

2017 J/109 Major Regattas

The complete schedule will appear on the J/109 website and be updated regularly as events are added and regatta documents are posted by the host organizations. If there is a regatta planned that does not appear on the website, please let us know, so we can help spread the word. Here is an overview of the major J/109 events for 2017:

- **J/109 North American Championship**—June 18-23 in Block Island, RI as part of the Storm Trysail Club Block Island Race Week
- **J/109 East Coast Championship**—June 2-4 in Westport, CT as part of the Cedar Point Yacht Club One Design Regatta
- **J/109 East Coast Regatta Series**—J/109 NAs at Block Island Race Week (June 18-23); New England J/Fest at Sail Newport (August 12-13); and American Yacht Club Fall Series (September 23-24 and September 30-October 1)
- **J/109 West Coast Championship**—June 23-25 in Long Beach, CA as part of Long Beach Race Week

If you are interested in chartering a J/109 for the North American Championship please let a board member know. Our J/109 colleagues in Europe do a lot of chartering for their regattas. The borrower would probably bring their own sails and the owner/lender might join the team for the regatta. Payment might be a good race bottom job (based on whatever the owner and person chartering agree to) and the class will pay the loaner boat insurance policy that covers the event.

Future J/109 North American Championships

The incoming Class Officers initiated a new approach for selecting the North American Championship 2018 and 2019 host clubs. All the Fleet Captains were asked to identify clubs and sailing organizations in their area that might be interested in hosting the event. Identified clubs were sent an “Expression of Interest” outlining requirements to host the North American Championship. Those clubs desiring to proceed to the next step replied with an “Expression of Interest”. Subsequently a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent to those that replied. The clubs will then prepare a response to the RFP and submit to the Class Secretary within the forty five day period allowed. The J/109 Officers will evaluate the proposals and select which clubs will host the 2018 and 2019 North American Championship.

Class Rules Changes

During 2015 the Class approved two rule changes that took effect on 1 January 2016. These allowed a jib inhaul system and a bobstay addition. There were no additional rules changes made in 2016. Late in

2016 the Technical Committee posted a ruling regarding the sprit end-caps and maximum extension of the sprits. This is not a rule change but it will require action by most boats to comply with the existing rule. The complete ruling can be found at <https://j109.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=1103#p1054> on the J/109 Class Forum. As we begin 2017, the Class Measurer is working with the Technical Committee on a potential rules change that will permit increasing the jib car adjustment purchase from 4:1 up to 8:1. Information is posted on the [Class Rules Discussion](#) section of the J/109 Class Forum. All eligible voting members will receive formal notification and an online ballot when the proposed change is ready for vote.

Additionally, the Class Measurer will be meeting with J/Boats and US Watercraft, who acquired the assets of the former Pearson Composites. The purpose is to review and catalog J/109 drawings and specifications used throughout production so that measurement rulings and interpretations may be more easily made in the future. The Class Measurer and the Technical Committee will also check the Class Rules & Class Constitution to review externally referenced documents that may have changed since the rules were passed. This will result in rules interpretations during 2016 and a vote per the Class Constitution sections 7.2.a and 8.1 to update the Class Rules and Class Constitution to incorporate any changes necessary as a result of these external document references.

J/109 Website Overhaul

The new J/109 website went live in March 2015 and was rolled out to provide more information for owners and class members. Those familiar with the previous class website will notice the new site has better organized information with a more intuitive menu. It contains a full featured calendar and prominently displays announcements. J/109 videos have been added. Technical content has been augmented to include J/Boats documents, manuals and drawings for equipment installed on the boat. The site also includes tuning guides and performance tips.

There is an improved boat & member list only available to members logged in. When you update your information profile you may now include a mobile number, US Sailing number and ISAF number. These will help regatta organizing, and those who enter their US Sailing number are provided a direct link to their US Sailing profile where US Sailing membership may be renewed at a 20% discount through the J/109 Member Partner Program.

The most recent website update significantly streamlined the Sail Royalty Tag registration system. Sailmakers order tags online, and then those sails that are sold with sail tags have measurements entered and certified by the measurer online – no more scanning paper forms. Automatic email notification is provided to the sailmaker and sail owner when the measurements are approved. The sail registration number is then listed in the sail tag list on the class website. Certificates may be viewed and printed directly by clicking on the registration number. To view the sail tag list on the website, mouse over *Members* and click on *Sail Tag List*.

There are more updates planned, including simplifying the login for the J/109 forum – currently a separate login is required. If you have ideas to improve the website, please send them to admin@j109.org for consideration.

J/109 Cruising and Social Events

Some use their J/109 for cruising exclusively while others may race and cruise their boat. The J/109 Fleet Captains are interested in hearing from others in their fleets who may be interested in organized cruises and social events. A complete list of Fleet Captains is provided at <https://j109.org/class/fleet-list/> on the class website with email addresses and phone numbers. You are encouraged to contact your Fleet Captain to help coordinate a cruise and / or social event.

J/109 Class Membership

One of the best ways to insure your investment in the J/109 is to support the Class. Owners and Co-owners are strongly encouraged to become Members of the J/109 Class Association. Others may become Associate Members. Members are owners or co-owners. Associate Members are crew and supporters of

the J/109 Class. The membership fee is \$50.00 for Members and \$50.00 for Associate Members. Members who are current with annual dues are provided access to restricted areas on the class website and are able to view complete lists of owners and members.

Existing Members – If you are already an owner with an email address on file, all you need to do is get a password by clicking the *Login* button located top center of the website <https://j109.org>. When in doubt, try this first. Once you enter your email address, we will send you a password to that address. It normally arrives in a minute or so. As an existing or previous member you can inspect and edit your contact information (after you have logged in) by clicking *Update My Info* under the *Members* menu. Existing or previous members can pay annual dues (after you have logged in) by clicking on *Renew Membership – Dues* under the *Members* menu.

New Members – If you are not currently registered or do not have an email address on file, register by filling in the form by navigating the menu on the class website <https://j109.org> – Mouse over *Market*, then click on *New Membership* to open that page. Submit your information, then once we review your contact information we will add you to the database. This may take a day or two.

More information about registration and passwords is available in the *Login* page available by clicking on the *Login* button located top center of the website.

Happy Sailing!

Bill Kneller

J/109 Class Association President