2021 Worlds Recap and more!

United States Sunfish Class Association

November 18, 2021

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Jonathan Martinetti of Ecuador Crowned 2021 Champion at the 50th Sunfish World Championship

Sarasota, FL … 50 years, imagine, 50 years of creating and building a sailing organization culminating in a 50th Sunfish World Championship. The Sarasota Sailing Squadron hosted special invited guests from the past few decades and one hundred competitors from 11 countries with 25% of the registered competitors being female. All special happenings worth celebrating!

In attendance as special guests were past International Sunfish Class Association (ISCA) presidents and other Class members whose dedicated efforts from decades ago went above and beyond to help ISCA reach this major 50-year milestone. Most of these guests had received ISCA’s highest honor – to be a member of the prestigious Life Member group. With a total of 25 Life members eligible for induction at one per year according to the ISCA Constitution, 12 of these Life members made the effort to attend this special 50th celebration. Congratulations to Paul-Jon Patin, a past ISCA president for 6 years, who is now the 26th Life member to join this special group for the time he devoted to support and build the Sunfish Class. Dedication to the Class has no time limit!
On the racecourse, there were several past Sunfish World Champions and many national champions competing against those who were vying for their own chance to become the next World Champion. Mother Nature put on a little bit of drama queen playacting with 15-25+ mph winds on Day One. Some minor equipment breakdowns in the newly built Sunfish© from the Portugal factory sent a few competitors to shore for quick repairs. But the majority of racers remained on the course fighting stiff winds and choppy waters to keep their boats right-side up, hiking out hard to keep the boats flat to go faster.

Jonathan Martinetti of Ecuador did all the right stuff in every race to become the 2021 Sunfish World Champion. He managed a 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 1\textsuperscript{st} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} on Day One. On Day Two with challenging winds of 15 gusting to 20+ mph, Jonathan, again, couldn’t be beat and sailed two 1\textsuperscript{sts} and two 2\textsuperscript{nds}. On the last race day, with one race day canceled due to no winds, Jonathan slowed down just a bit with two 2\textsuperscript{nds}, one 3\textsuperscript{rd} and a 26\textsuperscript{th} (his throwout). But there was no one close enough to take away his first place standing. An incredible feat by one of the nicest young men who has been part of the Sunfish “family” for many years.

Read full report HERE.

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World Council 2021 meeting minutes posted

The ISCA World Council met during the 50th World Championship. The minutes for that meeting can be reviewed HERE.
USSCA Qualifiers list for 2022 ISCA Worlds in Lake Garda, Italy finalized

USSCA is allocated 30 spots for each ISCA World Championship (see the USSCA Class Notice). These spots are all based on performance in designated World Qualifying Championships. Although the Italians are still finalizing the NoR, formal first round invitations will be sent out in the near future. If a "first round" qualifier from specific Qualifier can't attend the Worlds, alternates will be invited based on progressive placements in that specific Championship. See the list HERE.

The current plan is that LaserPerformance will be providing 72 boats for Lake Garda meaning that the number of at-large berths we enjoyed during the 50th Worlds when we had 100 boats. That being said, a waiting list for sailors interested in sailing in the 2022 Worlds but did not qualify. If you are interested in being put on the waiting list, send your information to the Class Office.

Mike Ingham tops a 54-boat fleet to claim 2021 Masters title.

October 8-10, 2021

Mike Ingham proved again that he's a champion Sunfish sailor by besting a fleet of 54 boats in October. Although Mike only won one race, his consistent top-4 finishes (17 pts) provided him with a five point lead over Paul-Jon Patin (22 pts.) who finished second. Rich Chapman, in third with 27 points, recorded two bullets with Doug Kaukeinen also winning two and finishing in fourth with 31 points.

No Wind? No Problem. Especially for Les Piehl of the Mission Bay Yacht Club, Winner of the First Place Prize!

November 13-14, Lake Pleasant in Arizona … The one world-qualifier designated for the West Region was sailed in … paddled in … floated around in … and enjoyed immensely when two races were finally completed thanks to a patient Race Committee and Sunfish competitors. But did any spirits die while waiting? Heck, no. Hope springs eternal!

These Arizona sailors – not just Sunfish sailors – have to be one of the most dedicated and enthusiastic group of sailors anywhere on the planet! Used to little or no wind, they
come out race day after race day hoping for even a breath of wind. If it moves the boat in a forward direction, that's wind that tests their sailing skills in a different way. But they do get their howling winds too which mixes things up enough to give them their fair share of survival skills just to keep them on their toes.

Les Piehl, a long-time Sunfish Class member from San Diego, was not only a winner on the race course but also a winner on shore where he helped everyone with getting boats launched, rigged and loaded. In the second and final race of the day, Les accidentally started with the one-minute to go horn and had to sail back and restart after all other boats were well on their way with the “real” start. And he still won that race! His Mission Bay sailing experiences these past many years have sharpened his sailing skills to near perfection.

In second place was Jennifer Lee, a former UCONN Sailing Team member, who moved to Flagstaff, AZ, this past summer. Jen drives to where Fleet 749 is sailing, a 2.5 hour drive, and she’s fast on the race course! And also helpful off the race course to help out with RC duty when it’s the Sunfish fleet’s turn. Jen did have to leave immediately after the West Regionals because she had to get back to Flagstaff and do the wedding gown fitting process the next day. She’s getting married soon! Look for Jen to be sailing in more of the USSCA/ISCA races – and even mentioned she’s ready to travel to these events. A traveling partner at last – after Vicki Palmer mentioned wanting to drive to and sail in next year’s Women’s North Americans at the Lake Bluff Yacht Club.

The 3rd place finish was a battle between Jeff Bryant, West Region’s Rep, and Vicki Palmer. In the end, Vicki prayed louder for that saving puff that put her across the finish line just seconds before Jeff to give her the edge in the tie-breaking score.

Final Race Results for the West Regionals sailed on Lake Pleasant near Phoenix, AZ:
1 - Les Piel, 1-1
2 - Jenn Lee, 2-2
3 - Vicki Palmer, 4-3
4 - Jeff Bryant, 3-4
5 - Tim Mitchell, 6-5
6 - Bob Naylor, DSQ-6
7 - Rick Keffer, OCS-DNC
8 - James Brock, DNC-DNC
9 - Jeff Brock, DNC-DNC

Mike Ingham wins another Sunfish Championship

November 13-14, Coconut Grove Sailing Club - 40 boats sailed on Miami’s beautiful Biscayne Bay with Mike Ingraham coming out on top.

Full results HERE.