

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

Snake Bytes

November 8, 2017

NAs Recap and more

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Marty McFly: Hey, Doc, we better back up. We don't have enough road to get up to 88.

Doc Brown: Great Scot, Marty! Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads.

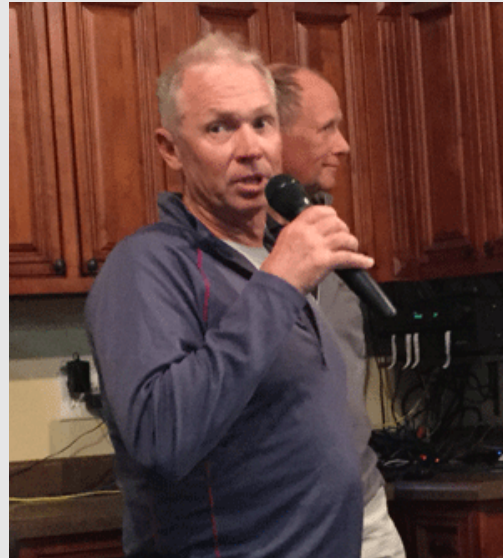
Petey Crawford's great B&W shot of the spinnaker from Great Scot sailed by Jay Rhame and Peter and Rachel Beardsley.

WORDS FROM TWO PREZS

2018 Viper 640 Worlds in Australia – It's Now or Never

The Class has arranged for Vipers to be shipped directly to and from South of Perth Yacht Club for the 2018 Worlds in February and there are still two slots to be filled. We have created a turn-key program where your Viper can be shipped round trip for under \$4,000...a great deal on shipping to a great regatta in a spectacular part of the sailing world.

If you're still on the fence, or if you think you can put together a syndicate with some of your buddies, please let us know NOW. As they say, we're down to the short strokes on this adventure's planning, and we want every Viper owner to have the opportunity to participate in this bucket list championship.



If you have any questions or want to discuss shipping your Viper to Australia, please contact [Steve Chapman](#) ASAP. For information on the Worlds or to register online, click [HERE](#).

Hopefully we'll see you in Perth in February,

Steve Chapman (right in pix)
North American Regional President

Graeme Monkhouse (left)
Australian Regional President

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MARCUS AND ANDREW EAGAN WITH JACKSON BENVENUTTI WIN BEACON GROUP VIPER 640 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPS

(creating the longest headline ever!)

Over the course of the four-day event, **Marcus Eagan**, sailing for Mississippi's Bay Waveland Yacht Club with his brother **Andrew** and **Jackson Benvenuti**, was locked in a four-way duel with **Tom Loutrel** (Charleston, SC), **Brad Boston** (Sarnia, ON), and **Zeke Horowitz** (Annapolis, MD). Going into the final race of the 11-race series, Loutrel still held a slim lead over the other three boats, but was OCS for a general recall under the Z Flag prep. This penalty dropped him to third (after a bullet in the last race), moved Brad into second,

and left Zeke one point off the podium, giving the win to Eagan. Full story [HERE](#).

Photo from left: Cliff Farrah, Craig Wilusz, Andrew Eagan, Jackson Benvenuti, Marcus Eagan, Steve Chapman

Eagan was sailing one of his GYA club's boats and this was only the third time he'd sailed a Viper. The multiple World Champion figured out the Viper quickly saying that he really likes the boat because it combines technical and physical racing with speed and performance. Similar comments were made across the crews from the 25 GYA boats competing, reflecting the

Association's complete embrace of the Viper and Viper sailors. Marcus went on to note, "What a great regatta this was and we're thrilled to have won. I really like sailing the Viper 640. It has great tuning capabilities and is physical enough to know you're really sailing. The competition in this Championship was excellent with great event management, stellar conditions, and wonderful people to compete against. I look forward to doing more Viper racing."

