

2023 Class Update

The Class:

- You passed by a 2/3 majority some important **Class Rules** changes that move the boat more toward being a strict one-design. This is possible because our new manufacturers' interior structures are stronger and there is nothing to be gained by hacking up what is already a tough and foolproof hull structure. With the new boats, you get a boat that is as fast as the best-built Victor, but with no special things you have to do to build it. The new boats are easy to build, minimum weight and fast.

-Per the AMYA website- 74, about 34%, of AMYA Clubs show the Soling as a supported Class. The DF95 has replaced the Soling as the #1 most-owned in the AMYA. DF95 has 90 Clubs / 41% of the active Clubs for reference. Of course many Clubs feature both of the top 2 Classes.

- I think 3 or 4 **NEW Clubs** were sanctioned just this year around solely the Soling 1 Meter. Within a few Clubs around the country, we are seeing the return of the Members to the Soling as the main Class, OR as an equally-supported Class in the Club.

- 3DRC Boats is pre-registering all new hulls, paying the \$10 fee to the Class. **Owners STILL have to send in a form - but no cash.** With each boat, 3DRC also includes an AMYA TriFold featuring a 4-month Trial Membership AND a letter from the Class about sail numbering and Registration. Never in history has a manufacturer supported the Class and the AMYA to this degree.

- **Registrations** of new boats and transfers in '23 were about **40% above the ten-year previous average of 2008 – 2018.** Orders and deliveries from 3DRC Boats are at or near capacity. Wait times for new boats are a few weeks, depending on the desired completeness of the boat ordered. Sails, rigs and stands are in stock. Vac-U-Boat should be back on line early in 2024.

-**Regattas:** The 2023 NCR was very successful, hosted by **Sun Coast MSC** in Punta Gorda. Region 2's RCR hosted by the **Spring Lake Marbleheaders Club** in New Jersey was the only RCR in 2023.

For 2024, there are Championships scheduled (as of January 19, 2024) See AMYA Regatta Calendar: <https://www.theamya.org/FindaRegatta.asp>

Regional Championships

Florida Region 7-	March 15-17, Sun Coast MSC, Punta Gorda, FL
Midwest Region 4-	September 19-21, Western Reserve MYC, Geneva, OH
Eastern Region 2-	November 2, Marbleheaders of Spring Lake, Spring Lake, NJ

National Championship-	May 16-18, Chicago RC MYC, Vernon Hills, IL
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Getting better, but it looks we will continue to have a sparse regatta schedule for 2024, as we saw in 2020- 2023.

- **Finances:** Financially, things are OK, after a drop in Registrations caused by "the pandemic", but more so by not having a manufacturer for over 2 years after Victor closed up.

My goal in March 2022 was to “investment spend” some of the treasury, and hope that the things we were doing would increase the Registrations to re-fill the \$1400 that was there from Tim Stone. **I am a “marketing guy”, and believe that an aggressive marketing program pays off. SO:**

- I took out 12 months/ 4 issues of ½ page ads in *Model Yachting*, to get the message out that “*the Soling is back*”!!

- I also took a subscription to ZOOM, hoping that Clubs and Fleets would use that to communicate among their Members. The ads, I think worked. The ZOOM did not.

- I also increased the Class’ support of Regional and National Soling events to stipends of \$ 150 and \$ 200 respectively, **intending that Clubs would enhance their regattas, add content to make events more fun.** Seta calls it a “*hot water and baloney sandwich lunch regatta*”, when you cheap out.

As of January 2024 we are back at \$ 1400 in the treasury. Assuming a Registration rate of 120 boats/year X \$10 - we have an expected income of \$1200 per year. Marketing is budgeted at \$500 for this year, leaving the rest for operating expenses like stamps, and hull stickers.

After due consideration and input from Class Members, in **January, 2024 I announced that no more stipends from the Class are going to be offered.** We cannot support the stipends (which may/may not actually benefit around 80 sailors) AND do marketing (which should benefit ALL 300 or so Soling owners).

That’s it! Let’s make the most of 2024.

Mike

Feel free to comment to me about how YOU think we are doing.

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