



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

4737 Adams Road, Chattanooga TN 37343 (423)875-0740 Fax (423)875-4011

www.optistuff.com

ISSUE 14

2008 SPRING NEWS LETTER

NEW RACE RESULTS

Here is a great shot of Esteban Echavarria sailing to a third place finish in the 2008 Columbian Nationals with his new McLaughlin Optimist hull.



2008 results are impressive! Check out the last page for Team McLaughlin results.

3rd ANNUAL GEAR & OPTIMIST SWAP

THIS WEEKEND AT SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB

This Saturday, March 1, from 9 am – noon Southern Yacht Club will host the 3rd annual gear and Opti swap. This is a great opportunity to recycle boats and gear you'll never use again. For the buyer this Opti yard sale is a one-day chance to pick up boats and gear for the 2008 season at great prices. McLaughlin's very own Spencer Wiberley will be on hand to help answer any questions you may have. He will also have refurbished trade-ins, charter and new boats. There will be demo-racing sails, foils, spars and other sailing gear at bargain prices. Too expensive for your pocket book? MAKE AN OFFER! No one wants to take gear home. For more information contact Spencer or Shan Kirk.



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TURN YOUR AIR BAGS – STOP LEAKS



BAD



GOOD

Ever have a good air bag mysteriously leak after arriving at a regatta? After 20 years we've discovered that the stern air bag if over filled pushes it's self against the stern corner lip. On a long road trip the vibration can prematurely wear the air bag. This occurs even if the lip is perfectly smooth. We have also found that turning the air bag 45 degrees, so the filler stem is directly on top, eliminates the problem entirely.

UPCOMING CHARTERS

National and Development Team practices before Team Trials

Team Trials, Annapolis YC MD, April 25 – 27

Great Plains Regatta, Ft Worth TX, June 14 - 15

Scotia Bank Clinic and Regatta, St. Thomas VI, June 16 – 29

US National Team Race, Bell Port LI NY, July 19 – 20

Women's Nationals, Patchogue LI NY, July 23

US National Champs, Patchogue LI NY, July 24 – 27

Canadian National Championships

USODA West Coast Regatta, Columbia River Gorge August 8 – 9

USODA South Eastern Champs, Privateer YC, Chattanooga TN October 4 – 5

USODA Atlantic Coast Regatta, Brant Beach YC, Brant Beach, NJ October 11 - 12

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER 4 & 5

WHY? LOOK BELOW!



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We would like to bring to your special attention; McLaughlin's home club will be hosting the USODA South Eastern Championships Oct 4 – 5. This will be an opportunity to tour our factory and see one of the countries most youth oriented cities. The entire McLaughlin staff will be involved helping Privateer YC host this event. All details will soon be posted at <http://www.privateeryachtclub.org/> OH YEAH! It is a beautiful place to sail.

PREPARATION FOR THE NEW 08 RACE SEASON

Last Saturday we were at the LISOT in Sarasota, FL. We noticed several boats that unless they received attention soon would have unexpected breakdown and or expensive repairs. Here's a short list of items we recommend checking to prevent early season breakdowns.

- 1. Hiking Straps: Are they in good shape and secure?**
- 2. Mast step: Are the screws tight, welds intact, adjustment screw not bent upward?**
- 3. Air Bags: Will they hold air?**
- 4. Bailers: Most racers use two.**
- 5. Tiller extension joint becomes brittle: Bend over and check for cracks.**
- 6. Bungee - Shock Cord: Has it lost its elasticity?**
- 7. Deck Collar: It should not move around, be cracked and the screws should be tight**
- 8. Rudder Bottom Pintle: Check the weld area for cracking. It fails before the top one**
- 9. Check the bowline for knots and wear. This is the time to order a new one!**
- 10. Worn Lines such as: Boom vang, Main Sheet, Mast preventor, bridle**
- 11. Sail and Corner Ties: Are they worn? Do you have plenty?**
- 12. Spars: Is there water in them? Is the bottom plug worn? Check the sprite halyard**
- 13. Do you have the proper clothing if you plan to sail in cold waters?**
- 14. Where is the Wind indicator? You can not rig a racing sail without one**
- 15. Are there gelcoat chips showing glass. How to repair Fiberglass and gelcoat can be found under FAQ's on the Optistuff.com web site.**

Give Steve, Mike, Spencer, David or the real boss Alisa a call with any other questions.



