

# Summer Report

**2NINER**



**Clinics, Regattas, Training Camps**

# New Pathways to High Performance

Our summer began with a trip to Oyster Bay, New York to take a first step into the 49erFX at Oakcliff. With the support of ODP, 4 pairs of athletes tested their skills on these double trapezing skiffs.

This new sled presented a handful of new rigging considerations and tested some known theories about set up. The FX's complete carbon mast is supported by three sets of wires that create the framework of the sail. There's a lot of work that goes into mast set up, it felt like a constant game of two steps forward - one step back. But the education in mast bend and sail shape deepened everyone's understanding of the dynamics at work.

The size and balance of the 49erFX makes it a perfect rig for double trapezers to hang onto. Unlike the 29er, the boat is forgiving and stable. If the 29er is as zippy and tight as a Porsche, the 49erFX is a Cadillac. By day three at Oakcliff everyone was cruising. The confidence brought on by working in the Olympic class boat set a tone for the rest of the summer.

Opportunities like this bridge the gap from youth racing to Olympic class sailing and give athletes a peak into life beyond the 29er. We're now working to acquire a few 49erFXs to offer these opportunities in Miami.

*"You don't lose as much speed in the tacks so [racing the FX] is super tactical still, which for me is a huge positive." - Harry Melges IV*





## Learn to Skiff Clinics

The next generation of our 29er squad logged several days in the boat this summer before and after we hit the road. It was refreshing to shift the focus from high level training back to the basics of having fun and learning something new. New skills don't come easy, and the tippy skiff had many post-Opti and 420 sailors honing their capsized recovery skills.

Biscayne Bay continues to prove itself as the ideal training ground for us. The shallow, flat water and steady seabreeze makes it easier to keep the boats upright. We can't wait to invest the time and effort into this next wave of 29er sailors coming down the line.



# The Realization Of A Dream

We've been focused on this series of summer regattas for what seems like a lifetime. Even during the early days of *2NINER* the US Youth Champs and the 29er Worlds were the basis of our goal setting and action plans. These two high pressure, elite events would test every brain cell and muscle fiber of our athletes and we made it our mission to be ready for the challenge.

That's what it takes to prepare for a season like this: a year of dedication. Six events in six weeks. To break it down, we sailed two training camps and four regattas in three states. With the World Championship in our back yard, this run of regattas held a certain weight to it.

Everything had been a lead up to this summer. The World Championship in Long Beach did exactly what a top tier event should do: it pulled the curtains open to reveal all the dust collecting in the corners. It was a revelation of our weaknessness and clear spotlight on the skills we need to develop next.

Results don't reveal the full effort given under the heat of competition. Beyond the numbers, I watched sailors wrestle with issues and solve problems daily. The pursu-





it of progression on the world stage made this season pivotal for the careers of many young athletes. Here's a glimpse of the action:

**US Youth Champs** in Corpus Christi, Texas. It's probably blowing 25 knots in Corpus right now, but it didn't during Champs. Instead we dealt with unstable, shifty non-planing conditions for much of the week. Which proved very difficult.

Those who won races executed well informed strategies and recognized changes as they came down the field. It was a test of sailing fundamentals and survival of the fittest. The heat was our toughest competitor, often in the upper 90s. *2NINER* had four teams place in the top ten, and our Girl's Berta & Charlotte cinch-

ed the spot to rep the US at ISAF Youth Worlds. Simply amazing.

**ODP Camp** in Long Beach, California. "Champions do more," was the refrain of head coach Willie McBride during this camp, a provocation that inspired early morning fitness and late night debate. Of my 20 years in the sport, this was far and away the most productive training camp I've ever been part of. An all-star coaching roster (Willie, Dane Wilson, Caroline Atwood, Charlie McKee) and the use of drone footage took our debriefs and conversations to another level.

**Gorge Skiff Fest** We paid respect to the speed gods and returned to the mecca of North American skiff sailing and were anointed in the holy waters of the Columbia River.



Getting skunked in Corpus left something to be desired and the Gorge sated our appetite. During Race Day two of the regatta we were postponed until 4pm when the wind finally settled down to 25 knots. It was windy.

If you've yet to experienced the charm of the Gorge, put it on your calendar for next year.

Then it was back to Long Beach for **29er Nationals**. International teams began to arrive and racers started to dig into their regatta routine and shift small fleet race dynamics to large fleet maintenance. Three long days made for good prep for Worlds. It was an opportunity to get our equipment dialed and improve our in-boat communication. Nationals highlighted "What's Important" giving our teams a no bullsh-t mindset for Worlds.

**29er World Championship** attracted 142 teams from 14 countries and everyone brought their A-Game. 2NINER pulled in sailors from Seattle to Antigua and everywhere in between.

The first three qualification days of the

regatta were run in spotty unstable breeze. Lighter teams and those who could get off the starting line shot out ahead, leaving plenty of talent in both silver and bronze fleets for the next three days.

To be successful racing in a large fleet requires blocking out the temptations of complex tactics and finding a simple race track with clear air. Easier said than done. The starting line was war. Mark roundings were chaos. Racing was nothing short of a back alley knife fight.

We were given an education of the world's standard for 29er racing. Now it's time to raise the bar back home and get ready for a new season.



# What's Next

**2NINER** has been recognized for providing the greatest quality of high performance sailing leadership and creating Olympic pathways in our sport. Youth sailors are empowered to manage their own campaigns and take ownership of their sailing.

In our pursuit to offer the best opportunities for youth sailors, we have obtained 501c3 status. Which means we can now receive support through tax-deductible contributions and assets.

We continue to push ourselves to the highest standard of excellence and professionalism to guide our athletes to make the most out of their sailing campaigns. This Fall season will utilize technology and experienced coaching resources to guide athlete performance at the highest level.



## Thank You

---

Our sincere thanks goes to the families and individuals without whom 2NINER simply could not have pulled off such an incredible summer. Vehicles, boats, trailers, housing, time, equipment & good vibes were donated because those individuals recognize that we are doing something special. Thank you to: *Joan & Mark Mollerus, Tom & Alexa Rice, LIMA, Alice & Stanton Ingram, Scott & Cindy Barnard, Mike VanDyke, Willie McBr-*

*ide, Leandro Spina, US Sailing ODP, Judd Shelley, John Papadopolous, Clayton Kohl, Blake MacDiarmid, John Vandemoer, Carol Ewing, and Caroline Cabrera.*

## Thanks to Our Coaches this Summer

Mimi El-Khazindar and Fred Moffat for their hard work and dedication to the sport and development of our youth.

**Our goal is to be the best  
sailing program in the world.**

Take part in the action.

***2NINER***