School of ‘Fish

Sunday, January 30th Race Day at Tempe Town Lake in Tempe, AZ, brought some breeze and a whole lot of color! It’s obvious the work being put into the Sunfish Fleet 749 is paying off in spades. I had to start using my toes to count the entrants! Their presence on the lake, both in number and sail color, brought the spectators out. The sunny 72 degree day probably helped some too. With Lasers on Race Committee, we should have designated a person to do PR work with all the interest we were fielding throughout the event … by Dave Newland, Laser Fleet Race Officer that race day. Photo by David Newland & Renata Hejduk

SAVE THE DATE
(WQ = World Qualifying; I = Invitational; O = Open to everyone)

May 5-7 (WQ) — Southwest Regionals #1, Rush Creek YC, Rockwall, TX
May 21-22 (WQ) — Mid-Atlantic Regional #1, Lavallette YC, Lavallette, NJ
June 4-5 (WQ) — New England Regional #1, Barrington YC, Barrington, RI
June 4-5 WQ) — Midwest Regional #1, Bayview YC, Detroit, MI
June 15-18 (WQ) — Sunfish North Americans, Hyannis YC, Hyannis, MA
July 23-24 (WQ) — New England Regional #2, Lake Wequaquet YC, Centerville, MA
Aug. 20-21 (WQ) — NY Upstate Regional, Saratoga SC, Ballston Spa, NY
Sept. 4-11 (I) — Sunfish 51st World Championship, Lake Garda, Italy
Sept. 17-18 (WQ) — Midwest Regional #2, Clarklake YC, Clarklake, MI
Sept. 23-25 (WQ) — Women’s Sunfish North Americans, Lake Bluff YC, Lake Bluff, IL
Sept. 24-25 (WQ) — Southwest Regionals #2, Lincoln SC, Raymond, NE
Oct. 13-16 (WQ) — U.S. Masters, Bay Waveland YC, Bay Waveland, MS

(Go to www.sunfishclass.org to see a detailed calendar filled with many fun “Open” Sunfish sailing events throughout the year!)

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“Giving Back” by Paul Odegaard
Changes to the **Windward Leg**

What? More changes? Geepers, just when we were getting used to the electronic newsletter format. But there’s a method to this madness …

First, this format change will be easier to print and read as a hard copy. Sort of a “pretend” magazine for those of us who actually prefer reading a hard copy vs the electronic version. This format is also more conducive for advertising since we’d like to expand our advertising income. This format worked well in the past for our sponsors to appear to a wider audience.

But it will also appeal to those who do prefer an electronic version since they are getting this via a link in an email.

Not a perfect solution, I know, but certainly a method we hope works for all our Class members no matter their preference.

We are also working on establishing a News Editorial team from across the globe with news being reported from every country. After all, we ARE an international organization, and we love knowing what our Sunfish “family” from across the seas are doing.

Although the **Windward Leg** appears from the deep blue sea somewhere beyond yonder, we still want it to be YOUR magazine. And that can only happen if you submit articles and photos about what’s happening in your Sunfish world.

Please note the new email address for submission of all articles and photos: WindwardLegEditor@gmail.com.

Photos reproduce better if at least 1 MB in size. And I do plan to feature one cover photo each issue along with other photos appearing inside the magazine. So be sure to send your award-winning photo that includes a caption along with crediting who took the photo.

Based on our 2022 sailing schedule, we will publish an issue every month all the way to November in order to cover our most important events/news.

The shoot-for-deadline submission date will be the 10th of every month, noting a little bit of leeway in order to bring you the latest news in a timely manner depending on that month’s event dates.

I’m only an email away if you have any comments or questions. I’m here to help in any way I can.

Your **Windward Leg** Editor,

*Vicki Palmer*

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**Bob Naylor, Sunfish Fleet 749 in Arizona, Wins US Sailing’s Leadership Award**

**Bob Naylor, the energy behind the formation of the new Sunfish Fleet 749, was shocked to learn he had earned this covetous award. “What? What did I do? Was I the only one nominated?”**

Bob is always ever-so-humble about the hard work and dedication he continues to devote to the growth of this new Sunfish Fleet that sails on Tempe Town Lake for series races and Lake Pleasant for the bigger regattas.

