

Hot Viper Regatta Schedule coming up!

Snake Bytes

March 6, 2019



International Viper 640
Class Association



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WORDS FROM A PREZ

Vipers in Miami – March 2019

Vipers have returned to Miami – and it's been sun and fun! After missing out on sailing in Miami in 2018, the Vipers have been invited back to race in the Bacardi Cup Invitational Regatta. Always the most generous of hosts, Bacardi will put on three days of racing, a welcome party Wednesday, and racing Thursday through Saturday March 6-9.

The warm-up for this event was simple – we came to Miami, tuned-up and raced the Winter Cup (Monday/Tuesday, March 4-5) and we're off on the Miami



Scorch today. We will make it fun, entertaining and instructive. Not to mention that great quantities of rum, ceviche, grilled fish and beer will be consumed in the 80° sunshine.

Our big thanks go to Rondar's **Dan Tucker** for helping out the Winter Cup as PRO.

MAJOR RUM SQUALL FORECAST FOR LONG BEACH AUGUST 17-24!



It's official...the upcoming Viper Worlds is now the 2019 Viper 640 World Championship **POWERED BY GOSLINGS**. Yes, **Viper Gov Timbo Carter** and his team out at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club just inked a deal with Goslings Rum to be the Championship's Presenting Sponsor. In fact the ink is still wet.

This means that the 2019 Worlds will have the gracious hospitality and flowing libations that we Viperers have repeatedly demonstrated we appreciate. This is the third Viper Worlds and the second Goslings has

participated in—we all remember the Dark 'n Stormies and rum punch in the old washing machine that "loosened-up" everyone in Bermuda.

Thank you, Goslings. So, if you've been on the fence about going to Long Beach for the Worlds there are no more excuses. Get more information about the Worlds and the SoCal vacation opportunities [HERE](#) and register online [HERE](#).

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REGATTA REPORTS

Miami, we're back!

Extremely close racing at the Viper 640 Winter Cup has officially kicked off the Viper 640 class' week-long 2019 Bacardi Cup Invitational Regatta. In the two-day series, 10 Vipers sailed in beautiful 80+ degree days in Biscayne Bay, the fleet managed light to moderate breezes and intense competition that saw the score sheet radically flipping and moving after every race. When the squall had passed through the course on the last race of the series, Jackpot/Northern Honey Badger, sailed by **Bill and Joanne Abbott** and **Scott McNeil** stood triumphant after dropping their DNC from the first race. The racing was extremely close—1st through 3rd were decided by 3 points, and 4th through 7th were decided by 2!



As the fleet gathered on the lawn of Coral Reef Yacht Club after racing, the story of the day was probably the small squall that passed through on the final race, ending race committee's (Dan Tucker and his daughter Dana) plans for a normal race. Just after the start, the rain clouds over South Miami started to bubble into something more substantial. By the 2nd upwind, the fleet was enjoying the refreshing shower from the small squall, which then promptly shut off the sea breeze and allowed the prevailing winds to take over, a 90+ degree wind shift. Boats that hoisted kites quickly took advantage, as did those that recognized the sea breeze was gone for the day and the southwesterly was there to stay. The topsy-turvy race was indicative of the overall series, with fleet positions flip flopping as the squall made its way through. It was a fun ending to the Winter Cup, that's to be sure.

The Class extends a special word of thanks to **Dan and Dana Tucker** for stepping in at the eleventh hour to run the regatta and this [video](#).

The fleet now looks forward to kicking off the famous Viper Scorch to Biscayne Key, and No Name Harbor, where a Cuban buffet awaits! Winds are looking perfect for the event, with 17 knot northerlies likely to provide a screaming reach across the bay. The main event, The Bacardi Cup Invitational Regatta, runs Thursday through Saturday, and promises to be as closely contested as the Winter Cup!

[RESULTS](#)

Eagan Brothers & Jackson Benvenuti Take Sarasota Viper Winter Series



The 2018-19 Sarasota Viper Winter Series wrapped up on Feb 10th with two epic days of sailing on Sarasota Bay. Seven races were sailed over the course of the weekend with three full planing condition races being sailed on Saturday with breeze that topped out with gusts close to 20 kts. Race one went to the always-quick **Zeke Horowitz** with races two and three being won by **Marcus Eagan** and crew on CAJUN UNDERWRITING.

[Read More](#)

[RESULTS](#)

Mike Hester wins Arizona Yacht Club's Birthday Regatta

Those that have never had the opportunity to sail in the AYC Birthday Regatta and Leukemia Cup are missing quite an experience. When sailing on the picturesque, man-made Lake Pleasant 40 minutes north of Phoenix, one is in awe of the mountains that edge the lake, the cacti on the hillside, and the wild burrows that graze the area. All that plus a zillion motor homes and half a zillion sailboats that are all ramp launched.



