2021 Worlds Update and more!

The International and The United States Sunfish Class Associations
May 12, 2021

Another image from the Sunfish "Way-Back" machine.
See another vintage photo from the archives of Sailing World Magazine.
In today's email:

- 50th ISCA World Championship Update
- Sunfish in South America
- Pan-American Games 2023 Update
- Upcoming Regattas
- Meet Rick Keffer
- The Sailboat Garage Shopping Guide
- A vintage Sunfish "Free Lunch"
- What you should know about taking Sunfish pictures

50th ISCA World Championship Update

Planning for the 50th ISCA Worlds this coming September at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron is in full swing. Cindy Clifton and her committee are making arrangements for regatta management and shoreside activities.

The big news is that Chris McLellan of Sunfish Direct is purchasing a fleet of 100 new Sunfish and will be providing them to the Class for the Worlds. Previous plans had been for a 72-boat Championship, but we are pleased to be expanding the event to a full 100 this year.

That sounds like a lot of boats, but there are more than 100 sailors looking to participate. To date, there are 85 sailors registered to race with another 15 from South and Central American countries in the process of registering that will likely fill our quota. However, if any of the qualifiers should have to drop out, the Class Office has a waiting list of over 25 people who have expressed interest in sailing at the Worlds.

Look for more updates on the Worlds in next month's Windward Leg.

Top
SUNFISH CLASS IN SOUTH AMERICA

With the covid-19 pandemic situation in South America, most of the countries have cancelled all their competitive sailing activities, and hoping the situation will improve in the next months in order to start competitions as soon as possible.

It is difficult for all Sunfish sailors not being able to compete in the last year, and with the Sunfish Worlds in Sarasota around the corner, everybody is excited to get started again.
Panamerican Games – Santiago 2023

The Sunfish Class has been confirmed for the Panam Games – Santiago 2023 with 2 events (a female and a male competition for gold medal).

This is an excellent way to motivate our female sailors and the Class will benefit from this decision of PASAF.

We have a good number of female Sunfish Sailors in the region who will have the opportunity to race for a gold medal in the major regional games, and get a well deserved recognition from all our sailing communities.

This format with males and females sailing in different events has been tested in past years in our South American Games and Bolivarian Games, with a great motivation for our young sailors, and specially for our female sailors.

In the next 2 years, we need to confirm the qualification events in the region, so the activity of the Sunfish Class in South America will increase with those major qualification events.

Top
Upcoming Regattas

Top Competitors Heading Toward Lake Norman in NC ... Why?

To experience beautiful Lake Norman at the Sunfish North Americans to be raced


Event Chair, John Butine, has lined up a wonderful event that promises fun, summertime lakeside adventures, great sailing and the gathering of some of the nicest people on the planet! This event is a world-qualifier for those who want to test their sailing skills against some of the best of the best. Plus it’s a very special venue for a family vacation. The Lake Norman Yacht Club is situated on 32 acres where many folks will be camping, swimming, visiting with old friends and making new friends. Not far away are interesting places to visit, places to shop and great restaurants to experience. There’s something for everyone. Register online HERE where you will also find a Notice of Race that outlines the event happenings.

Columbia Sailing Club to Host the Sunfish Women’s North American Championship

September 24-26

Lake Murray in Columbia, SC

It’s never too early to start planning for this very special event .... psssst “For Women Only!”

Every effort will be made to have loaner boats available – first-come, first-serve. Registration must be completed online at https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/21514.

Top
The Sailboat Garage

The Sailboat Garage, A Sunfish Treasure Chest of Class legal equipment, parts and accessories available to order now. Some of you may remember when Terry and Peg Beadle ran our Class Office and traveled to our events in a van loaded with Sunfish equipment and accessories to sell. They called their business The Sailboat Garage. All items are now available to sell using PayPal to make payment. Call Peg or Terry at 248-673-3565 to place your order. We'd like to help them clear their inventory as a small way of saying THANK YOU for their many years of dedication, service and love for our Class.

To shop the Sailboat Garage's inventory, click HERE.

Go West, Young Man
Meet Rick Keffer – Rio Grande Yacht Club, Elephant Butte Lake, NM
(Editor’s Note: We know that many of you travel long distances to sail your Sunfish. That shows a dedication and desire above and beyond. Here’s someone who is purely motivated to sail a Sunfish and improve his sailing skills with as much time on-the-water as he can get. I’d like you to meet Rick Keffer who lives in Las Cruces, NM, in our SW Region and who travels almost 6 hours each way to sail in one series race per week on Tempe Town Lake near Phoenix, AZ.)

