

# Class Warfare

## The 2008 One Design Survey



The Laser Radial class had its first Olympic regatta this year and has also risen to the top of this year's Sailing Anarchy One-Design Survey.

Before I write any more let me review the un-scientific method for determining this list of the top twenty five one-design classes in North America. What I have done is taken the number of boats competing in each class North American or National Championships for each year. The location of the championship is also included. I think this is a good measure of relative class size and activity. To rank the classes I use the average number of boats over the last three years.

This list has some notable exceptions. The first is that there are no junior classes on the list. I define a junior class as a class that has a maximum age requirement in their rules. Both the 29er and the Butterfly slip under the bar on this one.

I have also not included ice boats. If I had the DN would be at the top of the list every year and is by far the worlds most popular ice boat.

I have excluded jr classes and ice boats not because I have any inherent prejudice against them but because you don't need a survey to tell you what classes are at the top of these segments of the sport. As I mentioned the DN is the top ice boat every year and since it is sailed on a different surface than soft water boats they are not really in competition with the classes on this list. A similar thing is true with jr classes. There is a small number of them and it's relatively easy to figure out what jr boats are most widely sailed.

Class	06	07	08	3yr Av
<a href="#">1) Laser Radial</a>	64 (NS)	111(MA)	88 (CA)	87.7
<a href="#">2) Lightning</a>	71 (CA)	80 (MD)	97 (RI)	82.7
<a href="#">3) MC scow</a>	85 (NC)	88 (MI)	69 (WI)	80.7
<a href="#">4) Flying Scot</a>	56 (MA)	101 (VA)	69 (NJ)	75.3

<a href="#">5) Laser</a>	61 (NS)	87 (MA)	77 (CA)	75.0
<a href="#">6) Thistle</a>	100(MI)	64 (OR)	59 (FL)	74.3
<a href="#">7) E scow</a>	92 (MN)	50 (SC)	71 (NY)	71.0
<a href="#">8) J/22</a>	59 (MN)	68 (OH)	NA	61.0
<a href="#">9) 29er</a>	50(ONT)	63 (ONT)	65 (ONT)	59.3
<a href="#">10) Sunfish</a>	62 (TX)	55 (AL)	52 (PA)	56.3
<a href="#">11) Hobie 16</a>	56 (RI)	50 (CA)	56 (IA)	54.0
<a href="#">11) J/24</a>	74 (TX)	34 (FL)	54 (NY)	54.0
<a href="#">13) Star</a>	79 (FL)	49 (BC)	30 (MI)	52.7
<a href="#">14) C scow</a>	50 (IA)	48 (GA)	59 (WI)	52.3
<a href="#">15) Butterfly</a>	42 (MI)	55 (MI)	54 (MI)	50.3
<a href="#">15) Snipe</a>	57(PA)	63 (CO)	31 (MA)	50.3
<a href="#">17) Melges 24</a>	47(FL)	52 (MI)	49 (MD)	49.3
<a href="#">18) Lido 14</a>	49(CA)	52 (CA)	43 (OR)	48.0
<a href="#">19) Vanguard 15</a>	36 (IL)	29 (CA)	77 (NY)	47.3
<a href="#">20) J/105</a>	31(CA)	69(MD)	36 (CA)	45.3
<a href="#">21) Interlake</a>	49(OH)	50 (OH)	33 (MI)	44.0
<a href="#">22) Albacore</a>	40(ONT)	51 (MD)	39 (ON)	43.3
<a href="#">23) Y flyer</a>	35 (SC)	39 (IL)	49 (GA)	41.0
<a href="#">24) Inter Club</a>	36 (MD)	45 (MD)	35 (NJ)	38.7
<a href="#">25) Sonar</a>	27 (NY)	NA	39 (NY)	36.3

In my opinion the list that I've presented here is where the class warfare is taking place. These classes are more or less in direct competition with one another for market share in the one-design racing world.

The real interesting question is not what class is on top but why they are on top. Is it the class association? The cost of a new boat? The design of the boat? When I look at this list I see a list of boats that are all the most user-friendly classes in their particular niche of the sport. What do you think?

I've been doing this survey for a few years now and have yet to go uncorrected. I'll post corrections to the forum as I get them. - [Roger Jolly](#)

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