Full story [HERE](#).
[RESULTS](#)

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BEACON GROUP VIPER 640 NORTH AMERICANS – THE BACKSTORY

You have probably seen the real-time coverage of the **Beacon Group 2017 Viper 640 North American Championship** and grinned in admiration at what you saw presented by **Petey Crawford** from Penalty Box Productions. Great weather, great sailing, lots of boats...and one heck of a good time was had by all.

Ft. Walton Yacht Club had been planning this event for well over a year and their crack team of over 60 club volunteers allowed this largest ever Viper regatta to run like a Swiss watch. From welcoming the early arrivals on the first weekend and Sunday pre-event, to the staging of boats in the boat park, to convincing members to move their boats out of slips for the week so the Vipers could use them, Ft. Walton Yacht Club treated the class to a world class event wrapped in the arms of gracious southern hospitality.

In addition to the planning and volunteerism, FWYC member **Cliff Farrah** stepped-up with his [Beacon Group](#) to help underwrite the event. In addition, the Committee arranged attractively priced hotels and housing in the Emerald Coast neighborhood. Here on the Emerald Coast, there were



restaurants galore, friends old and new, nightlife within and outside the club every night. This event certainly exceeded the Viper Class' "Garage Band of Sailing" fun meter standards. Hey, what other class would task the skipper who was leading in the standings to referee a midget wrestling tournament?

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DEB AND CRAIG WILUSZ – SPECIAL THANKS



Photo: Gulf Performance Sailing's truck

Sailboat racing is hard. Anyone who is a sailboat racer will agree with that comment 110%. OK, but running a major regatta—like the 2017 Beacon Group Viper 640 North American Championship AND sailing in it, is even harder. Being an event chair for the largest regatta in your class's history AND racing in it AND pulling out a great race in tough conditions qualifies as a monumental accomplishment. On top of all that, they also had their Gulf Performance

Sailing trailer on-hand to supply all the bits and pieces (small and large) that kept the fleet on the water!

That's what **Craig and Deb Wilusz**, event chairs from the host Ft. Walton (FL) Yacht Club, did in the only race that was run on Day Two of the Championship. The Wilusz team, sailing with Canadian **Paul Currie** (Toronto, ON), put themselves ahead of almost all the competitors in a race that can be described as light, shifty, current affected, puffy, challenging, trying and a lot of fun, placing fifth in the 54-boat fleet.



When asked about the "moral victory," Craig commented, "All I did was look at the telltales. Deb and Paul got us around the racecourse. As for the event, it looks like everyone's having a really good time and it's beautiful October Florida weather. I'm looking forward to the next two days."

Great race, great event, great couple of Viper sailors, spectacular event co-chairs.

BTW, some "inside baseball" on Craig and Deb: they sailed multihulls together for years (see photo), recently sold their Hobie 30 after being a dominant factor in the class for years, and just recently bought a Viper 830 rocket ship that sits beside their Viper at FWYC keeping out a

watchful eye for its smaller sibling.



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SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT NAs

Many of us who sail in the Viper 640 Class grew up sailing. For us, boat handling, maneuvers, and general racing "smarts" are second nature. But what if you're an adult looking for something to do with your family and the Internet tells you that sailing is a great family activity. How do you start, what do you learn, and where do you go?

To start sailing, you need to join a yacht club, or so says the world wide interweb. Then you buy a boat. Then you need to learn how to sail it. That's exactly what Nitin Bawa did. Within the last 18 months, Nitin read all he could online about sailing, joined Ft. Walton Yacht Club, and bought not just a sailboat...but a Viper. To top that off, he raced his Viper in last month's NAs!

During the closing ceremonies of the North Americans, Nitin was recognized for what Class Administrator Buttons Padin called his "heroic" performance in the regatta. With that, Nitin received a rousing round of applause reflecting everyone's respect for the steep learning curve he climbed to be part of this Championship.

