

From your Class Measurer

2008 is going to be an exciting year for everyone. The Class building is our #1 responsibility. There are three great classes of boats in the western region that have a passion for sailing and the love for the boat. The first one is obviously the Holder 20, light weight, easy to tow, fast to setup and fast and fun to sail. There were 270 Holder's built from 1979 to 1985. In the 1990's, we would get anywhere from 14 to 20 boats on a start line. Today those numbers are a lot smaller and that's a shame.

I know for a fact over the six years that the Holder 20's were built that there were some changes made in production. For example, the mast was changed twice, the last 80 built have the larger cabin and the bullet on the keel was changed on at least to the last 25 or so.

Some people say this does not constitute a "One Design Class". I beg to differ. Going back to when I said there were three great classes of boats around? The other two are the Moore24's and the Wyle Rabbits. Both of these classes are small in production numbers but big at the start lines.

Last month in Sailing World, there was a very nice article on the Moore 24's and showing the many different changes made in the production of the boat. Even with these changes, they all have stuck with the same sail plan and block and tackle. The later boats even weigh more and have a different cabin, but they all sail in a one design class. They get up to as many as 20+ boats at a start line and are very dedicated to their class. The Holder 20 Class is no different; the love for the boat

It is a shame of what has happened to our class and how things have been split up, but it does happen to class's all of the time. Sailors want to change hardware on their boat to make it go faster and it just isn't right or fair to the others who don't make those changes or can't afford to. Those sailing PHRF will get hurt the most. The local PHRF boards will not know what sail configuration you have and you will be penalized by 12 seconds per mile. And how do you score a regatta with both boats involved? Do those others that have a bigger main sail and different hardware on board really get penalized by the race committee or are they scored equally?

I encourage you to stay with the Holder 20 One Design Class rules that have been used since Ron Holder and Hobie Cat days. Please review those rules posted on our website.

I also encourage you to have regattas in your area and invite other Holders to attend and sail as a one design class and see how much fun it really is and how competitive the skippers really are. Our 08 Nationals will be held in Minnesota this year and we hope we can get others to make use of the capability of traveling with the boat.

Jim Rosaschi