

Get ready for some Viper Road Trips!

Snake Bytes

March 15, 2017



International Viper 640
Class Association



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WORDS FROM A PREZ

Two great "destination" regattas in your future!

Steve Chapman, President, North America



I've just returned to my home in Alcove, Quebec after a week of wonderful sailing in Miami - both the EFG Winter Cup and Bacardi Miami Sailing Week. This is the first time my Viper has been "home" since last October. Since then it went to Bermuda, Sarasota, and Miami. That's thousands of miles of traveling--both driving and flying--and I've loved it. Great sailing, great people, and great destinations.

Photo: Steve Chapman with his daughter Krista and

Warren

Walhaug entering No Name Harbor for the Miami Scorch.

Not everyone can take the time to do every out-of-town Viper regatta, but there are two regattas coming up that will be Bucket List events:

The first is the **2017 Beacon Group Viper 640 North American Championship** being held in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida from October 24-28. It is hosted by the Ft. Walton Yacht Club and event chairs Craig and Deb Wilusz. I thought the 53 boats at Larchmont Yacht Club's 2015 NAs was impressive and the 41 last November in Bermuda was amazing...but there are already over 60 Vipers entered, making this the largest Viper regatta EVER! More info on this year's NA below. And the entry list is sure to grow in the coming months.

Of particular interest to me and some of my traveling Viper brethren is the **2018 Viper 640 World Championship** being hosted by the South of Perth Yacht Club in Western Australia from February 17-23. **Jon Stubbs** along with **Heather and Graeme Monkhouse** are co-event chairs and the arrangements they are making will ensure this is the one Viper regatta NOT TO BE MISSED!

I'm personally working with the Australians, Rondar's **Paul Young**, Viper sailor and container professional **Geoff Fargo**, and others to create the optimal ways to get boats to/from Perth from both the east and west coasts of North America as well as Europe.

I've had a great winter sailing down south, have a full summer's schedule of Vipering up here on the Great Lakes...but my eyes are also focused on Ft. Walton and Perth.

I encourage you to join me at these two amazing destination regattas,

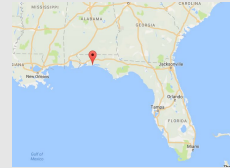
Steve

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2017 Beacon Group Viper 640 North American Championship

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

As Steve Chapman noted above, there are 63 entries as of press time for the 2017 NAs. After exceptional NAs in Larchmont and Bermuda, the momentum for Viper NAs continues to build. And, being held in the heart of the Gulf Yachting Association, there are currently 25 entries from GYA member clubs reflecting the amazing growth of the Viper Class in the Gulf region since being selected as the GYA's interclub boat.



Craig and Deb Wilusz have been living and breathing this regatta for over a year and recently announced that the Beacon Group of Portland, Maine, will be the Title Sponsor for the Championship. The Beacon Group is a pioneer in the world of growth strategy consulting. For over fifteen years, the firm has provided guidance to Fortune 500 corporations on their global organic and inorganic growth strategies and tactics.

The Beacon Group's founder, **Cliff Farrah** (right), is passionate about three things; his family, his company and sailing. "Top level One Design racing is what I seek, and the Viper 640 Class embodies the wonderful competition of world class professional and Corinthian racing, and a growing, thriving racing community. I'm particularly excited by the recent recognition as an International Class by World Sailing, the international governing body of the sport of sailing."

Now here's the best part of all this: Cliff Farrah is a sailor...having campaigned his J/109 Strategy for many seasons. He's also a member of Ft. Walton Yacht Club...and NOW a member of the International Viper 640 Class Association having recently purchased #134. Look for Cliff on the starting line at the NAs, welcome him to the Class, and thank him for his sponsorship support.



Joining the fun is the Emerald Coast tourism authority that is also helping support the NAs.

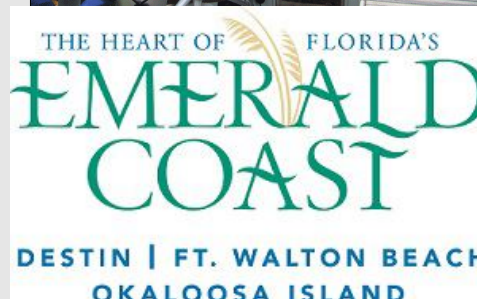
Information and online registration [HERE](#).

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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.

The South of Perth Yacht Club is located on the south side of the Swan River only 10 minutes from the centre of Perth in the suburb of Applecross, at its location on the man made peninsula of Coffee Point. The river surrounding the club peninsula is ideal to set courses close and within easy reach and viewing from the club – ideal for spectators and the media.



