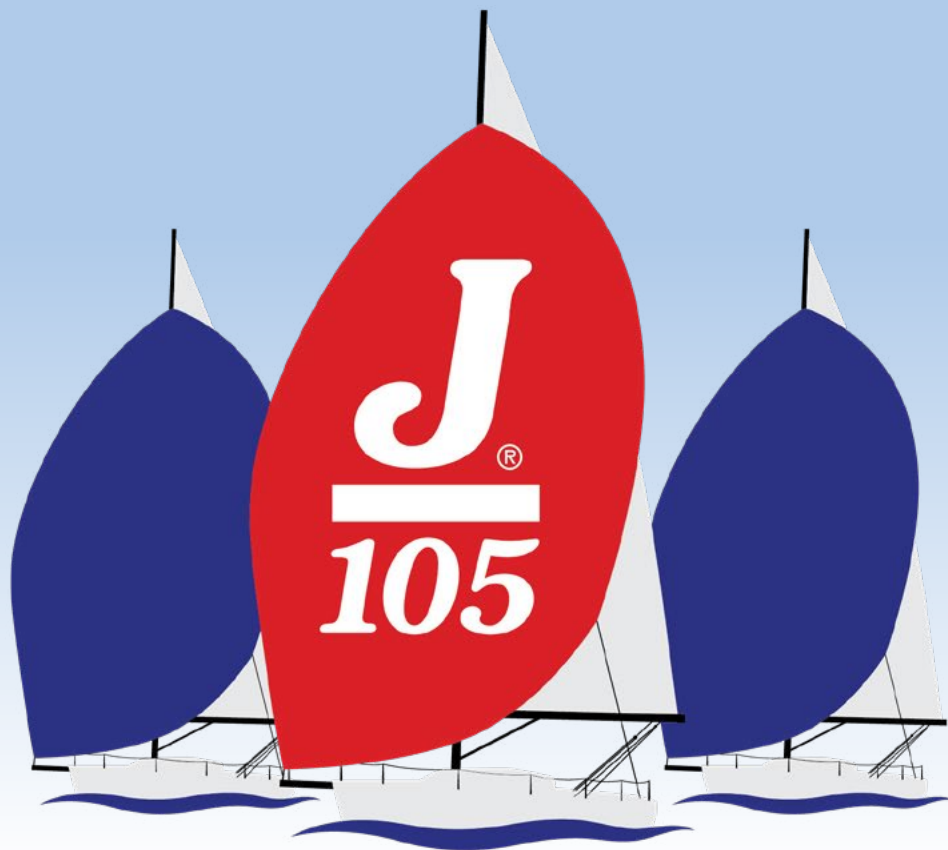


J[®]
105

In The Wind

J / 1 0 5 C l a s s A s s o c i a t i o n



NORTH AMERICANS **20 CLEVELAND 24**



2024 J/105 North American Championship
Edgewater Yacht Club
Cleveland, Ohio
September 24-29, 2024



W i n t e r 2 0 2 4 • V o l u m e 1 5 • I s s u e 1

PRESIDENT

Nicole Breault – Fleet #1
203-671-7908
nbsailor@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Sara Billey – Fleet #20
832-606-1669
sbilley@gmail.com

SECRETARY / TREASURER

John Bell – Fleet #17
361-877-8393
jdbell@wbwpc.com

MEASURER

Matthew Arno – Fleet #16
817-995-6762 (O)
817-995-6762 (H)
marno@alum.mit.edu

CLASS ADMINISTRATOR

Chris Howell
440-796-3100 (O)
howell@j105.org

PAST PRESIDENT

Russell Hopper – Fleet #4
416-525-7447
russell.hopper01@gmail.com

COPYRIGHT HOLDER

Jeff Johnstone – JBoats
401-846-8410 (O)
jeffj@jboats.com

FLEET AT-LARGE

Mark Smith – Fleet #16
469-766-0277
mwsmark@flash.net

AT-LARGE

Chip Schaffner – Fleet #22
216-410-7784 (O)
chipsc@oh.rr.com

AT-LARGE

Jon Slabaugh – Fleet #13
301-675-7810
slabaugh105@gmail.com

AT-LARGE

Mark Smith – Fleet #16
469-766-0277
mwsmark@flash.net



President's Corner

Wintery greetings, J/105 Class! Straight off, I can report that there is fresh snow on the ski slopes of Snowbird, Utah. What does downhill skiing have in common with J/105 racing? It's a physical endeavor outside in nature's elements, promising both thrills and potential spills. You have to make tricky decisions about what lift to take uphill, especially when there is a crowd. You might worry about your foul weather gear and rig settings matching the conditions of the day. Once rounding the mark at the top of the mountain, the rush of going with gravity takes hold like popping the kite with the wind now pushing from behind. You must evaluate the characteristics of the snow, the other skiers around, and the pitch of the slope before determining your skis' angle of attack and when to gybe. The entry fee\$ seem to creep higher every season, but you're obsessed with the game, with the personal quest for high performance, and with the chance to reminisce the days' adventures with friends and this shared experience.

