

Proposal for the ILCA World Council to consider planning to:

**Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Laser
with a Global Laser Sailing Event**



General Format:

We promote to sailors, class districts, sailing clubs and associations around the world to encourage holding a fun day of racing, or just sailing, a Laser to celebrate the `boat and the class' 50th anniversary. Clubs (and/or individuals) are encouraged to organize a regatta or a single race, or to just to get out for a fun sail in a Laser, new or old.

Target date:

Saturday (or weekend) in mid-September 2021 (if a club already has a Laser regatta planned on the same dates their regatta can double as the 50th celebration event.)

Registration:

We would ask that all sailors “register” (on a page on our ILCA web site). They’d be asked for info like: name, age, gender, location, year they first sailed a Laser, sail number, etc.,and space to write a few words and tell a story about their love for the boat. Ask them to send a photo of themselves (or their kids) standing near or sailing their boat. Even sailors at their cottages can participate by simply going out for a sail.

Our website could post results from races/regattas held.

T-Shirts (etc.):

We could create a universal shirt design that clubs or regional/national sailing associations can grab off our web site and use to enable event shirts to be printed locally for participants.

We could have a more extensive “merchandise”/ ordering page on our web site, with proceeds going to youth sailing in developing nations (?)

More on Format:

We can use Bart's Bash (<https://www.bartsbash.com/about-the-event/>) for ideas. This is a global sailing race taking place at 100's of venues, with 1000's of sailors in 100's of different classes of boat around the world. Founded in 2014, the event was verified by Guinness World Records as 'The Largest Sailing Race in the World'. *(If we promote the Laser event well perhaps we can set a new record!)*

Bart's Bash takes place also annually in mid-September (wee would not want to conflict with this event). "Bart's Bash is open to all sailing clubs, yacht clubs, schools, universities, scout groups, sea cadets, windsurfing clubs, individuals and any venue globally that can host a race and is inspired to take part. Each individual event is organised by a venue and organising authority for all activities at the site." <https://www.bartsbash.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Barts-Bash-Event-Guide-2020-GB.pdf>

(We could possibly consider aligning with Bart's Bash – just a thought)

Laser's origins:

late 1969 Ian Bruce called Bruce Kirby to discuss the concept for the dinghy, and when Kirby made his "million dollar sketch".

Fall of 1970 the prototype Laser (called the Weekender at the time, with "TGIF" on the sail) entered and won the America's Teacup regatta in Wisconsin. The boat was named "Laser" in November that year.

Production started over the winter months and the first boats starting to rapidly sell in 1971. The first large regatta was the 1971 North American Championships (won by Dick Tillman); hence, 2021 will be the 50th anniversary of Laser racing and the class association.