Under Postponement but sailing virtually.

United States Sunfish Class Association
April 6, 2020

As sailboat racers, it’s usually all about speed and performance...

but, in the world into which we’ve all been thrust of late, speed and performance have been exchanged for protecting the health of your families and friends. With regattas cancelled around the globe, we’re forced to live our sailing virtually or voyeuristically. In today’s WINDWARD LEG, we’re sharing with you a bit of USSCA/ISCA housekeeping and then offering up a range of things you can do to keep your sailing juices flowing. First, a word from our USSCA and ISCA presidents:

In today's email:
Will Kresic on the "new normal"

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. We find ourselves on a surreal journey, with extended stay at home orders in place throughout much of the country and a lot of uncertainty looking to the future. Thank you for your resilience, and for finding new ways to work, play, and sail safely. This difficult situation has already had a severe impact on our economy and many industries, and as a result, on many of our friends within the class as well. I hope that in this time, we can all find ways to make the best of the situation with gratitude and to help others when we can.

As we work diligently and thoughtfully to navigate this crisis, I wanted to share an update on some of the things the Sunfish Class is focusing on right now.

Taking care of our sailors. We remain focused on keeping our sailors, families, and communities safe. Safety is the top priority.

If you are coordinating a non-class sanctioned event, we urge you to first and foremost decide if your event can and should be rescheduled. Please be mindful of your local recommendations for restricting gatherings. If you decide to go ahead with your event, make sure there is a safety plan in place that outlines what steps you will take to reduce risk for competitors and volunteers.

Many of you are aware that the US National Championships at Midwinters was cancelled. It was a tough decision, yet prudent and judicious. With COVID-19 cases on the rise across the country, we cannot yet promise a plan forward, and we expect further disruptions as the sailing season progresses. Please check back with the status of individual regional championships and North American Championships before making arrangements.

Stay connected. As we adjust to the implications of social distancing, we will have to continue to find new ways to stay connected as a community. As we have all experienced, one of the greatest strengths of the Sunfish Class is the community and the relationships that we form with each other. I want everyone to remember that distance is not isolation. Keep organizing those virtual chalk talks, discussions, and happy hours! At the same time, find ways to reach out individually, check in on each other, and offer support as more people find themselves in hard situations.

Maintaining our strong culture. The Sunfish Class has overcome challenging times before—national tragedies, economic downturns —and our strong culture is what helps and guides us through. Sometimes it is hard to know what to do, how to continue, or where to take pause during these challenging times. I
believe that to come out of this crisis stronger and even more united, we need to continue doing the things that make the Sunfish Class special. I love the ingenuity I have seen in how we have found new ways to come together. In recent weeks, as the weight of this crisis set in, I’m proud to see how we move forward together.

Keep lifting one another up and supporting each other. And most importantly, take care of yourselves and focus on your well-being and the well-being of your family and loved ones—physically and emotionally. Of all the ways to get through this, the best way is together.

Know that wherever we are, we are always one Sunfish Class.

Will Kresic, USSCA President

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**ISCA President Rich Chapman looks ahead**

As the weather warms up (a little!) here in the upper Midwest, I am looking forward to getting my boat out from under its cover and back out on the water. My club has be pretty active this winter with informal get-togethers at our local brewery, video sessions using Lift and Sea’s awesome coverage of the Women’s North American, and even a rules and tactics clinic hosted by the great Dave Dellenbaugh! All of these things have kept our minds on sailing and all of us are looking forward to that first spring sail!

Why is this pertinent? Because it looks like many of us are going to have to delay our regatta season to some degree. The current state of affairs in the world has events canceled for the foreseeable future. The future of your local events, the NA’s, and other already-scheduled regattas is unknown. ISCA’s goal it to work closely with the event organizers to put plans into place for either cancellation or alternative dates. I know that Hyannis is already looking at moving the date of the NA’s, possibly into August. For now, the
other major events look to be far enough away that there’s hope for them to continue as planned. As for the Midwinter events that were canceled in March, I’d like to thank the Clearwater Yacht Club for their cooperation and understanding as we made the hard decision to cancel those events. I also like to thank those of you who took the time to let us know that you agreed with our decision. Believe me, it was not an easy one to make! At this point I hope that all of you are excited about at least getting into your boats and sailing whether it be alone, with a friend or, hopefully soon, an actual regatta.

