

By Mike Eades ô SeaWind #86

The timing of Regattas leaves us with no Regatta Reports in this issue of SeaWind Express. However I would like to take the opportunity to expand my Class Report a little and, as you will see later, to ask you for your opinions on a couple of issues some of which will probably be incorporated into the next Class Ballot.

First an update on **Class Statistics:**

As of end April 2010 I list a total of 304 active registered SeaWind skippers. Of those 192 are current AMYA members (including 12 who are additional Family members sharing a membership), 60 are shown as lapsed AMYA members and 51 have never joined AMYA. In addition I have a list of 64 inactive skippers. The active/inactive distinction is a bit arbitrary but I move skippers to the inactive list when they sell or transfer their registered SeaWind, disappear from former clubs without any trace of where they went or drop off the radar completely due to change of email or physical address so I cannot reach them. I review the list at the end of each year and adjust as best I can. I try to update the Register on the SeaWind Resource Center US-SCOA

page but occasionally I may miss one or two so that list is at best a rough class census.

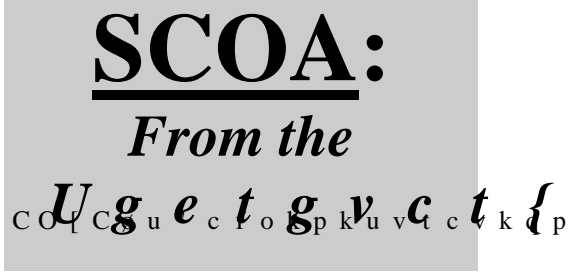
Some comments about **the changing face of AMYA** and its relationship with the SeaWind COA might also be timely. I and a few other Class Secretaries had d g g p " e t k v k e c n " q h " for some time; some of the debate became rather heated on web sites such as the Windpower Forum. I am very pleased to report that with the appointment of Rod Carr as AMYA VP, he has led a revitalization of AMYA which is producing very positive results. Rod and Dave Brawner have been the driving force be-

SCOA Class Officers:

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V g e j p k e c n " C f x k u q t i o M g p " D c w u g t

AMYA Regional Directors

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hind much of the change. The web site has seen a much needed overhaul and the information there is now more up to date and better organized to serve members, clubs and classes. A comprehensive survey of all classes was conducted seeking information designed overall to determine the relative health and vigor of each class on such areas as class statistics, active fleet location, frequency, participation and distribution of major regattas, membership trends, communications and active programs supporting class membership and growth. I am pleased to report that the SeaWind Class received the second highest rating, second only to the EC-12 class. The AMYA Board discussion and decision making process has become more transparent and organ-

Rags2Riches: My Seawind E by Rob Fresh

It was Fall, 2008. I had just completed my first summer of RC sailing, using a Northwind 36 against the Seawinds in our local Region 4 club, Air Capital Model Sailing Club, of Wichita, KS. It was fun, and I really appreciated those novice handicap starts.

I was browsing eBay, one day. This black-hulled, fully assembled Seawind beauty looked seductive in the somewhat blurry eBay photo. To boot, the transmitter v g t " d q c u v g f " õ t g e j i t g c v # ö " " V q " o { " u w y c u " v j g " y k p p g t # " " f g n k x g t { o c p " v q " m p

5 days later, the box arrived from the east coast, battered and torn. It looked like the driver drove over it before he tossed it into his truck. One end was crushed and torn open, and I could see the mainsail staring out, trying to smile at me. I knew what was in store for me, so I reached for my camera. I opened the r q q t n { " y t c r r g f " d q

recognize escaped onto the floor. Apparently, the transmitter bounced back and forth in the box during the trip. It was obvious that a non-sailor, non-modeler j c f " c v v g o r v g f " v q " í I emailed the seller, presenting my case y k v j " r j q v q u " c v v c e j g f 0 think much of his packing job. I was pretty sure he would just blow off the bad luck. To my surprise, he actually apologized, said he was not a very good packer (duh), and advised that he would send me a \$25 check to help pay for repairs. Well, that softened the blow somewhat. I mean, a fully equipped Seawind for \$175? I can live with that. The check came, was deposited, & then the world economy v c p m g f 0 " " K ø o " u v k n n " y q I had anything to do with it all. I put the mast together, as best I could (the sails shipped attached to the disassembled mast.) I showed up at the pond, a little embarrassed. First, member Bob Girdler started helping me finish rigging. Then Andy Rust came over and we started tuning. e q p v ø v " q p " r c i g " 7 0 0 0

