Class Elections, Regatta Reports, and more...

United States Sunfish
Class Association
July 17, 2019

In today's Windward Leg:

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Words from the USSCA
President Will Kresic
Hello Sunfish Sailors,

I want to personally thank every one of you for your patience with your clubs, regatta organizers, volunteers, and class leadership as we all navigate this pandemic.

As we are now in the middle of summer, many of you have dusted off your Sunfish, dragged your boat to the water, and launched for a day of sailing. Hopefully, it didn’t sink! Although many regattas have been cancelled due to COVID-19, many clubs have still been able to maintain their local races.

I love to see sailors and clubs working together to find new and safe ways to enjoy sailing this boat that we all love. I am grateful to be involved with a sport that is so compatible with social distancing and fresh air. While we head to these local events, I urge everyone to keep in mind that COVID-19 is still a major risk, even in states which have seen a steep decline in numbers. As we get together with our sailing friends and other members of our communities, we must continue to be aware of the ways we can each prevent the spread of this virus. Outside is always better than inside, but on and off the water we should take care to wear a mask when possible if we will be within half a boat length of someone else (approximately 6 feet). If you are unsure of the current guidelines, please see the below links for reference.

https://www.ussailing.org/membership/organizations/resources/

**Infection Control Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

In other news, it is time for 2020 nominations for Class leadership positions. Please refer to the article from our Nominations Chair for election information and instructions on how to submit a nomination.

The 2020 USSCA class meeting will be held digitally on **Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. EDT via Zoom**. While this is unprecedented, there may be a benefit to hosting the meeting in this format and my hopes are that we have a higher than usual turnout as a result. Please look for the meeting link coming out soon.

I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Stay safe and sail fast,

Will
According to the USSCA Bylaws, USSCA officers serve two-year terms with approximately half the positions alternating every year with final voting during the Annual Meeting. In this way, there is always an element of operational continuity and a transfer of Class knowledge. In even years, the following positions need to be voted on: President, Treasurer, Junior, Membership and Regatta Committee Coordinators. Also Region Representatives from New England, NY, Mid-Atlantic, Florida Peninsula, and Southeast.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year’s USSCA Annual Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom or some other app. As such, in-person voting will not be possible and balloting will be conducted electronically in-line with the following plan:

The Class is reaching out to the incumbent position holders to see if they would like to stand for reelection. In addition, a 1-week nominating process has been opened whereby any current Class Member (having paid her/his 2020 dues) may nominate another candidate for one of these positions.

In the next 24 hours, all current Class Members will receive an invitation via Survey Monkey from Class Administrator Ed “Buttons” Padin whereby you may nominate someone for any of these positions. After all nominations have been received, an electronic ballot will be sent to all Members who can then cast their votes for all national positions and for the Regional Representative for their area.

This process will be overseen by Nomination Chair Tom Katterheinrich assisted by Buttons. Please wait for your Survey Monkey notification and indicate your nominations there, not in emails to Tom or Buttons.

SOMETHING NEW & EXCITING:

FOCUSING ON OUR YOUTH SAILORS
By Vicki Palmer, Youth Coordinator

The future of any class of sailboat is its ability to attract young sailors. The Sunfish has always been a great youth boat and we get more young sailors joining the class all the time. As such, we’d like to feature one of our young adult sailors in each issue of the Windward Leg newsletter.

But we need your help. To create a fun and interesting article on a young (19 or younger) Sunfish sailor, we need the following:

- A photo or two—preferably at least one sailing activity,
- The one thing about sailing most looked forward to,
- The one achievement the family of the featured sailor is most proud of,
- Any sailing awards or sailing adventures (past or future),
- Any scholastic awards or academic interests,
- Any graduation or college plans.

Bragging rights are expected! So, don’t be bashful about sharing the article with teachers, grandparents, other family members and friends! Please send all articles and photos to Vicki Palmer, Windward Leg Editor, at sunfishyouth@gmail.com.

