

Solo, a newsletter of the United States of America Finn Association (USAFA)
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World Championships

The 2015 Finn Gold Cup (World Championship) was held in New Zealand at the end of November. You will find an article about it in the current Finnfare, edited by Robert Deaves, who also will take submissions about Finns to publish in the International Finn Association magazine. The conditions were varied and many sailors had inconsistent scores. But Giles Scott of the UK won yet another championship, and is the favorite to win a Gold medal come the Olympic Games. The USA's Caleb Paine finished just out of the medal race.

The 2016 Finn Gold Cup is scheduled for May in Gaeta, Italy.

The 2016 Master Worlds immediately follows the Gold Cup; it will be held on Lake Garda.

Entry into the FGC is by approval of the USAFA National Secretary. There are usually more berths available than people wanting to attend. It is very possible to charter a boat through Michael Meier Sailing, Devoti, or Suntouched.

Entry to the Master Worlds is open, and boats may also be chartered through the above contacts. Both these regattas has information obtained on the web through links to finnclass.org, the IFA website.

National Championships

The 2015 USAFA National Championship was won in San Diego in September by Sweden's Bjorn Allenson. Caleb Paine won the first four races, but then had to drop out of the event in order to attend a US Sailing Fundraising event in New York. Canada's Rob Hemming took second. Eric Lidecis was the top US sailor in third.

The 2016 USAFA National Championship occurs at Mobile, Alabama's Buccaneer Yacht Club April 8-10. According to Jim Hunter, boats may be stored there after the Florida winter circuit leading up to the Nationals.

North Americans

The 2015 North American Championships were dominated by the new group of a half dozen Canadian sailors. It was held at CORK in Kingston, Ontario last August. Results are a cork.org.

The 2016 North American Championship is planned for Lauderdale Yacht Club. The date is yet to be determined, according to USAFA Treasurer Craig Johnson, who is organizing the event.

Coming this summer, Mission Bay Yacht Club in San Diego hosts the Masters North Americans in September, organized by SoCal District Governor Rich Wright. It will be preceded by the Pacific Coast Championship at San Diego Yacht Club; Mike Dorgan reprises his excellent shepherding of last summer's Nationals at his home club.

Olympic Trials

The Selection Trials for the US representative in the Finn for the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil consists of two regattas. US Sailing wanted to hold the Trials at international events like they did for London 2012, but extensive lobbying by the USAFA helped persuade them to include an event on US shores. The US event is the Miami Olympic Classes regatta (ISAF World Series) in Miami the last week of January. The second event is the European Championship March 5-15 in Barcelona, Spain. The best combined finishes from both events will determine the US representative.

The 2020 Olympic Games, which includes the Finn, are scheduled for Japan, where they were last held in 1964. Peter Barrett sailed the Finn for the US then.

After that, it is currently undecided if the Finn will continue to be included in the Games.

Local fleets

Mobile Bay, Alabama, and Buccaneer Yacht Club and Fairhope Yacht Club, continue to have the most number of Finn sailors. They race regularly and practice during the week. Jim Hunter is the person to contact to find out about this group.

Mission Bay Yacht Club in San Diego has 9 boats sailing most Sundays at the club. Rob Coutts and Rich Wright are the Finn mavens there.

Legendary Finn sailor Art Diefendorf is the Finn wrangler in Cazenovia, New York, which conducts club sailing most Sundays through the summer and hosts the Toilet Bowl regatta in August, the longest running Finn regatta in North America.

Miami's US Sailing Center now has several Finns based there. Craig Johnson, who is also the University of Miami Sailing Coach, can fill you in about that venue.

Encinal Yacht in Alameda, CA, is rebuilding its fleet with sailing in the Oakland Estuary as well as attending the St Francis Yacht Club's season dinghy regattas. Michael Kennedy heads the efforts there.

Boat loaner program

Charles Lindsay, 17, who lives in South Florida, was granted use of a USAFA loaner boat upon his application and resume. These boats are “chartered” to young people who lack the financial means to acquire a Finn, but show a keen interest in sailing the Finn at the national, international, level, with an eye to trying for the Olympic Games. Caleb Paine got his start in the Finn in this program beginning in 2010, and posted results good enough to get funding from US Sailing and private sponsors.

There is a boat available through the Encinal Yacht Club Sailing Foundation that could be acquired and placed into this program. It is a former Pegasus boat, which can be had through a donation or lease purchase arrangement. Contact Charles Heimler if interested in helping.

Acquiring a boat, mast, and sails

Finns are built in Europe by Devoti and Hi Tech, in the UK by Petticrew, and the US by JibTech. All are fine craft and can be ordered directly from the builder.

New masts are made by Pata in Hungary, HIT in Holland, and Wilke in Switzerland. The French are developing a mast, used well by their Jonathan Lobert.

Three choices dominate sails—WB, North, and Doyle, listed on the finnclass.org website.

There are several second hand boats available now in the US ranging from \$8,000 to \$13,000. Some are starters; some are ready to win at the highest level. Contact Charles Heimler for information.

Acquiring parts:

Suppliers include Dinghy Racing Centre in the Netherlands, Devoti Boats in Czech Republic, and Suntouched in the UK. All can ship within two days.

Contacting Finn organizations:

Peter Connally, USAFA National Secretary: psc4@earthlink.net
Finnusa.org
North American Finn Class on Facebook
California Finn Association on Facebook
International Finn Association—finnclass.org