I took photos. My front door foyer looked like a crime scene. There was the body, lying on the floor--deck down on the doormat, with these little black plastic parts scattered about. A tattered pile of cardboard tried to cover the whole mess,

so that the media could not publish the hideousness. As I took more photos, my heart sank.

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ized with comments on each issue recorded and decisions made and logged affording all Board members, even Associate Directors such as myself, an opportunity to vote. There are still some areas where views are quite split such as to what extent AMYA should allow access to its communications vehicles, web site, Magazine etc to non-members, non-sanctioned clubs or suppliers who do not advertise in Model Yachting. An increasingly strong voice is now being heard to the effect that AMYA should reach out to all involved in the sport of RC sailing and encourage skippers to take out AMYA membership because of the benefits that can accrue to them and the sport in general rather than to a small group of members. I have a willingness to use its resources to help classes occurred when Andy Rust and I both experienced difficulties trying to send out emails to the SCOA membership announcing the latest edition of SWE. Our email circulations or even breaking lists up into several emails to multi-addresses. I discussed this with Dave Brawner who send mass emails to all SCOA members through a special edition of the AMYA Bulletin at no cost to the SCOA. *I hope this worked OK for members? I would be interested in any comments you may have on this as we plan to use this method to announce publication of future issues.* Anyway, bottom line is I am now strongly recommending AMYA Membership for all skippers. If anyone wants my take on the pros and cons I will be happy to discuss with you by email, just drop me a line!

Changes to the SeaWind kit and recommended equipment.

Some time ago Kyosho, the manufacturer of the SeaWind kit made a minor change to the kit in that a finished, painted lead bulb was substituted for the partially finished raw lead bulb with optional vinyl bulb cover that was in the original kit. (see photos on pg. 4) We believe this was mainly in response to increasing environmental concerns in Japan arising from use of unpainted lead bulbs in pond water. Since the weight and shape of the bulb was unchanged there was no need foreseen to

change the Class Rules in any way. However I have, in recent months, received a few questions from new skippers as to whether it was legal to fill and smooth the hole in the bottom of the bulb left after attaching the bulb to the fin, and also to fair and smooth the junction between the fin and the bulb. The fin base was designed to be covered by the vinyl bulb cover and the fit to the painted bulb leaves a ledge standing proud of the fin or bulb. The answer of course is that it is quite acceptable to fill, smooth and fair both these areas provided there is no significant change to the overall shape of bulb or fin. We also learned that the recommended sail winch for the SeaWind, the Futaba 380, has been discontinued by Futaba with no replacement yet available. However the recommended alternative sail winch has for some time been the Hitec HS765HB which is still freely available.

The Biennial Class Ballot - Possible Process Changes

Long time SCOA members will be very well aware of the importance the Biennial Class ballot has in maintaining the health of the Class. Our Bylaws require a Biennial election prior to re-election of officers and member paper vote on any proposals for changes to Bylaws or Class Rules. Recently, thanks to SRC webmaster, Augie Gieseke, we have added a section at the bottom of the US-SCOA page where there is a description of the current ballot process and an archive of past ballot proposals and summaries of the vote tally on each issue. Members can, if they are interested, look back and see how our current rules have evolved and what other proposals have been put forward and failed to reach approval vote levels.

There are three areas where I would like to propose changes in the ballot process. I intend to submit proposals in the next ballot, at the end of this year, which, if approved would become effective for the 2013 ballot.

