

Day 2 Viper 640 North Americans: Down Under On Top



MARBLEHEAD, Mass. (September 7): There are few places on earth farther from Marblehead than Perth, Australia. Despite that, two Australians teams made the 11,600-mile trip to the North Americans to race against more than seven times the total number of Vipers currently on their home continent.

The lack of big fleet competition hasn't hurt. Rod Beurteaux, Chris O'Keefe and Jon Stubbs won Day 2 with a third, a fourth and a second in the very tight fleet, moving up to third overall, five points off the lead. The Aussies arrived a week early to practice in their brand new charter boats with new sails rather than ship their boats, and have shown their chops. Fellow fleet members Graeme Monkhouse, John Park and Paul Liddington won the local Marblehead Labor Day Regatta as a tune-up and sit in eighth. Sydney resident David Chapman, driving *Fer de Lance* for owner Glyn Locke, is in fifth.



(Top: Multiple rows on the Viper 640 NAs starting line. Photo by Leighton O'Connor)

Locke and Chapman, with middle crew Ian Nicholson, led after Day 1, and continued their success with a 2, 9 on Friday, but struggled to a 23rd in the final race. "We got a knot in our spinnaker halyard retrieval line at the windward mark and it took a couple of minutes to sort it out. We dropped back to 40th but recovered to midfleet. It's been a tough two days but it's been great to sail against family members, fellow Australians and some well-meaning Americans."

After a 2.5-hour postponement, the sea breeze filled from the southeast, building for each of the day's three races, though never topping 10 knots. It was a long but fun day for the competitors, who with one more race will be allowed to discard their worst finish, a relief for many as only three of the 44 teams have all of their race finishes in the top 20.

(right: Paul Zimmerman and Ben Parker of Rondar Raceboats USA sail the first Viper 640 built in the U.S. in 14 years with Skip Whyte. Photo by Leighton O'Connor)



One team with consistent scores is the new overall leader and three-time defending champions Brad Boston, Lee Shuckerow and Eric Vigrass aboard *Jackpot*, who lead 2008 champion Justin Scott by a single point. Saturday's forecast calls for the best wind conditions of the week with southerly that could hit the mid to high teens.

Top ten (full results posted at <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=640>)

1. *Jackpot*, Brad Boston (Sarnia, ONT): 6, 3, 5, 6, 4 = 24 pts
2. *Mambo Kings*, Justin Scott (Greenwich, CT): 3, 5, 4, 7, 6 = 25 pts
3. *Don't Forget Alice*, Rod Beurteaux (East Fremantle, AUS) 8, 12, 3, 4, 2 = 29 pts
4. *Bliksem*, Pieter Taselaar (Scarsdale, NY): 2, 1, 7, 1, 24 = 34 pts
5. *Fer de Lance*, Glyn Locke (Isle of Wight, UK): 1, 2, 2, 9, 23 = 37 pts
6. *Celeritas*, Malcolm Gefter (Lincoln, MA): 23, 18, 18, 3, 3 = 65 pts
7. *3 Grins*, Dave Nickerson/Moise Solomon (Mystic, CT): 14, 10, 10, 24, 8 = 66 pts
8. *Velocity*, Graeme Monkhouse (Perth, AUS): 10, 4, 14, 15, 25 = 68 pts
9. *License To Kill*, Tyler Moore (Hampton, VA): 5, 36, 1, 20, 10 = 72 pts
10. *B*, Ched Proctor (Southport, CT): 24, 13, 6, 2, 35 = 80 pts

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.

