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Lots of sailing to be done this year!

Snake Bytes

January 30, 2018

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WORDS FROM A PREZ

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

For those of you who don't know me well, I live in Alcove, Quebec, a small town just north of Ottawa in what we like to call *The Great White North!* To say the least, there hasn't been any sailing up here for months unless you like ice-boating or snow kiting as the lake behind my house is covered with ice.

All that's OK as I'll soon be flying to Australia for the Viper Worlds and looking for some great warm weather and spectacular competition. In the meantime, to help keep the cold away I like to plan my summer travel so I can see my Viper buddies and enjoy the best of our regional regattas. Like many Canadians, Florida is never far from my mind in winter either, so when I get home again in early March there's the Winter Cup in Sarasota, followed by Charleston Race Week and the Hampton Yacht Club Spring Regatta. There is lots of local support for the San Diego NOOD in March and the Annapolis NOOD in May. Many regional championship regattas are on the schedule this summer and best of all, our Canadian-hosted North Americans in July being sailed in Kingston, Ontario.

I'm putting these events on my calendar NOW because if I don't, there's a chance something else may pop-up before I've registered. I strongly encourage you to review the upcoming regattas listed below, visit the Events pages on the Website, and make the most of this year's Viperding. One last thought: regatta scheduling is like a windward mark rounding - it requires planning, communications with your crew, and the expectation of having a great time once you're roaring downwind.

See you on the water,



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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

Boats available for charter!

As of this writing, there are 26 Vipers registered from five countries and four continents including **Alex Schon** ...the first Viper owner in South Africa who is starting a fleet in his country. Airfares are still relatively cheap and the availability of affordable, race-ready Viper charters awaiting your arrival in Perth should make this a "What the heck, let's do it!" moment. To find out the latest information on the 2018 Viper 640 World Championship at South of Perth Yacht Club in Western Australia, click [HERE](#).



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It's Official - Viper 640 now the GYA's Capdevielle Boat

The Viper 640 International Class Association is thrilled that 2018 is finally here and that the Viper is now the Gulf Yachting Association's official Capdevielle Championship interclub boat. A dozen Capdevielle regattas are scheduled this year starting with Mardi Gras Championship over the March 17-18 weekend at New Orleans Yacht Club (link below).



The GYA held it's annual Winter Meeting at Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans during January and invited Viper Class Administrator **Buttons Padin** and Rondar Raceboats' **Dan Tucker** to attend and present an update on the Class, the boat, and Viperdom in general. The two were greeted with open arms and both left the meeting keenly enthusiastic about this and coming years' Viper sailing on the Gulf.

The Viper 640 Class would like to thank everyone who worked so hard on behalf of the Viper during this selection process.

Above: Padin drinks a Margarita out of the Capdevielle trophy celebrating Pass Christian Yacht Club's 2017 winning the cup. Rondar's Dan Tucker looks on in the background awaiting his turn!

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CLASS RULES VOTE

In the next 48 hours, Viper owners should be on the lookout for a message from Class Admin Buttons Padin sent via Survey Monkey. This link will be your chance to vote for or against the five proposed changes to the Viper Class Rules. One boat...one vote, and, only votes cast by owners who have paid their 2018 Class Dues will be included in the final tally. The results will be announced during the 2018 International Annual General Meeting during the Worlds in Perth.

Rules proposals:

1. **Tapered jib and spinnaker sheets**
2. **GNAV clarifications**
3. **Cunningham system clarifications**
4. **Headsail fibers to include Aramids**
5. **Compact strand upper shrouds**



Read more about these rules today in the Viper Forum's Member Section [HERE](#).

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Class Dues Reminder

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Officer and did NOT go through Wild Apricot, your auto-renewal payment process did not go into the system as intended. That is being corrected as 2018 dues are being received.

2. If you never paid your 2017 dues at all (an editorial aside: *shame on you!!*), you've probably never gone into Wild Apricot in the first place to set-up your registration profile. NOW is the time to do it. Click [HERE](#) and use your email address to enter after which you can set a password and pay your dues.

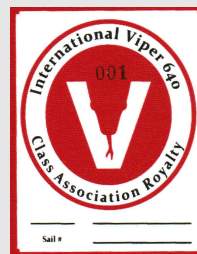
3. If you haven't paid your dues yet, here are some reasons why you should:

- Pays for role of administrator – who promotes the class and the regattas.
- Pays for the website
- Pays for insurance to protect class volunteers
- Pays for Snake Byte
- Pays for administration of class rules
- Pays for supervision of class Builder and Class sailmakers
- Preserves and Enhances the used value of our boats.
- Pays for membership of world sailing.
- Pays for maintaining the Viper 640 trademark
- Underwrites the hosts of the North American and World Championship
- Does not pay the Class Volunteers who devote hours of their time to running the class

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New Sail Royalty Stickers

The roll-out of the new Viper 640 Sail Royalty Sticker is going as planned as sailmakers around the world have pitched-in to make this transition a smooth process. For those that missed the earlier announcement: starting January 1, 2018, the \$55US royalty fee previously paid directly to the Class by owners for each Viper sail purchased will be collected upfront by the sailmaker. That fee will be included in your invoice for the sail and the sailmaker will remit that directly to the Class. You will still need to request from the Class the "old" Sail Registration Sticker, so we can monitor one set of sails per year; but they will now be sent to you at no charge!



