

Lots of tips on Maintenance!

# *Snake Bytes*

*July 29, 2017*



International Viper 640  
Class Association



Jay Rhame's and Peter Beardsley's GREAT SCOTT! at the start of Larchmont Race Week's multi-class Around Execution Rocks Race. GREAT SCOTT! won on corrected time over the 46-boat fleet including 15 Vipers. Photo: Maureen Koeppel

## IN TODAY'S SNAKE BYTES:

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## WORDS FROM A PREZ

*"Summertime, and the livin' is easy..."* particularly when you have a Viper to jump on and go sailing every week! I love the summer when we hit the water every Tuesday evening for beer can racing and still get together in our region for Viper one-design regattas every month. I race PHRF every Tuesday and have fun trying to out-fox the local fleet. Getting out and supporting our club racing program is also part of how we promote the Viper locally. It also gives us the opportunity to pick up junior and youth sailors to crew, which has put a big grin on the face of everyone who has sailed with us, and added some depth to the pool of available Viper crew in the area.



The 2018 Viper World Championship in Perth, Australia is going to be a great regatta. It's an amazing vacation destination, so check out why this should be on your list of places to visit in 2018: <http://www.westernaustralia.com>. I hope Class members will take the opportunity to not only sail in a very beautiful city, but also enjoy the chance to visit an amazing part of the world (not to mention seeing a few kangaroo's, drinking some great wine and trying to understand Australian Rules Football....).

The North American Class is teaming up with Rondar Raceboats and with our colleagues in Australia to offer **a turn-key logistics package to North American owners who would like to ship their Viper to/from Perth for the Worlds**. Our plan is to stage the shipping from Ft. Walton immediately after the North Americans. The Aussies have bought four new boats which will be in Ft. Walton to compete. Our plan is to have North American boats and Aussie boats all staged from a warehouse in Ft. Walton, packed into containers supervised by Rondar using Rondar supplied shipping frames (which bolt on a trailer). They have lots of experience with this process. The boats will travel on an International Carnet, which means no customs issues in Australia or on return to the USA. We are still targeting **a budget under \$3,500 per boat for all costs from Ft. Walton and return**. To ensure we don't get dinged for extra costs, we are working on bids for an end-to-end service to move the boats as a group.

So check out the tourism info, chat with your crew, and make plans to attend the World Championships in Perth. [Registration](#) is open!

**Steve Chapman**

North American President  
Viper 640 Class Association

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## CALL FOR RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS

In years past, now has been the time when Viper owners would submit to the Technical Committee proposals to change or update the Class Rules. That timing was driven by the date of the Class's Annual General Meeting which had traditionally been held in the fall during the North American Championship.

While NOW is still the time to submit any rules change proposals, the International Constitution adopted at the 2016 AGM as part of becoming a World Sailing class still calls for regional AGMs, but shifts the timing of the international AGM (at which any rule changes are approved) to during the Worlds. With the Worlds scheduled for February 2018, the timing is later than usual.

Technical Committee Chairman Dave Nickerson is still looking to hear from Viper owners regarding thoughts on the Class rules. You can read how to propose a change to a Class rule in Section 11 of the Class Constitution [HERE](#) and can forward to Dave any suggestions you have by emailing him [HERE](#).

# VIPERER CONQUERS MT. EVEREST!

**Patrick Mauro** thrilled his Larchmont Yacht Club shipmates and other Viper sailors this past May as many of us followed in real time (largely thanks to Facebook) his expedition to the Himalayas to tackle the world's tallest mountain. We uninitiated were totally unaware of the preparation and training that must go into such a venture, and how long the actual ascent and descent of the mountain would take...and the obstacles that had to be overcome along the way. Pat was asked to share his thoughts on elite-level mountaineering as it relates to his having grown up as a sailor.

Here are Pat's thoughts on this adventure: [READ MORE](#)



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## UPCOMING REGATTAS

## Looking ahead to August:



August 5-13 – **Falmouth Week** [Registration and information](#)



August 5-6 – **YRA of Long Island Sound Championships** at American Yacht Club, Rye, NY [Registration and information](#)



August 12 – **Queen Mary Race 2017** – Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Long Beach, CA [Registration and information](#)



August 13 – **South of Perth Yacht Club Solo Winter Development Series** – Day 4 – Applecross, WA [Registration and information](#)



August 19-23 – **Torbay Royal Regatta** [Registration and information](#)



August 19-20 – **Viper Great Lakes Championship**, Sarnia Yacht Club, Point Edward, ON [Registration and information](#)



August 25-27 – **Ted Hood Regatta**, Boston, Corinthian, and Eastern Yacht Clubs, Marblehead, MA [Registration and information](#)

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## 2017 Beacon Group Viper 640 North American Championship Update

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

There are currently 74 entries for the 2017 NAs as of press time. Sure, a few will fall out, but there are indications we may have a fleet approaching 80 boats. **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.

