

It's time to do some warm weather sailing...

# ***Snake Bytes***

***January 25, 2017***

**Regattas Notices and more**

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## **WORDS FROM A PREZ**

**This edition we hear from Australia's Graeme Monkhouse, Regional President, Australasia.**

Summer sailing season in Sunny Australia. Warm (90' F) days with moderate to strong thermal breezes - reminds us why we sail.

Western Australia is waiting on the arrival of four new Vipers which will increase the fleet size to 16. All we have to do now is sell them to people who will sail regularly and let the experienced sailors win - at least for the first season. We are finalizing our submission to host the World Championships in February 2018. Perth is a bucket list sailing destination so pencil in 17-23 February 2018.



The next west coast regatta is Geopraphe Bay Race Week in February. This will be the first year that the Vipers

have participated and we expect five boats this year and more in following years. Travelling is an integral part of our sailing experience. New venues, new highs, new people, new Legends. Geographe Bay is centrally located from our two fleets (230 kms south from Perth and 330 kms northwest from Albany). It is a fantastic sailing venue and hosts approximately 100 keelboats annually in this famous wine and surf district.



We remain focused on increasing the size of our fleet. Simple equation:  
**More Sailing=More Fun=More Boats**

See you on the water,  
Graeme

## New Viper Lingo: VIB

The Viper International Board (now known on the street as the **VIB**) held its first conference call last Saturday via Skype with participants spanning the globe from Paul Young in the UK, an assortment of folks in Canada and the U.S., and Graeme Monkhouse in Perth, WA. Notes from this call are available to members on the Viper Forum [HERE](#).

If you don't have member access to the Forum, shoot a note to Buttons at [epadin@padesta.com](mailto:epadin@padesta.com).

## Upcoming Regattas – Time to confirm your plans!

### February:

#### Feb. 4-5 --Sarasota Sailing Squadron #3

This 3-part regatta continues to attract many of the Class' top sailors. There's still time to register and sail. Currently 31 boats registered so, hopefully, the fleet will be in the high-20s.



Information and registration [HERE](#).

#### Feb. 11-14 – Australia's Club Marine Geographe Bay Race Week

As noted in Graeme Monkhouse's Words from A Prez, Geographe Bay in Western Australia is a great venue for Viper Racing and will draw 640s from both Perth and Albany. Hosted by the Royal Perth Yacht Club, this is a "must do" event for all you WA Viper lads. There are only three Vipers currently registered...so



there's some hustling needed down under. Should be a great event with lots of fast boats on the water.

Information and registration [HERE](#).

## **Feb. 17-19 –Arizona Yacht Club's Leukemia Cup and Birthday Regatta**

Sailed on a beautiful

desert lake, 11 Vipers are already registered for this legendary shindig. Tony Chapman gets us all to support his Leukemia Cup fundraising efforts and he, with a tad of assistance from Timbo Carter, are promising a ton of fun in the sun. Even a couple of us east coasters have heard Tony's Siren Song and are winging west for the event. Hope there's enough Birthday cake!



Information and registration [HERE](#).

## **Feb. 25 –Hillary's Pot of Gold Race, Hillary's Yacht Club, WA**



These Aussies seem to be having a lot of fun sailing their Vipers in all manner of races this summer. The Pot of Gold Race to Hillary's commenced in 1994. It was an event created by HYC to encourage sailors throughout WA compete in a Regatta in Offshore, Inshore and Dinghies on

the same day with a presentation and celebration in the Clubhouse.

Information and registration [HERE](#).

## **March and April Big Regattas**

**Two of the legendary Viper get-togethers happen each March and April. Be There!**

### **March 4-11– It's time to be in Miami!**

**March 5-6 –EFG Winter Cup, US Sailing Center Miami, Coral Gables, FL**

It's time for all you Sarasota and Bacardi-bound Viper sailors to get registered for the EFG Winter Cup. This is the final Qualifier regatta for the 2016-17 EFG Viper Pan-American Championship as well as a good tune-up for the coming Bacardi. NoR is posted and online registration is available on Yacht Scoring [HERE](#).

### March 7 –The annual Miami Scorch

A fun-filled reach across Biscayne Bay to Key Biscayne's No Name Harbor and the gracious Boater's Grill. Fun day of informal sailing (bring your whole posse on the boat) and lots of Cuban food and muchas cervazas at your destination. Scenic, fun and flavorful. More info on the Scorch to come shortly.



### March 8-11- Bacardi Miami Sailing Week sponsored by EFG

Second biggest Viper regatta each year...only surpassed by the North Americans and International/World Championship. Sailed out of Coral Reef Yacht Club, home of one of the best water-side bars with the best piña coladas, there are already 21 Vipers registered and the fleet size is expected to approach 30. We have a bunch of GYA boats already registered...just need to get more of those southern boats to join the fun.



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

### 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! CRW has delivered some of the Viper Class' most memorable races and has already attracted an octet of Vipers with more to come. 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!



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

## Finding regattas in your neck of the woods



The crack Viper web team is in the process of recalibrating the Event search option on Viper640.org. You will soon be able to go to the Events page, click on the search function at the top left, click on your country and your region and you'll have it all. Next step: put those regattas on your calendar!

[Event search](#)



# Member Dues

A first 2017 invoice went out to all owners on New Year's Day. If you haven't updated your Viper Class Association yet, look for a reminder e-mail in the next few days.

## An Important Safety Tip!

That's one of my favorite movie quotes: Ghostbusters the boys are given a stern caution by Dr. Egon Spengler (Harold Ramis) as they are about to confront their first real ghost:



**Dr. Egon Spengler:** Whatever you do...don't cross the streams.

**Dr. Peter Venkman**(Bill Murray): Why?

**Spengler:** It would be bad...

**Venkman:** I'ma little fuzzy on this good/bad thing. How bad?

**Spengler:** Try to imagine all life as you know it stopping instantaneously and every molecule in your body exploding at the speed of light.

**Venkman**(tongue in cheek): Ok, that's bad...An Important Safety Tip!

Watch for yourself [HERE](#).

While I still get a chuckle out of that send-up, the concept of An Important Safety Tip rings true in many things sailing. The following are Two Important Safety Tips:

- **Secure you Viper to its trailer**  
EVERY time you put it away. As you can see from Zeke Horowitz's photo from Sarasota in January, when hit by a big breeze these boats will fly right off their trailer. A simple line across the stern securing the Viper to the trailer would have prevented this and (I can only imagine) countless other Viperflights. A bow line wouldn't hurt either...belt and suspenders as it were.
- Many of us also sail bigger boats...often in an ocean. While we don't focus **Safety-at-Sea** per se within the confines of our coastal Viper racing, in other parts of our sailing lives the SAS concept can mean making it back to the dock for another cold beer...or not. The Story Trysail Club has just made available for sailors everywhere it's excellent



Safety-at-Sea Video Library. For \$40 you get a lifetime subscription to the ever expanding video collection produced and narrated by STC member Gary Jobson (with the help of some STC Viper sailors). Man overboard recovery, storm sails, shipboard firefighting, weather, and more are covered in the 10-videos. You can get your subscription and share these videos with your crewmates or club members by clicking [HERE](#).

## 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](mailto:epadin@padesta.com).

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