



Snake Bytes

Viper 640 Class News | April 25, 2016



Zeke Horowitz leading North Sails Seminar before GYA Opening Regatta

IN THIS ISSUE

[Words from the Prez](#)

[Class Dues Reminder](#)

[Regatta Recap -Gulf Coast Champs/GYA Sportboat Champs](#)

[Santa Barbara Skiff Festival](#)

[Delta Ditch Run](#)

[Southern Bay Race Week](#)

[Larchmont YC Memorial Day Regatta](#)

[Bayview One-Design Regatta](#)

[Noroton YC Viper Open](#)

[Upcoming Regattas](#)

[Tips from the Middle: Sailing 4-up](#)

[The importance of Post Race Debriefs](#)

[Class Flags](#)

WORDS FROM THE PREZ

A summer shout out

Greetings from southern California where the Viper sailing season is in full swing. While we get to sail pretty much year round in SoCal, this is the time of year when schedules of Viper fleets across North America and Europe are in full swing (albeit our brethren down under may take off a few months).

Watching the Viper Forum (<http://forum.viper640.org>) I'm seeing activity in all the U.S. Viper hubs. Down here in SoCal we have **Timbo Carter** stirring the pot. In the Pacific

Northwest, **John Leyland** and **Garrett Johns** are promoting a full series of events in different locations luring some of us Californians to venture north. In the Great Lakes and eastern Canada, **Steve Chapman** is overseeing a schedule including Detroit, Chicago, and Canadian events. In the mid-Atlantic, the accelerating interest on the Chesapeake-both in Hampton and Annapolis-speaks volumes for the efforts of Viperers **Mark Wheeler**, **Steve Taylor**, and **Geoff Ewenson**.

Along the Gulf of Mexico, the GYA season is off and running with the Viper Gulf Coast Champs recently sailed as part of the GYA Opening Regatta at Fairhope (AL) YC. That 18-boat event was the first of many for Vipers in the coming months. Thanks to **Craig and Deb Wilusz** for running the show down south. Great sailing and their Gulf Performance Yachting is providing the GYA with great Viper service.

On Long Island Sound, where the Viper is particularly popular, Larchmont YC's **Peter Beardsley** has been working with the various club fleets to drive a full summer/fall of sailing leading up to the International Championship in November. Marblehead's **Cole Constantineau** is the driving force in the northeast and is rallying his troops for a number of area regattas later this summer. And, in Bermuda, it's **Doug DeCouto**, with the assist of **Somers Kempe** and **Butch Agnew**, who is priming his Viper fleet in preparation for the arrival of a 50+ boat fleet for the IC in November.

If you're not racing your Viper this summer, you've no one to blame but yourself. With tons of local, regional, national, and international events on the schedule, there's no reason not to be racing. Remember, having fun is why we race Vipers, going to regatta is how we do it.

Sail fast this summer,

Jimbo
Dr. Jim Sears
Viper 640 Class Association President

[Back to the Top](#)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2016 VIPER 640 CLASS ASSOCIATION DUES????

If you're racing in Viper regattas and haven't paid your 2016 dues yet, you're not playing by the book. Your Class Dues are due at the beginning of the year and they keep the Class operations going. Some of you, when paying your 2015 dues, opted for auto renewing your dues...which was great in concept and greatly appreciated...but PayPal auto renews them on the anniversary of your payment--not the beginning of the calendar year. We are in the process of correcting that. In the meantime, if you have NOT paid your 2016 dues, please do so today.

Simply pull out your credit card, take a deep breath, and click [HERE](#).

[Back to the Top](#)

REGATTA RECAPS

John Dane, Dave Bolyard, and Thomas Duffy win Viper 640 Gulf Coast Championship. Kevin Norland, Don Faircloth, and Buttons Padin win first GYA Sportboat Championship.



