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Letter from your ISCA President ... Rich Chapman

Greetings Sunfish Sailors,

2021 has been a busy sailing year so far and, hopefully, it will continue to be that way. I’d like to thank all of the regatta organizers and volunteers who have made the time and effort to put on regattas so we can all come out and play!
This year has also been a busy time for the Class administration. Early in the year we were contacted by the Pan Am Games Committee and notified that they would be adding an event to the Pan Am Sailing competition and that it would be a separate single-handed division for women sailed in Sunfish! This is exciting news and, with the current rise in women sailing the boat, welcome news. Over the next few months we will be working with the PAG committee to determine the qualifying regattas for both the men and the women. Stay tuned.

Probably the biggest news of all is that LP moved the production of the Sunfish from China to a brand new factory in Portugal. This meant a new factory, new workers and, ultimately, a "new" boat. LP also began moving their sailmaking to Portugal as well. In light of these changes, we have been working closely with LP to oversee and approve as much of these changes as possible. We have focused on three major areas.

**The Sail**

LP sent us a prototype sail in March that some of you saw at the Midwinters. The sail was first measured and then tested on the water. While it looked quite good, it was determined that some of the measurements were slightly off and that the cloth was not correct. We sent our findings to LP and they have made our requested changes and we are now testing the updated prototype.

**The Hull**

In May I was invited to spend a day at the Dinghy Shop where they had one of the first boats from the new factory. Jim Koehler, PJ Patin, Buttons Padin, and I spent several hours going over the boat checking for the correct specifications and inspecting the fit and finish of the boat. Like the sail, the boat looked quite good but there were still some things that needed attention. At the end of the day, I had the opportunity to sail the boat on the Great South Bay. Winds were 15-18 kts giving me a chance to really see if the boat was solid. I’m happy to say that it passed the test!
Afterward, we put our notes together and sent a list of changes to LP for their review. A few weeks later we received a response outlining the manufacturing changes that they were planning based on our list. With those in place, we feel that the new boats from LP will be as good, if not better, than any we’ve had before. See the very detailed report we received from LP indicating the steps they have taken to address our concerns [HERE](#).

### Replacement Parts

This continues to be an issue and we are continuing to work with LP for a solution. We have expressed our concern several times and they have told us that that is a priority for them in the upcoming months. This is addressed in the LP letter from Bahman Kia in this issue of the Windward Leg.

Finally, we are just a few months away from the 50th Sunfish World Championships. Cindy Clifton and her team at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron have an incredible event planned and, with 100 boats representing 13 different countries, the starting line should be a beautiful sight to see!

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming regattas. Keep sailing and keep having fun!

Rich Chapman

President, ISCA
Brand new Sunfish boats manufactured at the LaserPerformance LDA facilities in Setubal, Portugal being inspected and boxed for shipment to the U.S.

LaserPerformance faced considerable headwinds in 2020. A combination of Covid-19 lockdown and supply chain disruptions curtailed Sunfish plans for continuous supply, growth and expansion. In 2021 the primary goal has been to get back on track. Last year LaserPerformance LDA successfully established manufacturing facilities in Setubal, Portugal. They also put into place technical teams for production, product development and quality and compliance. Sunfish hull production started this year in Setubal with one shift and, as of June, they have added a second shift to meet forecasted demand. The goal of meeting Sunfish boat construction standards has been attained. For the remainder of the year, priority will be given to bringing further design and quality improvements to the boat. To this end, the LP Team in Portugal is working closely with the Sunfish Class to incorporate their feedback and sailor experiences into the continuous improvement process.

LaserPerformance LDA also has an initiative to identify local and reliable vendors for Sunfish parts and accessories. LaserPerformance LDA aims to have all Sunfish boat parts sourced locally before the end of the year so that it can ship “a Sunfish in a box” to customers around the world and get parts to customers more rapidly. Equally important to LaserPerformance LDA is its commitment to seeking every available opportunity to introduce sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in all its activities and is excited by prospects for development and growth of the Sunfish.
ISCA World Championship Update

October 23-29, 2021
Sarasota Sailing Squadron

Cindy Clifton and her team at SSS have been working overtime to get ready for the 50th ISCA Worlds. Plans are well underway for Covid-appropriate hospitality, excellent racing, and solid logistics. In addition, LaserPerformance is well underway manufacturing and shipping to SunfishDirect 100 brand new Sunfish for the Championship.

As anticipated, all 100 berths have been filled with sailors from 11 countries making this a true World Championship.

One note: an amendment to the Notice of Race will soon be circulated indicating that anyone participating in the Worlds must present proof of having been fully vaccinated more than two weeks before arriving for the regatta.

For questions, contact Cindy Clifton or Class Administrator Buttons Padin.

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2021 Worlds Sunfish available ad a discount

Chris McLellan of SunfishDirect is making the Worlds boats available for sale following the Championship. SunfishDirect will be selling the boat, the Worlds sail, and a Dynamic dolly for $4,995 plus freight if applicable. A considerable number of these boats have already been pre-ordered so, if you want one, contact Chris McLellan ASAP.

Email: cmclellan@discountmarinesource.com
Youth Participation ...

from the USSCA/ISCA Youth Coordinator, Vicki Palmer

Something we can all agree on is that encouraging Youth participation is the future of our Class. We can repeat this fact over and over, but what YOU personally can do to help us accomplish this is the milestone we have to reach first.

- What Youth in your Club or Region can you mentor?
- What Club(s) can you offer to set up a Sunfish clinic for their Youth program?
- What Youth could you bring to your next Sunfish competition with his/her parents’ permission, of course.
- What fun Youth Sunfish sailing event could you organize at your Club?