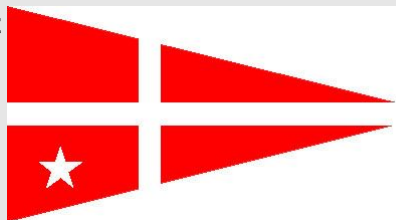
Information and online registration [HERE](#).



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## 2018 Viper 640 World Championship

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



Registration for the 2018 Viper 640 World Championship is now open and you can download information and register online [HERE](#). Since registration opened last week, 17 boats have registered.



Importantly, as Steve Chapman noted in his WORDS FROM THE PREZ, a shipping logistics package is being worked out to eliminate the headaches of you trying to get your boat to Perth on your own. Considering an all-in shipping price of under \$3,500 US and reports of round trip fares from the US and Canada for under \$1,000 US, this is a vacation trip and bucket list regatta you won't want to miss.

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.

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

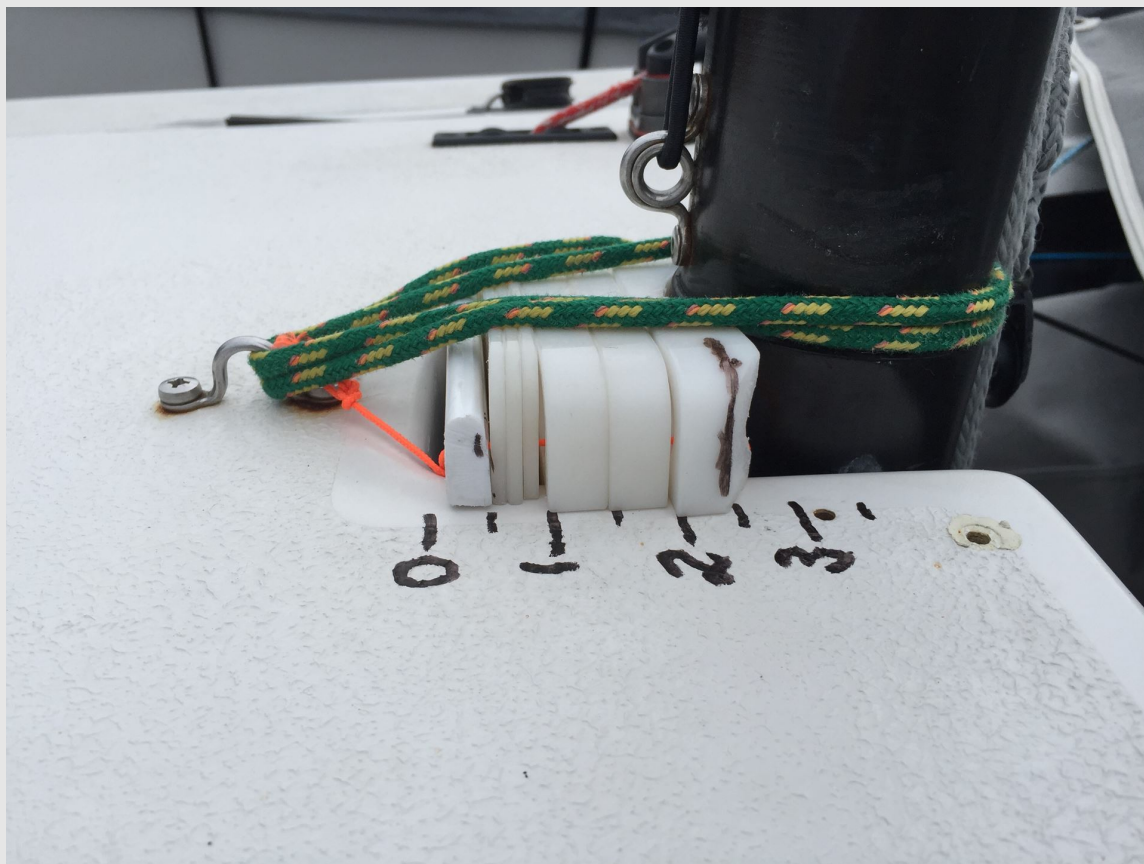
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## TECH TIPS

By Buttons Padin

## Hummm, just how many mast blocks do we have in...really?

As I travel around to different Viper regattas, I pick-up things that people have done to make their Vipering easier, more efficient, and more fun. One thing I saw at the GYA Meigs Regatta was how Viper 202 (formerly Michelle Lee's boat and now Kevin Northrop's and Ellis Ollinger's) had markings on the deck and the aftmost block with measurement marks simply drawn on the deck with a Sharpie. This probably isn't something she invented, I'd not seen it before and...well...maybe you haven't either.

