

Why an Ensign?

The Ensign fleet at SLSC has been certified as Fleet 72 by the National Ensign Class Association. We are very proud to be a part of one of the most active and strongest one-design class organizations in the country. One of the strengths of the Ensign Class has been its strict one-design rules. Hulls from the first year of production still compete on an even basis with the newest boats. The Ensign is actively raced in many fleets around the country and is supported by an active class association.

Newer, faster boats come and go on a regular basis, but the classic design of the Ensign seems to go on forever. Loyal Ensign owners are convinced that their boat is just the best family day sailor/racer that has ever been designed. It's large, roomy cockpit makes it ideal for taking even seven friends out for a daysail. With its three-foot full keel and 1200 pounds of ballast, it has the feel of a boat much bigger than twenty-two feet. The full keel enables the Ensign to ride over the weeds which normally entangle blade keels and rudders. It's the ideal family racer also and can be competitively sailed with a two, three or four person crew. Construction of the first new Ensigns since Pearson went belly up in 1983 began in 2001.

If you are considering a change of boats, or are just curious about Ensign sailing, the members of Fleet 72 would enjoy giving you a test drive. One small warning; once you get your hand on the tiller, you may get hooked. For the non-racing sailor, crewing on an Ensign is a great way to experience the fun and excitement of competitive sailing. There are many advantages to Ensign crewing including:

1. Roomy, comfortable crew stations.
2. Friendly, kind-hearted skippers who never utter a nasty word.
3. In hard blows, you get wet from spray, not from swimming.
4. Hot hors d'oeuvres served during the race (not available in New York State).
5. No experience required. It's supposed to be a learning experience.

[Contact us](#) if you'd like to learn more about Ensign sailing.

