USSCA News - First Sunfish regatta in the desert!
And Happy Valentine's Day...

United States Sunfish
Class Association
February 14, 2020

Another image from the Sunfish "Way-Back" machine.
See another vintage photo from Sailing World at end of newsletter.
Sunfish Midwinters 1984 - Photo given to Sailing World (OK, Yacht Racing & Cruising back then) by Lee Parks. Recognize anyone, perhaps you? Bonus points for naming the venue, the winner, and the car. If it was your car, you win it all!

In today's email:

- Sunfish regatta schedule request
- Class dues reminder
- March Championships links
- Arizona Yacht Club first Sunfish regatta report
- 50th World's Longest Sunfish Race save-the-date

2020 Sunfish Regatta and Regatta Schedule

By Gail Turluck

It is time for us to assemble the 2020 Sunfish Regatta and Racing Schedule. We publish it annually at www.sunfishclass.org. Last year we also prepared a printable PDF schedule and will do that again for all regatta dates submitted by February 29, 2020. For your regatta(s)/race(s), please email sunfishschedule@gmail.com and your Region Representative (listed below) with the following information in this order:

- Regatta Name
- Event Date(s)
- Host Club/Organization/Fleet
- Club Web Site URL
- Address of Sailing Site
- Contact Name (mandatory)
- Contact Email (mandatory)
- Contact Phone (mandatory)
- Promotional notes about your event (brief information to attract attendees like housing, special parties, multi-class, special requirements, etc.)

New England Region Rep - (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT) - Eric Woodman, ericdwoodman@gmail.com

New York Region Rep - (NY) - Lee Montes leejmontes@yahoo.com

Mid-Atlantic Region Rep - (DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV) - Constance Miller, constmill@comcast.net

Southeast Region Rep - (GA, NC, SC, TN) - Alex Dean, alexander.g.dean@gmail.com

Gulf Coast Region Rep - (AL, AR, FL Panhandle, LA, MS) - Volunteer Sought

Midwest Region Rep - (IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI) - Tom Katterheinrich, mkatterheinrich@nktelco.net
Florida Peninsula Region Rep - (Florida Peninsula) - Lynne Randall, larandall716@gmail.com

Southwest Region Rep - (CO, KS, NE, NM, OK, TX) - Stewart Draheim, stewart.draheim@gmail.com

West Region Rep - (AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, ND, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY) - Jeff Bryant, sunfishwc@gmail.com

If it's ready, you may send the Notice of Race and Entry Form or link with this above information. If it is not ready, send the above information right away anyway and send the Notice of Race and entry information as soon as it is available. Then, when your regatta is concluded, be sure to email a brief story, results with sailor’s name, hometown/state, race by race scores, and total score, and a photo or two to sunfishschedule@gmail.com and sunfishyouth@gmail.com.

When your regatta/races are posted to the web page the Contact Person will receive an email with the web URL link so your club/fleet may use it promote your event by email and social media.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at sunfishschedule@gmail.com.

Class Membership Dues

If you haven’t paid your 2020 USSCA Class Dues yet (and you know who you are), they are now officially overdue, and your membership has lapsed. To sail in any Class regattas, you have to be a 2020 USSCA member. Simply go to https://sunfish.wildapricot.org/, log in using as your password the email with which you received this newsletter, type in/reset your password, click on your name/Profile (update as appropriate), and scroll down for a button to pay your dues online.

Questions, email the Sunfish Class Office at sunfishoff@gmail.com.
Championship Sailing
Approaching Quickly!

Registration links below
for your convenience

2020 International Masters Championship
Clearwater Yacht Club FL – March 14-17, 2020
Information and online registration HERE

2020 Team Racing Championship
Clearwater Yacht Club – March 19, 2020
Information and online registration HERE

2020 Sunfish Midwinters for U.S. Championship
Clearwater Yacht Club – March 20-22, 2020
Information and online registration HERE

Randy Adolphs of Michigan Wins
Western Regional

by Vicki Palmer – All Photos Courtesy of Sabrina Bryant

The Arizona Yacht Club hosts a Birthday Regatta/Leukemia Cup every year, usually in February. This year, for the first time, a newly formed Arizona Sunfish Fleet 749 also participated but in a Western Regional as their part of the main event. Other fleets racing were: Buccaneer 18, Catalina 22, Cruising, Laser, PHRF Spin and Non-Spin, PHRF Sport Boat, Santana 20 and Viper. With 78 boats sailing, there were some wild and interesting moments! But every minute of it was pure fun.

