



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

NEWS LETTER MAY 2005 EDITION # 1

2005 TEAM TRIALS – Tough Competition & Big Air

This years trials started out with light air and cancelled races. But the old weatherman had other plans. Most races were sailed in 16 to 25 knots of wind. Capsizes and breakdowns were common. There were 182 skippers. Severn Sailing Association handled race committee and on shore activities brilliantly. Tom Hale introduced a self-sign off honor system for measurement that cut measurement time all most in half. But beware if you sign off that a part of your boat has the round measurement sticker and it does not, you most likely will be protested and receive a penalty. Here are the teams that will represent the United States in international competition for 2005.

Flanders

Deidre Lambert, Kelly McGlynn, Lauren Turner, Corey Hall, Ian Holtzworth, Matt Wefer, Michael Popp
Trey Lehan, Louis Padnos, Bryan Stout, Gordon Wolcott, Gregory Dair, Jordan Factor
Patrick Mignon, Jack Swikart

Denmark

Steph Hudson, Liv Gunnarsson, Marissa Lihan, Matt Graham, Blake Cabassa, Michael Zonnenburg
Antoine Screve, Cam Hall, Luke Adams, Alex Fox

Worlds

Justin Doane, Sean Moynahan, Eliza Richartz, Will Haeger, Mike Russom

European's

Andrew Sommer, Emily Dellenbaugh, Alex Sachs, Claire Dennis

North American's

Justin Doane, Sean Moynahan, Eliza Richartz, Will Haeger, Mike Russom, Colin Smith
Anne Haeger, Harry Scott, Taylor Lutz, Patrick Bryan, Mateo Vargas, James Pottharst
Bo McClatchy, Max Lopez, Mary Kate Hall, Brendan Ross, Pierson Potts, Jessica Silva
David Liebenburg, Brendan Boylan, Grady Timmons, Billy Hluchan, Phillip Norris, Ian Liberty, Matt
Zupon, Jason Kuebel, Nick Johnstone, Geoff Craze, Alex Takata, Melany Johnson

Coaches

The United States is fortunate to have so many great coaches that can attend these events:
Optimist North American Championship Eric Bardes, Kyle Shattuck & Parry Barclay

Optimist World Championship Kyle Shattuck
Optimist European Championship Scott Norman

Flanders Youth Regatta Amy Gross-Kehoe & John Vandemoer

Denmark Nationals Todd Fedyszyn



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SPRING CLEANING FOR YOUR OPTI – WHAT TO INSPECT BEFORE THE SEASON

It's time to check over your equipment and get it ready for a new summer of racing. Here is a checklist of parts that tend to wear out and cause breakdowns:

- The tiller extension universal joint and screws holding the tiller to the rudder head
- The welds on the mast step screw and cup to bottom slide plate
- Bailing buckets for cracks
- Bridle rope and preventor
- Sprit blocks and wire
- Hiking straps and the adjustment line for wear
- Weld on the bottom rudder pintle pin
- Vang wire and where it attaches to the boom
- Outhaul line
- If the mast is old check for oxidation around the cleats and preventor pin
- Cracking of the mast collar
- That the sprit ends are not coming loose
- That the main Sheet is not wearing out (Don't forget it can be turned end for end for new life)
- Sail and corner ties
- Flotation Bags for wear and leaks
- Centerboard protection tape and rubber inserts

OPTISAILORS PRO RACER - *The most technologically advanced Optimist in the World!*

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THE CLEAR TRANSDOM HULL IS ALL THE RAGE IN OPTI CIRCLES THESE DAYS... So how do you get one of these clear transom boats? They come as an option on the new 2005 Optisailors Pro Racer package. The see through transom is clearly not the real surprise though. There are **OVER 11 EXCLUSIVE RIGGING INNOVATIONS** to help keep you in front. A specially built super stiff hull with optimal weight distribution, laser aligned appendages, one-handed daggerboard adjustment system, and a double tapered mainsheet, to name a few.

All the details of the Optisailors Pro Racer hull, with photographs can be seen at:

<http://www.optistuff.com/info/Optisailors>

Engineered for speed!



Now if you see one of these clear transom boats, make sure you check out what is inside.



