

## AMYA Soling 1 Meter Class Secretary Notes, Fall 2022

Mike Wyatt, AMYA Soling 1 Meter Class Secretary

### The SOLING IS BACK!!

**The numbers:** At one time (per George Dornis of Victor Model Products to me, personally), said that VMP sold 600 “Soling 1M” boats per year. 600 boats a year seems a LOT to us. But in the toy market, almost all of which are headquartered in Asia, and manufacturing in China, a 600 unit per year volume is nothing.

This level of volume IS the problem for Classes that are controlled by major toy companies. These realities have meant supply shortages, and significant changes that do not help our Class organizations here in the USA. Some Classes have found that their manufacturer makes changes like removing the boat from the market for long periods of time as they re-organize. Or sometimes dropping kits altogether and only offering ready to sail boats, all in the same color and with identical sail graphics. Some make changes in materials that lessen the quality of the available product, so racing buyers have to trash most of the stock kit and source major components from multiple suppliers.

But Victor WAS a great supplier for many years. What they introduced originally in the 1980’s as their “Soling 1m” was virtually the same right up to the end when they closed up for good. By refusing to lessen the quality of the product by (for example) switching from Dacron sails to cheaper nylon sails, they supported the one-design nature of our Class.

After VMP closed, the Class searched for, specified, and approved TWO new manufacturers to produce our boat.

**Today:** both approved manufacturers’ boats are significantly better than any Soling ever offered. You can order and receive an AMYA Soling 1 Meter Kit in as little as ten days. And the kits go together well, with little or no measuring, sanding, filling or fitting. The result is a minimum-weight, “fair” and durable Soling, regardless of which of the two offerings you might select.

Never lose sight of what **“total cost” means to our Class**. When you sail a Soling, you do so with ONE rig and set of sails, not three or four, each costing \$100 or more in addition to the cost of the basic boat. You don’t have to have to drag a “rig box” to the pond to race a Soling.

Of course, most new sailors start with a used Soling. These boats are available in most areas of North America, and are usually located through a local Club. The prices of “pre-owned” Solings remain about half of the cost of a new one.

The total cost of one of the new boats (adjusted for inflation) is similar to what the boats have always cost. A “lower boat kit” from the two current suppliers average just over \$200; and that kit contains value that is better than ever.

**The Name:** It is in the interest of the Class to protect the Soling 1 Meter Class from non-approved manufacturers. I began using the name: *AMYA Soling 1 Meter* whenever referring to the current boat, and with a **TM**- indicating a non-registered trademark of the name. The design and trade name are the

property of the AMYA. I recommend that all of us and our clubs refer to the boat as the *AMYA Soling 1 Meter*.

**Class Rules:** there were no rules motions this year. After a couple of rounds of contentious rules motions over the past few years- the addition of beam and rudder/keel thickness specifications (2018), the change in sail cloth (2020), and the allowing of aluminum rigs in 2021, some stability is welcomed.

**The newly-allowed (Oct. 1 2021) aluminum rigs** (in addition to the traditional wood) are gaining wide acceptance. The aluminum mast is absolutely straight, making it easier to tune (ever try and take out a lower bend in a wooden mast?). The new rigs closely match the bend characteristics of the stock, unsanded Victor pine mast. So performance has proven to be pretty much identical, whichever rig you use.

I do think that the **easy ordering, fast and easy assembly and final result** contribute to the market acceptance of the new rigs vs. the wooden ones. An aluminum rig kit- everything you need- is now available (from 3DRC Boats) and is available with or without sails. And the aluminum rig can be assembled in about 2 hours, with no sanding, finishing, sealing or painting.

So the status of the Class is stronger than ever!! Enjoy your boat. Build your Club or Fleet. Take a new sailor to the pond!!

Mike Wyatt  
AMYA Soling 1 Meter™  
Class Secretary