

Get ready for some Viper Road Trips!

Snake Bytes

March 31, 2017



International Viper 640
Class Association



In today's Road Trip Snake Bytes:

[Charleston Race Week](#)

[Annapolis NOOD](#)

[GYA Opening Regatta](#)

[Viper ACCs - Southern Bay Race Week](#)

[2017 Viper North Americans](#)

[2018 Viper World Championship and logistics](#)

[Other upcoming regattas](#)

[Vertical Rudder Ordering Information #2](#)

[Class Dues](#)

Isn't it about time for another Viper Road Trip?

Viper 640 road trips regattas can be an hour away...or days away...regardless, doing a couple each year is what Vipering is all about!

Here's a heads-up on four important southeast/mid-Atlantic U.S. regattas on the horizon, reminders about the NAs and Worlds, and a list of other regional regattas:

ROAD TRIP #1



Sperry Topsider Charleston Race Week April 20-23

This is one of the granddaddies of multi-class regattas. Bring your best game to CRW as the sailing is great...if not a bit tricky. Make sure to go to the Skipper's Briefing as the locals share their knowledge on how to make the best of the Harbor's converging currents.

As of this posting, 11 Vipers are registered and they again will be the guests of the College of Charleston Sailing Team thanks to CofC alums Tom Loutrel and Zeke Horowitz. The CofC facilities are at the north end of the Marina complex and each boat is being asked to contribute \$100 to the CofC Sailing Team and can do so by clicking [HERE](#).

Online Information and Registration [HERE](#).

Please contact CofC dockmaster [Ned Goss](#) and let him know to expect you.

Great racing, great folks, legendary parties, and magnificent Low Country food. People are looking for charters, maybe others are looking for crew. All those conversations can take place on the Viper Forum [HERE](#).

Here's a virtual tour of some great Charleston eateries:



[Top](#)

ROAD TRIP #2



Helly Hansen Annapolis NOOD Regatta

May 5-7
Annapolis Yacht Club
Annapolis, MD

A big shout out to **Geoff Ewenson** who has been stirring the Viper 640 pot in the Annapolis area and starting to enjoy some solid growth. As of today, there are 11 Vipers registered for the Annapolis NOOD. Racing on the Chesapeake is

great to start off with, but racing out of the City of Annapolis makes it even better. AYC is sure to provide a great RC and you can count on the locals like Geoff, **Zeke Horowitz**, and others to keep the Viper fleet hopping on and off the water.

Online information and registration [HERE](#):

Oh, there's another attraction in Annapolis in addition to sailing: the United States Naval Academy. The Mids do have their share of sailing creds...but here's another side of the Academy:



[Top](#)

ROAD TRIP #3

Gulf Yachting Association's Opening Regatta

May 5-6
Gulfport Yacht Club
Gulfport, MS

Anyone who's been part of the Viper 640 community over the past few years is keenly aware about the role our boat will play in the future of the GYA's Capdevielle interclub series. Until the Viper becomes the actual platform for the

Capdevielle in 2018, the GYA has is hosting a Sport Boat Championship Series for Vipers alongside the Flying Scots.

Last year there were 18 Vipers (some right out of the box) sailed the Opening Regatta at Fairhope Yacht Club in Fairhope, AL. This year, the Opening Regatta will be at Gulfport Yacht Club hosted by **GYC Sailing Director and Viper sailor Sam Vasquez**. This regatta is open to more than just Capdevielle boats so any Viper that can make it to Gulfport is welcome.

[NoR](#)

Email [Sam Vasquez](#)

Here's a video that Sam posted of last year's GYA Meigs Regatta's winning Viper.



[Top](#)

ROAD TRIP #4

Viper 640 Atlantic Coast Championship and Southern Bay Race Week

**June 2-4
Hampton Yacht Club
Hampton, VA**

This regatta is two months away and there are already 11 Vipers registered. The Viper folks in Hampton are doing a great job growing the fleet, taking their own share of road trips, and now will host the Viper nation for the ACCs the first weekend in June. A major regional multi-class regatta that is sure to be up to the Viper fun meter standard! And, who can not want to go to a regatta that has such a colorful NoR that ends with the phrase, "Y'all come racing!"

Information and online registration [HERE](#).

Not only are the Annapolis Vipers road tripping to the ACCs, but the Navy's Varsity Offshore Sailing Team will be there with a few boats. Not to be left out of the video mix, here are the Navy Mid helping with the pageantry at SBYC.



