

- **Rule Changes (SEND OUT TO CLUB/FLEET MEMBERS!)** The proposals on the 2023 AMYA Soling 1 Meter Ballot are mostly to clarify HOW to measure things on the rig. An exception is the addition of a Rule that **prohibits changing a rig or hull DURING a regatta of less than 5 days duration**. This prevents someone from changing rigs as a response to wind changes, during a regatta, which in effect means we have a multi-rig boat.

As of right now, there seems to be NO online voting option as in the past.

So, to vote-

Method 1: our Members will have to print a **paper ballot** and postal-mail the ballot to Ron Sieloff, AMYA Executive Secretary.

Method 2: You can also **e-mail the ballot** to Ron as an e-mail attachment

Ron's addresses:

rsieloff@icloud.com

11490 Gatepost Ln.

Chardon, Ohio 44024

Note: This AMYA Bulletin-released Ballot will include ALL ballot motions from ALL Classes, and the AMYA will simply ignore vote responses for "other" Classes (than Soling) based on Registration records. Example- if you vote on a Star 45 issue, and you are not registered as owning a Star 45 your vote is not counted on that Star 45 issue. (If you OWN a Star 45, but did not Register it- then your vote on the Star issue will not count, either!!)

State of the Class:

The AMYA Soling 1 Meter™ Class is stronger now than for a long time, as the new boats are again available and being sold.

- History and stats: The Soling Class **AMYA sanction was granted in 2001**. (in 2000- 68 boats were Registered; 2001- 280.boats Registered. (

- The number of boats sold by Victor Model Products (VMP) began to drop during the extended illness of George Dornis of Victor up to his death in 2010.

- VMPs sales fell off during and after VMP's move from CA to Louisiana, in 2013. Boats sold continued to steadily decline until VMP closed for the first time in 2016 then for the final time, in 2018.

- **Where ARE all these boats?** We all know that there were MANY more Soling 1 Meters sold that were never Registered. More than 400 a year were never Registered. **Why?**

- Casual owners sailing outside of an organized Club.

- Boats sold that were never built.

- Boats sold to current owners as a second, third, etc, a boat, where owners never Registered them (I assume as they became educated how to save the \$7 fee).

All of these factors, seem to me, to be that we are lucky to be as solid a Class as we are.

I estimate that about 10,000 Soling KITS were sold over 25 years, or 400 average SOLD to anyone per year. The AMYA Class has Registered 2100, or about 21% of those. There have been about 2100 Solings registered in total with the AMYA since the first in 1993. As of today, the figures show about 1100 Solings in the hands of current AMYA Members. Many

Members own more than one.

Signs of improvement??

- The "missing" 1000 boats (that were sold but never Registered) are either in a current AMYA Members hands (but not Registered), trashed, or many are likely stored as built or never built boats.

- **Currently:** our manufacturers are selling several NEW boats every week during the 12-months March 2022 - March 2023, **we registered 162**. That was largely because of new manufacturers and pent-up demand for new boats, and a very good number. **The Members are responding!!**

- **Measurement-** The Class Rules are there to make competition fair, and ensure one-design sailing. IF we want true one-design Class, then boats have to be measured. If your club does not measure boats, then your Members will tinker with the Rules.

That is how the "skinny boats" and "skinny keels and rudders" issues came about a few years ago. Guys were cutting their hulls in half from bow to stern, sanding the halves of the hull and re-gluing them together to get a narrow hull with less water resistance. Then they trimmed the edges of decks to make a "flangeless" boat to hide the modifications to the deck. There was as much as 1/2 in. taken out of the beam of the boats. "Legal boats" lost races to these narrowed boats - just a small difference that showed up over yards of the course, especially downwind. The OLD Rules always prohibited making changes to the deck, hull, keel or rudder- so the Class Rules prohibiting modifications of the hulls and decks are not new.

But we had no way to check for this, since we had no specifications. Now we do- but only IF you check.

The job of measurement falls to CLUBS and REGATTA MEASURERS. Measure every boat every year. If you "catch" someone, work with them to find a way that the boat meets the Rules, NOT by adding tape, or "measurement bumps" where you increase the beam of the boat, keel or rudder by adding filler.

But IF a boat does not measure, ASK: "*Why did you do this?*" Get an answer (and the only honest answers are "*I bought the boat from ___ and did not even check*", or "*I wanted to make the boat faster.*")

If a hull does not measure, you **have to take action**. Not doing so can create enough negativity to damage your fleet or club. Probably best is to measure during one season then tell people they have to measure by NEXT season. That gives them a few months to correct their boats (or buy new ones) over the "off-season" - so time to comply. Another idea- you could assign a (negative) handicap to "illegal" boats, one that the majority of your Members agree with, say + 1 point (1 place difference) per race to boats that do not measure. That way, a guy can continue to sail as he plans for his new boat. And- strongly discourage them from selling their boat that does not Measure to a newbie!!

If you want to talk about this or anything else, call me 440-478-8208.

- **Soling newsletter**- I have been trying to find an editor for the Soling newsletter since the originator had to resign due to family health issues. That is a valued means of communication and added value for the Soling Class. If you know of anyone willing, please talk to them!

That's it: **VOTE, and MEASURE.**

Mike Wyatt
AMYA Soling 1 Meter™
Class Secretary