

HOW TO GET STARTED (FROM THE WESTERN RESERVE MODEL YACHT CLUB, GENEVA, OH)

Ever walked or driven by a pond somewhere in a park, or even a retention pond at a mall or subdivision, where some model sailboats are sailing around?? Did you think "*That looks like fun*". Or "*I Wonder how hard it is to sail one of those boats?*" Would you like to get a feel for model sailing before actually buying a boat?

Check out the American Model Yachting Association (AMYA) at <https://www.theamya.org/> The AMYA sanctions some 30+ "classes" (types of boats sailed under a set of rules regarding the performance of the boats). All of these are "good boats" that sail well, AND have a Class organization behind them. Having other sailors nearby who have the same type of boat adds to the fun, and really helps a new sailor get started. Before you even LOOK at boats- look at Clubs around you- what do they sail? Where do they sail?

The worst thing you could do is an online search, and select a boat based on appearance or cost alone. So, the single most important thing about where and what you will sail is found on the various Club pages. At the AMYA website- click on "**Clubs**", then "**Find a Club**". Enter your State or Province, and the list of Clubs in around you comes up. On those pages you will find information about the Club itself, what boat(s) the Club supports.

Then, phone or e-mail the "Contact" shown on the Club's website. IF the contact link is broken- contact the Regional Director for your area. Go to the AMYA website, under "About"- then "AMYA Regions". The Regional Director will know what's going on in your area.

Sail!! Go to the local club. If the Club has a race date, they would rather have you come another time where the Club officers can spend time with you, so- make arrangements in advance. This visit will give you a look at the "personality" of the club as well as to try out a boat. Many clubs support more than one Class of boat. The owners of those boats will be most enthusiastic about their particular Class- so after the visit is when you should start thinking about the boat you will buy. **We recommend a pre-owned boat for most** who are just starting out- but some people want to jump right in with a brand new boat. Just remember that the cost of a new boat usually does not include "electronics"- battery packs (around \$40- you need two), transmitter (\$ 60- \$ 300 with receiver) and a battery charger- (\$ 50 or so). Another consideration- many Classes of boats need 3 or 4 rigs of different sizes to sail in different winds. These add \$100 or more EACH to the bill to race competitively.

Back to the Soling: we think the Soling is the best overall value in RC sailing. Please consider it!

AMYA BOAT CLASSES

The AMYA's sanctioned Classes range from the 12 inch long "Footy" to the 8-foot long "J Class" models of the 1930's America's Cup boats. The most-sailed models are generally about 1 meter (40") in length and weigh between 6 and 10 pounds. These are easily transported, even rigged, in a medium-sized SUV, yet big enough to see on the water. Typical cost- NEW- is around \$600 to \$1000 if you build a kit. \$1200- \$1400 if you have someone build it for you. \$ 400 or so, pre-owned.

Many clubs offer some **refurbished** boats at very attractive prices, or can steer you to one of their Members who has a used boat for sale.

Some of the most popular RC models are: (ranked by number of supporting Clubs)

Class	Number of Clubs that support this Class US/Canada	Owners nationally (in the AMYA)	Length/ Weight	Approx. cost new Kit/ Ready Built	Approx cost used
DragonFlite 95	90	706	38"/4.5 lbs	\$ 500 Ready Built (Only)	\$ 400
Soling 1 Meter	77	422	39-3/8"/ 10 lbs	\$ 1000 / \$1400	\$ 450- \$600
DragonForce 65	55	306	26"/ 2.7 lbs.	\$ 300 Ready Built (Only)	\$ 200
EC12	50	238	54"	\$ 3000 / \$4000	\$ 1500
Victoria	44	187	30.7"/ 4.5 lbs.	\$ 300 (base kit requires extensive modification)	\$ 400 race ready
Int'l 1 Metre (IOM)	39	143	39-3/8"/ 6 lbs	\$ 4000/ \$ 5000	\$ 2000
RC Laser	30	213	41.5"/ 9 lbs.	Ready Built (Only) \$ 400	\$ 300
Sea Wind	20	122		Ready Built (Only) \$ 400	\$ 300
One-Design One Meter (ODOM)	18	110		\$ 1200 (no rig hardware, sails) Rig Hardware Kit + \$90 Sails: \$ 150	\$700
CR914	15	83		\$ 500	\$ 350