At the Class level, we will always make Youth participation a priority. But we need YOU or someone you know to introduce Sunfish sailing to those Youth who have some interest in sailing. And we need YOU or someone you know to take that extra step to keep them involved with Sunfish sailing at some level.

We know the many benefits a Youth, or anyone, gets just from being a part of any organized sailing group: confidence and responsibility to name just two. Let their parents know about these benefits and get them on board too with the idea that Sunfish sailing is more than just about fun. It’s about helping a Youth grow and become a better person at so many different levels.

What you do today – and tomorrow – and the day after that to share the joys of Sunfish sailing, a sport that benefits all those who participate at any level, is definitely newsworthy. Please share your experiences with us. What you accomplish may provide the perfect example for others to imitate.

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2021 Harker’s Island Race ... by Alex Dean
HARKERS ISLAND, NC - The 20th Harker’s Island Regatta took place Saturday July 24, 2021. Unlike traditional round-the-buoy races, these Sunfish sailors circumnavigate Harker’s Island in whichever direction they choose, follow snaking channels through marshes, and squeeze under a bridge. The day before the regatta, local sailors lead newcomers on a practice sail around the island to help them learn the course. Saturday afternoon before the race, 26 Sunfish sailors from the Carolinas and New Jersey gathered on Shell Point to rig their boats. A pleasant north-easterly wind of about 12 knots made a counter-clockwise rounding of the island the favored direction.

Read Alex’s Dean's full report HERE.

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2021 New York Downstate Sunfish Regional Championships

Bay Shore Yacht Club | July 31-August 01, 2021

Sunfish (21 boats) (top)
Series Standing - 6 races scored

Information is final.
Regatta results last updated: Sunday, August 01, 2021 12:50:18 PM CDT
Click on race number to view detailed race information.

Pos,Sail, Skipper, Results, Total Points
1. 1717, Paul-Jon Patin[Master], [3]-1-1-1-1-1- ; 5
2. 90006, Paul Clifford[Master], 2-2-[7]-5-2-2- ; 13
3. 1818, Nicholas Patin, 1-[6]-3-6-5-3- ; 18
4. 40615, Christopher Williams[Master], 5-4-3-2-[10]-8- ; 22T
4. 49615, Christopher Williams[Mast], 5-4-2-3-[10]-8- ; 22T
5. 81334, Griffin Sisk, 4-3-4-[9]-6-5- ; 22T
6. 82634, Lee Montes[Mast], 6-5-6-[8]-4-7- ; 28
7. 75451, Lawrence Suter[Mast], 14-7-[22/DNF]-2-3-6- ; 32
8. 4815, John Condon[Mast], 8-8-[22/DNF]-4-9-4- ; 33
9. 81663, Duncan Burns[Mast], 7-9-5-13-7-[14]- ; 41
10. 79587, Joseph Beitch[Junior], 10-[11]-10-7-11-9- ; 47
11. 2, THOMAS DAVISON[Master], [13]-12-11-12-13-12- ; 60
12. 81351, Paul Zinger, 12-[22/DNS]-22/DNS-10-8-10- ; 62
13. 4924, Liam Flanagan[Junior], 18-17-13-11-12-11- ; 64
14. 77388, Mia Drake Brandt[Master], [Woman], [17]-13-12-14-14-13- ; 66
15. 78819, Richard Skeen[Master], 11-10-9-[22/DNC]-22/DNC-22/DNC- ; 74
16. 888, Peter A. Judge[Master], 9-14-8-[22/DNC]-22/DNC-22/DNC- ; 75
17. 316, Steven Mihlstin[Master], 21/TLE-20/TLE-[22/DNF]-16/TLE-15-15- ; 87
18. 81519, Rebecca Runyan[Woman], 16-15-[22/DNF]-22/DNC-22/DNC-22/DNC- ; 97T
19. 92, Tom Jacobs[Master], 15-16-[22/DNF]-22/DNC-22/DNC-22/DNC- ; 97T
20. 90313, Helena Schnorr[Women], 19-18-[22/DNF]-22/DNC-22/DNC-22/DNC- ; 103

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Sunfish Sail News from Menantic Yacht Club

Bay Shore Yacht Club
July 31-August 01, 2021

Reported by Bob Harris

Greetings from the Menantic Yacht Club on Shelter Island, NY. We are a small fleet on a small island, but we did host the Woman’s North American Sunfish Championship in 2016. The 2021 sailing season has been terrific for us so far. We’ve held five series totaling 30 races run by our PRO Betsy Colby in all sorts of wind conditions, from zero to the mid-twenties. On August 8th, 17 members went out in the rain only to experience almost non-existent wind. Over the course of the summer many sailors have unintentionally taken a swim and some have suffered broken rudders and other parts. All part of having fun on a Sunfish.

A number of sailors who belong to other fleets join us from time to time, including Lee Montes, Jim Koehler and Joe Sullivan, all of whom we consider full blown members. We have no dues or fees, so anyone who sails with the MYC is automatically a member, just show up by 2:00 pm in West Neck Harbor. We have averaged 21 sailors per series this season, ranging in age from 16 to 90. Of the 50 different sailors who have participated so far this season, 21 qualify for the season by finishing at least 50% of all races.

https://sunfish.wildapricot.org/admin/emails/wizard/
The competition is fierce but not in a cutthroat way. We do honor the Corinthian way of sportsmanship. The leadership does change from week to week, but overall Peter Beardsley, Lee Montes and Paul Zinger are leading the fleet. Doug Rose, John Modica, Bob Harris, Denise Fenchel, Charlie Modica, Rachel Beardsley and Linda Gibbs round out the top ten.

Contact information

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