Regatta Updates

As with all things Covid, Sunfish regattas are on the schedule until they aren’t. We have two of the 2021 Majors on the calendar with plans progressing to hold each. In both cases, the ultimate go/no-go decision is up to the host club and their comfort with the latest Covid situation in their area. Of course, it’s up to you to determine if you feel comfortable traveling to and participating in a regatta. Being a singlehanded boat, that aspect of social distancing is manageable. It’s when we’re all ashore that our best efforts to social distance can fall short. The Class urges any sailors attending any Sunfish regatta to participate with the understanding that shoreside activities and gatherings still must be minimized.

That said, the Class is looking forward to the U.S. National Championship at the Midwinters including the International Masters and Team Race events.

Midwinters
Davis Island Yacht Club, Tampa, FL
March 6-14

It is the intention to send out a go/no-go updated from DIYC on or about February 1. There may also be subsequent updates as appropriate. Otherwise, it’s on!

March 3 — Practice Race
March 6-9 — International Masters (22 sailors currently registered)
March 11 — Team Racing (Currently no teams registered)
March 12-14 — US National Championship (18 sailors currently registered)

NoR: [NORDIYC2021MidsandMastersFINAL.pdf](http://regattanetwork.com)
International Masters Registration: [Registration for Davis Island Yacht Club : 2021 Sunfish International Masters Championship](http://regattanetwork.com)
US Nationals Registration: [Registration for Davis Island Yacht Club : 2021 Sunfish US Nationals Championships at Midwinters](http://regattanetwork.com)

North Americans

Lake Norman Yacht Club, Charlotte, NC
Target dates: June 10-13

John Butine and the folks at LNYC hosted the SE Region Championship two years ago (a great event) and this year their Board Bash Regatta (open multi-class event) saw 110 boats with all the proper social distancing protocols in place. Mark your calendars for a trip to North Carolina.

NoR and registration information will be available soon.
50th Worlds Update
Sarasota Sailing Squadron—Sarasota, FL
October 23-29

There are currently 59 sailors entered for the 2021 World Championships sponsored by MacLaren. From an USSCA perspective, all but five of the Qualifier berths have been filled and the next round for the remaining berths will be contacted this coming week. This is going to be one great event.

So far, there are contingents of sailors registered from Peru, Bonaire, Italy and Puerto Rico.

Class Rules Update

During the annual ISCA World Council meeting, the Advisory Council proposes changes to the Class Rules. If the World Council approves these recommendations, they are incorporated into the ISCA Class Rules document and forwarded to World Sailing for their official acceptance. All classes need the WS sign-off before their Rules can become official.

In 2020, a number of Rules were modified and forwarded to WS for approval. WS got back to the Class indicating that they had no objections to the proposed changes, however, they requested that the legacy ISCA Class Rules document be converted to the current WS format. After considerable work by ISCA President Rich Chapman, Class Measurer John Butine, and Class Administrator Buttons Padin, the final version was sent to WS for their blessing last week. We anticipate receiving WS’s sign-off in the next week or so. Upon official approval, the Class will receive notice of that transaction with a copy of the rules and an accompanying note indicating the changes made effective 2021.

Sunfish Video Channel

The Class has created our own YouTube channel thanks to USSCA Secretary Emily Wagner. We’re putting out a call for links to your Sunfish videos that we can add to our channel. They can be instructional, regatta updates, go-fast tips, boat maintenance how-tos, etc. If you want to add your video to the Sunfish Video Channel, send your link to Emily, she will review it for appropriateness, and post. Soon there will be a link on the website giving you a direct link to this channel once it’s up and running. Thanks, Emily.

INTRODUCING … We’re starting something new in the Windward Leg. With so many Sunfish Class members we’ve all heard about, sailed with or want to sail with, we want you to meet some of these incredible folks. Take note: You could be next!

Meet Paul “Odie” Odegaard (Bolton Lake Sailing Club, New England Region)

by Vicki Palmer

When we utter the words “accomplished,” “dedicated,” “talented,” “humble,” and “hard working,” there’s no one who fits the bill better than Life Member Paul “Odie” Odegaard!