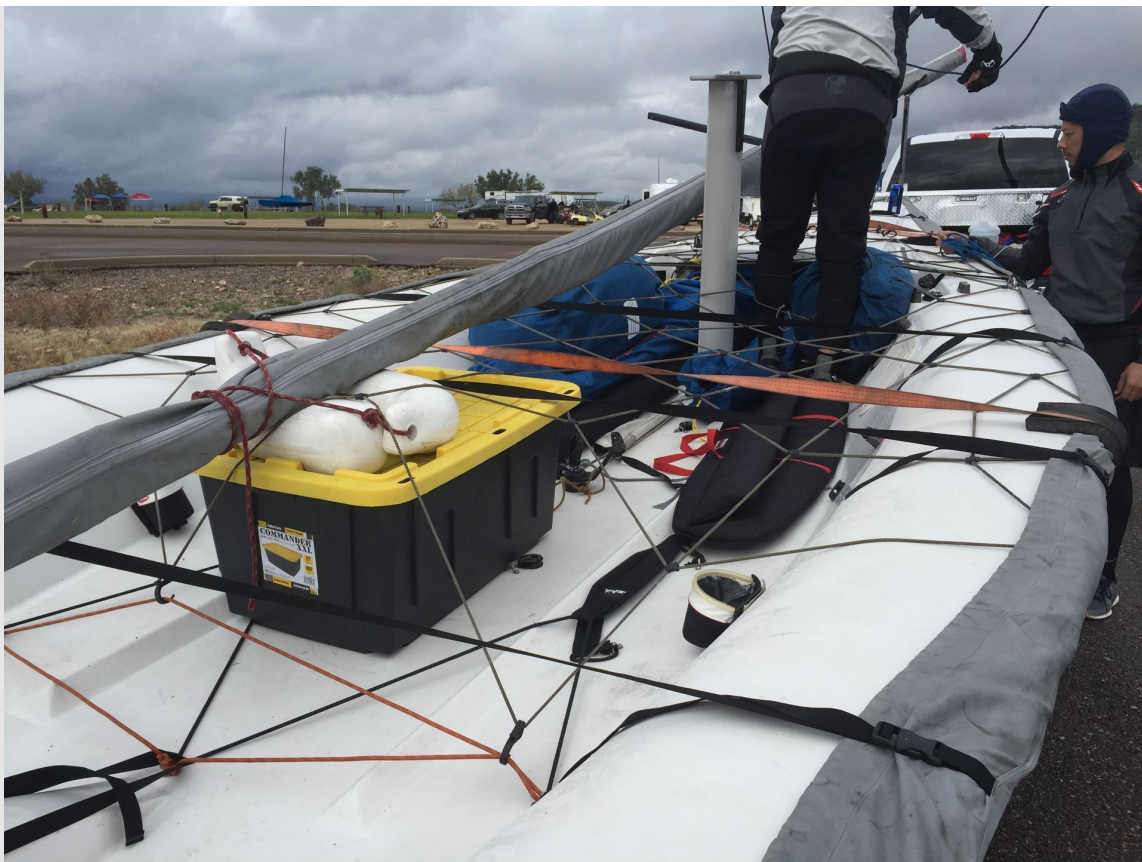


Another snappy solution to a trailering problem has been solved by Int'l. Governor Timbo Carter. If you've ever trailered your Viper any long distance with the top cover in place, you've seen how it can get ripped to shreds. The workaround is trailering without the cover on and tying in all the gear and stuff inside the boat. Timbo bought a large bungee web "thing" with hooks on all the

outside edges large enough to put over the entire cockpit of the Viper. Nothing blows away and your top cover is saved!







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## CLASS DUES AND SAIL BUTTONS

All Viper owners 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. Be advised that the permissions for the Viper Forum's Member Section are being reset as you read this and owners still owing dues will not have access to that information. Additionally, unless you've paid your Class membership dues, you can't compete as a skipper in Viper 640 Class regattas (which includes all major championships). [VIPER DUES](#)

As surprising as it is that some Viper owners postponing paying their Class dues is the fact that many owners also don't register their sails. To sail in ANY Viper regatta, your sails must have a Class sail button attached to them. It's part of the Class Rules and, if the NoR indicates you are sailing under the Class Rules, you are at risk of being protested. It's easy to get sail buttons...simply click [HERE](#).

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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](mailto:epadin@padesta.com).