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This photo is used with permission of Dave Dunigan. See all the team trial pictures at www.davedunigan.com

2005 CHARTER SCHEDULE

Time to start planning for away Regattas. McLaughlin is ready to help make your regatta experience as simple and rewarding as possible. We now provide the new Optiparts dolly with the "Bow Wow" boat lock along with a top cover, blade bag, new rule epoxy foils, choice of spars and our new 2005 racing hull. If you have special requirements just give us a call:

National Team Practice, Little Egg Harbor, June 8 - 12

Great Plains Championships and Clinic June 9 - 12

Scotia Bank Regatta and Clinic, **St Thomas** June 14 - 19,

Mid West Championships and Clinic, Sandusky, Oh June 17 - 19,

Pacific Coast Championships **San Francisco**, June 18 - 19,

Norfolk **US Nationals** July 24 - 29

There is a complete list of Regattas we will attend along with an easy to submit Regatta form on our web site www.optistuff.com/info/charter.

McLaughlin will be sponsoring clinics at all of these events. If you are a green fleet sailor try to attend one of the clinics that Tom and Tommy Coleman will be presenting. It will be one of the most rewarding weekends you have had since starting to sail. Even a novice will gain from the experience.

THE LATEST IN OPTI GEAR

Available from your Optiparts dealer or our on line store www.optistuff.com. If you need an Optiparts colored catalog there is a quick order system on the web. It's free!



Double tapered Mainsheet

This mainsheet is spliced so that it smoothly goes from ¼ inch diameter to 3/8 inch and then back to ¼ inch. Optimist sailors need a thick easy to grasp mainsheet upwind but they want a light free responsive one down wind. Our double tapered mainsheet solves this problem. In addition sewn to one end is our miniature stainless snap shackle. By letting the snap shackle loose from the bridle it dead ends in the forward block converting the system from 3 to 1 to 2 to 1. In light air this reduces the length of line necessary to pull in the boom by 1/3.

\$85



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Boom Block Connector

This lightweight connector reduces the amount of line in the system by roughly 24 inches. A custom sewn zero stretch Spectra webbing is sewn to an ultra light Harken Carbo Tielite block with a webbing bail. The other end is sewn to a stainless micro shackle. This system is lighter than similar stainless connectors but just as strong.

\$40

Carbo Hexaratchet New from Harken

This is the latest innovation from Harken and is the newest addition to the Mclaughlin hull. This lightweight Carbo Block has all the functions of the standard Hexaratchet but the on off switch is internal to the surface of the block. V sheave cleats the main sheet reducing arm fatigue. Can be adjusted to stationary or swivel action.

\$ 51

Bow Wow Retro Fit Kit For Dolly

This kit retrofits Optiparts dollies. The unique handle locks your Optimist onto the dolly. This is particularly important when launching and retrieving on a steep ramp where the boat can slide off on to the pavement. There no longer is a need to unwrap your bowline to tie the boat on. All new dollies come with this feature.

\$20

NEW AT OPTISTUFF.COM

How to build a trailer, store, transport and protect the Optimist. Applies from 1 to 20.

Over 15 pages of good information with photographs.

How to repair your boat.

Links to: Sailing Magazines, Scoring Programs, ISAF rules, Tactics and boat handling,

David Dellenbaugh Speed Smarts, Racing Basics and much much more

WHAT'S UP WITH THE GRAY COLLAR?

For 2005 we converted over to the newly engineered mast collar and sleeve. If you have bought a new boat or are chartering make sure we give you the mast sleeve. This new mast collar engineered to Mclaughlin specifications features a thicker wall section for strength and a sleeve to protect the mast and it's anodizing from wear and eventual failure. You have probably noticed the groove being worn in your mast by the white collars? The system is designed to reduce friction so the mast rotates easily. Rake is allowed both fore and aft while side-to-side movement is restricted by tight tolerances. It should be noted that this mast collar has the same outside diameter as the white collar so they are interchangeable. Unfortunately the hole patterns are not the same meaning you will have to fill the old holes with gelcoat or epoxy when changing over.



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Gray deck collar and mast sleeve

SPECIAL OFFER - JUNIOR PROGRAM – NEED RUDDERS?

Mclaughlin has a number of the new rule epoxy rudders that while not perfect would be ideal for a club training program. Call David at 1 800 784 6478 **FOR A REALLY GOOD PRICE**

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