



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

ISSUE 8

McLAUGHLIN SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

ON THE ROAD AGAIN (10 Reasons to travel)

With school having already started up in most of the country and the local seasons tapering away, we wanted to take some time to remind everyone what the perks are of taking at least one road trip each year. It's easy to think of sailing when it's going on all around you, but taking to the road can also have its advantages as well.



10. Have a wild and crazy story to tell your friends
9. Visit a warm sunny place that lets you forget about the snow at home
8. Have an excuse to miss a day of school
7. Spend some quality time together with the family
6. Meet new friends
5. Practice at a sailing venue that may host a larger national level regatta
4. Win some hardware for the trophy case
3. Get another shot at qualifying for team trials
2. Stay in shape and improve your big fleet strategy and tactics
1. Because there's nothing better than a day on the water!

Here are a couple of unique trailer designs the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club had manufactured. Both will hold a coach boat. The first one holds Lasers and or Opti's. The second is just for Lasers.



For further info on trailer designs, boat storage and transportation visit our website at www.optistuff.com.



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

UP COMING REGATTAS

USODA Southeastern Championships, 9/30-10/01, Lake Norman Yacht Club, Mooresville, NC Event website www.lnycoptirace.com

USODA West Coast Championship, 10/07-10/08, Encinal Yacht Club, Alameda, CA Event website www.encinal.org/Juniors/2006usoda_wcc.html

USODA Atlantic Coast Championship, 10/07- 10/08, Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club, Beach Haven, NJ Event website www.lehyc.org

USODA Midwinter Championship, 11/18-11/20, Southern Yacht Club, New Orleans, LA Event website www.southernyachtclub.org

Thanksgiving Regatta, 11/24-11/25, David Island Yacht Club, Tampa, FL Event website www.diyc.org

McLaughlin/ Optisailors Clinic, 12/20-12/24, Coral Reef Yacht Club, Miami, FL Event website (announcement to come) www.optistuff.com

Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta, 12/27-12/30, Coral Reef Yacht Club, Miami, FL Event website www.coralreefyachtclub.org The Green fleet portion of this Regatta will be the best. DON'T MISS IT!

NATIONAL TEAM SPECIAL



Because of the increased burden of travel put on the members of the national team, we would like to offer the Midwinter USNT and USNDT practice charter at ½ price with a charter at the Midwinter's regatta (\$450). If you are on either team and would like to learn more about the special, please contact Spencer. 423-875-0740, spencer@optistuff.com

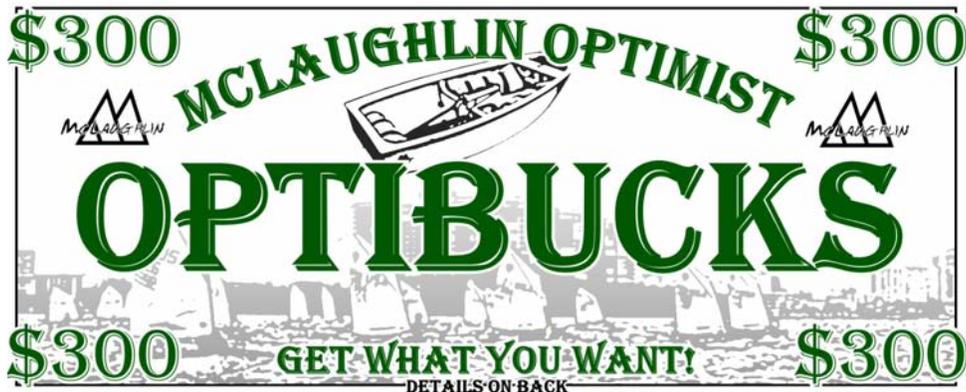


WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

ANNOUNCING OUR GREAT FALL SPECIAL



Optibucks are back! As a buying incentive, customers who purchase a new boat package between Sept 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006, receive up to \$300 in free gear from the entire Larsen Marketing product line.

Our limited supply of charter hulls are \$300 off MSRP as well.

Fleet Pricing is available! Please contact Spencer Wiberley at 800-784-6478, Spencer@optistuff.com or your local dealer to learn more.

Visit our website at www.optistuff.com or visit your local dealer for further details on our current specials.

NEW RACE RESULTS

**McLaughlin still remains undefeated for over a year and a half in all USODA events!
Congratulations everyone!**

2006 US National Champs 1,2,3,4,5
2006 Cork 1,2
2006 Canadian Nationals 1,2,3
2006 Pacific Coast Champs 1,2,3,4,5
2006 New England Championships 1
US National Girls Champs 1,2,3
2006 Mid Western Championships 1

Matt Wefer, twice in a row!
Pearson Potts
Jordi Xammar, Spain
Ted Murphy
Matt Wefer
Haley Powell, Bermuda
Luke Adam



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

SCHEDULE YOUR 2007 OPTISAILORS CLINIC

There is limited availability for getting Optisailors coaches to do Clinics around the world. If you are interested in hosting a clinic please contact Spencer Wiberley, spencer@optistuff.com for details on the cost and requirements.

