Women Sailors Know How to Host an Awesome Event ... The Rainbow Regatta is put on by the Florida Women’s Sailing Association for our nine member clubs throughout Florida. The clubs all have unique and fun names such as the Dinghy Dames (Tampa), the Mainsheet Mama’s (Tampa), the Luffing Lassies (Sarasota), the Salty Sisters (St. Petersburg), the Broad Reachers (Pass-a-Grille), the Bow Chasers (Clearwater), the Rhumb Runners (Boca Ciega), the Bitter Ends (Venice) and the Windlasses (Dunedin). More of the story can be found on Page 2.

Photo by Chuck Comstock

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(Cover Photo — FWSA hosts The Rainbow Regatta)

Women Sunfish Sailors “Rock at the Rainbow Regatta”

Links to Lee Montes’ YouTube Videos

Jen Lee Becomes 1st Woman in Arizona Yacht Club’s 64-Yr History to Win the Club Championship

2022 Southwest Regionals #1

Fun Facts

SAVE THE DATE

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 11-12 (WQ) — Upstate New York Regional, Rochester Canoe Club
June 15-18 (WQ) — Sunfish North Americans, Hyannis YC, Hyannis, MA

Register here: 2022 USSCA Sunfish North American Championship Regatta: Hyannis Yacht Club (regattanetwork.com)

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

Register here: Sunfish Women’s North American Championships: Lake Bluff Yacht Club (regattanetwork.com)

Sept. 24-25 (WQ) — Southwest Regionals #2, Lincoln SC, Raymond, NE
Oct. 13-16 (WQ) — U.S. Masters, Bay Waveland YC, Bay Waveland, MS
Women Sunfish Sailors “Rock at the Rainbow Regatta”

Florida’s Sunfish sailing season wrapped up with the traditional Rainbow Regatta that hosted over 90 women — 63 Sunfish, the rest in Optis and prams. One comment heard was, “I’ve never seen so many enthusiastic women sailors!” An impressive event for sure. With this event put on hold for 2 years because of Covid, the enthusiasm was over-the-top. The Davis Island Yacht Club did a phenomenal job as usual.

There were Sailing Dudes to help with dollies and folks there to wash the boats! What? No chocolate massages on the beach like we had at the Colombia Worlds?! Lunch under the clubhouse was filled with the joyous chatter of catching up with long-time friends and comparing sailing tactics of every race. There were prizes galore. And the glow of so many happy faces!

Overall Top 5 Finishers (L to R) ... Lee Parks, 3rd place with 16 pts.; Emily Wagner, 2nd place with 12 pts.; Lisa Erhardt, 1st with 8 pts.; Linda Schwartz, 5th with 25 pts. & Beth Owens, 4th with 17 pts.

For full results go to:
https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_regatta_results.php?regatta_id=23837&show_divisions=1

Video Tutorials Courtesy of Lee Montes

A new feature in the Windward Leg publication will feature a few different videos each issue. Enjoy!

How to Upgrade the Value of Your Sunfish Sailboat! - YouTube

Sunfish Sailing | How to Repair Broken Spars - YouTube
Jen Lee shatters 64-year record at AZ YC by being the first woman to win the Club Championship!

Sunfish sailors Jen Lee, skipper, and Joel Hurley, crew, put their Santana on a magic carpet flight through some of the most treacherous wind conditions seen on Lake Pleasant, located north of Phoenix, AZ, in many, many years.

The racing was fast, super competitive, and super-close. Heavy winds came up as expected, even exceeding the forecasts. Winds clocked at 21-knots on the Race Committee boat, and it was clear that stronger localized gusts were hitting all around us. S-20s were knocked down, and rounded-up, and some had to steer off-course to regain control in the heavy air. The entire lake was dotted with white caps. One boat was dismasted and forced to return to the dock under tow. Skippers and crews were knocked around, and soon bruised and bloodied (...“boat bite” cuts and scrapes). A two-foot chop - amplified by powerboat wakes - tossed the S-20s, Committee Boat, and the Whaler all about.

