



## The Latest News from AeroSouth - March 2022



### AeroSouth / Sunfish Direct Cooperation Starts Strong

As reported to you last month, **Sunfish Direct (SFD)**, one of the world's leading suppliers of Sunfish boats and parts, recently began offering AeroSouth products through their [popular online store](#).

"We are really excited about our new partner. Sales through Sunfish Direct have been surprisingly strong for the winter months, a testament to SFD's strong customer base. We have been kept busy in recent weeks as a result, a nice start to what we expect to be a long and mutually beneficial relationship," said AeroSouth owner & president **Kent Misegades**.

On the reaction to his announcement concerning the addition of AeroSouth products, SFD's president **Chris McLellan** said: "I have never seen this kind of response from an email campaign. I am very pleased with our relationship as well."

AeroSouth send it thanks to the fine people at Sunfish Direct. We could not have wished for a better partner.

### AeroSouth Announces First Optimist Products

There are few small sailing craft as popular as the Sunfish. The Optimist is sure one, heavily used in sailing schools and in competition for sailors under age 16. This smallest of racing dinghies is found today in over 120 countries.

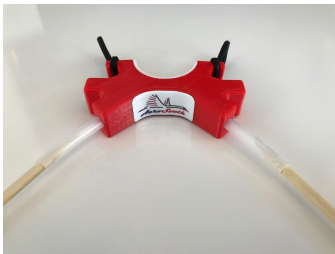


The "Opti" was designed in 1947 by **American Clark Mills** at the request of the Clearwater Florida **Optimist service club** following a proposal to offer low-cost sailing for young people. The early boats were made from two sheets of plywood but today are sophisticated composite constructions made by a number of companies, for instance **McLaughlin Boat Works** of Hixson, Tennessee.

Over the past year, some of our customers have encouraged us to adapt technology developed for the Sunfish to the Optimist. While we have only started exploring opportunities (and learning the rules from IODA, the **International Optimist**

**Dinghy Association**), we are pleased to announce that an Optimist option now exists for our popular **Breezy low-wind indicator** and our **Dinghy Bob mast float**. Both have been modified to fit exactly the larger diameter of the Opti's mast. Our focus will initially be on sailing schools and recreational use of the Opti. Our Breezy low-wind indicator is however approved for IODA / USODA Class racing, according to John Buziak, chief measurer for **USODA**.

At the same time we have added similar options for owner of **Laser** sailboats. See the **AeroSouth Store** for purchase details.



## Breezy MkIII now in Production

Since first releasing our new **Breezy Low-Wind Indicator** in late 2021, sales have been brisk. We have received several outstanding suggestions from users, and incorporated these in the new "Mark III" version, shipping now.

### Improvements include:

- Larger diameter arms for robustness and consistency.
- Larger diameter eyes at ends of arms to reduce injury potential.
- Mounting bracket provides for either 90 or

- 180  
arm  
spread.
- Stronger elastics provided, threaded now through a hole in the bracket to prevent loss.
  - Options for Optimist and Laser mast diameters.

Breezy is approved for Class racing for Sunfish and Optimist. At only \$25 each, it is an affordable way to help you find the best wind when conditions are calm. Just catching a single puff of wind that others miss can make a big difference!

See the [AeroSouth Store](#) for purchase details.



## Dinghy Bob Quick Removal

Some of the best ideas originate from our friendly customers! Recently Penny Ruark of Tampa, FL, one of the "[Dinghy Dames](#)" of the [Florida Women's Sailing Association](#), called to describe how her [Dinghy Bob](#) was getting good use and helping her get back into sailing following a long pause.

Penny also mentioned the difficulty of installing and removing the lower bracket of Dinghy Bob from her mast, necessary when she transports her Sunfish to and from the water. In a "I should have mentioned that" moment, we explained to her that the aluminum shaft that connects the lower bracket to the rotating upper bracket is simply screwed into the bracket, finger tight, and can be easily removed.