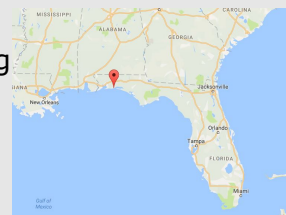
[Top](#)

ROAD TRIP #5

**2017 Beacon Group Viper 640 North American
Championship Update**

October 24-28, Ft. Walton Yacht Club, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

There are 63 entries as of press time for the 2017 NAs. **Craig and Deb Wilusz** have been living and breathing this regatta for over a year and are looking forward to even more entries pouring in.



Joining the fun is the Emerald Coast tourism authority that is also helping support the NAs. Take a look at this quick video on the area. It may inspire you, too, to schedule some time there either before or after the NAs. You'll even get a taste of from the late great Chuck Berry.



Information and online registration [HERE](#).

[Top](#)



[Top](#)

ROAD TRIP #6

2018 Viper 640 World Championship

February 17-23, 2018
South of Perth Yacht Club
Perth, Western Australia

The Viper world will be focused on the Southern Hemisphere next February as the best Vipers in the world descend on Perth for the Class's 2018 World Championship. The SoPYC organizing committee, headed by Jon Stubbs and Heather and Graeme Monkhouse, are planning a preliminary event and then the Championship sailing on Western Australia's Swan River.



Perhaps the biggest issue facing North American and European Vipers is the logistics of getting boats to/from Perth. To that end, a shipping and logistics task force has been created to help address this challenge.

KEY QUESTION: If you own a Viper and haven't yet answered our quick Australian logistics survey, please do so now by clicking [HERE](#).

In the meantime, for more information or to register online, click [HERE](#).

OK, while we're in a video mode, here's a bit of colorful commentary on the beautiful city of Perth, WA.



[Top](#)

OTHER ROAD TRIPS (LONG AND SHORT) FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

As always, there are enough of Viper regattas to fill the most avid sailor's schedule. Here are some you should consider attending...particularly if they're in your region:



April 8-9, [PRSC Albany Invitation Weekend](#) , Princess Royal Sailing Club, Albany WA



May 7, [SoPYC "The Worlds are Coming - Try a Viper,"](#) South of Perth Yacht Club, Applecross, Western Australia



May 20 - 21, [SBYC Skiff Fest 2017](#), Santa Barbara Yacht Club, Santa Barbara, California



May 20 - 21, [Tappan Zee Challenge - WLIS Cir. #1](#), Nyack Boat Club, Nyack, New York



May 21, SpPYC Solo Winter Development Series - Day 1, South of Perth Yacht Club, Applecross, Western Australia



May 27 - 28, [Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club Viper Regatta](#), Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club, Toronto, Ontario



May 27 - 28, [Larchmont Yacht Club Memorial Day Regatta](#), Larchmont Yacht Club, Larchmont, NY



May 27 - 28, [MRA Spring One-Design Regatta](#), Boston Yacht Club, Marblehead, MA

[Top](#)

Vertical rudders finally a reality #2

At the November 2016 AGM in Bermuda, the Class approved a retrofit for the Viper allowing the rudder to align vertically. This is being done to provide better steering and control in heavier conditions.

The Class Approved Viper vertical rudder adapter kits are available for pre-order at the Rondar parts website: [North American Orders](#) [Australian & European Orders](#)



The adapter kit includes a new rudder bracket to replace your current one (see photo below) plus an angled tiller so you can use your existing rudder.

Depending upon demand, Rondar expects to ship the first batch in early April.

As the vertical rudder orientation is expected to generate higher loads on the hardware, Rondar is only building the new gudgeon plates with 10mm bearings



for the stronger 10mm pintles. The upside is that these are a wearing part, so the smaller 8mm pintles would have to be replaced at some point anyway. Boats with sail numbers #224 and higher came with 10mm diameter rudder pintles and should order the "A kit" (\$160 / £120).

Boats with sail numbers up to and including #223 should order the "B kit" (\$320 / £214). This kit includes a pair of 10mm Seasure rudder pintles in addition to the gudgeon and tiller. Some boats may already have replaced their pintles, and therefore we recommend that you measure the pins on your rudder before ordering. If they measure just under 3/8ths of an inch in diameter, then you need to order Kit B, which includes two new pintles.

Installation instructions will be online soon at www.rondarboats.com/news

[Top](#)

Member Dues

All Viper owners should have received numerous notes to pay their 2017 Class Dues. If you haven't yet, please click on this link and sign-in to Wild Apricot using your e-mail address. [VIPER DUES](#)

[Top](#)

Questions or comments?

Have a something to share? Have a question or comment? How about a great Viper photo? Contact Viper 640 Class Administrator Ed "Buttons" Padin at epadin@padesta.com.

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Viper 640 Class Association Website: www.Viper640.org [Facebook](#) [Unsubscribe](#)