While J/105 owners and crews spend the winter months in varying degrees of sailing hibernation, all of us still think about sailing and particularly about how to prepare for the next season. This includes the logistics of calendaring and team building, but also boat maintenance and optimization. As you ponder the projects that await you, take note of important news from the Class Officers:

Many boat owners contend with the frustrations of moldy, droopy headliners and rotten, flakey plywood when identifying and fixing leaky deck hardware. To address headliner maintenance, the Technical Committee has released a new Rule Interpretation allowing for the use of alternative materials.

Secondly, we will be introducing a new Class Forum where we can share creative solutions to common boat work issues as well as other best practices, plus tips and tricks to get the most out of our boats. Currently, we have tech savvy members analyzing software options, and their recommendations will be made to the Executive Committee soon.

Best of luck to the teams fortunate to enjoy midwinter racing, and to the rest who are dodging winter storms or relishing them on the slopes!

Nicole Breault

San Francisco Bay Fleet #1



Registration Open for the 2024 J105 North American Championship Regatta

Edgewater Yacht Club extends our warm invitation to compete in the 2024 J105 North American Championship Regatta. This event promises to be a pinnacle of competitive sailing, bringing together skilled sailors from across the continent. Participation in this championship offers an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the best in the sailing community, navigate the challenging waters of Lake Erie, and contend for the coveted title of J105 North American Champion.



Event Details

Date: Sep 24 - 29, 2024

Location: Edgewater Yacht Club, Cleveland, OH

Learn More: https://fleet22.us/north_americans_2024.html

Notice of Race / Registration: <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16342>

Important Dates

Early Registration Deadline: July 31, 2024 (\$895)

Regular Registration Deadline: Sep 13, 2024 (\$995)

For further details, please visit our official website or contact:

- Event Chair: Hilary DiCenzi (hilary@thesailinginc.com)
- EYC On-The-Water Director: Karl Felger (otwdirector@eycweb.com)

Fair winds and following seas,

J105 Fleet 22 & Edgewater Yacht Club

Technical Committee Report

Matt Arno – Class Measurer, Fleet 17, Texas

Doug Bailey – Fleet 1, San Francisco

Angelo Guarino – Fleet 3, Chesapeake

RULE INTERPRETATION 24-01

HEADLINER

**Q: My headliner is rotten and moldy.
Can I get rid of it?**

A: No you may not. But you don't have to put up another piece of vinyl-covered plywood as the replacement. The important thing is to retain the same function as the original headliner. You can fabricate a replacement headliner from other material like thin Starboard or other synthetic material that won't absorb water instead. However, the completed installation must maintain the function and aesthetic appeal of the original.



A photograph of three women on a blue sailboat named 'MIRAGE'. They are wearing blue long-sleeved shirts and caps. The boat is on the water, and other sailboats are visible in the background.

Sailor Spotlight:

Old Dogs and New Tricks

By Molly Hughes Wilmer

Photo courtesy of Will Keyworth

Back in 1993, when I first competed in the Rolex International Women's Keelboat Championship, I quickly realized that the top 10 places in the regatta were going to be sewn up by professionals and women who spend a lot more time on the water. That was a rude awakening for someone who had her captain's license before her college degree and whose first few jobs out of college were sailing-related. When I realized how tough the competition was, I reset my goals to finish in the top 10 in as many races as I could and in the top 20 overall.

The regatta back then was in Newport in J/24s. It blew over 20 every day, and they took us outside, past Castle Hill into the ocean. We had wind and waves.

After that, I avoided the J/24 Class, for several reasons. It is an incredibly uncomfortable boat to drive (even in my early 20s, I had to do major yoga every night after the contortions on the helm). I did not like racing in a Class where I did not have a decent chance of winning. And, frankly, the women's competitive environment was not as supportive and fun as it is now. Other than ocean racing, I gravitated toward J/22s and then the J/105 Class.

I have been racing on #328 *Mirage* since 2000. I have really enjoyed the caliber of the competition, the Class Rules, and the chance to race with other fleets in the North Americans and when other boats come to Annapolis.

In recent years, our Fleet 3 has become more competitive. We have had some amazing new competition buying boats, and it has really pushed us to “up our game.” I took this as a personal challenge to improve my own skills to see how I could better help our team.