In the middle of this Phoenix Chamber of Commerce commercial...a regatta broke out! An even ten Viper 640s sailed ten races over three days (Feb. 8-10) with local sailors **Mike Hester** (center above), **Mike Blumberg**, and **John Mayall** won 5 heats to beat out **Tony Chapman**, **Buttons Padin**, and **Han Sergin** (3 bullets) by 7 points with Californians **James Baurley**, **Tucker Strasser**, **Julian Soto** and **Diana Bandziulyte** in third. [Read More](#)



[RESULTS](#)

Viper 640s take the Med by storm

The second event of the ONE Palma Viper 640 Winter Series took place over the weekend of February 16/17. Real Club Nautica Palma hosted the event as part of the Trofeo Noli Regatta, again there was 'wall to wall' sunshine.

Family teams were the order of the day including **GBR's Russell Peters** crewed by his daughter **Suzy & son Freddie**; **Tara Gillespie** sailing her fathers' boat with her mates; & two ESP Optimist sailors crewed by their parents.

Three races were held in light shifty conditions on Saturday, **Russell Peters** scored three firsts but they didn't get it all their own way. In race 3 they stole the win on the final downwind leg after they rocketed from 6th at the final windward mark. In fact, every boat had their moment of glory in the snakes & ladders conditions. Again, the club hosted a competitor BBQ after racing before the UK competitors went out 'on the town' to sample the local night life.



With some competitors feeling slightly dehydrated the following morning, they were pleased to relax on shore

until the wind filled in at 2:30pm. Two races were completed building to 9 knots. Team IBO.ES won both races but it was not enough to overhaul the Peters family from top spot overall. The team helmed by **Javier Chacartegui** a former J/80 World Champion took 2nd overall counting a run of seconds.

With more boats being delivered to Palma ready for the Princess Sofia next month, the future is looking good for Vipers in Europe. For more information on the series or chartering/ buying a Viper see <https://www.vipersailpalma.com/>

[RESULTS](#)

[PALMA VIPER VIDEO](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Helly Hansen San Diego NOOD

San Diego Yacht Club March 15-17

Always a great regatta in a stunning venue.

Information and registration [HERE](#).

South of Perth Yacht Club Short Course Regatta

March 17

Information on SoPYC [HERE](#).

HRH Princess Sofia

Royal Club Nautico De Palma **Trophy** , Palma de Mallorca Balearic Islands

March 29 - 31

[HERE](#) information .

Viper Atlantic Coast Championship during Charleston Race Week

April 12-14

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!

Need a place to store your Viper in Charleston after Miami, contact **Bill Wiggins** at 803-354-6973 or Bill.wiggins@thesailinginc.com.

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

Albany Autumn Regatta

Princess Royal Sailing Club Albany, WA

April 6-7

Information on Princess Royal Sailing Club [HERE](#).

Viper 640 Gulf Coast Championship

Pontchartrain Yacht Club, Mandeville, LA

April 27-28

Information and registration [HERE](#).

Viper New England Championship

Boston Yacht Club

June 29-30

[Regatta Information](#)

[Register here](#)

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VERTICAL RUDDER BRACKETS

If you haven't yet ordered your vertical rudder bracket, it is highly recommended that you do so now. If you expect to have one for the upcoming summer season it's really important that you place your order with Rondar. These are custom-fabricated parts that are very time-consuming to produce, and Rondar makes them in batches., In North America you can order your bracket on the [Rondar website](#). Contact **Tyler Moore** for delivery information at tyler@rondarboats.com .

Members are reminded that these are a mandatory upgrade by March 2020. For owners of Mark 1 and Rondar Mark II boats that still have small rudder towers the Technical Committee advises that the only upgrade path is to order a slanted rudder tower (copied from the Mark III) from Whitecap Composites (contact Ben at Ben@whitecapcomposites.com) and then fit this with the Rondar vertical tower upgrade.

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NEW VIPER JIB CONFIGURATION FROM NORTH SAILS

If you receive a Viper jib from North Sails in the future, chances are you'll notice something missing...the two bullet blocks on the clew. With the trend being to windward sheet the jib in light to moderate conditions, it was believed that the hard clew board distorted the shape of the sail to the detriment of performance. As such, North now has a soft shackle that will attach to blocks that you will purchase separately and have on your jib sheets. **Jackson Benvenuti** is writing an overview of this development that will be posted on the Viper Forum shortly.

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MEMBER DUES

All Viper owners should have received numerous notes to pay their 2019 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.

Ed Padin: Viper 640 Class Administrator, Office: 914-834-8286 Address: 18 Normandy Lane, New Rochelle, NY 10804

Viper 640 Class Association Website: www.Viper640.org [Facebook](#) [Unsubscribe](#)