Looking into the fall, I am extremely excited for the 50th World Championships. Cindy Clifton and her committee are planning a regatta that will truly be one to remember. If you are not following them on Facebook, find them and see all the exciting things that are happening.

I hope you are all staying safe and well and hope you get out on the water in some manner this summer!

Rich Chapman, ISCA President

Rich, a newly retired teacher, is seen here tinkering with his collection of performance cars.

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2020 Sunfish Regatta Updates

by Gail M. Turluck, Regatta Coordinator

All the regattas that have been submitted are live at www.sunfishclass.org > Regattas tab, 2020 Regatta Schedule drop down button. More may be sent to sunfishschedule@gmail.com and sunfishoff@gmail.com.

The Printable PDF Schedule is compiled and will be available at the 2020 Printable PDF Regatta Schedule drop down button shortly. You’re encouraged to print it and hang it on your club’s bulletin board, keep it in your vehicle for
quick reference, and email its existence to everyone in your fleet, whether Class members or not, to help build attendance at Sunfish regattas. There’s helpful information in the Printable PDF Schedule for easy reference-Class Notices, Class Officers list, and more.

All regatta hosts have been contacted and asked to notify the Office and me if they have to postpone or reschedule; we will note that in the on line schedule. With the COVID-19 societal restrictions causing changes, sailors are encouraged to confirm that planned events will go forward before they depart to compete. We have informed the hosts how to join our two Facebook pages—https://www.facebook.com/sunfishclass/ and https://www.facebook.com/groups/sunfishlist/ and the Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sunfishclass/, so they may make short notice posts, too. These social media platforms are open to all and we encourage their use. You will need to sign up with an account to use them.

**2020 US Masters Notice of Race and Registration Open**

The hosts at Wawasee Yacht Club in Syracuse, IN, are looking forward to a great gathering of Sunfish sailors who will be age 40+ as of September 12 this year. Please visit our web page for the links to the Notice of Race and for registration. It’s a beautiful lake and a perfect weekend for this regatta to be held there. More information click [HERE](#).

**2020 Ladies of the Lake Charity Regatta**

To read Jim Goempel's report on this, one of the last regattas anywhere before the yachting world shut down, click [HERE](#).

Also, **Barrington Fall Frostbite Series 2019 Season Results** [HERE](#).
2020 Sunfish Worlds Update

The ISCA World Championship (Oct. 18-24, Sarasota Sailing Squadron, Sarasota, FL) is an invitational regatta attracting the best Sunfish sailors from around the world. To receive an invitation, you must qualify to represent your country by performing well in designated regattas. The International Class Notice details how sailors from the US and other countries can earn their spots. To date, 25 U.S. sailors out of the ~30 "invited berths" have registered; the next round of invites is going out in a few days.

International registrations are starting to come in...a good sign. Please note that the NoR for the Worlds has been amended to indicate all NSCA registrations need to be in by August 1 vs. the previous September 1 deadline. This will open at large registration earlier so sailors can plan better.

We do have a waiting list for the Worlds that Buttons Padin is managing. When it is finally determined that open berths are available, those who have expressed interest will be ranked based on past performances/results and then invited in that order until all the currently planned 72 berths are filled. If you would like to be added to the wait list, email Buttons at sunfishoff@gmail.com.

Sunfish Class Flags Available

Over ten years ago the International Sunfish Class Association World Council voted to make the Official Sunfish Class Flag a white field rectangle with a red Sunfish logo on it. If your club and/or fleet is using something else, it’s time to get up to date before your next race or regatta. Thanks to John Butine for discovering Paul DiMarco who has made some flags already and is ready for your order today. The flags are 24"x36", with a red Sunfish on both sides facing the flag hoist (i.e. towards the pole). They are made of white Dacron sailcloth with red insignia cloth for the fish. The hoist is webbing with two #3 brass grommets. The price is $39.99 plus tax, shipped free to USA addresses. Paul has an Etsy shop and it’s easy to order online: www.thewindwardrail.com.