From Chris Snow, US Sailing’s One Design Chairman, in an email sent to Bob:

*On behalf of US Sailing and the US Sailing One Design Committee I am honored to inform you that you have been selected to receive the 2021 One Design Leadership award. From the nomination, it is clear that your efforts to start and grow Sunfish fleet 749 in the Arizona desert sets an example for others to follow. We’re impressed by your efforts to go so far as to buy up used boats and give one on one lessons to share your love of sailing and grow our sport. Without folks like you who selflessly work behind the scenes to grow fleets at the grassroots level our sport would not be the same. From all of us on the US Sailing One Design Committee, thank you.*

*The presentation of this award and other notable US Sailing awards, including the Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year, will take place on March 24th at St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco. I really hope you can be there in person to receive this award. US Sailing will be providing two complimentary tickets to the event.*

*Congratulations again to Bob Naylor from all of us in the Sunfish Class for this most-deserved high honor.*
Letter from the ISCA President — Rich Chapman

Dear Sunfish Sailors,

Spring is upon us and so is another sailing season. It has been a strange couple of years but the Sunfish Class has done an outstanding job of prevailing through it all! Despite the continued COVID challenges, many clubs stepped up to host modified events that attracted socially starved sailors. My thanks to all of you who made that extra effort to keep us all on the water.

The biggest news in the class right now is the state of our World Championships. Now that last fall’s incredible 100 boat fleet at Sarasota Sailing Squadron is a great memory, we have 5 more outstanding venues to look forward to. Clubs are realizing what a great class this is and are lining up to host our events and you are lining up to attend! As of now, we have the following venues approved for hosting the Worlds.

2022- Torbole, Italy
2023- Salinas, Ecuador
2024- Rush Creek, Texas, USA
2025- Bonaire
2026- St. Croix

We have been working with LaserPerformance and they have told us that they will be supporting these events with boats for the foreseeable future. I’d like to thank Larry Mass, who is now serving in the newly created position of Worlds Coordinator, for all of his hard work over the past 6 months securing these venues.

Looking ahead, 2023 will be another important year for the Sunfish Class as we will have 8 men and 8 women competing in the Panam Games in Santiago, Chile in late October.

There will be 3 international events that will offer countries the chance to qualify for a spot in the games. These are the 2023 South American Central and Caribbean Games, the 2023 US Nationals at Midwinter Championships and the 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games. Look for more information on these events as venues and dates are announced.

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer of sailing with your friends and family. Here’s to another great year!

Rich Chapman, ISCA President

PanAm Games Decision Reached

From Fred Hagedorn, Panam Sailing President:

“\textit{I am pleased to share with you the long awaited Country Qualification System for the Sport of Sailing for the Santiago 2023 Panam Games!}”

What this means is the 2023 Midwinters (typically sailed in March at a FL location yet to be determined) has been approved as one of the three country qualifying events for both Men and Women Sunfish competitors. The 2023 South American Central and Caribbean Games and the 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games are the other two country qualifiers. As soon as the planning details for our 2023 Midwinters have been finalized, we’ll share that information with you.

For more details, go to: Sailing Country Qualification System

Rich Chapman, ISCA President, at the 50th Sunfish World Championship in Sarasota, FL.

Coni Olivares of Chile enjoying an afternoon sail on Lake Llanquihue, a region of Los Lagos-Chile, during a Sunfish Class qualifier ... from our News Correspondent in Chile, Christian Yovane, President of the Sunfish Class in Chile.

\textit{El lugar es el Lago Llanquihue.Region de Los Lagos-Chile. La Foto corresponde al Sectivo de la Clase Sunfish de Enero 2022 y la otra a un entrenamiento del 2021. La timonel es Coni Olivares.}
Faster than a speeding bullet ... 
Paul-Jon Patin Wins the 2022 
International Masters 
Championship 
Clearwater, FL — March 12-15

If there was such a “title” as “Heavy Air King,” PJ would certainly qualify!

For more coverage of this exciting event, go to the story published on the Sunfish Class website:

International Sunfish Class Association

For full Race Results, click here:

2022 Sunfish International Masters Championship : 
Clearwater Yacht Club (regattanetwork.com)
Who is that young man from Guatemala who can’t be beat?

Diego Silvestre Wins the Midwinter Nationals

Clearwater, FL — March 18-20

L to R: Curtis Wold/Clearwater YC Vice Commodore, Caroline Young (2nd overall & Top Female), Diego Silvestre/GUA (1st overall), Doug Kaukeinen (3rd overall & Top Master), Chris Carroll (5th overall), Kelley Lesperance/Event Chair. Missing is Eugene Schmitt (4th overall).