The first thing I did in 2022 was to join our club’s team racing group. I was lucky enough to qualify for several travel regattas and compete with and against some amazing sailors. I learned a lot that year that enabled me to help our boat go faster and be nimbler with our tactics.

Thanks to the Class initiative supporting women’s events, I had a chance to drive our boat in 2023 in our J/105 Women’s Regatta. I spent the 10 months before that regatta skippering J/22s in the frostbite series and the J/105 in a very casual summer Friday beer can series. For each race, I asked different talented sailors to come crew for me and teach me one thing – feathering in heavy air, starting line strategies, smooth mark roundings.



Photo courtesy of Will Keyworth



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Sinclair; <https://cynthiasinclairphotography.pixleset.com/womensinvitationalsdyc/>

I was astonished how many people said yes. And some wanted to come back more than once because we had so much fun. I was able to finish fifth in the Women's Regatta – after not having skippered competitively since the Rolex in 1993. It felt fabulous, and all my talent should be very proud of their teaching skills! And I love the community on a national level and within our fleet that these women's events have nurtured.

All this growth has given me a renewed energy for racing. It has also allowed me to connect with more competitors on a lovely more personal level, including many of the

generous spirits in this Class. This all tracks with the benefits typical of living in the “Growth Zone.”

And I want even more! Because it is possible for old dogs to learn new tricks. And the energy of the Growth Zone is a multiplier.

I am still muddling over what challenge I will set next. As I write this, I am getting ready to head to San Diego for their legendary Women's Winter Invitational Regatta – a ripe environment to grow and learn. I am going to still do team racing, and I am still skippering.

But I want to keep growing and digging deeper into our sport. Do I just keep refining my team and match racing and my driving? Is there something else? Is it time to come full circle and rethink my relationship with pro classes?

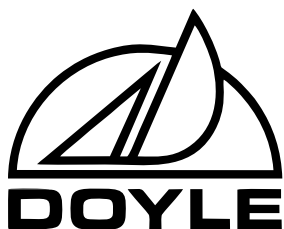
I am not sure what is out there for me, but I know that I am still ready for new tricks. If you have any suggestions, send them my way!

Molly Hughes Wilmer crews on #328 *Mirage* in Fleet 3. She is the regatta chair for the Fleet 3 J/105 Women's Regatta and President of the Board of the Hospice Cup, the first regatta in the country to raise money for hospice care. She is CEO of Oyster Insight, a boutique consulting firm.

J[®]
105



Photo courtesy of Will Keyworth



New SL Auto-Tune Jibs
adjust your rig on the fly
with only the jib halyard



j105sails.com



Your donation makes a difference

The Young American Sailing Academy (YASA) is developing a new generation of offshore sailors. Through the program, juniors establish life-long sailing skills, broaden social/leadership skills, and master high-level racing skills. At YASA, we believe the J/105 is the perfect boat to train enthusiastic sailors, which is why a charitable donation to YASA's growing J/105 team is beneficial to the youth sailing community.

With your charitable donation, YASA will be able to expand the outreach of the program. As a 501(c)(3) YASA will provide you tax deductions. YASA welcomes donations of all kinds including boats and inshore and offshore sails.

Peter Becker / 917-715-1471 / peter.becker@yasailing.org / www.yasailing.org



Calendar

2024

2024 Charleston Race Week 2024 at Charleston, SC

Charleston, South Carolina, United States

Apr 18 – Apr 21

2024 Annapolis Sailing World Regatta Series at Annapolis Yacht Club

Annapolis, Maryland, United States

May 3 – May 5

Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta Series Detroit 2024 at Bayview Yacht Club

Detroit, Michigan, United States

May 31 – June 5

2024 Chicago Sailing World Regatta Series at Chicago Yacht Club

Chicago, Illinois, United States

June 7 – June 9

Ugotta Regatta 2024 at Little Traverse Yacht Club

Harbor Springs, Michigan, United States

June 26 – June 8

2024 Marblehead Sailing World Regatta Series at Eastern Yacht Club

Marblehead, Massachusetts, United States

July 25 – July 28

2024 Rolex Big Boat Series at St. Francis Yacht Club

San Francisco, California, United States

September 11 – September 15

2024 J/105 North American Championship at Edgewater Yacht Club

Cleveland, Ohio, United States

September 26 – September 29

2025

The Southernmost Regatta 2025 at Key West, FL

Key West, Florida, United States

January 20 – January 25

2025 J/105 North American Championship at Royal Canadian Yacht Club

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

September 16 – September 21