The first change is hopefully fairly simple. Currently any member can submit a change proposal for inclusion in the ballot on or before January 1 of the election year. I would propose to bring the deadline for submission of proposals to the end of the year. This will give a little more time for dis-

This will give a little more time for discussion with the submitter on wording of the proposal and review by the SCOA Board before the ballot goes out. Most proposals in the past have been submitted well in advance so it ought not to be a problem?

The second change is a bit more complex. As the class grows the cost and effort involved with a mailed out ballot increases. The Class treasury is healthy enough to stand the cost as long as the class continues to grow but would become a burden if class population were to stabilize but the volume of effort in printing, collating, assembling and mailing each ballot has become quite a task. The SCOA Board of Directors and I have had some discussion about this and I sought the help of SRC webmaster Augie who came up with what appears to be an excellent electronic option. He proposed and we have successfully demonstrated in a trial run, that he would post a .pdf file of the ballot proposals and an interactive .pdf file of the actual ballot form on the SRC US-SCOA page. I would announce the ballot in the SeaWind Edition as for issues of SWE. Members could access the SRC US-SCOA page, pull up and read or print the proposals and ballot form. Members could also fill out the ballot form online, save a copy for their records and email a copy of the completed ballot form to me. Of course, as we offer for SWE or other Class documents, any member could request a paper ballot copy if they do not wish to use the internet access option. *Here I would appreciate some early feedback as to whether members feel this could be an acceptable option. Please drop me an email with your opinions or concerns before we draft the final proposals for member vote.*

The last change would be to recognize that there are an increasing number of skippers who have a SeaWind registered in their name but share an AMYA Family Membership. In the past we have followed AMYA practice in counting one vote only per AMYA Membership. The Board and I agree that we should change this to count all votes from each

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Rags2 Riches ófrom page 2

He pointed out that the mast compression assembly and entire keel assembly was assembled backwards. Then Brett Hudson looked at it and I think he started laughing. Scott Loesch looked at it and just shook his head. Randy White thought I did a great job on assembly (yeah, thanks T c p f { 0 " " K ø n n " i g v " { one there offered *something*. I was impressed, and encouraged. I decided to launch it. It sailed, it tacked, it jibed. Ser- x q u " u g t x q ø f 0 " " V j g " t w f f g t ø f 0 " " K v " v q q m gusts, it shed one batten & broke another. It showed me hope.

I vowed to strip it down over the winter, clean it up, paint it over, trick it out. Since it showed me hope, I will show it new life.

So, what will I name it?? With the help and support of our club leader, Andy Rust, I held a contest through our club in Wichita. I received several outstanding suggestions, and since several out-of-town Seawind sailors are on the club email list, they also contributed. The winning name was "Rags to Riches", submitted by Bob Piper of the Region 5 Les Lacs club of McKinney, TX. My son Garrett, a graphic designer, morphed the name into "Rags2Riches", and applied the graphic to the now bright yellow hull.

The next Spring, the refurbished boat seemed to sail better, with its new outlook on life. I did reasonably well locally and later in Fall 2009, I went to my very first real, out-of-town regatta, a Region 5 championship in McKinney TX. All the big guns were there, and boy was I intimidated. But soon, I discovered they were just real people like me. I met Bob Piper, the "man who named my boat", and he beat the sox off me, heat after heat. There were several reasons for my poor showing at that regatta. Happily, none appeared to have had anything to do with the mechanics of my Seawind. Lessons were learned, and I came away very happy with the whole saga of Rags2Riches. I hadn't had this much fun since my first roller coaster ride! *See photo, page 7!*

On/Off Switch Corrosion problems - My Solution!

By Mike Eades, SeaWind # 86

A few skippers have seen in person or in photos that I use a Deans plug mounted in the deck as my On/Off Switch and have asked- ø Y j { " c p f " J q y A ö

I struggled for several years, mainly with a very wet 36/600 but also some with my SeaWind with balky electronics that I traced to corrosion occurring in the On/Off Switch, even when I used a so-called "waterproof" switch. I have gone to a soldered custom wiring harness (see Photo below) for all my RC boats, 36/600, SeaWind and Micro-Magic.