Diego Silvestre, 24 yrs old, is no stranger to winning. He won last year’s Midwinter Nationals and also placed 11th at the 2021 50th World Championship in Sarasota, FL. He traveled to this year’s Midwinter Nationals with coach Hugo Guzman Hernandez and another Guatemalan sailor in training for the 2023 Panam Games. Sonya Dean, our USSCA/ISCA Treasurer, helped arranged boats and housing for them.

Diego started sailing in 2013 and also sails a Laser and Hobie Cat. He’s not only an accomplished sailor but is also a delightful and charming young man who we got to know better at the 50th Sunfish Worlds. His smile lights up a room.

We wish him great success in his goal to compete at the 2023 Panam Games.

Midwinter Nationals (cont’d)

With 51 registered competitors having the option to sail in 9 races total, several opted out of the heavier air races. But the race course remained crowded with many who braved the strong winds and chop.

The Top Female and 2nd overall finisher, Caroline Young from Tampa, FL, remained highly competitive even in the heavy air despite her smaller size. But in light air, Caroline is almost unbeatable. At the 2021 Women’s Sunfish North Americans in races that some would categorize as almost no air, Caroline was sometimes a leg ahead. Her magic was “look for the dark spots.” Whatever magic she uses, it puts her in champion mode no matter what the wind conditions are.

What was exciting to see are some unfamiliar names in the final standings—competitors new to the WQ’ing Sunfish circuit.

Also a joy to watch were those who had some of their best finishes ever. They somehow created their own “magic” which they’ll take with them to the next event and the event after that. That’s how champions are made!

We extend our HUGE thanks to everyone at the Clearwater Yacht Club and Kelley Lesperance for hosting us and making us feel welcome.

Read more at:

International Sunfish Class Association

For complete Race Results, go to:

Introducing Curacao
(Article and photos from our News Correspondent in Curacao, Alex Roose)

In the 1970's, we had an active fleet of 50+ participants in races. Today, there are usually about 30 boats on the start line.
In 1986, we organized the Senior Olympics with Randall Swan from Charleston, SC, winning.
In 1991, we hosted the Sunfish Worlds and had 93 boats with 90 of them being brand new Pearson boats. Two local competitors sailed their own boat while Lee Parks was the 3rd local boat. In 2011, the Sunfish World Championship held here had 72 boats.

The biggest challenge in hosting a World Championship is the 600 meter (~1968 feet) depth of the sea making a quick change in race course marks impossible.

Many boats are sailed — Yngling, Centaur, Optimist, kite & wind surfing too — but the Sunfish is by far the most popular because it is easier to sail in heavy winds. Even better than Lasers!

We have three sailing clubs where Sunfish are sailed and where clinics are held mostly in Optimists.

Many years ago, I sailed a Sunfish to Venezuela, an 8-hour trip across open ocean. I returned on a motor boat.
In 1981, I sailed together with Wim Van Der Gulik around Curacao that took 17 hours total that we divided into two days. The north coast is very tricky and heavy. Some years later we sailed together to Bonaire and around Bonaire and back home again. That story, “Incredible Journey” was published in the Windward Leg when Lee Parks was the Editor.

The Curacao Sunfish Sailing Association (CSSA), founded in 1985, organized what we call Carnival Races.

As always with the Carnival Races, the start was not a close-hauled start but a reaching one! With 26 Sunfish on the line, the spectators viewed something spectacular and colorful.

Sunfish sailing in Curacao is timeless: two of the youth sailors, James and Richendly are only 13 years old while our “Senior Master,” Dolf van der Giessen, just celebrated his 85th birthday!

The winner, Jurgen Schneider, had 3 perfect starts which made for 3 perfect 1st place finishes. When asked for the reason for his success, Jurgen said, “I give Sunfish sailing lessons and nowadays I really do practice what I preach. And that helps a lot!”

The prize winning ceremony was a nice happening with not the usual top three winners going home with the awards.


Curacao is the largest island of the former Netherlands Antilles. It stretches 38 miles east to west and varies in width from 3-9 miles. The best way to see the whole island is to rent a car.

Willemstad is the capital. And the languages spoken include: Papiamentu, a mix of Spanish, English, Dutch, Portuguese & African.

The currency used is the Antillean Guilder (ANG), and it’s probably best if you change money at a local bank’s ATM.

The best time of year to visit is February. There’s something for everyone to see and do when visiting: beaches, snorkeling, shopping, parks, museums, ostrich farm, fine dining, many clubs for your evening entertainment and more!

The most windy month is May (12-19+ mph); the least windy is October (9-16+ mph).
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