Eight Sunfish appeared at the start line skippered by folks from many different places: Tucson, El Paso, Long Beach, CA, and the Phoenix area of course. If these were eight hot rods on a start line, you could almost hear the engines
revving for these anxious Sunfish sailors to pop off the start line to see who could cross the finish line first!

No one could have asked for better temperatures, even wind conditions, considering it was February - temps in the 60’s and low 70’s and winds on Saturday ranging from 5 to 11 and 5-14 on Sunday. But don’t think wind conditions were too perfect! The directions on both days changed all day from usually starting at a N/NNW later changing to a SSE/SSW/ESE/S. The in-between changes varied from 0 to 0 to 0, icy glass waters. But when it did fill in it usually started filling in on both sides of the lake. So no one was left stranded while the sailors on the other side of the lake got some air. Thank heavens for that!

L to R: Jeff Bryant/Fleet Captain/Western Region Rep (4th), Vicki Palmer (3rd), Steve Mehl (2nd) and Randy Adolphs (1st Place Winner!)

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<td>Ed Austin</td>
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Randy Adolphs of Michigan was the Top finisher in five of the seven total races! He read the winds perfectly and just couldn’t be beat even when it
appeared he might be in the least advantageous position. Equally amazing is he had never sailed a Sunfish before! But we all agreed this probably wasn’t the first regatta he had ever won no matter what boat he was sailing! But to add a little adventure to his near-perfect sailing, he did fall off his boat after crossing the finish line in one of his races. Brrrr...water temp was at hypothermic levels too. But there’s more to how Randy got involved...Randy saw a bunch of Sunfish sailors doing Race Committee on Tempe Town Lake a few weeks before this event. He walked up to the group, introduced himself and said he had always had thoughts of sailing a Sunfish. So we invited him to join us for the Western Regionals. I just happened to have a 2nd good racing Sunfish to loan him. And Randy turned this chance encounter into a First Place trophy and Top Master trophy as well!

Another side note is Randy knows Don and Jean Bergman! He called them after meeting all of us to let them know he was welcomed by some pretty nice Sunfish sailors in Tempe, AZ! Well, I don’t know for sure if he called us “nice,” but I think we all acted welcoming and friendly which can be interpreted as “nice!”

Steve Mehl from Long Beach, CA, had some pretty consistent 2nd place finishes in all seven races that earned him a 2nd place trophy. No matter how hard any of us tried, we just couldn’t catch Steve. He said he will be joining us on Tempe Town Lake for some more Sunfish sailing. He’s a great sailor, an awfully nice guy and fits right in with our Sunfish “family!” He was so helpful both on and off the water which seems to be a strong Sunfish Class trait. So, yes, he’s definitely part of our “family!” Well, Steve AND Jeff Bryant AND Tim Mitchell AND Rick Keffer AND Curt Naegeli AND Ed Austin and, of course, Randy Adolps are “family,” too. We all helped each other wherever it was needed. And I don’t want to forget to mention the help we got from my 16-yr grandson, Cameron Couch, who spent the Friday practice day with us hauling our boats to and from the lake on a long and steep launching ramp and getting boats off trailers and onto dollies.
The 3rd place finisher and Top Female (OK, so there was only one female!) was Vicki Palmer. No one was more surprised than me to win an actual trophy! I almost got a bullet in Race 3 on Day One but lost by just a couple of seconds to Rick Keffer from El Paso who got that critical puff right at the finish. Doggone! All three trophies (one for the main event, one for the Western Regional and one for Top Female) are now sitting on display in the most obvious spot I could find in my home! I stopped short of taking out a full page announcement in the local paper, however. I do know where to draw some limits! BTW ... the Western Regional trophy’s base is the shape of the state of Arizona – a very nice touch.

Rick Keffer, El Paso, had to leave before trophies were awarded. But he announced to me on the water that he should probably get the “Most Inconsistent” trophy! With two bullets out of the seven races, he was well on his way to a higher trophy position than the 4th place finish he did get. But he must’ve found himself shadowed by some big boats along the way (better said than to say he made tactical errors!) which slowed him down.
He said he will begin encouraging his fellow Sunfish sailors who sail on Elephant Butte Lake in Las Cruces, NM, to get more active. Rick is another strong promoter of the Sunfish and the fun we have sailing it! We enjoyed sailing with him and hope we get to do it again soon.