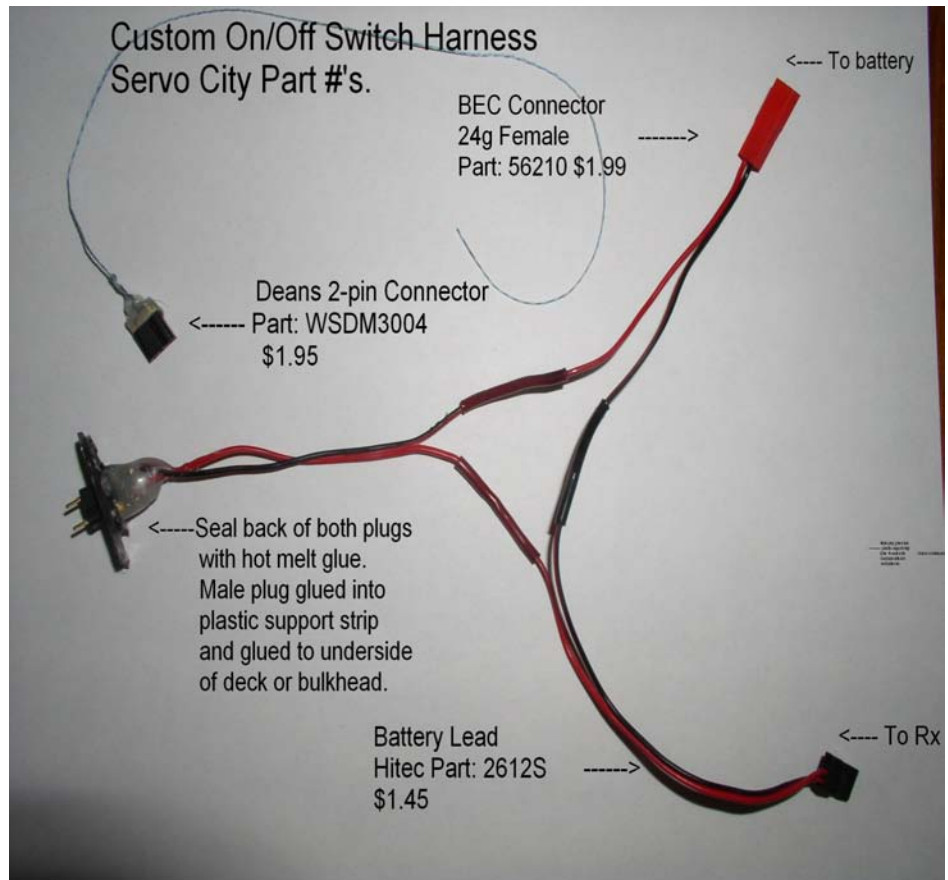
This uses parts that are easily obtainable and reasonably priced from Servo City (part #'s and prices shown) with a Deans 2-pin Micro plug as the On/Off Switch.

TECH Corner

Its gold plated pins are corrosion resistant and with all soldered connections sealed in shrink wrap tube or with hot melt adhesive (on the back of each Deans plug). Using this simple arrangement, I have had many years of faultless performance and peace of mind!

WANTED

Contributions for future installments of TECH Corner! Got a good tip? Solve a glitch recently? Have an ingenious building tip you came up with? Send it in! You can email tech tips to: dllawrence@yahoo.com