Thomas Duffy, John Dane, and Dave Bolyard with Gulf Coast Championship Trophy

OK, it's a bit confusing but the GYA Opening Regatta ran six races for the Vipers: the first five (without a drop) counted for the GYA Sportboat Champs and all six counted for the Viper GCC. The drop shuffled the scores. With that in mind, read on.

It was the first major Viper regatta since the Gulf Yachting Association selected the Viper as its new Capdevielle interclub boat (as of 2018)...and what a regatta it was. The details will follow, but the topline report is that **John Dane**, former Olympic Star sailor and relatively new to the Class, won the Gulf Coast Championship sailing with his regular Viper crew **Dave Bolyard** of Ullman Sails and young **Thomas Duffy**. The trio was representing Pass Christian Yacht Club in what was actually a dual event.

The racing was part of the GYA's Opening Regatta with a total of six races sailed over the two days.

[Read More](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Chris Parker, Jeff Grange and Mike Kuhney top Viper fleet in Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Yacht Club

May 14-15

Host club's **Chris Parker** with event chair **Jeff Grange** and **Mike Kuhney** won three of five races taking the event followed in second by Viper Governor and Alamitos Bay YC member **Tim Carter** sailing with **Jennifer Weisman** and **Steve**

Blowmeke. Arizona YC and Viper Treasurer **Tony Chapman**, sailing with **Luce Sushali** and **Paul Wojtczak** finished third. Timbo started strong, winning the first two heats, but Chris Parker's winning the three final ones made the difference.

Interestingly, after the first day the tables were turned with Timbo having recorded two bullets on Day 1 making it look easy. Guess that woke-up Jeff and his crew. Note to self: sometimes it's best to let sleeping giants lie!

[Results](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

Jeff Grange Wins 2016 SF Bay's Delta Ditch Run

Stockton Sailing Club

June 6

Most of us race Vipers on a one-design basis around the buoys. Others get to race their Vipers PHRF. Some of our California Viper brethren decided to race their Vipers on a distance race: the Delta Ditch. As background, the 25th annual Delta Ditch Run was sailed on June 6, starting in the San Francisco Bay and went up the Delta to finishes at the Stockton Sailing Club. In the past this event has attracted over 200 boats with racers from across the country showing up for this generally downwind sixty five mile race. **Sixty five miles in a Viper. Egad!** (Editor's note: I hate, hate, hate exclamation points...but this truly warranted one.)

This year three Vipers went the distance: **Jeff Grange**, **Chris Paulsen**, and **Olaf Bleck** finishing in that order.

Here's a recap from **Chris Ganne**:

From the start our initial plan was to stay in deep water and gain the assistance of the current. After watching a number of boats head left to fresh breeze and paying we decided to abandon plan and follow, spent all of our time in San Pablo Bay watching the other two Vipers walk away from us. As we entered the straits, we felt the right looked good and took the flyer and it paid well, gybed near shore and rode the next 10-15 minutes to the Benicia bridge at 13+ knots, as we came under the bridge we saw fresh breeze on left and nothing right.

[Read More](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

Mary and Geoff Ewenson win Southern Bay Race Week

Hampton (VA) Yacht Club

June 3-5

Hampton Yacht Club again ran a tremendous event with a dozen one-design and handicap class racing on the lower Chesapeake. After three days of tight racing in excellent conditions allowing 11 races, it was **Mary and Geoff Ewenson** aboard *Terminally Pretty* sailing 4-up with **Collin Kirby** from Annapolis and **Anna Patterson** from Hampton taking the Viper title. They recorded seven bullets in the six-boat fleet. In second, winning three heats, was **David Eberwine** sailing with **Henry, Barb, and Doug Amthor** aboard their Viper #227. In third were **Mark Wheeler, Kathy Wheeler, and Mike Gravitt** aboard *Vapor Trails*.

