



The Sailing Foundation

For the advancement of sailing in the Pacific Northwest

2016 Youth Sailing Annual Report



Above: Junior sailors compete in the 29er class at the US Sailing Junior Olympics Regatta in Seattle. Junior Olympics drew a whopping 116 participants from Washington and Oregon. This regatta is one of the most popular Northwest Youth Racing Circuit events. (Photo: Jim Skeel)

Below: Opti sailors battle for position after a start. The Opti does double duty as a racing and learn to sail platform at many local programs. It is equally well suited for both. There are special rankings based on age, plus a separate Opti Green Fleet for novices. (Photo: Ed Graff)



Making a Difference Together

"While I have had the opportunity to work with many of the national and international class associations, US Sailing, plus many sponsors and supporters, The Sailing Foundation has made the most decided difference in enabling the Columbia Gorge Racing Association (CGRA) to deliver a truly differentiated service to our guests."

-Dave Jursik (Director of Finance & Operations- CGRA)

"The Sailing Foundation's Andrew Nelson has guided us in our mission, provided direction for growth and expansion of our program, and provided tremendous team and skill building instruction... The Sailing Foundation's continued involvement in the Gig Harbor Yacht Club Junior Sail program is imperative for communication, coordination, and the future growth of youth sailing."

-Joan Storkman (Director- GHYC Jr. Sail Program)

"(The Sailing Foundation's) efforts have enabled Sail Sand Point to host two major regattas this year in addition to our regular racing season. Leiter Cup, the US Youth Women's Singlehanded Championships, and the USODA NW Regional Opti Championships would not be possible without the Sailing Foundation's support. Additionally, Sail Sand Point has benefited and grown through your continued commitment to youth racing and our programming." **-Mary Anne Ward (Exec. Director- SSP)**

"...The Sailing Foundation has issued many scholarships for youth sailors in our Summer Program and on our High School Team. These scholarships allow for youth to learn, participate and excel in the sport of sailing by covering costs that otherwise would prohibit them... When I have youth sailors (facing financial challenges) I am able to direct them to the Foundation for a scholarship and they are able to pursue their passion unhindered. "

-Sarah Hanavan (Program Director- Olympia Yacht Club)

Youth Sailing Update

Two years ago The Sailing Foundation launched its **Youth Sailing Initiative**. Our primary objectives have been to expose more young people to the sport and raise the caliber of competitive sailing in the Northwest. By focusing on youth, we're investing in the future of sailing. Through our support of **Racing, Outreach, Organization, and Training** we've been making strides in achieving these objectives. The Sailing Foundation is truly a resource to the sailing community and, as many organizations can testify, is producing tangible results which are being felt across the region.

Today, our young sailors have more opportunities at their fingertips than ever before. You don't need to come from a sailing family or an affluent background to learn to sail, you don't need to own a boat to enjoy competitive racing, and you don't have to travel far and wide to find high quality regattas and clinics. We work hard to make these opportunities available and accessible to all comers. Regional events like **High School Sailing** and the **Northwest Youth Racing Circuit (NWYRC)**, with their large fleets and friendly competition, are crucial on-ramps to the sport of sailing. These local events are perfect for developing the skills that can lead to even greater opportunities down the road.

The NWYRC is the premier regional youth racing series in Washington and Oregon, but it's also beginner friendly and welcoming to first timers. Opti Green Fleet in particular is designed for novice racers between ages 8-12. Host clubs typically provide coaching and equipment free of charge, while emphasizing fun and learning. Many of our region's top sailors got their first taste of racing on the NWYRC, including 2016 Olympian Helena Scutt of Kirkland, WA. Helena (age 24) was a standout local 29er sailor before graduating to the Olympic 49erFX Women's Skiff. These NWYRC events are what prepared Helena for competition at the national and international level.

Since we began managing the NWYRC we've almost doubled the total series participation, from 340 series participants in 2014 to 608 in 2016. The last three NWYRC regattas each had well over 100 sailors registered, with some fleets exceeding 30 boats. Our area has done a great job making a big push to get as many sailors as possible on the water for both NWYRC and High School Sailing events.