Thanks to Gail Turluck for making these flags available.

Keeping your head in the game...or Sailing Voyeurism at its best!

Contributed by Class Admin Buttons Padin
In addition to my roles administering the Sunfish, Viper 640, and Sonar Classes, I also do the advertising, website and social media for a sailmaker and a yacht broker plus I am a frequent contributor to Scuttlebutt and Windcheck, the Long Island Sound regional sailing publication. As such, over the past month, I have been involved with curating various "Best of" lists to help sailors keep their heads in the game and not go stir crazy. Here's my take on the Best of the Best as well as a look at how some of your fellow Sunfish sailors are dealing with self quarantine:

Bob Naylor, motivator for starting Arizona Sunfish Fleet 749, texted Vicki Palmer to ask if her family was doing OK on a Sunday when they should’ve been sailing a series race instead of having to cope with so many canceled activities. After several back and forth texts came one in particular that Vicki just had to share. Nothing can stop the spirit of Sunfish sailors all over the country!

_Curse you, Vicki Palmer! I have been INFECTED by this terrible contagion! And I blame YOU! NOT Covid…but SUNFISH! I have THREE of them now. Mine, one that wife Robin had to have (and I need to fix up), and one I picked up on Craigslist for $50. The $50 boat was full of dirt and mud, needed a good cleaning, and I think it’s my new favorite. I've sailed it twice now and it sails really nicely. It’s also a ’79. I hope to resell it to someone in the club that’s interested in sailing Sunfish with us. If there is a vaccine for this terrible Sunfish affliction, I don’t want it!_

![Here's how Class Treasurer and USSCA SE Region Rep Sonya and Alex Dean are hunkering down with their kids.](image)

![Here's how Vicki Palmer is dealing with social distancing in Arizona.](image)

1. **Binge watch the 8-part Hornblower TV Series**

Impeccably produced by Meridian Television in the UK, this British historical fiction war television series is based on three of C.S. Forester's ten novels about the fictional
character Horatio Hornblower, a Royal Navy officer during the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars. A young Ioan Gruffudd is a very credible Hornblower.

Regardless if you've read the books, or even the Patrick O'Brien series, you'll love this series. It's Master and Commander in the long form.

Just so you know, I watched the entire series when it came out 20 years ago and stopped mid-way through writing this Windward Leg to rewatch a few episodes. NOTE: Watch them in order.

Series Trailer HERE
Links to all episodes HERE

2. Spectacular Maritime Book
Into the Raging Sea

Rachel Slade's riveting narrative of the sinking of the container ship El Faro in October 2015. Slade's story also gives you a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the shipping industry.
Hard copy HERE
Audio book HERE
Great Vintage Sailing Movie

Hot Yachts Cold Water

Warren Miller film...yes, that Warren Miller! Spectacular 70s-80s vintage footage...mostly west coast. 
Click HERE

Best sailing video EVER!

The Samurai Douse

Aaron Sorkin’s A Few Good Men re-imagined on the bow.

Epic sailing quotes:
"You're pretty big for a bowman."
"It's a big boat, missy!"

"The bowman always gets the girl."

Click HERE

Sailing Movies Galore

Here's a curated list of sailing movies suggested by Craig Leweck of Scuttlebutt followed by a link to his list of go-to sailing books;

Adrift (2018)
Around Cape Horn
Billy Budd
Captains Courageous
Captain Ron
Coyote: The Mike Plant Story
DRUM: An Extraordinary Adventure
Following Seas
Horatio Hornblower (Gregory Peck)
Joshua Slocum: The First Man To Sail Around The World
Maiden (2019)
Maiden Voyage
Mutiny on the Bounty (1962)
The Bounty
The Cruel Sea
The Great Clipper Race
The Perfect Storm
The Weekend Sailor
Waterworld
White Squall
Wind (1992)

If you’re looking for other ways to keep yourself entertained, make sure to read Scuttlebutt’s guide on the best sailing books.

If you have any interesting "diversions" to share, send them to Buttons Padin for posting in the future.