



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

McLaughlin Christmas Newsletter



All of us at McLaughlin would like to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. We want to thank you for your support in 2005 and wish you a wonderful 2006.

McLaughlin now has gift certificates at a discount.

Do you have someone who is hard to shop for? Give them that perfect gift. Let them pick out just what they want. You can get gift certificates in \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$200 dollar increments, or mix and match. For a limited time you can get a \$50 certificate for \$40 dollars, a \$100 certificate for \$80, and a \$200 certificate for \$160. Free shipping on all certificates. To order call 1 800 784 6478 or visit our online store at www.optistuff.com. This is a great stocking stuffer.





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How to use an opti compass



Why use a compass? Recognizing wind shifts can be a daunting task for young sailors especially when you are on open seas without a shoreline. Recognizing shifts is a major factor in determining who is leading the race and who is following. Lifts, headers, osculating vs. persistent shifts can be taken advantage of with the use of a compass. Sailing a five-degree wind shift for one minute in an Opti can gain or lose you three boat lengths. But there are times you want to ignore the compass as when you are covering a competitor going into the finish line.

How to read the compass. Tactical compasses have a center sight line and lubber lines on starboard and port. The center sight line is good for finding the upwind mark when the direction is posted and the true wind direction. The lubber lines are read while sailing to windward as they can easily be read from a hiked out position.

Pre-start readings. The main purpose in using a compass know the current sailing conditions so that you can detect shifts in the wind direction. It is never too early to start taking wind readings. There are three readings to take before the start. The true wind reading of the upwind mark and average course headings on both tacks while sailing close-hauled. The true wind direction will help you find the new upwind mark if there is a course change after the start and which end of the line is favored. A good routine for determining average coarse headings would be to sail 10-boat lengths on each tack. Repeat this 3 times. Write down or memorize the average compass heading of the lubber lines on each tack. You now have a good indication of the predominate wind direction. The Opti compass comes with a detailed set of instructions that helps you maximize your performance. Your coach can help explain all the ways a compass comes in handy.

How to choose a compass. Any racing compass will perform the preceding goals. McLaughlin carries the NEXUS 73r as shown above. This compass is considered around the world, as the best for an Optimist It is small, easy to read and mount. It has the added advantage of quickly removed from its mount bracket to take home and prevent theft. The compass bracket is mounted on fordeck near the ISAF sticker. Be careful that it does not interfere with the swing of the boom vang. Also duct tape should be added to the bottom so it cannot fall out in a capsize.



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Holiday gift ideas from McLaughlin

Double Tapered Mainsheet \$79

Bottom Cover \$209

Praddle Paddle \$18

Bow Wow \$20

1.4 mm Vectran mini spool \$19

N1 blades \$749

DVD \$45

Bailer \$10

The sailcloth gear bag \$49

Compass \$123

Protest Flag \$10

And you thought these bailers were for port and starboard



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McLaughlin 1st and 2nd at Mid Winters and 1st at SEC's

Congratulations to the following McLaughlin skippers for their Mid Winters finishes: **Nick Johnstone took first place**, Taylor Lutz second, Jordon Factor fourth, Gregory Dair fifth, Mac Agnese sixth, Pearson Potts, eighth and Dodge Rees, twelfth

Graham Landy sailed a great series to win the 2005 South East Championships in his McLaughlin. Going into the 6th and last race he was so far ahead in points he did not even need to sail.

Incidentally *every USODA Championship* this summer has been *won in a McLaughlin* hull. That is six regional Championships in a row plus the US Nationals and Mid Winters. No one skipper has won two events. **The new 2005 – 2006 hull with perfect alignment has constantly proven to be very fast in all wind conditions.**

If you make the teams for 2006 North Americans or Europeans you will be sailing in a McLaughlin hull as we are the chosen as the charter boat at those events.

Sizing your centerboard slot

Do you ever wish your blade fit tighter or looser in the slot? The rules allow you to add strips to the centerboard slot to keep your board from moving around. This “Jap” tape can sometimes make the slot too tight. You can then sand the tape or scrap it with a pocketknife to open up the space. Most clear tape is thin enough that this should not be a problem.

Orange Bowl Regatta and Clinic Charters are going fast

If you are going to Orange Bowl Dec. 27 or the McLaughlin / Coral Reef clinic Dec 20 – 23, please make your reservations now! Over 55 have signed up and we to make sure you have a boat.



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30 New Articles on optistuff.com designed to help you sail smarter, faster and have more fun.

Articles

Over the Starting Line Early
Optimist Control in High Winds (raising the CB)
North Sails Tuning Guide
Starting and Expanding an Optimist Program
Empowering Conversations with your Child
Honoring the Game
Benefits of the Optimist for your child (Bad Dad)
Fleet Start up Manual
Coaches Letter to Parents First Day
Guide to Parents First Day (Tips for Harbor Mice)
Optimist a 25-year Perspective
Your Time Will Come / Everyone Cannot Win
Quiz for Opti Sailors Boat Parts and Safety
USODA Growing the Class
These will be up under FAQ's in about 1 week. See [Optistuff .com](http://Optistuff.com)

Instructions

Rig Travel Bag
Sail Numbering and Removal
Tie Sail to Mast without Plugs
Silver Mast Tie on Sketch
Bow Bumper Install
Blue Jay Airbag Install
Optimist Mast Collar
Mast Step Repair
Fiberglass Repair
Optimist Transportation
Boat Tie Down Protection
Building an Optimist Trailer
Towing, Storage, and Launch
Mast Lock Safety System

Read the Sailing instructions

At the Mid Winters several competitors received a 50% penalty because they did not report to the Safety Measurement Check Boat. It was clearly stated that the first 10 boats must report in each race. One boat thought they were 11th. They were actually 10th. When in doubt check it out! It is not the race committees responsibility to hail you. This is just one example where not reading the instructions can cost you your position in a race.



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Sneak preview of new opti products for 2006



**BIG SECONDS
REGATTA
WATCH**



**NEOPRINE HIKING
PANTS**



**SAILCLOTH/TOOL
TOILET BAG**



**LARGE DISPLAY
DIGITAL TIMER**

Some other new products for 2006 not shown include the improved Bow Wow, a tented top cover, a 3.9 Dura - Race sail in two cuts (for sailors under and over 99 lbs). Some products for the Laser and 420 include a clew strap for the Laser, Laser hull bailer, Laser rudder and daggerboard, (these are not race legal). We are also will have a 420 Sail Faster DVD. All these products have not yet been priced and they will be available in 2006.

**So have fun, practice, sail hard and
have a great New Year!**