At right - the new Sail Royalty Sticker on the top and the continuing Sail Registration Sticker below.

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Regatta results

Western Australia Viper 640 State Championship

December 10-11, 2017
South of Perth Yacht Club



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The Western Australian State titles were a lead-up to the forthcoming Viper 640 World Championship in February. The format was changed to late afternoon racing followed by morning racing to hopefully get a good sea breeze and then the lighter easterly in the morning.

Of course, the breeze didn't do as expected. The sea breeze didn't fill in and it was 12 knots and dropping for the afternoon races.

The first race was won by **Rod Beurteaux** in *You Get in the Bowl*. The left side was favored, and continued to be favored for all the races. Boats that went hard left led at the top mark and generally finished in the top places. Those that were forced or chose a step to the right, and then waited that extra 100m for that bit more wind to tack back in..... failed. Consistent results meant a good points lead for the two tied leaders - **Graeme Monkhouse** and **John Park** at the end of Day 1.



Eventual winners **Heather and Graeme Monkhouse** (center)

[Read more.](#)

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Rumble in the Reach 2018

January 20, 2018 East Fremantle Yacht Club

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Another Rumble done and dusted. Sailed on the short course in front of Western Australia's East Fremantle Yacht Club, the racing provided plenty of action for the spectators as the wind was a pleasant 12 to 15 knots. This was a one-day, multi-class regatta where three pursuit races were scheduled applying handicaps to the 21 sports boats in attendance.

Commentary from Sports Radio Station, 91.3 Sport FM, brought sailing fans live commentary from Yacht Club balcony. The public were invited to join with members on the balcony of the yacht club which provided a stadium to view the thrills of close quarter racing over the 600 meter course.

"The Reach" is a narrow stretch of water affectionately known as "The Drainpipe" due to its narrow funneling nature.



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Rumble winner Nick Jerwood and crew "on the podium."

Read More and great photos [HERE](#).

Sarasota Winter Viper Circuit #2 – Houston YC's Pat Gibson takes light air weekend

January 20-21, 2018
Sarasota Sailing Squadron

After several years of good fortune with wind, the 2017-18 Sarasota Viper Winter Series has had a tougher start. The December event was skunked on Saturday but managed 4 light air races on Sunday, and January's event was a near carbon copy of December. Despite great breeze for a **Brad Boston**-led clinic on Friday, Saturday's wind never materialized long enough to get in a race, and Sunday saw two races in light and tricky conditions.

In Race 1, **Ken Kleinschrodt** and family from Buccaneer YC in Mobile, Alabama, led nearly wire-to-wire, while **Jay Rhame** and **Peter Beardsley** found enough passing lanes in the thin puffs to go from 20th at the first mark to 2nd at the finish. **Pat Gibson** ended up on the right side of a 5-boat melee at the finish to place third in a scrum that would prove crucial to determining the podium spots.



PRO **Ron Pletsch** with **Pat Gibson**, **Layla Gale Gibson**, and **Jeff Jones** from Houston Yacht Club

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Upcoming regattas

FEBRUARY 2018

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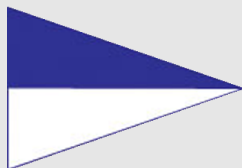
February 10-11 – Sarasota Winter Circuit #3, Sarasota Sailing Squadron, Sarasota, FL



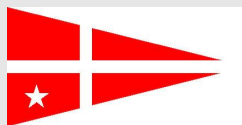
February 17 – 19 - Arizona Yacht Club Birthday Regatta and Leukemia Cup , Arizona Yacht Club, Lake Pleasant, AZ



February 17 – 18 - Mardi Gras Race Week #1 - Presented by Gulf Coast Bank and Trust Company - New Orleans Yacht Club, New Orleans, LA

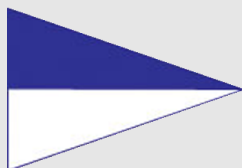


February 17 – 18 - SCYA Midwinters - Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Long Beach, CA



February 17 – 23 - 2018 Viper 640 World Championship - Perth, Australia - South of Perth Yacht Club, Applecross, WA

Looking ahead



March 03 – 04 - SCYA Manning Regatta - Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Long Beach, CA



March 16 – 18 - San Diego NOOD - Southwest Circuit #1 - Coronado Yacht Club, Coronado, CA



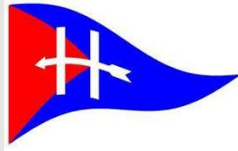
March 16 – 18 - Viper Winter Cup - Part of Sarasota One-Design Mid-Winters - Sarasota Sailing Squadron, Sarasota, FL

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March 17 – 18 - Mardi Gras Race Week #2 - Presented by Gulf Coast Bank and Trust Company - New Orleans Yacht Club, New Orleans, LA



April 12 – 15 - Charleston Race Week - Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina, Mt. Pleasant, SC



April 21 – 22 - Hampton Yacht Club Spring Regatta - Hampton Yacht Club, Hampton, VA

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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](#)