Close up photo of Custom On/Off Switch Harness

SEAWIND EXPRESS
HANDY TECH TOPICS REFERENCE

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rmf 12/09

A Note From the Editor

Hello, and welcome to edition # 13 of the Seawind Express, our class p g y u n g v v g t 0 " " K ø f " n k m g " v q " v c m g " c " d may. As you saw in the last newsletter our erstwhile editor, Andy Rust, has passed the reigns over to me. Andy has done a fantastic job h q t " v j g " U E Q C . " c p f " K ø f " n k m g " v q " v j c v w p k v { 0 " " I t g c v " L q d . " C p f { # " " K ø f " d g Eades, who helped a lot with this, my first effort at editing. Y j k n g " K " f q p ø v " j c x g " g z v g p u k x g " t c f k Seawind #282, Voodoo, is my first RC boat), I have many years experience racing 1:1 scale PHRF on 33 and 38 foot Tripps in the Chesapeake Bay. I flew RC sailplanes some years ago, and the two interests finally seemed to find their way together, after many years. I hope to be able to continue to provide the SCOA with an interesting, quality newsletter moving forward, and welcome your comments, u w i i g u v k q p u . " c p f " e q p v t k d w v k q p u 0 " " articles, features and content. K p " v j k u " k u u w g . " { q w ø n n " u g-gø"Ovgjogd"ghtk"t O q o g p v ö . " y j k e j " k u " c " u j q t v " k p v g t x k ber. Do you have a suggestion for someone to feature? Know someone who got you into the hobby? Mentored you? Let me know! C n u q . " { q w ø n n " u g g " q p " v j k u " r c i g " c " j which will direct you to all past tech articles by SWE issue and page number. Thanks to Rob Fresh for the submission! Finally, This is YOUR newsletter óI welcome and encourage contributions of all types óso send them in! I can be reached at dllawrence@yahoo.com. Many thanks ósee you at the Pond!

O q o g p v . " e q p ø v " h t q o " r i 0 " 6 i

El Mirage Lake in the California desert but my visit coincided with a winter u v q t o " c p f " v j g " ö f t and in invited me to go join them. Luckily for me, it turns out, the particular model they had chosen was discontinued and I saw little point in getting a different model. One day one guy brought along a small RC sailboat, just the rudder was RC controlled but it prompted me to look on the internet for RC sailboats that would control sails and rudder. I bought and built two Kyosho ò U g c D t g g | g ö " o q f g n u or anyone who wanted to race!). I had fun but it was a poor choice, very wet boat and not a very satisfactory performer, but I found a local club, the West Valley RC Mariners, who suggested I get a SeaWind. The rest is history!

Eventually as an arthritic ankle began to complain more and more and the attraction of playing golf in shorts became more appealing than freezing my assets on a frozen lake we moved to the Arizona desert leaving me, apparently, with no way to assuage my sailing fetish.

In 2000 some guys had begun fast electric RC power boating on our golf course pond and I was invited to join them. Luckily for me, it turns out, the particular model they had chosen was discontinued and I saw little point in getting a different model. One day one guy brought along a small RC sailboat, just the rudder was RC controlled but it prompted me to look on the internet for RC sailboats that would control sails and rudder. I bought and built two Kyosho ò U g c D t g g | g ö " o q f g n u or anyone who wanted to race!). I had fun but it was a poor choice, very wet boat and not a very satisfactory performer, but I found a local club, the West Valley RC Mariners, who suggested I get a SeaWind. The rest is history!

raced 1:1 scale?

K " q p e g " * g c t n { " 9 2 ø u + " e an Enterprise dinghy race in the UK but my racing experience has been in land-sailers and iceboats.

Best advice for someone new to the hobby?

F q p ø v " o c m g " v j g " o k u v c m " b u y a b o a t o f l i t . C h e c k o u t w e b i s i t e s p f m k f u and look for boats that are sailed locally. Sailing alone can be relaxing but when another similar boat is present the sport becomes fun and fleet racing of one-design or class boats is tops! Join a local club if one is convenient, the camaraderie of sailing with a group is well worth the trouble to travel to sail.

What other interests do you have other than RC sailing?

Well, I still play a lot of golf and I used to "play" mah-jongg, pool, badminton, i k e ø u squash and tennis, now curtailed. Kids and grandkids keep us busy!

What was your first RC vehicle? Your first sailboat?

Do you still, or have you ever sailed or