[Results](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

Zeke Horowitz, Ian Coleman, and Cat Pelo take LYC Memorial Day Regatta

Larchmont Yacht Club

May 28-29

15 Vipers sailed part or all of the Larchmont Yacht Club's annual Memorial Day weekend with five races in good conditions. Saturday ended up with planing conditions by the end of the day with a steadily building SSW breeze allowing for 3 races, and Sunday had more of the same with a slow build from the same direction for the final two heats.



LYC Cdre. Tim Porter, Zeke Horowitz, Cat Pelo, Ian Coleman, LYC RC Chair John May

Racing was close and a number of new teams made their debut. **Zeke Horowitz, Ian Coleman** and **Cat Pelo** showed good speed in new hull 253 to win the weekend, with **Ted Ferrarone** and **Cardwell Potts** winning the final race to take second place ahead of *Ghost Panda* with **Peter Beardsley** and **David Owen** in charge. Key is that there was a **great debrief** in the drysail area after sailing on Sunday, which the LYC fleet does regularly, so don't forget to stick around after racing each day.

[Results](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

Lee Shuckerow and crew take 2016 Bayview One-Design Regatta

Bayview Yacht Club

June 3-5

The Bayview ODR is a major mid-west regatta with over 225 boats sailing on Detroit's Lake St. Clair in 16 divisions. Within the 7-boat Viper fleet, it was **Lee Shuckerow, Eric Vigrass**, and **Mike Weber** sailing *Jackpot* that stood at the top of the podium when the

smoke cleared. They finished third in the first race and went on to deliver a picket fence score line of all 1s for the remaining eight races.

Solidly in second place was *First World Problem* being sailed by **Andrew Kiteley**, **Philip Kiteley**, and **Mike Vigrass**. The trio recorded all top-three places plus one fourth. Rounding out the winner was *Black Sheep* with **Darren Gilbert**, **Steve Gilbert**, and **Mark Miller** aboard placing second three times and third three times, too.

[Results](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Cardwell and Jennifer Potts, Ted Ferrarone, and Tori Porter claim top prize at Noroton Viper Open

Noroton Yacht Club

June 4-5

This two-day regatta was foreshortened when the wind failed to show up on Saturday. Must not have read the NoR. Sunday, however, there was enough wind to sail...and there was rain. Did I mention that it rained? Five races were sailed over six hours while the competitors withstood air temperatures in the low 60s and pouring rain. Did I say it was pouring rain?

In the end, it was **Cardwell Potts'** team at the top of the leaderboard with **Peter Beardsley/Luke Raymond/Lauren Turner** a close second and Viper Governor **Justin Scott** sailing his new boat with **Matt Jaykus** and **Paul Zinger**.

Hopefully, everyone has dried out by now.

[Results](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

UPCOMING REGATTAS

June 18-19 - Nepean One-Design Regatta - Nepean Sailing Club, Nepean, Ontario, Can. - NoR and information [HERE](#). .

June 18-19 - Windermere Regatta - Anacortes Yacht Club, Anacortes, WA, USA - Registration and information [HERE](#).

June 24-26 - Bacardi Newport Sailing Week sponsored by EFG - Newport Yacht Club, Newport, RI, USA - Registration and information [HERE](#)

June 24-26 - Long Beach Race Week - Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Long Beach, CA, USA - Registration and information [HERE](#)

July 2-8 - Cork Week - Royal Cork Yacht Club, Co. Cork, UK - Registration and information [HERE](#).

For information on regattas during July and beyond, click [HERE](#).

[Back to the Top](#)

TIPS FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE BOAT - Sailing Four-up and the importance of a Post-Race Debrief

The Double Date: Sailing Four-Up in a Viper 640

By Peter Beardsley, with contributions from Rachel Beardsley, Jay Rhame, Rachel Daugherty, Cole Constantineau, and others

The Viper is an excellent 3-person boat - plenty of good jobs to go around, plenty of space, and no need for a fourth set of hands for any maneuver. But at 2016 Charleston Race Week, five of the top six teams sailed with four crew. This was more of a coincidence than a trend, but it's worth noting some differences in how to sail a Viper when you decide to add a friend.



