Lots of important news here...give it all a read!

United States Sunfish Class Association
November 18, 2019

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USSCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Sunfish Sailors,

Congratulations on another successful sailing season. As we conclude 2019, we can reflect on the accomplishments of sailors across the country. Thanks to the hosts and volunteers who committed their time and energy, competitive and fun
Championship level racing in the US started strong in 2019 with a packed fleet of 67 Sunfish at Davis Island Yacht Club for the USSCA National Championship at Midwinters. Word traveled quickly in Sunfish circles about the quality of the event. Sailors in the New England were talking about Midwinters well into May. James Island Yacht Club hosted a fantastic North American Championship giving class members the opportunity to experience a Low Country Boil and a live band. We saw exceptional sailing from our women Sunfish sailors at the US Masters Championship in Lewes Delaware. Congratulations to Nancy Haberland and Nancy Jaywork for taking the top two spots! Culminating the US Championship regattas for 2019 was the Womens’ North American Championship (WNA). With a top notch venue, new to Sunfish sailing, and the fantastic push to encourage participation in this event, Niantic Bay Yacht Club was able to pull off the largest fleet for a WNAs with 44 registrants! With the help of Lift and Sea Aerial Photography, the Sunfish Class was able to pioneer bringing live streaming worldwide with commentary and drone photography to dinghy sailing. All these events were spectacular and we can look to them for inspiration when planning local regattas.

As we enter 2020, we are eager to be working towards a closer relationship between the Sunfish Class and Laser Performance. We look forward to a promising partnership in the coming decade. We hope to share more details soon.

As we move into a new decade, please continue to bring the welcoming and friendly attitude typical of the Sunfish Class to regattas. The atmosphere we provide, in addition to events such as the Low Country Boil at NAs and Bill Brangiforte’s rigging clinic at WNAs truly make our regattas memorable for all participants. Encourage your sailing friends to try out Sunfish and participate in local, regional, and national regattas.

Best regards,
Will Kresic

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ISCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Sunfish Sailors,

Well, another great season of Sunfish sailing is behind us and while a few of you are still at it (Frostbiting in NE) most of us have our boats stashed away for the winter. We had many great events this year and I hope you had a chance to participate in at least one of them. I was lucky enough to attend several of them and I was very impressed with how well they were all run. The NA’s at James Island, the Midwest Regional at Gull Lake, MI, the US Masters at Lewes, the Worlds in Bonaire and even the Great Pumpkin Regatta here in Chicago were all top-notch events. The hospitality was great, the racing was
well organized and, of course, being with old friends and making new ones is always the highlight of any regatta! Congratulations to all of our organizers across the country. We truly appreciate your efforts!

I want to give a special shout out to the 44 women who participated in the Women’s NA’s in Niantic for their awesome turn out and great sailing in some pretty tough conditions! This was the largest Women’s NA’s ever! I’d also like to thank Will Kresic and the guys at Lift and Sea for their great drone coverage and commentary during the regatta. It was so cool to see the races happening in real time! I’m still going back and looking at the video and using them as teaching tools for our club sailors.

Many of our major events are already scheduled for next year so start making your plans to attend! Places like Clearwater, FL, Hyannis, MA, Lake Wawasee in Syracuse, IN and Sarasota, FL are all getting ready to have us. Let’s show up and have a great time! Check the calendar for details.

The past few months the class has been involved in on-going negotiations with LaserPerformance. We are very close to having a finalized builder’s agreement, World Sailing agreement and construction manual. We are very excited about the prospect of having these in place by the end of the year and moving forward with sponsorship from LP for future events. Thanks to Buttons Padin, our class administrator, for his MANY hours of work getting these documents in place.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and hope to see you next season.

Best regards,
Rich Chapman

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2020 WORLDS UPDATE – The 50th

The best Sunfish sailors in the world will be heading to Florida’s Sarasota Sailing Squadron for the 2020 ISCA World Championship next October 18-24. Plans are still in the works and there is still one remaining 2020 Worlds Qualifying Regatta to be sailed (the Florida Regional this coming weekend) after which the list of USSCA qualifying sailors will be posted. Because this will be the 50th ISCA World Championship, you can expect it will be an epic event. Laser Performance will be providing a fleet of new Sunfish to be sailed and the Squadron will be pulling out all the stops to make this an epic championship. (You ask "L?" Think Roman Numerals.)
The list of first-round qualifiers will be sent out and posted on the website next week.

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IMPORTANT CHANGE IN DUES PAYMENT PROCESSOR

At the beginning of 2019, USSCA migrated its membership database from a desktop-based process to the Wild Apricot contact management application. You have been able to pay your dues directly via Wild Apricot by using the Class’ credit card payment processor, PayPal. Starting immediately, the Class will process all dues payments through Wild Apricot’s preferred credit card processor, AffiniPay. Making this change in processors results in saving USSCA 20% on the credit card payment processing fee...a significant savings.

So what does this mean to you?

1. When you get your 2020 USSCA dues invoice in a few weeks, you will need to reenter your credit card number into the AffiniPay screen.

2. If you had signed-up for membership auto renewal, unfortunately you will have to reenter your credit card.

Other than the slight inconvenience of having to reenter credit card information, this should be a smooth transition that will save your class a considerable amount of banking fees. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Class Administrator Buttons Padin at sunfishoff@gmail.com and put AffiniPay as the subject line.

