

## **SANTA BARBARA ONE-DESIGN R/C YACHT INTRODUCTION**

If you have been looking for a radio controlled model yacht that majestically sails and elegantly maneuvers like a crew driven Maxi or Sixty footer then the Santa Barbara One-Design (OD) is for you. The Santa Barbara is a fractional rigged sloop on a near 6. foot long hull. It's designed for racing in a range of sailing conditions from performing well in light winds to being well behaved and manageable in rough waters and 15 knots of wind. It was introduced in 1964 and was one of the first classes to be accepted by the newly formed AMYA in 1971. It is recognized as a modern classic throughout the association. The certified hull/keel manufacturers have faithfully duplicated the performance characteristics from one hull to the next supporting the one-design concept. The one-design concept assures that boats built in the 1960's are competitive to those boats built in the 90's in racing around the buoys. Because of its history of stability in design the Santa Barbara remains popular in the association as a class-boat".

The Santa Barbara has had wide acceptance with registration records showing that there have been registrations 37 states and Canada. Covering the United States from New York to Hawaii, East to West and Washington to Florida, North to South. The heaviest concentration occurring in California followed by Illinois, Michigan, Florida, Canada New York, and Arizona. Cities of Santa Barbara concentrations are Los Angeles Area, San Diego, Chicago Area, San Francisco Bay Area, Buffalo, Detroit and Toronto. AMYA sanctioned sailing clubs are located in each of the areas listed that can assist a novice in obtaining, assembly and learning to sail the Santa Barbara yacht.

The portability of the Santa Barbara is enhanced due to the removable mast, rudder and keel. Most sedans or coupes can transport your yacht to the nearest pond for a day of sailing.

### **A HISTORY OF THE SANTA BARBARA ONE-DESIGN R/C YACHT**

The Santa Barbara (S/B) One Design class was one of the earliest model yachts available to RIC skippers, having been originally developed by Tom Protheroe Ltd, in 1964, Tom and his wife, Joyce produced about 200 S/B's. The model yacht was intended to be a proprietary or manufacture controlled design.

For control of the S/B sails, Roger Grigsby, at Halcyon Santa Barbara, produced a dual control trim servo. This trim unit used a WW II target drone servo manufactured by the Hansen Company. Such units were compatible with reed-relay systems and formed the basis for sail and rudder control of model yachts of that day.

In 1969, John and Laurie Converse acquired the assets of Protheroe Ltd. and Halcyon Santa Barbara to form Vortex Model Engineering Co. Tom Protheroe stayed with the new organization and made extensive redesigns of the S/B. A removable keel and spade rudder was developed, the latter utilizing a model aircraft proportional servo.. The new design was introduced at the end of 1969, with a numbering sequence starting with #300. The Hansen drone servo was modified, taking on a SC-1 designation, using push rods linked to model aircraft servos. Subsequent Vortex sail control units (SCU) were SC-2 and SC-2S. Jib trimming via a servo was also added at this time.

The 300 series S/B's were superior in performance to the older designs. The new rudder gave a much smaller turning radius and proved more responsive to the controls. All owners of earlier boats were advised of the new rudder design and many acquired conversion units so their models would be competitive with the newer-versions.

The Santa Barbara was accepted as a One-Design class in the AMYA in 1971. An Annual Class Championship Regatta has been held continuously since 1970.

In the summer of 1973, another-major redesign effort was undertaken. The "300 series" models were discontinued after completion of hulls #719. The new concepts involved an aluminum extrusion mast, a complete range of stainless steel fittings, sail redesign to include a boltrope, new Jib and mainsail sheeting system, elimination of the jib club for replacement with a fiberglass stiffener, deck, cockpit cover and keel. All of these changes did not change the basic concept of a One-Design hull and sails.

Another decision made in 1973 was to sell components of the S/B so that an R/C skipper interested in building his boat could obtain a bare hull and keel and proceed from that point.

In 1975 a decision was made to open up manufacture to other producers, but no significant actions were taken by others to produce the S/B until 1993(see later).

It was reported in 1975 that S/B with a different sail plan were sailing competitively as 10 Raters, but most continued in the S/B One Design configuration.

1977 had sold over 900 S/B kits. It was interesting that in that year's ACCR the first four place winners were sailing boats that were five or more years old. This attests to the advantage of a tightly controlled One-Design concept; the boats do not go out of style.

The ACCR winner in 1979, Don Prough, built the boat so that controls included rudder, sails, backstay, boomvang, jib trim, jib flipper and down haul. This skilled builder and skipper repeated his ACCR win in 1980 with the same boat.

Rich Matt, the AMYA S/B Class Secretary in 1978 published a 45 page, well illustrated, manual entitled "Building A Competitive, Yet Economical S/B One Design R/C Yacht". This book was well publicized in the AMYA Quarterly Newsletter, and was most helpful in educating newcomers to model sail yacht construction

In 1983, Vortex Model Engineering announced that it was discontinuing the production of the S/B one Design model yacht, although it agreed to make parts available. In the late 80's Vortex Model Engineering went out of business.

Without a hull manufacturer the class managed to supply used yachts to new interests in the class by resale of yachts from skippers leaving the class. This maintained the active census of class skippers near the 100 mark.

In the fall of 1993, Dwight Hartman of Hartman Fibreglass R/C, Argenta, IL expressed interest in making a project of building and marketing a S/B.