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2008 OPTIPARTS CATALOG AVAILABLE

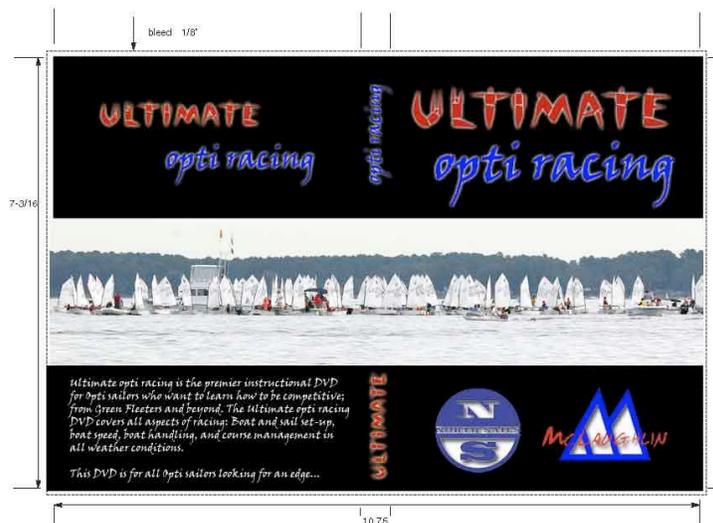
New 2008 catalogs and price sheets are available: See your nearest dealer, Send Alisa an email alisa@optistuff.com, call 800 784 6478, or ask for one on our web site. The entire Catalog, in color, can also be printed direct from our home page.

Sailors For Life

In a recent survey it was found that 85% of the learn to sail sailors do so before the age of 10 years old. About that same percentage learn to sail in the Optimist. Did you know that with every Olympics being held the number of Olympic Champions who started in Optimist grows larger and larger? In Qingdao China this summer it is estimated the percentage will be near 70%. We have Clark Mill, the designer and the Clearwater International Optimist Club to thank for our wonderful little boat.

T2P ULTIMATE OPTI RACING DVD

By clicking on the album cover shown on the home page of our web site you can watch a segment of this new DVD developed by [T2P](#) Productions. Two years in the making, this is one of the most complete encyclopedias on racing an Optimist or almost any boat for that matter. We have watched it several times and are still learning important lessons. It covers preparation from physical training to race day preparedness. Starting, race strategy, rigging, tuning and even thanking the race committee are cover. It really is a complete guide. Most Optiparts dealers have the DVD in stock or it can be ordered on line



at www.optistuff.com



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GOOD LUCK TO TEAM USA IN HOLLAND AND LAKE GARDA, ITALY

OPPI TRAINER



Check out McLaughlin's new Roto molded Oppi trainer at <http://www.optistuff.com/info/boats-oppi.html> This is a very durable boat for learn to sail programs. They cost much less than an Optimist and are simple to rig. The boom is higher. Also, if you already have Opti sail and rigs they will fit the Oppi. Even the foils are interchangeable. Call Spencer at the office 800 784 6478

RACING WATCH NOW BY CASIO

Optiparts has added new functions to its popular racing watch.

- Sync: If you don't start the watch exactly on time at the Preparatory signal just press the start button again at the next signal. The watch automatically corrects it self.
- Extremely popular and used by many Olympic Sailors
- Casio is now making the watch
- It is water resistant to 100 meters.
- ABS case with Stainless cover
- Day, Time, Date 12 or 24 hour format
- Audible starting signal
- Dual Alarm Clocks
- Backlight
- Elapse time after start counter
- **EX 3018 \$57, EX 3015 \$39**



When I capsize I always drop to 100 meters! DON'T YOU?



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RIBS

McLaughlin still has 4 of the RIBs with 40 HP engines left from the NA's. These range in price from \$6500 to \$9600 and are located here at the factory and at dealers from San Francisco to the east coast. Send us an e-mail and we can send you all the details and photographs.



SALTY SISTERS OF ST. PETE YC



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On Feb 20, 2008 McLaughlin helped “The Salty Sisters” christen their new fleet of McLaughlin Racing Opti’s. This group of women is an organization 50 plus years old. There are over 250 women members. Once a week they get together at the St. Pete Sailing Center and race Opti’s. No kidding we watched over 20 boats on a starting line. Some active members are in there 70’s. “Don’t worry you won’t have to race against them in any USODA Regattas!”

OTHER TEAM McLAUGHLIN FINISHES OF NOTE

Chris Steele, NZ the **2007 World Champion** qualified in his new McLaughlin
Colombia Cup National Champs: 1st place Girls Elisa Echavarria, 2 nd place over all, Daniel Galvis, 1 st in Juniors, Laura Velásquez

Valentines Regatta: ST Pete: Alejandro Ruiz-Ramon 1st. McLaughlin’s 17 of the top 20

Boomerang LYC: Chanel Miller 1 st. Top 5 boats all McLaughlin’s

Orange Bowl Champs Antoine Screve 1 st. McLaughlin’s finished 9 of top 10

Orange Bowl Champs Green Fleet Ian MacDiarmid 1 st.

Team FOR A wins the **USODA Midwinter Team Racing Championship**. Alex Ruiz-Ramon, Graham Landy, Susanne Spoto, Cameron Purton and Samantha Purton comprised Team FOR A. In second place, LISOT 1 with team members Declan Whitmyer, Olivia Crane, Evan Read, and Andrew Mollerus. 4 out of 5 were McLaughlin’s
Send us your great performances and we will put them up on the results page of our web site: www.optistuff.com/documents/Web%20Racing%20Results.pdf

DID WE TELL YOU McLAUGHLIN’S HOME CLUB IS HOSTING USODA’S SOUTH EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS OCT 4 & 5 Th?