Perhaps the biggest issue facing North American and European Vipers is the logistics of getting boats to/from Perth. To that end, a task force is being created to help address this challenge. Leading the charge with the SoPYC crew is North American President Steve Chapman, builder Paul Young, California-based shipping container guru Geoff Fargo, and Governor Tim Carter. If you have expertise to lend to this conversation, please contact [Steve Chapman](#) ASAP.

KEY QUESTION: Part of sorting out the logistics of transporting Vipers to Perth is knowing how many boats would consider going...and from where. If you own a Viper, please click on this link and complete the short, [4-question survey](#) letting us know of your intentions vis-a-vis the Perth Worlds.

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

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And don't overlook:

April 21-23: Sperry Charleston Race Week

Amazing, historic venue. Great racing. Great city. Great shore-side parties. Great berthing at CofC. Totally great



regatta! Let's all go see what hospitality Charleston's Tom Loutrel can put on for us all again this year. Note to self: CRW is also sponsored by Goslings Rum so no need to be thirsty...ever!

11 Vipers currently registered and we're looking for more to join the fun!

Information and online registration on Yacht Scoring [HERE](#).

For a complete schedule of upcoming Viper regattas click [HERE](#).

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Regatta Results

Lawrence Crispin Wins Second EFG Winter Cup

Miami, March 6, 2017

Congratulations to **Lawrence and Luka Crispin** and **Hector Cisneros** for winning the EFG Winter Cup for the second consecutive year. After getting blown out Day 1 (lots of puffs into the 30s) and a two hour Day 2 delay, two races were run on Biscayne Bay. Ireland's **Anthony O'Leary** took the first race but had to miss the second race. **Deb and Craig Wilusz** finished second and **Nick Amendola** finished in third.

Thanks to **PRO Sharon Bourke** from Coral Reef Yacht Club and her team for getting off the races. It was "sporty" on the Bay.



[Results](#)

Bill Abbott wins 2017 Miami Scorch

March 7, 2017

Sailing with his wife **Joanne and Buttons Padin**, Sarnia, Ontario's **Bill Abbott** was the first of the "starters" to reach No Name Harbor for the Miami Scorch.

On Tuesday, March 7, the Viper fleet made its way to Key Biscayne's Boater's Grill in No Name Harbor for our annual Cuban luncheon. Six crews chose the traditional method of arriving at No Name Harbor...sailing...while others opted to drive. In all, 35 folks enjoyed the bright blue waters of the lagoon as they celebrated Viperdom.

The "second" race, started off the Coconut Grove channel by Scorch sponsor



Brad Boston of Doyle Boston Sailmakers, was a long port tack fetch in 10-14 knots of wind. A couple of short tacks at the end put you at the finish...the Boater's Grill. It should be noted that **Matt Harden's** Viper actually got there earlier due to an admin error resulting in conflicting start times (the first race!).

The story gets very interesting and colorful: [Read More](#)

Geoff Ewenson Dominates EFG Pan-American Championship and Bacardi Miami Sailing Week

Geoff Ewenson (Annapolis, MD), sailing with **Skip Dieball and Paul Abdullah** (bow 48), turned in a stunning performance last weekend in Miami. Even having to carry over the max "qualifier" points, Ewenson's team sailed well enough to enjoy enough of a lead on the fleet to take honors for both the Pan-Ams and Bacardi.



Also having a great regatta was **John Dane III** (Gulfport, MS) sailing with his son **Schaeffer** and regular crew **Dave Bolyard**. In third was Sarnia, ON's **Bill and Joanne Abbott** sailing with **Lee Shuckerow** on Lee's *Jackpot*.

Read more [HERE](#). Results [HERE](#).



When asked for his takeaway from sailing his third EFG Pan-Am Champs, former Finn, 505 and C&C 30 sailor Ewenson shared the following observation: "Apart from the obvious fun of simply sailing the boats, what makes the class great is the network of likable people who are all friendly and welcoming. This group mentality is what makes the class work. Competitive, but not to the point that it has a 'win at all costs' flavor to it. This is what separates the Viper Class to some of the others I have sailed in."

It should be noted that Geoff is the driving force behind the growing Viper 640 fleet in Annapolis. Keep up the great work and solid sailing, Geoff.

Jeff Grange Buckled Down to Win Arizona Yacht Club's 2017 Leukemia Cup Regatta

Rain and strong wind marked Arizona Yacht Club's 2017 Leukemia Cup-Birthday Regatta sailed March 17-19: Friday: Gorgeous. Saturday: Not so much. Sunday: Better, but who needs cold and rainy in the desert?