Cardwell Potts, Ted Ferrarone, Jennifer Potts, and Kendra Emhiser went 4-up for the 2015 NAs and finished third and were the top Corinthian team.

The only reason to sail 4-up is weight, or a lack thereof. While we've seen teams do well in various conditions sailing as light as 450 pounds combined and as heavy as almost 700 pounds combined, the sweet spot in a Viper seems to be between 520 and 580 pounds. So if you need to find a fourth person to hit that weight, consider doing so.

If adding a fourth person takes you a little bit over 600 pounds, that's ok, but if you're not in planing conditions, you will want to minimize boathandling, since you will need to sail a bit lower out of every tack to accelerate, and a bit higher out of every gybe. Unfortunately, there can be a big penalty for sailing above 600 pounds combined in "marginal planing conditions" where lighter teams are able to get on the step more quickly. If you find yourself in those conditions, sail the boat as flat and powered up as you can upwind, since you'll need all the lead you can get at the windward mark!

[Read More](#)



Peter Bauer's Wild Hogs has also opted to sail 4-up.

[Back to the Top](#)

The importance of a post-race debrief

One of the unique aspects of the Viper 640 Class culture is the desire for every sailor to spend more time than usual sharing his or her knowledge to improve the skills of the entire fleet. Any fleet is only as strong as the slowest sailor, and coaching from the bottom up to help the new guy get around the course faster ensures tighter racing for all and raises the level for the entire fleet. There are the top sailors who know all the tricks and win all the races; and there are those in the middle or at the bottom of the fleet with all the questions and few of the answers.

One way to raise the floor is to hold post-racing debriefs where the sailors that won for the day discuss boat set-up (what they did and why), course management and strategies that won, and why those decisions were made. By sharing what works...and, as importantly what doesn't...the skill level of the Viper class has been steadily improving.

These debriefs are particularly important for new members of the class. Where was your rig at the start of the day, and if you changed your rig setup, why? Where were your jib leads? Where did you have your crew weight upwind and down? Why do you choose one side of the course over the other? How much mainsheet and GNAV tension were you using? Etc., etc., etc. These debriefs tend to work best when you have a knowledgeable moderator prodding the boats who did well any given day with detailed questions to stimulate discussion, though everyone in the fleet should be encouraged to ask questions along the way.

We all have our own bits and pieces of Viper knowledge and it behooves us all to share that with our fellow Viperers.

[Back to the Top](#)

Viper 640 Class Flags for Race Committees

Your friendly Class Admin had printed a bunch of 2.5' x 2.5' Viper flags for use by Race Committees as starting flags. They are \$40 each. There are 14 left in inventory so contact Class Admin Buttons Padin (epadin@padesta.com) ASAP if you want one. First come first served.



Photo Beth Hill

[Back to the Top](#)

DO YOU HAVE A REGATTA COMING UP?

If so, send to Buttons Padin the following: Name of the event, location (host club), dates, a brief description of the event (promoting why someone should participate), and links to the NoR and online registration. Buttons will post on the website's Events listing and include in future newsletters. epadin@padesta.com

GOT GREAT VIPER PIX OR VIDEO?

If you do, we can use them on the Viper website or in future editions of Snake Bytes. Share your great images and video by sending the files to Buttons Padin at epadin@padesta.com.

DID YOU HAVE A REGATTA?

If so, send a recap of the event and a link to results to Buttons Padin and he'll post online and may include in a future newsletter. epadin@padesta.com

DATABASE CLEAN-UP

If you wish to be taken off the Viper 640 Class Association's database, please send an e-mail to Buttons Padin at epadin@padesta.com and simply put UNSUBSCRIBE on the subject line. If you're getting multiple copies of Snake Bytes, shoot Buttons a note and say **MULTIPLE COPIES**.



[Follow us on Facebook](#)