Rick has been sailing since the mid 1990’s when he started crewing with a friend on a Cal 25 at the Rio Grande Yacht Club on Elephant Butte Lake in NM. During the following years, he bought and sold many different kinds of boats from catamarans to dinghies to keel boats and even bought an MC scow in Tulsa and brought it back to his club hoping to find others interested in forming an MC Scow fleet. But it was not successful. So he moved on to Stars which he thought was a great boat but with only four Stars sailing in this small fleet the Star eventually died at this club. Combined with a drought and then the Covid situation, sailing on Elephant Butte Lake came pretty much to a halt. Then came his interest in the Sunfish where he liked its hard chine similar to the Star and the fact that it had a big sail. Rick said that when a Sunfish is “in
the groove,” it moves really well. He likes that it’s a “predictable” boat that can handle lots of different conditions. And he also likes that it’s easy to rig and launch from almost anywhere. No boat ramp needed. But of equal note is the fact there were lots of Sunfish everywhere, even in New Mexico. In backyards, maybe, but lots available to refurbish and make ready to sail/race.

Some of Rick’s friends told him a Sunfish is only a beginner’s boat. And, in some ways, he thought they were partially right. But he found that although many sailors got their start in a Sunfish, it was a great boat to learn some excellent sailing skills in even challenging conditions. He has found that he has been “humbled” many times by some of the best competition he has faced. And that was in the Sunfish Class!

To quote Rick directly, Most “serious” sailors get hung up on having the latest and best boat. Competition in Stars, J’s, Etchells, and most other boats practically demand spending big dollars. Not so with the Sunfish. The ‘fish is all about your sailing skill, not your pocketbook. A new sail is under $400, foils $300 and a new boat is under $6k. I’ve been beaten by a $500 ‘fish with old sails and wood boards. No other sailing class can boast that.

Competition in the Sunfish is awesome. At this point I have been sailing the ‘fish for about 1 year. I have sailed with the Rush Creek Yacht Club where my goal with each race was to not be last (boy is that hard on the ego) and I regularly sail at Tempe Town Lake (TTL). In the time I have been going to TTL the competition level keeps going up. TTL is right up my alley as the water at Elephant Butte is generally flat and winds are fluky. So I usually do well there.

As to rigging. I followed Edwardo’s guide on the internet. He speaks with authority. Having a mainsheet block, adjustable gooseneck, race sail and adjustable outhaul are necessary racing equipment.

My goal is to travel to more races to expand my skill in choppy waters and in ocean waves. I really struggle in these conditions. When the NM governor allows racing at home I want to see if I can revive the local club. Unlike the scows, I now have club support to do this and we have plenty of boats to use. I really need a local sailing partner, but for now the Arizona Yacht Club folks have welcomed me with open arms. I have met people there I am happy to call friends. Ultimately, one goes sailing for enjoyment. The Sunfish is fun, its
people are friendly and helpful. We talk to each other, not fight about the rules. We reach out to help everyone get better and provide support as needed. We are competitive but not so serious that we lose the point of having fun. I’m proud to consider myself a Sunfish sailor...and I don’t mind beating Laser sailors in my’ fish.

Top

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**A Vintage Sunfish "Free Lunch"**

All manner of interesting "stuff" passes through the Sunfish Office on a regular basis. One of the more entertaining things received was the cache of vintage photos we received from Sailing World as they thinned out its editorial archives. But the most interesting are the vintage stories of Sunfish sailing in the past that are sent in.

A while ago the Class Office received a story by Bruce Neumann. In 1990, he entered a contest at a local radio station in Baltimore. The prizes, two Sunfish! As this story explains, Bruce won one of the boats. To read his entertaining story, and the recap of it in the September 2010 Spinsheet Magazine, click [HERE](https://sunfish.wildapricot.org/admin/emails/wizard/).
Bruce Neumann's Sunfish FREE LUNCH with its "special" sail.

Top

You should know ...

To help us produce top quality publications, photos that meet these suggested guidelines work best:

File size – ideally over 1 MB

Composition – not small white triangles on the horizon but identifiable boats

Bonus – seeing the faces of the sailors

Short-term – onshore photos with people wearing masks

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