From the first race it was **Jeff Grange** (grey hat), sailing with his wife **Caroline** and fellow Santa Barbara, CA sailor **Mike Cooney** (blue hat) in charge of the podium.

For **Timbo Carter**, sailing with **Buttons Padin** and **Luce Sahali**, it was a neck-and-neck battle up to the final race for second against the host club's **Tony Chapman** sailing with **Peter Beardsley** and local **Jonathan Abel-Millman**.

Those who attended their first AYC LLC regatta finally learned what is meant by their "Mini Bar." (Below)

Lots of fun so [READ MORE](#).



Zeke Horowitz takes Sarasota Viper Winter Series



Zeke Horowitz (Annapolis, MD), sailing with Ian Coleman (Annapolis, MD) and Chris Klevan (Westerly, RI) won February's final segment of the Sarasota Sailing Squadron's Viper 640 Winter Series and, with that win, captured the Series title, too. The Sarasota Viper 640 Winter Series is a three-part event raced during weekends in December, January, and February. Twenty six Vipers were racing the final weekend and a total of 30 competed overall.

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A fond farewell to EFG

For the past six years, EFG International, a Swiss-based wealth management firm, has been the lead sponsor of the Viper 640 Class. Led during most of that time by Keith Gapp and, at the end by Andy McQuillin, EFG helped the Viper Class grow across North America, in Australia and Europe. The EFG Viper Pan-American Championship Series consisted of qualifying regattas around the world culminating with racing during Bacardi Miami Sailing Week hosted by EFG Miami's Kenia Naves Rocha.



EFG has recently merged with another bank and they are redirecting their marketing efforts...unfortunately moving away from their many sailing partnerships. We will miss not having EFG as a partner going forward, yet we thank them for all they have done for the Class in the past and we wish EFG International the very best for the future.

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Vertical rudders finally a reality

At the November 2016 AGM in Bermuda, the Class approved a retrofit for the Viper allowing the rudder to aligned 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 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 or higher came with 10mm diameter rudder pintles and should order the "A kit" (\$160 / £120).

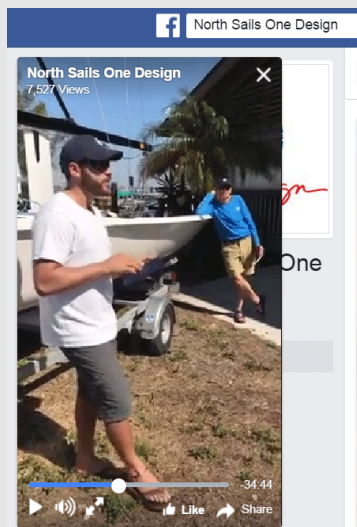
Boats with sail numbers up to and including #223 should order the "B kit" (\$320 / £214). This kit includes a pair of 10mm Seasure rudder pintles in addition to the gudgeon and tiller. Some boats may already have replaced their pintles, and therefore we recommend that you measure the pins on your rudder 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

Smarter Sailing Seminar

On the Friday before the final weekend of the Sarasota Viper Winter Series North One Design's **Zeke Horowitz** and **Ched Proctor** put on an informative and motivating briefing on Viper set-up and boat handling. You can watch the entire briefing [HERE](#) as North recorded the Facebook Live presentation.



BTW #1: There have been over 7,500 views of this seminar - Great Viper promotion...

BTW #2: Zeke went out that weekend and won the Sarasota Viper Winter Series !

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Keel "Bunk" Initiative

There have been a number of approaches to the best way to transport a Viper keel when



trailing distances. This topic recently popped-up on the Viper Forum and **Darren Gilbert**, **Dave Dougall**, and **Peter Beardsley** have been noodling the topic. They found photos of a keel "bunk" that **Luke Porter** developed that appears pretty slick.

Darren got a production quote of ~\$500 if ten are ordered. A number of Viperers have already stepped-up to order one and the opportunity exists for more sailors to get in on the process.



Go to the Forum and [READ MORE](#).

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Facebook Phenom

While in Miami for a day of practice racing and Day 1 of actual Bacardi Miami Sailing Week racing, Class Admin **Buttons Padin** was on the signal boat with his handy iphone. He took a slew of video covering finishes and gate roundings and then posted them to the Viper 640 Facebook page [HERE](#).

Buttons posted a total of 17 minutes of footage that received 6,300+ viewings. Now...if every viewer watched all of every video that would translate to over 235 hours of Facebook viewing. Looks like the Viper 640 Class has gone viral!

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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](#)

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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](#)