

NATIONAL ONE DESIGN AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED AT SAILING LEADERSHIP FORUM

Posted on February 6, 2020 at 4:35 PM by Colin Rupp



SAN DIEGO, Calif. (February 6, 2020) – US Sailing is proud to announce the winners of the annual Community Sailing and National One-Design Award, who have been chosen for their contributions to the sport of sailing in the United States. To celebrate the accomplishments of the individuals and organizations responsible for advancing sailing within both their respective areas of focus and their communities, US Sailing recognized these contributors on Thursday, February 6 2020, at the 2020 Sailing Leadership Forum in San Diego, Calif.

Learn more about the [US Sailing Awards](#).

National One-Design Club – Lakewood Yacht Club

Lakewood Yacht Club (Seabrook, Texas) has grown from a powerboating club to being world-renown for its sailing events. In 2019, the club hosted its annual J-Fest regatta with 65 boats, ranging in size from the J22 to the J122. Lakewood also hosted its 33rd Annual Harvest Moon Regatta, a long-distance offshore race from Galveston to Port Aransas, the largest regatta on the Gulf Coast with 133 boats in the 2019 fleet, which was preceded and enhanced by a Safety Day.

PHRF fleet racing remains strong along with pursuit races and other interesting formats. Under the guidance of Past Commodore Ash Walker, the club in 2019 purchased a new fleet of RS-21s for training and member racing. The inspiration behind this effort was to

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encourage one-design sailing from learn-to-sail programs through advanced racing clinics, to grow participation by youth, women, and younger members. The “pay to play” format where members can sail versatile, high quality boats that offer convenience and affordability to younger members (college and post-college age or those with young families) provides high value for the membership without the hassle and cost of boat ownership. Lakewood is building off the successful J105 North American Championship in 2017 to host the 2020 Opti Team Trials World Qualifier.

National One-Design Service Award – Ronnie Ashmore

Ronnie Ashmore (Anderson, S.C.) of the Buccaneer 18 class is the recipient of the One-Design Service Award. Ashmore tirelessly and selflessly supports his national class association. His nominator noted that “there is not enough room on the form to convey the contributions that Ronnie Ashmore has made to the Buccaneer 18 class over the years, especially during 2019. He is the most generous and helpful sailor imaginable, and a leader in our sport.”

Ashmore attends every Buccaneer National Championship, not only getting his own boat and team to the event, but comes to the assistance of others to support their participation. Ashmore is a recreational sailor and a member of the Western Carolina Sailing Club (WCSC). This past year, he was the Regatta Chairman for the local Hospice Regatta. Ashmore encouraged sailors from around the country to come to the event, organized for them to leave their boats at WCSC, and then loaded boats and trailers behind his van to haul them to the Nationals in Arizona over 1,800 miles away. After sailing in the Nationals, he then spent time helping sailors replace wheel bearings and other things so they could safely make it home.

National One-Design Leadership Award – Fred Roy

Fred Roy (Newport, R.I.) has logged countless hours of dedication and service over the years to the Herreshoff S Class. Last year was no different. His efforts went above and beyond his “normal” contributions in this Centennial year of the S Class.

Roy’s selfless commitment and devotion to the legacy of these classic yachts has contributed immeasurably to the endurance and viability of the Herreshoff S Class. Roy has devoted countless hours to the mission of the S Class during his term as commodore, and in his many years as captain of S boat, *Surprise*. His craftsmanship in wooden boat maintenance and restoration are equally matched by his skills as an expert helmsman and his Corinthian sportsmanship. His balanced judgment based on a lifetime of experience with the Herreshoff S Class has been of immeasurable value to his fellow sailors on countless occasions.

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Throughout the S Class, and indeed everywhere in the world of classic yachting, Roy is held in the highest esteem. His service remains ongoing as he continues to contribute generously to the health and growth of the Herreshoff S Class.

The following tribute to Roy was entered into the Congressional Record on February 4, 2013 by Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse: "Ninety-five years after the first S boat splashed into Bristol Harbor at the Herreshoff boatyard, the fleet is active and growing, with boats being restored to join the class. This success and growth in much thanks to fleet commodore Fred Roy. Fred brought buoyant enthusiasm and cheerfulness to the Narragansett Bay Herreshoff S Class Association, and all who love our Bay and its special sailing traditions, join in appreciation of Fred Roy. Fred has brought the spirit of the S boat, rail down and surging forward, to this part of our ongoing history and maritime culture."

About US Sailing

The United States Sailing Association (US Sailing), the national governing body for sailing, provides leadership, integrity, and advancement for the sport in the United States. Founded in 1897 and headquartered in Bristol, Rhode Island, US Sailing is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. US Sailing offers training and education programs for instructors and race officials, supports a wide range of sailing organizations and communities, issues offshore rating certificates, and provides administration and oversight of competitive sailing across the country, including National Championships and the US Sailing Team. For more information, please visit www.ussailing.org.