Then there was Jeff Bryant, our Fleet Captain and a most active Regional Rep, who got the 5th place finish. Jeff’s enthusiasm and energy knows no limits – both off and on-the-water! He promoted the Sunfish to anyone he met, helped wherever it was needed despite needing to get his boats ready and, at the same time, encouraged everyone to join the Class. By the way ... we have four new USSCA/ISCA members due to Jeff’s efforts! He LOVES this boat and wants to see the Western Region grow! When he found out that Rick Keffer, from El Paso, sails on Elephant Butte Lake in Las Cruces, NM (about a 45-60 minute drive despite being in separate states) and knows of about 10 more Sunfish sailors there, Jeff was already planning how to get them more involved. And there’s also this story that I can’t resist telling...Jeff has a friend who can be counted on to help with charities, etc. So Jeff mentioned he needed some money to do some Sunfish stuff for this event. The friend asked him, “How much do you need?” Jeff said, “How about $14,000!” The friend answered, “Well, I thought it would be more along the lines of $500.” Jeff then said, “Sold! $500 it is!” That’s where our West Region trophies came from and also any help needed for someone joining the Class. Now that is an approach to remember! We also have Jeff to thank for getting his beautiful and talented daughter, Sabrina, involved as our chief photographer. Sabrina graduated from William Penn University in 2018 majoring in media/digital and is currently employed at J2 Media. Her most treasured moment came when she got to spend two days on-the-water with Onne van der Wal, the world-class photographer from Newport, RI, who was also Saturday night’s Guest Speaker.
for this Birthday Regatta/Leukemia Cup. I see another world-class photographer in the making!

Although new Class member Tim Mitchell just missed out on winning a trophy, he was sailing his brand new Worlds Sunfish like a pro. What a gorgeous boat! Love the new puncture-proof dolly tires too. In Race #2, Tim finished second! We could see him tweaking and fixing between races and also on shore to do all those “tricks” he’s reading about and seeing others do with their boats. And he was always up there with the “pack.” So he’s gearing up to be a trophy winner ... and soon! But there is a side story ... Tim and I seemed to have difficulty placing our car keys where we’d remember them. So without Jeff finding Tim’s keys one day and Tim finding my keys the next day, we’d still be sitting in the Lake Pleasant Marina parking lot!

But I can’t forget a key Sunfish player ... Bob Naylor who was the spark plug behind starting Sunfish Fleet 749 but who was busy chairing this major event. Otherwise, Bob would have been sailing with us! He did get an interesting email from a big boat sailor participating in this event. Words that are music to our ears: “Seeing all those Sunfishes on the water today with their new competitive sails was a great moment. The Sunfish fleet is the single best thing that has happened to this club since I joined and it’s not even close.” Bob Naylor continued to say, "People are loving our Sunfish fleet in AYC! You [meaning us Sunfish sailors!] made a big visual impact on our Regatta this weekend!"

On behalf of the U.S. Sunfish Class Association, we also extend a BIG thank you to Rob Gibbs, AYC Commodore, who was also the PRO for this major event. Along with his accomplished Race Committee team, seven races for a
lot of big and small boats were run flawlessly with safety for everyone a high priority.

Please think about experiencing Arizona sailing in February on beautiful Lake Pleasant in 2021!

Mark your Calendar! Save the Date!

50th Annual World’s Longest Sunfish Race Around Shelter Island, July 18, Southold Yacht Club, Southold, NY

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of this unique nautical marathon, Southold Yacht Club is pulling out all the stops. Sunfish singles and doubles fleets for both youth and adults will start together but be scored separately for awards purposes. Awards for first 10 finishers, top female, adult doubles, youth doubles, and more! The title sponsor of the 50th Race is LaserPerformance. They are donating one new Sunfish sailboat and two Sunfish racing sails which will be raffled off at the awards ceremony. Each registered Sunfish sailor – whether skipper or crew -- will have one chance to win. No additional raffle tickets will be sold. The odds are in your favor! Beach party and awards follow a beautiful day on the Bay!

For information and registration, please go to www.southoldyachtclub.com.