



Commitment To Speed No Sacrifice To Style

The Enduring Appeal of the International 505

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The 505 Class has dominated its position as the premiere high performance dinghy for all ages and budgets.

With a world full of options and choices for how we spend our time, it's become increasingly harder to commit. Unless you are a 505 sailor, a classy group of international men and women seeing through the choices, making a commitment to the best two-person boat in the world. The 505 is arguably the most solid, well supported and sought after international dinghy class.

Since the early '50s, the 505 remains to be a boat-to-beat with an all-star supporting cast

of sailors from around the globe. The members are dedicated individuals representing over 20 countries, and once a year the best-of-the-best come together, amicably, to compete for the title of 505 World Champion. In 2008 the Champion du Monde was handed to Great Britain's Ian Pinnell and Carl Gibbon.

After 18 years of close calls and near misses, Pinnell's first 505 world title was hard fought and well earned. He is the director of Pinnell and Bax, an admired and respected UK-based chandlery. Despite over 35 World, European and National Championships in his name, Pinnell holds this



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505 title most dear because, in his words, “it was the hardest to win”. Pinnell’s diversity in competition characterizes him as sailings equivalent of an all around athlete. His accomplishments demonstrate one of the key characteristics in a 505 sailor: versatility.

The 505 sailor could be a professional, however, the real character behind this class is the amateur. Though, there is nothing amateurish about the members, especially when the class includes individuals like Wolfgang Hunger from Germany. Despite a CV that boasts four Olympic Games and a combined five world titles in the 470 and 505, Hunger makes his living as an orthopedic surgeon. “Amateurs” like these have permeated the top ranks of the 505 class for generations, beginning with the father of modern dinghy racing, Paul Elvström.

An exciting element to the 505 and the people who stick to the boat and its community are their commitments to career and family, creating a balance between those two very important aspects in a person’s lifestyle, while adding in a demanding pastime. This last point made possible due to the class’ ability to stay affordable while maintaining the highest level of performance and competition.

The latter is what makes staying committed to the class a non-negotiable point. There is no other sailing class offering a program which includes: durable and affordable boats, exceptional performance across the wind range, and competition

to keep the most experienced 505 sailor on their toes, literally.

How can a boat, visually unchanged over 50 years outlast the one-design one-hit-wonders produced yearly? Family values, craftsmanship and consistent performance; the 505 class has adapted a family-styled culture appreciating vintage appeal and lasting performance. With modern day sailing “sport boats” and skiffs offering more striking features, slab sides, and abrupt lines, the faired curves and smooth entry of the 505 tell of elegant performance enabled through a balance of power and control. The 505 has managed to remain the benchmark high-performance dinghy, even as design paradigms change, and the visual notion of speed is redefined.

In a visually stimulating world, now is the time to close one’s mental eye and focus on feel and rate by sensation. Take surfing: visually the sport provides imagery to define adrenaline and those who surf will share tales of big wave days with great enthusiasm. Now take them sailing on a 505 in a bit of breeze and this brings in the American tale of Howard Hamlin: A native Californian who once thought sailboats where slow and boring.

At age 54, Hamlin is a successful partner with land brokerage firm Hamlin Gooding, helicopter pilot, surfer, and world-renown dinghy sailor. While Howie has achieved great success in other more radical classes like the 18-Footers, International

14’s and A-Cats, his true passion lies with the 505. Placing second, again, at the 2008 Worlds, Howie, like the 505 itself, is a model of consistency in his performance, and in his advocacy of the 505. In his own words, “the 505 is the ultimate sportboat”.

What makes this boat capable of standing strong against the flashy sport boats and spritely two-person skiffs? The answer is collaboration of dedicated individuals with worldly personality, a keen business sense and innovative thinking. The 505 class has been blessed with many sailors who fit the profile with one standing out: Hasso Plattner.

A mature member of the class, Plattner breaks any conceptions of high performance sailing being left to a youngster. As one of the worlds most recognized gurus in software development and as an advocate and mentor for design innovation, Plattner recognizes that much of the 505 game is cerebral. His participation and dedication to the sport and the 505 has paved the way for many, young and old, who aspire for excellence in their sailing and career.

In a time when “out with the old, in with the new” is an every day mantra, the 505 class and its people demonstrate how chic and fun it can be sticking to a vintage model with ageless pleasures, but contemporary challenges. Whether one aspires to win the 2009 505 World Championships in San Francisco, CA or joys in weekend-water-play; the 505 will meet the need and exceed expectations.