While a freshman at the Univ. of Maine, Paul’s desire to learn to sail somehow got diverted by campus life and other college activities. But sometime around 1959, he met a guy at a party in MA who needed a crew on his Snipe. This first sailboat experience wasn’t exactly how Paul envisioned his introduction to sailing to be. He was put in charge of the start timing watch and pulling some rope called a “jib sheet.” He was bombarded with words like “roll tack,” “jibe,” “board up,” “whisker pole out,” “foot off,” “up-up,” and more. Well, you get the picture. Paul’s thought on his drive home was to question if sailing was meant to be really fun or was it always going to be panic city!
Well, we can see by Paul’s successes within the Sunfish Class in following years, he did learn that sailing really is fun and didn’t have to be panic city.

In 1961, while honeymooning in Bermuda with his beautiful and supportive wife, Polly, he got a chance to race a loaner Sunfish with the local sailing club. No, that experience wasn’t perfect. There were a few capsizes, a few embarrassing moments such as trying to remember which tack was starboard. But he was bitten by the Sunfish bug. We all know what that’s like!

In 1964, with a gang of friends, Paul and Polly rented a house in Niantic, CT (the site for the 2019 Women’s Sunfish Championship BTW!). Being so close to the water, they just had to have a sailboat. Sunfish were so cheap -- $425 if you bought in quantities. All the roommates bought a boat and started racing in Niantic Bay which, you guessed it, led to more and more racing throughout New England. That same year, Paul joined the Sunfish Class and registered Sail #7644. We now recognize Paul as sailing with Sail #2777.

For the next 50+ years, Paul’s accomplishments are almost too numerous to mention:

- Raced in 14 North Americans,
- Raced in 16 World Championships,
- Won a New England Regional championship,
- Placed 9th at the Worlds in Sardinia,
- Won a 1st place finish at the 1981 North Americans in Charleston, SC.

Paul’s many successes happened off-the-water as well. Paul was our ISCA President from 1985-1989 where he played a key role in reviewing Alcort’s new Sunfish design to modernize (rolled gunwale deck) the boat to increase sales while maintaining our Class legal status. He did this with help from Will White and Gordie Geick. Since the bottom hull was unchanged and the new deck was attractive, the change was approved by the Class.

Paul was also involved in several more Sunfish design changes during his tenure as ISCA President. Some redesigns were made to the sail and board. The late Gordie Geick championed the development of the racing sail with North/Fogh. The late Larry Cochran worked tirelessly with the redesign and testing of the racing daggerboard for several years. These major changes enhanced the one design legacy of the Sunfish via:

- eliminating the endless hunt for a competitive sail configuration from the too many manufacturers (Ratsey/Gastra/Fogh).
- ending the need for winter-long legal sculpturing (leading/trailing edge Bondo, etc.) of your choice of THREE wooden dagger-boards.

What this all means is the Sunfish Class is a better Class with help from members like Paul who shared his love for Sunfish sailing both on and off the water - by helping wherever he could and by serving as the ISCA Class President charged with the responsibility to keep us Class legal and to help keep our sailing events challenging and fun.

When asked what advice he would give to help us become champions:

- Get a good start! Be aggressive and experiment with a variety of tactics until you have mastered a few you can use in any race,
- Use a masthead wind indicator to better help indicate the shifts running downwind.
- Also use an eye-level wind indicator mounted on the forward spar. Shifts do happen but a sensitive wind indicator helps you take better advantage of the shifts.
- Install sail tufts near the leading edge of your sail. Your sail’s driving forces can be reduced by as much as 50% if your sail becomes stalled.
- Read, read, read and do your homework before regattas.
- Stay fit for life with exercise and fitness routines in whatever active sport you can.

Paul practices what he preaches; he celebrates his 84th birthday on January 19! And we still see him at regattas helping or racing or both!  

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Paul!**

Thank you for everything you’ve done to help us become who we are. Learning more about you has been our privilege. Thank you – and thank you, Polly! -- for taking the time to share some of your life with us.