Editor’s Note: We’ve 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. You met long-time Sunfish Class member, Paul Odegaard, in the January issue. I thought it would be appropriate to introduce one of our most accomplished Youth sailors next.

Meet Nicholas “Nick” Patin
Sail #1818
Sayville Yacht Club, Blue Point, NY
Point O’ Woods Yacht Squadron, Fire Island, NY

by Vicki Palmer
Nick is the oldest son of 5-time winner of the Women’s North American Championship, **Anne Cottrell-Patin**, and **Paul-Jon Patin**, 1992 Sunfish World Champion, 2-time International Masters Champion, and also a U.S. Masters Champion. It may seem that Nick Patin had a leg-up in sailing that most of us didn’t have; but it still took practice and determination for Nick to get better and better every year. Today, he has won some events and challenges competitors out-on-the-water sailing against the best-of-the-best.

The following is the *Windward Leg*’s interview with Nick:
When did you first start sailing?

The earliest sailing experience I can recollect is when I was 5 years old, my dad (PJ), and I were in my grandparent’s marina in Blue Point, NY, playing around in a JY Optimist.

When was your first Sunfish racing experience in a major world-qualifying event?

My Sunfish debut was the 2016 Sunfish Nationals at the US Sailing Center, Martin County, FL, at 13 years old.

What has made a big impact on your life with regard to being a Sunfish Class member?

Essentially, being raised into the Sunfish family has been a privilege and I am eternally grateful that I’ve come across such great, friendly, and accommodating competitors. I’ve been ultimately shaped by the Sunfish class, and I really wouldn’t be who I am today without it!

What happening within the Sunfish Class has made a lasting impression?

I think my most memorable experience on the water was definitely the 2018 Sunfish Worlds at Carolina YC. The regatta was a blowout, 22-25 knots of wind, 7-8 foot swells, it was really exciting. I’d assume day 2 or 3, my dad, PJ, and I were sailing downwind screeching down to the bottom gate. I remember my dad hard on my tail, and me looking back now and then to check on him. In a matter of literally 10 seconds, 100 yards outside
the gate, he vanished, flipping over really hard to windward. At the moment, it was a little scary, but looking back and reminiscing it was really funny and random.

What sailing tip can you recommend that might help other Sunfish sailors?

Overall, the most important thing I’ve learned on the racecourse is to not let opponents get too much leverage near finishes. Disallowing leverage between other boats limits the chances another person can sail on a higher angle or better breeze.

What’s in your future, Nick?

In the Fall of 2021, I will be attending Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

Windward Leg in Spanish

Because we have so many Spanish-speaking Sunfish Class members around the world, we have started publishing a Spanish version of the Windward Leg and posting it on our Sunfish Class website. With the help of Sonya Dean, our USSCA/ISCA Treasurer who speaks Spanish fluently, we’re first using an English-to-Spanish translation software that is then edited/reviewed by Sonya before posting.

In our Windward Leg publications, we’re going to start introducing the translation for a common phrase just in case you’ve wanted to learn a bit of Spanish.

A Spanish phrase you might find helpful to learn: Hola, me alegro de verte de nuevo. (Hello, it’s nice to see you again).

Regatta Updates:
2021 Midwinters and ISCA Worlds - The Davis Island Yacht Club and the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, respectively, are still planning on hosting the Midwinters and International Masters (March 6-14) and the Worlds (October 23-20) as scheduled. DIYC has been working with registered sailors to get all payments in and stand ready to run the first races in a Covid protocol manner next month. The Squadron is also looking for a health-conscious championship.

As with any regatta on the schedule, if something should happen at the host club that would preclude them from hosting the event in a safe manner for the sailors, the volunteers, and their club members, we will all be notified in a timely manner. Otherwise, it’s time to go sailing.

And, if you have a regatta to post on the website, please send your event's information to Susan Mallows, the Class Regatta Manager, at sunfishschedule@gmail.com.

Class Rules Update

The process to update the Sunfish Class Rules has been quite a journey. There were a number of changes to the Rules that were to go into effect January 1, 2021. They ranged from making digital compasses legal to new allowances for running rigging. In addition, we had to convert the classic Rules document into the current World Sailing format. This took numerous revisions with Class Administrator Buttons Padin working with the Equipment Committee at World Sailing.

The current status of the Rules is that they have been sent back to World Sailing for final approval. That said, with the pandemic impacting their offices in London, final approval has yet to be provided. It is key to note that the substances of the Rules changes were not in question, rather it is the formatting of the document.

In discussions with ISCA President Rich Chapman, ISCA Vice President Will...
In discussions with ISCA President Rich Chapman, ISCA Vice President Willo Cappelletti, and ISCA Class Measurer John Butine, it has been agreed that ISCA will allow these new equipment Rules to be implemented immediately in time for the upcoming U.S. National Championship at the Midwinters.

The current version of the ISCA Class Rules can be found on the Class website HERE. Once we get official approval, we will share that news, too.