

A Message from the Class President - January 2018

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

The J/109 Executive Board wishes you a Happy New Year. J/109 Class members were very active in 2017 and have a great schedule lined up for 2018. The class officers serving in the second year of their term through the end of 2018 include:

President: Bill Kneller – owns *Vento Solare* hull number 266 home port Newport, RI.

Vice President: Jonathan (JR) Rechtschaffer – owns *Emoticon* hull number 200 home port Stony Point, NY. He also serves on the Technical Committee.

Secretary: David Rosow – owns *Loki* hull number 125 home port Southport, CT. He also serves on the Technical Committee.

Treasurer: Bud Rogers – owns *Big Boat* hull number 360 home port Sag Harbor, NY.

Measurer: Bengt Johansson – owns *Zig Zag* hull number 37 home port New Rochelle, NY. He also leads the Technical Committee.

Assistant Measurer: Ted Herlihy – owns *Gut Feeling* hull number 72 home port Padanaram, MA. He serves on the Technical Committee.

At-Large: Jim Goldberg – owns *Junkyard Dog* hull number 168 home port Sausalito, CA.

Listed below are some highlights from 2017:

- Annual J/109 Class Association dues paying membership increased to largest ever— at the end of 2017 there were 69 active members
- New process to select J/109 North American Championship venue provided nine proposals evaluated by selection committee—two new sites selected for 2018 and 2019
- Establishment of Technical Committee—Active by researching issues which impact rules, evaluating changes proposed by members, identifying acceptable substitutes for parts no longer available, streamlining measurement process and updating rules referencing external requirements that changed over time.
- Class finances are the best they have ever been with a balance just over \$23,600 as we start 2018.

Increased regatta participation made racing more fun. The Class started in 2016 and continued to award in 2017 a Corinthian Trophy at the North American Championship to recognize the top finishing boat without any sailing professionals onboard.

Congratulations to the 2017 winners of our major regattas:

- 2017 North American Championship overall winner: *Loki* (David Rosow)
- 2017 North American Championship Corinthian Trophy winner: *Gut Feeling* (Ted Herlihy)
- 2017 J/Fest New England winner: *Emoticon* (JR Rechtschaffer)
- 2017 J/Fest Southwest winner: *Hamburg* (Al Goethe)
- 2017 Race to Mackinac J/109 Class winner: *Goat Rodeo* (Robert Evans)
- 2017 J/109 Great Lakes Championship Series: *Full Tilt* (Pete Priede)

2018 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 2018:

- **J/109 North American Championship**—October 10-14 at Larchmont YC - Larchmont, NY
- **J/109 East Coast Championship**—September 7-9 in Newport, RI, as a dedicated J/109 Class Event
- **J/109 East Coast Regatta Series**—[Cedar Point OD regatta](#) (June 1-3); [New York YC Race Week Part II](#) (July 17-21); and [American Yacht Club Fall Series 2nd Weekend](#) (September 29-30)
- **J/109 West Coast Championship**—June 22-24 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 2018 and 2019 North American Championship selection process resulted in nine proposals submitted to the evaluation committee. All nine proposals were outstanding and the class would have been served well to hold the championship at any of the clubs submitting a proposal. Ultimately the decision was made to hold the 2018 North American Championship at Larchmont YC in Larchmont, NY 10-14 October. The 2019 North American Championship will be held at New Bedford YC in New Bedford, MA 20-24 August. Both of these will be stand alone events where the host clubs have dedicated their facilities and support exclusively to the J/109 Class. Subsequent to the 2018 North American Championship, the class will obtain feedback from participants to evaluate whether future North American Championships should be held as part of a larger event, or an event focused on one or two classes.

2018 J/109 North American Championship

The planning is underway with organizers from Larchmont YC and the J/109 Class working diligently to make sure that our first stand alone J/109 North American Championship is a great one. The [regatta website](#) is up, the [Notice of Race](#) has been posted and [registration is open](#). The Larchmont YC is providing complimentary moorings from 9 through 19 October. Boat measurement and inspection will be conducted on Wednesday 10 October with racing Thursday 11 through Sunday 14 October.

The Technical Committee is reviewing and updating the [previous inspection checklist](#) with an updated version to be used for boat measurement. The checklist will incorporate the latest rule changes and interpretations. It is expected the checklist will be posted on the [rules section of the J/109 forum](#) no later than 1 June. For boats and crews who are competing in their first J/109 North American Championship, we suggest that the checklist be used to self inspect the boat. You are encouraged to post any questions on the forum so that the class measurer may provide responses to help all competing. The Class Measurer strives to provide complete answers within a few days. Sails to be used must be declared using the new [Sail Declaration System](#). Sail tags will be verified during inspection and matched with those declared online. About 90 days before the regatta, a measurement schedule will be posted on the regatta site. Each boat will be asked to sign up online for a boat inspection time slot. The Class Measurer will be available for a limited time the weekend prior to the North American Championship to pre measure some boats. This early measurement provides good training for anyone interested in helping the measurement teams at Larchmont YC. More details will be disseminated as we get closer to the event.

Class Rules Changes

During 2017 the Class approved changes to the Class Rules effective 1 March 2017 that allow increasing the jib car adjustment purchase from 4:1 up to 8:1. Subsequently the Technical Committee completed a comprehensive review of the Class Rules and Class Constitution in order to propose updates where referenced external documents were changed, or made obsolete by the transition of the International Sailing Federation to World Sailing. The proposed changes were approved by the Class with the updated [Constitution](#) and [Class Rules](#) effective 1 January 2018.

