

Largest Ever Viper 640 North American Championship Set to Begin in Marblehead



MARBLEHEAD, Mass. (September 6): After months of planning, over 45 Viper 640s have returned to the class's unofficial home in Marblehead, Massachusetts to compete in the fleet's largest North American Championship to date. Teams are signed up from five countries and eleven states and provinces, including two teams from Western Australia who will be chartering boats for the week. Racing begins on Thursday, September 6 and concludes on Sunday, September 9. Thursday's forecast calls for light air, which may build late in the afternoon.

The Viper class saw massive growth in 2011, and the fruits of those efforts are coming to bear in 2012, as nearly half the teams signed up to date will be competing in their first Viper North American Championship. While many teams may be new to the boat, the competition is expected to be fierce. Three-time defending champion and Canadian Olympic sailor Brad Boston (Point Edward, Ontario) with his team aboard *Jackpot* will be primed and ready to go. 2011 Viper Atlantic Coast Champion and past Melges 32 World Champion Pieter Taselaar (Newport, RI) and his team aboard *Bliksem* will be using the event as a tune-up for the Melges 32 Worlds, to be held a few weeks later in Newport, as will several other Viper owners who sail in both classes. Glyn Locke (Yarmouth, England) won the Viper class at the 2012 Bacardi Cup aboard *Fer de Lance* to take an early lead in the EFG Bank Pan American Championship, and the overall winner of that circuit for the best score over a series of national-level Viper regattas will be decided at the North Americans. "There are at least twenty boats capable of winning a race, and the competition at the front, middle and back of the pack will be tight all around the course" said past class President Justin Scott, who won the North Americans in 2008 the last time they were held in Marblehead.

Real-time race results: <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=640>

The Viper 640 North American Championship will be held September 6-9, 2012 at Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass. For more information about the event, please visit the event website at 2012na.viper640.org
The Viper 640 is a 21-foot sportboat known for its speed and simplicity. For more information about the boat, please visit the class website at www.viper640.org

The 2012 Viper North Americans is presented by EFG Bank, with additional support from Bacardi, Rondar Raceboats, Atlantis Weathergear, Ullman Sails, Doyle Sails, Evolution Sails, North Sails and Mauri Pro Sailing.

