

An OK sailor's CV – Pontus Gäbel

My life as sailor started in the mid-seventies when I like most Swedish boys on the west coast got my first own boat. It was an Optimist pram built by my father and uncle in our garage. My next of many steps was into the OK dinghy at the age of 13. From the OK I took the step into the Snipe class where I started of crewing and later also as an helmsman. In high-school I moved to the US and sailed on multiple one designs keel boats and once back at University in Sweden I bought a light grey H-boat and raced successfully with my two twin brothers for several years. Back in the US to work I started sailing the brand new Melges 24 combined with the J24. My claim to fame is that I raced on a J24 in the Key West midwinters with Hans Fogh, one of the many iconic Danish sailor who later moved to Canada. The last 10 years of keel boat racing was in the Star class with a dear friend who recently also made the switch to the OK dinghy. After almost 40 years and a lifelong love of one design racing in Europe and US I have come full circle and I'm back in the OK class. I'm a happy owner of my third OK dinghy, a 2021 grey Ovington. I'm home again!

On land in the context of sailing I have held board positions in the Swedish country associations of both the Snipe and the Star classes. In 2019 I was one of the two founding fathers of “OKWiken.se”, the fastest growing OK fleet in Sweden. Together with Benjamin I have been part of promoting an almost 30 boat strong fleet in a small fishing village on the Öresund coast of Sweden. Professionally I work with strategy development, business models and transforming business to meet the needs of the 21st century. I sit on a number of boards including non profit organisations.

For more details please see:

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