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STARTING ON THE 2021 SUNFISH REGATTA SCHEDULE

by Gail M. Turluck, Regatta Coordinator

We are continuing through the most unusual sailboat racing year ever experienced. While we don’t know when our lifestyles will become more open, it’s important that we work to maintain activities to which we are devoted. As we approach the end of July, though, it’s time to start planning the Sunfish Regatta Schedule for next year, 2021.

Some events that were canceled will likely carryover from this year to be held as originally planned with adjusted dates. If your club is interested in hosting a major event (North American, Youth North American, US Masters, Women’s North American) or serving as a Region Championship host, let me know as we want to have all of those 2021 venues and dates set by December 15, 2020. While we can’t be sure the COVID-19 pandemic effects will be behind us, it’s most prudent to plan and be prepared to be qualifying our US competitors for the 2022 Sunfish World Championship.
We also need a wide-ranging schedule of open Regattas that are our well-known, fun-based, skill-building events to help build the skills of new sailors and provide those fun times we all love.

It’s easy to get on the schedule. Simply email sunfishschedule@gmail.com and sunfishoff@gmail.com with the following information:

- Name of Event
- Date(s) of Event
- Host club or fleet name
- Host website URL
- Street address of club (plus street address of sailing site if different)
- Contact person name, phone and email
- Optional notes (Brief information that will inspire sailors to attend)

Your Notice of Race can be submitted later.

I remain excited for the future of the Sunfish Class and our capacity to have fun events that draw sailors together. Please submit your events soon.

REGATTA REPORTS

If you want your regatta report published, send a regatta report to sunfishoff@gmail.com.

2020 Independence Day Regatta - Sailors’ ingenuity at its best!

Greater Detroit Sunfish Club, Higgins Lake, Roscommon, MI June 27-28, 2020

Greater Detroit Sunfish Club held its annual camping and sailing regatta weekend at Higgins Lake State Park the weekend before Independence Day. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the parks had only reopened the Tuesday before. We had been on pins and needles awaiting confirmation of the opening. Planning included omitting the traditional Saturday potluck dinner, having meetings with social distancing and facial coverings, bringing wipes and sanitizer for the public restrooms, and a social distance campfire instead of a Euchre tournament.

Saturday dawned sunny with beginning of heat wave temperatures and wind ENE 6-11. Due to the illness of the wife of the member that was going to tow the committee boat with marks inside, the equipment didn’t make it. We dug
through our vehicles and came up with a swim pool noodle, two 100’ nylon lines, some tools for a counter weight, screw top water jugs to fill with sand to become anchors, another water jug to wrap in red duct tape, and created buoys. The swim pool noodle got set as the windward mark and the duct taped water jug as the leeward mark.

We had rabbit starts, first time for the club, so we could get racing. We sailed two races, with the wind building, and went in for lunch. After the break we sailed back to the duct tape jug and had another rabbit start. We raced to the location of the pool noodle mark. After 15 minutes of sailing around looking for it, including downwind in case it had dragged, it was declared lost or stolen.

We went in, tied together odds and ends lines, a life jacket was loaned, another sand filled water jug prepared, and out we went again. The mark was set, and the sailors came back to the starting area for another rabbit start. Sailors got to the mark area. They sailed around looking for the mark. Sailed around looking to see if it dragged. After 15 minutes of looking it was determined it also had been stolen! The wind had built to 25 mph and we were out of components to build another mark and called it for the day.

The Fleet Captain went to Dollar General and bought a big bouncy ball, a blaze orange T-shirt, two cheap 50’ poly lines, a magic marker, a pink Mylar balloon, and found another empty water jug. The T-shirt got labeled as the club’s racing buoy, holes punched in the bottom to tie it shut as the top of the buoy, the arm holes were used to tie to the anchor line and taped to not come untied, two lines tied together to get to 100’ (the lake is deep) and knots taped, jug tied on and taped, and jug filled with sand.

Sunday morning we got rigged and the two marks were deployed in East winds of 2-6. We started with a Ladies-Juniors race. Stunningly, as the lead boat was coming into the duct taped leeward mark, a jet ski came up to it, pulled the jug out and started to gather the line. After some yelling it was let go and it was rounded the first time before coming back to finish. The second race of the day was successful after which a break was called.