MANUFACTURING UPDATES AND RIGGING TIPS MOUNTING OF THE TIMER

Optiparts has plans to revamp the already popular timer and starting watch for 2007. The new watch will have a "SYNC" Function, which will restart the watch to the next whole minute at the touch of a button. Great for if you miss the exact 5-minute gun. When the 4-minute gun sounds all you have to do is hit a button and the timer will go to 4 minutes and continue the count down. In addition Optiparts is also preparing a slip-in bracket for the timer in 2007. This will allow the timer to be mounted anywhere.



We have been concerned that the Velcro provided with the timer is not strong enough to withstand most capsizes. Here are two ideas that have worked well and provide great visibility of the timers for the time being. The first has the timer duct taped to the port sidewall. Not sure how effective this would be if you tried to port tack the fleet?

The second idea is to super glue a belt buckle bracket to the back of the timer. This allows Velcro or a sail tie to be used to secure the timer to the airbag strap. We like this idea the best.



LABEL YOUR EQUIPMENT



The smart sailor marks all his equipment so if it is misplaced it gets returned to him or her. Notice this neat way to keep from losing your wind indicator in a blow.



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

LASER AND 420 REPLACEMENT PARTS

WinDesign / Optiparts now has high quality sails, blades, tillers, tiller extensions, spinnaker poles, clew straps and much more available for the Laser and 420 at very reasonable prices. For 2007 they are adding spars, pintles, gudgeons and most of the other fittings. Check out the store at www.optistuff.com or visit your nearest WinDesign dealer.

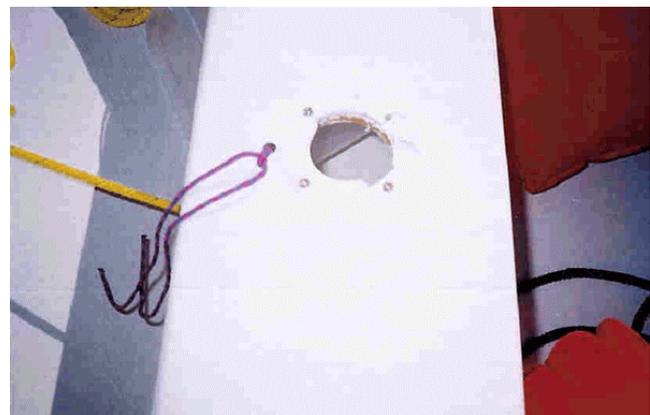
COMMON REPAIRS MADE EASY



A season of intense racing can leave its battle wounds on any hull. Although some repairs may require professional assistance, several repairs can be easily repaired when a quick-fix solution is required. Below are 2 new repairs recently added to our complete repair guide found under FAQ on the web site.

Broken Mast Collar

Usually a broken mast collar just requires replacement of the collar itself, but if the glass and foam are broken or the hole is opened up to much then further repair is required. We have discovered that clay-type epoxy bars (found at any local hardware store) are a simple quick-fix solution to fill the area and prevent an otherwise complicated repair. The catalyst is internal to the epoxy you just squeeze and blend it with your fingers to activate it.



In a sever case where the hole is really wide you can use a new collar inserted up from under the deck as a form to hold the epoxy to the right shape. Make sure to scrape the top surface so the epoxy is flush with the top of the mast thwart. This will save some time sanding when the epoxy finally hardens. Once hardened carefully tap the plastic collar and it will release from the epoxy dropping out below leaving a perfectly sized hole. You may need to hand sand the hole to get the new collar to fit, but the tighter the better. Make sure the upper deck surface is flat so the collar sits flush. Use a block of wood and hammer to force the collar into place. Re-drill the holes and bolt in place.



WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com

Additional Notes: 1. The Optiparts/Optimax logo on the plastic should be parallel to the centerline of the boat so that the oval of the hole is aligned fore and aft. You may not realize it but this hole is not round. The oval allows fore and aft movement while eliminating side movement of the mast. 2. Drill the holes at a slight outward angle so that the washers and nuts have space underneath to be attached.



Repair of Metal Flake Gelcoat

This is a 2-part repair. First dremel out the area, and apply a thin background of gelcoat being very careful to not fill in the repair. You just want to give the repair the background color. Second, add the clear gelcoat with metal flake over the background once it has hardened. Make sure you over fill the repair as it will shrink once it hardens. From this point sand and buff as normal.

A Summer Not to Forget

WOW! What a summer of Travel for McLaughlin.

Our busy charter schedule has kept us on the road and close to the action! If you have been doing Regattas inside or outside the USA you know the customer support you have come to expect from McLaughlin has been there with you. This year we even acquired a company container to better serve you around the world. Spencer, Mike, David and Steve were everywhere you want to be! Seattle, Holland, St. Thomas, Ponce PR, Atlantic, Pacific, and the Gulf of Mexico, McLaughlin was there!





WORLD CHAMPION BOATBUILDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

www.optistuff.com



Butchart Gardens Vancouver Island



“Life Is Short, Eat Desert First” Is Still a McLaughlin Motto!
It's easy at True Confections in Vancouver, BC



**Skippers meeting at the Canadian Nationals
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club**



**Steve Mountain Biking at the site of the 2010
Winter Olympics in Whistler Canada**



**Spencer at Europeans
Workum, Netherlands**



**Mike and David with sailor
Nationals Sarasota, Florida**