The picture shown here is now included in the [User Guide](#) for Dinghy Bob under the heading "Quick removal of Dinghy Bob when storing sailing rig in a spar bag". All AeroSouth User Guides [are found at this link on our web site](#).

**Many thanks to Penny and her fellow Dinghy Dames - Happy Sailing!**

## Catalina Daggerboard Proving Itself

From the AeroSouth Skunk Works: With a



need-for-speed on the water who has few rivals among dinghy sailors, **Jim Langley** of Matthews, NC has sailed through the winter as he makes improvements to his hybrid **Catalina Expo 12.5**, a boat that shares DNA with the **Zuma, Laser and Sunfish**.

Most recently Langley has been testing an AeroSouth **Sabre daggerboard**, modified to match the rake of the stock board but with the same foil and shape of the highly-efficient Sabre, originally designed for the Sunfish. The composite image to the left shows the new underwater lines of the boat. (Jim also has a fast AeroSouth "FS" vertical rudder on his boat, not depicted here.)

Jim reports on his most recent tests:

*Good day Kent. Just a note to let you know that last weekend I went out on Saturday on Lake Murray and the breeze was maybe 6 to 10 but for about 25 minutes we had a few*

*white caps so maybe 12 to 13. With your daggerboard the boat points better and it is easier to pinch in a gust. As I said before the control with your rudder is just awesome. It was interesting that this time when I got off on a reach on the white caps that I start to get some hum from the rudder. Like I was sailing on my dad's UltraLite, home built, 25 foot keel boat that had a swing keel and the cable would hum when the boat got up about hull speed. A fun sail, some good wave surfing on the reach. Looking forward to the next windy day!*

**Thanks Jim** - no wonder your email is "fasterdammit".

Do you sail a **Catalina, Laser, Zuma** or similar dinghy and want to squeeze more performance from it? **Contact us** and let's see what is possible.



**MADE IN U.S.A.**

## Made in U.S.A. - Why it Matters

At AeroSouth, we take "**Made in U.S.A.**" seriously. All our products are engineered in-house in beautiful Seven Lakes, North Carolina. We make nearly everything here, too, and test it on Lake Auman behind our shop - a very clear, spring-fed lake frequented by the majestic bald eagle, our nation's symbol of freedom.

What we can't make ourselves, we get from American partners, most of whom are located within hour's drive away, a key criterion when we select suppliers. Whenever possible, we source small parts from American manufacturers, down to the last tiny screw and washer.

Yes, we could probably get things cheaper from overseas, but the quality and availability of US-made parts is usually better and the price difference is insignificant, especially compared to all the problems that come with a widespread supply chain. We have learned over the years that the most

expensive part is the one that is not available when you need it now.

Plus, we know that our money (which comes from you) is going to American manufacturers first, still recovering from the devastating effects of bad trade agreements from decades past. To help US manufacturers strengthen their own workforce, hamstrung by the terrible decision to end popular and truly valuable shop classes in American high schools in the 80s, we are involved in building [excellent apprenticeship programs](#) like [NCTAP](#) and reviving [Shop and Engineering](#) curricula in home, charter and private schools.

We most recently switched suppliers of the PETG plastic used in our parts from a supplier in Communist China to US-made sources like **Atomic Filament**, who obviously share our thoughts on this important subject. According to [their web site](#): "We are not re-sellers or importers. We proudly make our product in our Indiana USA facility **using only American-made supplies where possible**. Our products are produced using premium grade **USA-made** pigments & only virgin prime grade resins. We use top of the line industrial extrusion equipment and several multi axis high speed laser micrometers to ensure a excellent consistent diameter product for beautiful, reliable & strong 3D prints."

Made in U.S.A. It matters. When you have a choice, check to see if what you are buying has a U.S. supplier. If you are a manufacturer, try always to source from within the U.S. We believe that any price benefit is more than outweighed by the advantages of a local supplier and the peace of mind you'll get, knowing your money is helping your fellow Americans. **'Merica!**

***SAIL FASTER - HAVE MORE FUN***  
**AeroSouth Technology LLC**

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