



# Snake Bytes

Viper 640 Class News | November 1, 2016

## **IN TODAY'S SNAKE BYTES:**

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## **WORDS FROM THE PREZ**

The Viper 640 Class Association elects its Class President for a term of two years and this month will conclude my term. When you vote for a new Class President, and I strongly support the nomination of Steve Chapman, take the time to introduce yourself to him, in person or online, and ask what you can do to become more involved with the promotion, activities, and lifeblood of the Viper Class.

As the Executive Committee and Governors went through the process of applying for World Sailing membership, we realized two things. First, being a recognized World Sailing Class will do a great deal in expanding the footprint of the Viper 640 around the world. That growth will mean more regattas, more destinations at which to race, and more Viper friends. Perhaps it's this last point that is the most important.

The second thing we discovered when going through the World Sailing process is that we recognized we aren't just another "class of sailboats," one that goes through the motions of racing and class management without a soul of the class.



In fact, during one of the WS discussions one of us proclaimed that the Viper 640 Class Association is the garage band of sailing. Yes, we have great boats, hold world-class regattas, and have a working, viable class management structure. But what we also have is the soul that many classes lack: a passion for the boats, racing them and being with the others who race them against us. Just like an indy garage band can turn out great music, the Viper Class turns out great sailing. And, even if we get "signed" by World Sailing, the music we make both on and off the water, will continue to have its tempo, sound, and bite!



**THE GARAGE BAND OF SAILING**

Thanks for allowing me the honor to have been your Class President these past two years and here's to making more music on the racecourse in the very near future.

Sail fast,

*Jimbo*

Dr. Jim Sears, Class President and Lead Vocal

**Editor's Note:** Jim, on behalf of the entire Viper 640 community, thanks to Jim Sears for serving on the Executive Committee and then stepping-up as Class President and to **Brad Milligan** for serving as Class Secretary these past two years. You'll both recognize our appreciation next time you're at a yacht club bar and someone steps up beside you looking to buy a drink for the garage band's "front man."

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## **CLASS VOTING BEGINS TOMORROW**

If you own a Viper, later today you should receive two Survey Monkey e-vites: one to vote on the four proposed Class Rules changes as well as the International Constitution, the other to vote on the slate of officers for the 2017-18 term. If you are an owner but you don't receive your ballot, contact Buttons Padin at [epadin@padesta.com](mailto:epadin@padesta.com) and he'll make sure you get yours.



Now, remember that even if you OWN a boat, your vote will only count if you have paid your 2016 Class Dues. You may cast your vote but responses will be compared to the list of current Owner Members for the final tally. These are major issues we're voting on this year so if you need to update your dues, you can click here to pay your dues [HERE](#).

**Spoiler Alert:** It's just been discovered that an additional group of e-mails from Steve Chapman has just been released...and Justin Scott has yet to release his tax returns!

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## **BERMUDA LOGISTICS UPDATE**

The Bermuda organizing committee for the combined International Championship and the North American Championship appear to have all their ducks in a row. Here are a number of updates:

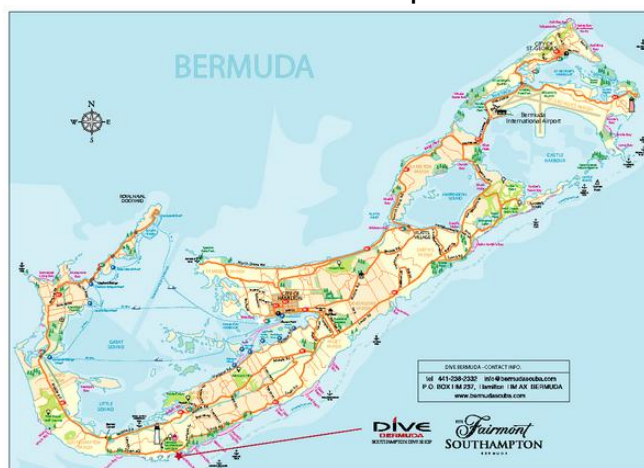
Box lunches available: make your regatta less of a hassle by clicking below or you can pre-order your lunches at registration.

[RHADC box lunches](#)

[RBYC box lunches](#)

Where to find your boat when you get to Bermuda:

The fleet will be divided between the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club and the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club due to space limitations. To find out where your boat will be when you get to the island, click [HERE](#).



Viper 640 International Championship Warm Up Regatta NoR has

been posted and can be viewed [HERE](#).

The Social Package was updated on October 8 reflecting a lowering of the price for Competitor Bracelets to \$60 (one comes with registration of boat). See this update [HERE](#).

The major Class Dinner following the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club Thursday, November 17. The following night, Friday the 18th, the Viper 640 Garage Band will be gathering for **drinks and whatever** at Flanagan's Outback from 6pm, right in the heart of Hamilton. Thanks to Steve Chapman for arranging this and, despite how he fares in the general election, he will be designated "Social Chair for Life!"

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## **NEW RULES INTERPRETATION**

Not a rules "change," but rather a clarification of a current rule's application. The Technical Committee has decided unanimously to implement a new rule interpretation, effective immediately (before Bermuda).

An inquiry was made regarding the use of carbon battens in Viper sails. These would weigh about 1/2 what glass battens weigh and add \$400-500 to the cost of a set of sails.



The Technical Committee sees this development as being well outside the spirit and philosophy of the Class. In addition to high cost, Carbon battens in this application are less durable and may require different sail designs. We see the need for immediate action before Bermuda. The new rule interpretation will read as follows:

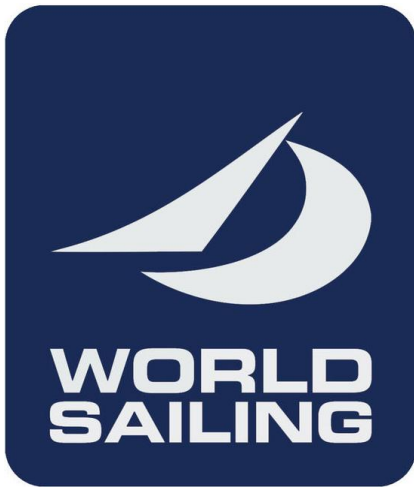
14.12 Rule 7.3 is clarified on reinforcement to prohibit the use of carbon fiber or carbon fiber composite battens in the mainsail or jib.

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## **World Sailing Membership**

This is more of a heads-up than a specific action item. At this time, there is nothing to be done or voted upon regarding the Viper Class'

application to become an official World Sailing class. World Sailing's Equipment Committee has reviewed our application, proposed International Constitution, and Class Rules (modified to conform with WS rules protocols) and has put it on the Agenda for their AGM to be voted on November 9.



It is anticipated that WS will vote affirmatively on our application in time to allow us to post an online ballot and have the final vote at the AGM. If WS accepts our application, you will receive

a separate e-ballot on November 10 to be cast before the AGM on November 17 in Bermuda.

We will keep the membership informed if we receive any further input from World Sailing regarding our application package.



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