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ITS TIME CLASS RULES CHANGE PROPOSAL TIME

It's that time! Any proposed Viper 640 Class Rules changes are due to the Dave Nickerson, Chairman of the Technical Committee or your Regional President 90 days before the annual general meeting. The AGM is planned for in Perth on or about February 22, 2018, so any proposed changes need to be received by **November 21, 2017** adding a few days for the holidays during this period.

When reviewing any proposed change to the Class Rules, the Class asks: does it make the Viper:

- (a) Easier or more comfortable to sail,
- (b) Less expensive to own,
- (c) More fun,
- (d) A safer boat, or
- (e) Does it improve longevity?

Then they ask:

- (a) If it affects performance, can it be retrofitted to existing boats in a cost effective manner?
- (b) Will it be adopted by all boats?

(c) Does it accord with the Viper mission of providing a fast, exciting, fun, easy, contemporary, high performance, one-design sport boat that is accessible to a wide range of sailors?"

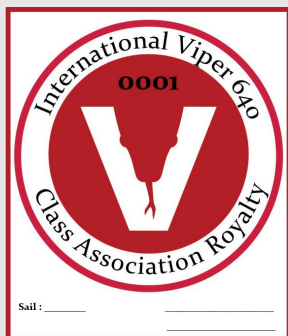
If you want to see an existing rule changed or add an entirely new rule, propose it! Suggest specific new language, justify the change per the preceding criteria, and be ready to sell it. Send your proposal to [Dave Nickerson](#) or your Regional President ([Steve Chapman](#), NA; [Graeme Monhkouse](#), Australia; [Ian Nicholson](#), Europe).

The specific Rule change process is in our Constitution. See section 8 for who does what, how the voting works, etc. It's a quick read. Any proposed change has to be supported initially by five current member/owners or someone on the exec or tech committee.

Questions or comments, contact [Dave Nickerson](#).

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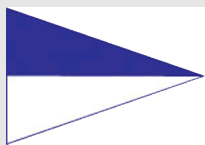
NEW SAIL ROYALTY PAYMENT COLLECTION PROCESS



The Class is implementing a new, two-part Sail Royalty Payment process **effective January 1, 2018**. This new process calls for sailmakers to attach a new Sail Royalty Sticker on each new sail, including the \$50 fee with the cost of the sail, and then the sailmaker remits the fees to the Class. The owner will still need to register the sails with the Class per Rule 7.8.2 Registration, and the Class will send the owner the **current rectangular sail registration sticker at no charge**.

Read more about the specifics of this new process [HERE](#).

UPCOMING REGATTAS



Turkey Day Regatta

November 18-19
Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
Register and information [HERE](#).



Sugar Bowl Race of Champions

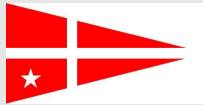
December 2-3
New Orleans Yacht Club
Register and information [HERE](#).



Sarasota Winter Viper Series

Three weekends of Viper racing out of the scenic Sarasota Sailing Squadron.
December 16-17, 2017
January 20-21, 2018

February 10-11, 2018
Register and information [HERE](#).



2018 Viper 640 World Championship

February 17-23, 2018

South of Perth Yacht Club, Perth, Western Australia

Register and information [HERE](#).

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TIP ON TRAILERING A VIPER – GO TOPLESS

When packing up the boats after the recent North Americans, a number of boats having to drive considerable distances put on their boat's bottom covers...but not the top covers. Why? Simply that driving on highways for hour after hour can destroy the top cover with it constantly flapping (think of a sail luffing). In due time, the top cover will start to tear and you're faced with either costly repairs or total replacement.

Take your top cover and fold it into a tight package and then tie it into the cockpit of your Viper along with your sails or other items that won't fit in the car. Spare lines or bungees can be used to secure all the items in the boat and, when you arrive at your home port, you'll have a top cover that's still in one piece and ready to be put back on your boat.

If you have other Viper tips to share with the Class, send them to [Buttons Padin](#) and they may appear in the next Snake Bytes.

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Photo Caption Contest



Submit your caption for this Petey Crawford photo to [HERE](#) and you may become famous!!!

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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](#)