

SeaWind Mast Compression Strut By Mike Eades, Class Sec.

Experience with the SeaWind CE (Carbon Edition) both in Japan and in the USA has shown that the fiberglass deck is relatively weak and can easily distort in the area around the mast step especially when the rig is highly stressed. To combat this problem one of the Japanese skippers designed and installed a mast compression strut to provide under deck reinforcement to transmit the downward force from the mast step to the reinforced area of the internal keel slot structure. Bob Harmon, while in Japan, observed this modification, designed his own version for a SeaWind CE he bought in Japan and assembled on his return. Photos of his version are shown below.

The question of legality under US SeaWind Class Rules was raised and I discussed this with the Class Officers. We are unanimous in the view that such modifications, which improve structural integrity for the CE, should be allowed under US Class Rules as they do not produce any competitive advantage, provided any such modifications lie in the vertical plane through the bow, mast step and keel fin. Should any skipper wish to incorporate one in a standard ABS SeaWind this would also be allowed but, why add the weight when such modifications have never been needed for the standard SeaWind?