One of the boats had an equipment problem. There was some communication confusion and though two more races were held in fading and eventually dying winds, after a Redress was filed, they were abandoned and the broken boat awarded breakdown points.

The races were very competitive in varying wind strength. Once the scores were finalized the award flags were laid out on a picnic table and awardees called up one by one to pick up their prize and pause for a photo—very socially distanced! Everyone had fun, did some sailing which is great during our pandemic times, and with a three way tie at the top the challenge shows. – Gail M. Turluck

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**Juniors**

| 1    | + Stu Pettitt        | Chelsea, MI   | 1  |     |     |       |
|      | Jay CleChanski +     |               |    |     |     |       |
| 2    | Chris Talarek        | Chelsea, MI   | 2  |     |     |       |
| 3    | Cam CleChanski +     | Chelsea, MI   | 3  |     |     |       |

**Ladies**

| 1    | Lindsay CleChanski   | Chelsea, MI   | 1  |     |     |       |
|      | Maryn CleChanski     |               |    |     |     |       |
| 2    | + Stu Pettitt        | Chelsea, MI   | 2  |     |     |       |
| 3    | Gail Turluck         | Richland, MI  | 3  |     |     |       |
| 4    | Joanne Talarek       | Waterford, MI | 4  |     |     |       |
| 5    | Denise Onoskonich    | Port Huron, MI| 5  |     |     |       |
2020 Pinkley Cup

2020 Pinkley Cup Ottawa River Yacht Club, Toledo, Ohio July 9, 2020
The 2020 Pinkley Cup was held on a sultry summer evening, 91 degrees, with ENE winds of 6-14, varying as thunderstorms flirted with the area and missed. Between the second and third race there were two rainbows for all to enjoy.

This multi-class regatta brings many juniors in Excites, Optimist, Laser, and all ages in Sunfish, Interlakes, Catalina 22s, and a few other boats. Nearly 35 boats on the water, but with a sailor unfriendly weather forecast of 96 degrees and no wind, just two Sunfish came out. The weatherman was wrong! Racing was in the Ottawa River, mid-course start, windward-leeward, once around.

Wind was a little shifty and rather puffy. Optimists and Excites started first, Interlakes next, Sunfish and Lasers, third, and Catalina 22s fourth. This made a good challenge for the Sunfish to try to get around the course in front of Lasers.

It was really fun sailing, particularly in this COVID-19 pandemic year with few events happening. Everything was outdoors, to register just checked in at Race Committee dock, social distance all around, many in masks. Each competitor got a reusable shopping bag with goodies inside, plus there were door prizes, catered sandwiches, potato salad, chips, beer, soda and water after racing, and no entry fee. Gail M. Turluck

1. Gail Turluck     Richland, MI               1 1 1  - 3
2. Donald Fritz     Maumee, OH             2 2 2  - 6

WET AND NOT WILD: CAMPTOWN RACERS FINISH WITH A FLOURISH

Gail Turluck

Donald Fritz
You aren’t supposed to make that many mistakes and still win. And yet if you do enough things right, you just might come out OK, yet so it was for Camptown Races Sunfish Regatta’s three medalists. Eventual winner Mike Stratton got a little too eager and was over early in race one. Never a good thing, but worse on a light air day. He recovered to finish fifth after starting last, but an unlikely start if you are trying for the brass ring.

The regatta was held by Hueston Sailing Association this past weekend, the 4th straight week of anemic wind at their lake in Southwest Ohio. In race three, while in the lead at the gybe mark, Stratton tried to put himself out of the competition again by fouling Bill Molleran in the boat behind him and had to do a 720. Very slow no matter the wind speed.

Stratton was first boat to the windward mark in the three races after his early start in race one and used that lead to keep his air clean. When Molleran dropped out of race four due to an approaching storm, the results were assured as everyone else stayed on the course.

Laura Peters, trying to resuscitate her spring campaign, was always in the top five but, out of character for her, not a single bullet. Still she managed to nip third place boat Jerry Brewster by a point to take second overall. Brewster, for his part, enjoyed a good day, perhaps his best in a Sunfish regatta. He went wire to wire in race one and beat the Mystical Molleran by a good bit. He then hung on in the other matches to secure a place on the podium.