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WELCOME FLEET #749

It all started with, “What’s this talk about a Sunfish fleet?” And that’s all it took, thanks to the energy, determination and enthusiasm of someone like Bob Naylor (photo), newly appointed Fleet Captain, and half a dozen like-minded Arizona Sunfish enthusiasts.
From the outset, the group decided to emphasize FUN, accessible, and affordable sailing—a winning formula for future growth of the new fleet. So, Fleet 749 welcomes Sunfish, Sailfish and Sunfish clones and frankenfish of similar design, weight and dimensions. The fleet is flexible on equipment too—all purpose-built Sunfish sails are accepted for AYC races and members recognize that sanctioned sails and equipment are required when competing with other Sunfish fleets and in ISCA-sponsored events. And with FUN as the focus, eight Sunfish sailors of varying skills and experience levels registered for the Arizona Yacht Club’s (AYC) Fall Dinghy Racing Series. With the enthusiastic approval of AYC’s Commodore and Fleet Racing Captain, Sunfish Fleet 749 came to life—the first new fleet in AYC in many years. READ MORE

**HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR 2019 REGATTA RESULTS?**

By Gail M. Turluck

Recognizing the sailors at your regatta by submitting event scores is the important final effort of hosting. The Sunfish Class has an accurate archive of regatta results dating back years. These results are important to the heritage of the Class. However, when regatta hosts don’t send in their results, we have nothing to post.

Often regatta chairs aren’t Sunfish sailors themselves so aren’t in the loop regarding publishing results. Please reach out to the hosts of regattas you attended and ask them to send the Class their event results with sailor’s name, hometown/state, race-by-race scores, total score, a brief write-up with sailing conditions, and photos. Send them to Gail Turluck who will post them. Links to online results, Excel or Word documents are preferred although PDFs will also work.

**REGATTA SCHEDULING FOR 2020**

by Gail M. Turluck

It’s time to plan the 2020 Sunfish Class racing schedule. The Class seeks to grow Sunfish regattas at all levels, from championship to local and fun. We have an on line schedule (2020 link) and an on line PDF printable schedule (2019 version).

Note the 2020 World Championship, Midwinters, International Masters, North American, Womens and US Masters dates are all in the 2020 on line schedule to aid in avoiding scheduling conflicts. We expect to have the 2020 US Region Championships listed by December 20, 2019.

Any club, fleet or group planning to host a Sunfish regatta in 2020 is asked please send Sunfish Regatta Coordinator Gail Turluck the following:
1. Name of regatta
2. Date(s) of the Regatta
3. Host club/fleet/organization name with street address and website URL
4. Regatta contact name, email and phone
5. Brief special information-if you offer an exceptional social activity or tradition, housing, camping, loaner or charter boats, etc. This is your chance to make your event appealing to many.
6. Notice of Race-may be sent with the above information or at a later date, but at a minimum six weeks before your event.

The deadline to have your information included in the 2020 PDF Regatta Schedule is February 15, 2020. Events may be submitted any time to be added to the online schedule. The sooner your event is sent in, the greater the chance more sailors will see it and make attending YOUR event a must in their lives!

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REGATTA REPORTS

Stewart Draheim, Lucy Brock, and Bill Draheim Podium at Southwest Regional

The Southwest Regional Championship was held in conjunction with the Wurstfest Regatta on 11/2-11/3 down at Lake Canyon Yacht Club in New Braunfels, TX. 15 boats came down to battle for the 2 worlds bids up for grabs. The first day presented the sailors with very challenging conditions as the cold front cleared out and the north and south breezes fought each. Sailors saw winds from 0-10 and ranging between the NW and the ESE. 3 races were sailed and Stewart Draheim found his way through the tough conditions claiming bullets in the first 2 races. But old man Bill Draheim couldn’t let his son have all the glory, as he claimed victory in race number 3. Lucy Brock showed her smarts and superb boat speed, and rattled off a very consistent 3,4,2, but kept in a close battle with Andrea Bright who put up a 2,5,3. The top 5 after day 1 were Stewart Draheim, Lucy Brock, Andrea Bright, Bill Draheim, and Annie Lancaster. Read More & Results

Tom Katterheinrich Wins Southeast Regional #2
Reported by Alex Dean

Twenty Sunfish competed in the second 2019 Southeast Regional Championship at Lake Murray in South Carolina on November 2 and 3, 2019. The championship was hosted by the Columbia Sailing Club as part of the 60th Annual Midlands Regatta. This was the largest Midlands Regatta ever; besides the Sunfish fleet, there were 31 Optimists, 31 Lasers, 23 Open Bics, 22 Laser Radials, ten Vanguard 15s, five Lightnings, four 420s, three Y-Flyers, two MC Scows and one Laser 4.7 competing. Many of the racers were graduates of the CSC’s successful summer junior sailor program. Results & Read More
2019 Louisville Pumpkin Regatta

Louisville Sailing Club, Louisville, KY
October 19-20, 2019

The Fourth Annual Pumpkin Regatta is in the books with 21 boats participating, 5 out-of-towners, 2 Derby City Sailing Club Sailors, and 14 Louisville Sailing Club Sailors. Saturday’s weather was a warm fall day with light winds blowing straight up the river. We were able to get around the course four times which included one downwind start race which made racers rethink race strategies as well as entertained the race committee. READ MORE & RESULTS

2019 Great Pumpkin Regatta

Johnson Slough Yacht Club, Hinsdale, IL
October 26, 2019

Sorry, Linus, Rich Chapman won!

The annual final gathering of hearty and hale Midwest Sunfish racers opened with temperatures near 50, cloudy skies and a 6-9 mph breeze. Three twice-around races were sailed, utilizing the full body of Johnson Slough, including the “little lake.” In race two there was one little black puff that surprised Jerry Haggerty off the point between the “little lake” and the main body of the Slough, capsizing his craft with the top of the gaff barely touching the Slough bottom. Upon righting the boat, black goo dripped from the tip, giving his rig “the mark of the Slough.” Yep, he got Sloughed!! READ MORE & RESULTS

Note to self: if your regatta wasn't included it's because you failed to send in a report!!!

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Contact information

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