It was a long, hard, tough day - physically and mentally challenging right to the very end. Racers and crews showed grit, determination, and courage in a difficult day of racing in very tough conditions. Clearly, for all the tension and angst, and for all the cuts, scrapes, and bruises, Jen had an epic day. And AYC had an epic day, too! Last Saturday evening, Jen formally received the Championship trophy, with Joel at her side, to a standing ovation at AYC’s Commodore’s Celebration at the McDowell Mountain Golf Club.

Wait! You haven’t heard the most amazing detail of this whole Club Championship!

Jen, a former UCONN sailing team member who recently moved to Flagstaff, AZ, has never skippered or sailed on a keel-boat in her life! Yes, she’s an accomplished Sunfish champion in her own right. So is Joel who seems to sail anything faster than most people.

But to put a 1st-time keel boat skipper through the paces of some of the most challenging wind conditions experienced on Lake Pleasant … well, this is above and beyond the level of true championship sailing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEN & JOEL FOR THEIR AMAZING WIN!
Southwest Regionals #1
by Rick Keffer, SW Regional Rep

For the first Southwest regional regatta held at Rush Creek Yacht club in Heath, TX, 10 Sunfish participants came from the local area, Tulsa, OK, Austin and Las Cruces, NM. Racing was held in light winds in the morning with building and veering winds in the afternoon. Saturday concluded with 5 races completed. Racing was pretty close as the fleet stayed tightly packed. For Race 4 the bottom mark saw four boats rounding at the same offset mark. Voices calling for room at the mark were clearly heard. Peak gusts at the end of race 5 and during the beat back into port were recorded at 20mph. The day was beautiful, mid to upper 80’s, with partially overcast skies throughout. The Rush Creek volunteer race committee did an excellent job setting and maintaining a fair course for the races. Unfortunately, Sunday was not to be as sustained 25mph winds with 30’s peak gusts were seen prior to the 10am start time. By general census, the decision to not go out was made as forecasted winds were expected to increase.

Race Results:

1st Gregory Gust  
2 Timothy Kraft  
3 Annie Lancaster  
4 Gil Greenwood  
5 Joe Horn  
6 Nathan Atkinson  
7 Scott Shirley  
8 Cheryl Gondran  
9 Andrea Bright-Kato  
10 Rick Keffer

Fun Facts ...

All in the Family — James Morgan Steele was born on April 1 to Alex Steele (son of Rita Steele) and Shannon Heausler-Steele (daughter of Gail Murphy-Heausler). CONGRATULATIONS!

WELCOME to Loretta Sophia Chapman, 1st grandchild to Rich & Holly Chapman who was born during the 50th Sunfish World Championship in Sarasota, FL.

Sailing Lesson Statistics from Bob Naylor at the AZ YC — In the past year, Bob has given sailing lessons to about 15 people. Of those 15 people, 6 have already purchased a Sunfish and at least 2-4 more are looking for a good used Sunfish. Hmmmmm, ya think this might be a good way to get more Sunfish sailors on the water?! What would be even better is to get these newbie Sunfish sailors to Join the Class!

As of 5/18/22, there are 52 sailors registered for the Sunfish North American Championship to be sailed at the Hyannis Yacht Club in Hyannis, MA, on June 15-18. Two competitors are coming from Chile and three are from Peru! If you want some exciting sailing against some great champions, register online to join the fun … 2022 USSCA Sunfish North American Championship Regatta : Hyannis Yacht Club (regattanetwork.com).

Did you know that the USSCA Board of Directors will hold their Annual Meeting in Hyannis at the NAs? And there are still some Board slots open for nominations. VOLUNTEER … we thrive on

Sorry, not everyone was identified.

They were taken on April 15, 2022.
Qualifying Regattas for World Sunfish Italy and Odesur Games. In the photo from left to right Nina Luaderian, Coni Olives, Christian Yovane, Amanda Zlatan and Kattalina Muriche.
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