The storm hit just as the first boats reached the docks. Then it got real wet and the wind showed up.

Photo: Laura Peters (L), Mike Stratton (M), Jerry Brewster (R).
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Results:

1 - 78557 Mike Stratton 5 1 3 1 - 10
2 - 4410 Laura Peters 3 3 2 5 - 13
3 - 8689 Jerry Brewster 1 4 5 4 - 14
4 - 79263 Pete Peters 4 8 4 2 - 18
5 - 78255 Bill Molleran 2 2 1 (DNF) - 19
6 - 79332 Rose Schultz 6 7 7 3 - 23
7 - 81227 Ken Wright 7 6 8 8 - 29
8 - 80883 Megan DeArmon 9 9 6 7 - 31
9 - 80885 Charlie DeArmon 10 5 9 10 - 34
10 - 76434 Amy Marks 8 10 10 9 - 37
11 - 398 Dominiek Everaet 13 12 11 6 - 42
12 - 82855 Brett Hart 11 11 12 (DNF) - 48
13 - -Striped Noah Everaet 12 DNF DNF DNF - 54

2020 Don VanVechten Memorial Sunfish Regatta

Rochester Canoe Club, Rochester, NY
July 11, 2020

Mike Ingham, Doug Kaukeinen, and Eric Gesner top the fleet of 31 Sunfish sailors last weekend. Results HERE.

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On July 14, 2020, Eduardo Cordero “Zoomed” to the Arizona Yacht Club, literally, to be their July’s monthly meeting guest speaker. Meetings via Zoom are becoming the norm. Eduardo was very well-received by the well-attended “virtual” audience who held him captive on the screen with so many good questions after his presentation.

Along with some key sailing tips, Eduardo also shared a bit of personal information. He was born in Spain and immigrated to Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela, in 1982 (site of the 1983 Pan Am Games’ sailing events). He enrolled in sailing lessons in January 1984 and the rest is history. From that start in sailing, Eduardo accomplished what most sailors dream of doing: to be an 8-time Sunfish World Champion, a 2-time Sunfish Pan Am Games Gold Medalist, and a 6-time Sunfish North American Champion.

Eduardo explained that the turning point in his sailing career was attending a 1992 clinic with Derrick Fries. The skills he gained from that one clinic (plus practice, practice, practice) put Eduardo on a road to success. After that, there was no stopping him. He won his first Sunfish World Championship in 1993, three years ahead of the “goal” he had set for himself.

Eduardo shared his keys to success: (1) Motivation; (2) Discipline, and (3) Integrity. Very interesting food for thought for other future champions. Do you want to become a champion? If so, how hard are you willing to work toward that goal? Most importantly, have you made friends along the way? Or do your competitors dread seeing you on the race course? In the case of Eduardo, they knew he would beat them, but loved the opportunity to sail against him.

Eduardo ended his presentation with a favorite quote from Paul Elvstrom, “You haven’t won the race, if in winning the race you have lost the respect of your competitors.” Without integrity there can be no champion in the true sense of the word. We are fortunate to have someone like Eduardo who is so willing to help others achieve their goals to becoming a champion. Eduardo is a Champion for All Reasons…
CLASS DUES

Despite the pandemic, the Class continues to operate and have expenses. Your dues are the sole support for the Sunfish Class.

If you have yet to pay your 2020 USSCA dues, in the next week look for an online invoice from Wild Apricot that will allow you to easily update your membership. While at, update your member profile in WA, too.

Got Pix?

The Sunfish Class is always looking for great pictures of people enjoying the Sunfish lifestyle. This could be great on-the-water close-up shots (thanks, but we have enough pictures of small triangles on the horizon), people on and around the boats, and photos of awards ceremonies, parties, launching and generally people "Sunfishing."

High resolution photo files are preferred and send them along to the class office at sunfishoff@gmail.com.

Contact information

Sunfish Class Administrator: Ed "Buttons" Padin, sunfishoff@gmail.com