Technical Committee Initiatives

The Technical Committee has been working multiple initiatives this year intended to help with rules and material support for J/109s. These initiatives include:

- Updating [Sail Transfer and Retirement Process](#) to clean up the Sail Tag List - owners may now easily transfer sails to others, and retire sails to remove them from the Sail Tag List
- Developing an easier method to [Declare Sails for One Design Events](#) requiring sail declaration - Sails are easily declared online using a drop-down
- Continuing to work with J/Boats to determine various equipment specifications used during J/109 production in the US and France from 2001 through 2012

- Developing a set of race document templates that may be used to easily tailor for local and regional one design events
- Working to identify and develop continued sources of supply for J/109 parts that may become obsolete over time.

J/109 Class Support for 2018 Volvo Ocean Race

Sail Newport has approached the J/109 Class to provide stake boats for the Volvo Ocean Race Newport stopover in May 2018. Please [click here to email president@j109.org](mailto:president@j109.org) to indicate if you are interested. You'll get a follow up with more details as this unfolds.

Some questions asked of the Sail Newport coordinator and responses are below.

- **What are the dates for the Volvo Race stop in Newport?** The village opens Tuesday 8 May with 5 days of on water racing starting Weds. 16 May through Sat. 19 May. The next race leg starts on Sunday 20 May.
- **How many boats are needed?** We are looking for 14 to 16 boats total for the on water events with 6 to 10 J/109s each day. The number required for each day is fluid until the event schedule firms up. The events include practice, ProAm, In Port, and Leg Start racing with the VO65 boats and a ProAm day with Marstrom M32 Catamarans. We are asking that volunteer boat owners commit to at least four of those days.
- **What is a stake boat?** Stake Boats define the racing perimeter for spectator boats and work in concert with Marshal Boats to ensure spectator craft do not encroach on the racing area.
- **What are the stake boat responsibilities?** At the beginning of each day's on water events you will be given specific GPS coordinates where you are to hover your vessel, it is important to maintain this position. You are expected to command or delegate command to a competent operator and provide an assistant to help perform the duties of the stake boat. A minimum of 2 "crew" is to be observed, and you may bring guests (we would encourage a limit of 6), provided they represent you and the Volvo Ocean Race accordingly, and do not provide a distraction.
- **How do others know I am a stake boat while on the water?** Each Stake Boat will receive and display a 20 foot VOR flag to be flown from their main halyard and possibly a self contained flashing strobe which identifies them as part of the cordoned area. No other class or sponsored flags should be displayed during the event. Obviously old glory should be proudly displayed at all times.
- **Is Dockage or a Mooring available during the event?** Due to the scope of the visit, all dockage and moorings at Sail Newport will be taken. We are contacting the various yacht clubs and facilities in Newport to see if discounted moorings/dockage can be made available for stake boats during the event.

We are considering a single day J/109 OD event while the boats are in Newport. This will be low key event focused on the water with no formal social since the town is going to be mobbed with tourists. Additionally, we'll get an invitation extended for the J/109s to join the Tuesday night Jamestown YC PHRF races while visiting. Please [click here to email president@j109.org](mailto:president@j109.org) to indicate if you are interested.

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 President



If you would like a hard copy of this message, [click this link to download a PDF file](#) for printing.

Additional Information and Links of Interest are provided below

Register for the 2018 J/109 North American Championship at Larchmont Yacht Club



The 2018 North American Championship will be held 10 - 14 October at Larchmont Yacht Club. Make plans to join this great event, where we hope to exceed the 21 boats competing at the 2017 J/109 North American Championship held during BIRW.

Details will be posted in the spring, but there will be a North U clinic lead by Bill Gladstone for the J/109 Class, a class parties and dinners at Larchmont with some great racing. [Register now](#) and pay the entry fee by 1 September in order to avoid late fees.

- Click [this link to register](#)
- Click [this link for the Notice of Race](#)
- Click [this link to see who is registered](#)

Click the Member Update logo below to update your information.
Update your contact, boat and home port information.



Use the email address you received this message from as your login. Need more help? [Click on this link](#) and read the section labeled *Existing Members*. If you still have a problem logging in, email the **J/109 Class Administrator - admin@j109.org**.

Click the J/109 Class Forum logo below to read and share boat information.

The forum has information owners have shared on maintenance, sails, tuning, cruising and events. If you have something boating related to buy or sell, this is the place to look. The J/109 Class Forum is the designated method for people to ask the J/109 Class Measurer questions about rules and rules interpretations.



Anyone may read the forum without logging in, but to be able to post on the forum, you will need to register for a free account. Once you navigate to the forum, click *Register* near the top right to setup an account. If you already have a forum account, click on *Login* located next to

the *Register*. There are helpful hints on using the forum **located at this link**.

Click the J/109 Class Calendar logo below for upcoming events.
Keep up to date on planned J/109 events via the website calendar.



For questions or comments, please contact the **J/109 Class Administrator**.

This message was sent from the **J/109 Class Association** email system. We periodically send out messages about the J/109 Class including one design events, class rules, cruising, member updates, maintenance information, and technical advisories from equipment manufacturers concerning the J/109. If you would like to update your email preferences, please send a message the **J/109 Class Administrator**.