Every coach knows there are simply some lessons that can't be simulated in practice or taught on a white board. For these reasons, I'm a huge believer in the importance of these regional sailing opportunities. A high tide floats all boats, and that's evident when looking at any of the programs, teams, or individual sailors taking advantage of the opportunities we're providing. When people lament about the decline of sailing, I tell them to come check out a youth regatta sometime!

-Andrew Nelson
Youth Sailing Director
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Your Support of Youth Sailing Matters!

Please consider making a financial contribution to The Sailing Foundation

Visit www.thesailingfoundation.org to donate

Youth Highlights From 2016

Photo: Jonathan Knowles

Racing & Regatta Highlights

- **2015-16 NWISA High School Sailing Season:** Director and Board Members very actively involved in coaching, support, and advisory roles.
- **2016 NWYRC Summer Series:** Our director chairs the series and attended all but one of the seven NWYRC summer regattas. Promoting each regatta, assisting host clubs, keeping track of series scoring, and supporting coachless sailors on the water are key functions of this role.
- Foundation board members Scott Wilson and Burke Thomas were instrumental in bringing the **High School Sailing Team Race Nationals** to Anacortes this spring. Foundation vice president Dick Rose was also on hand to lend his rules expertise.
- **The US Sailing Youth Women's Singlehanded Championships** were hosted by Sail Sand Point this summer. We played a major supporting role, which helped give 12 local female skippers the opportunity to compete for the Leiter Cup. SYC sailor Talia Toland (pictured bottom right) won the event in her home waters. Other top finishers included Abbie Carlson (3rd- SYC) and Maggie Toombs (6th- Sail Orcas). All three qualified for a spot at the 2017 US Sailing Youth Championships.



Coaching & Clinics

- Our director guest coached a few dozen practices across WA/OR in 2016, working directly with sailors ages 7-22 and their coaches.
- The **College Sailing Spring Clinic** was a big hit again last year, with several area universities attending. Our director also coached a spring break clinic with U. Oregon, Oregon State, and the Port Townsend HS Team.
- Our director accompanied the UW Women's Team to **College Nationals** in San Diego. The UW Women's Team were also recipients of a Sailing Foundation travel grant.
- **WIND Clinic** was a joint effort between CGRA and The Sailing Foundation. The clinic included 62 Laser/Opti sailors and 8 coaches, including our director. WIND Clinic is becoming one of the biggest clinics on the West Coast. (see photo top right)
- Organized a six-part **Fall High Performance Laser Clinic** series with former Canadian Yachtswoman of the Year, Isabella Bertold.



Photo: Jim Skeel

Outreach and Training

- Over 80 coaches, leaders, volunteers, and college sailors joined us last winter for our annual **Coaches' Clinic**.
- We organized a Northwest Youth Sailing booth at the **Seattle Boat Show** where area junior programs were able to promote their classes and visitors could learn more about youth sailing opportunities.
- The **Youth Sailing Open House** was made possible by partnering with Sail Sand Point and a grant from the NMTA. A couple hundred members of the community came out and about half were brave enough to get in a dinghy on a breezy April day!
- Organized five **US Sailing Level One** instructor certification courses in Washington, Oregon, and even Montana! Our region also hosted US Sailing Level 2, STEM Education, and Adaptive Sailing instructor courses.



Photo: Jim Skeel



Photo: Jan Anderson

2016 by the Numbers

- 79%- The growth rate of the NWYRC over the past two years
- 353- Attendance at the final three NWYRC Summer Regattas
- 33- The largest single fleet at a NWYRC regatta (Radials at JAM)
- 23- Our largest Opti Green Fleet at a NWYRC regatta
- 60- The most FJs assembled for a single NWISA regatta during the 2015-16 high school season (District Championships in Bellingham)
- 48- The average number of students that a full-time sailing instructor teaches to sail during the course of a summer.
- 90- Number of area candidates who went through the US Sailing instructor certification process
- 96- The number of adult sailors who attended our Safety at Sea Seminar last spring. SAS is an ISAF/US Sailing recognized course.
- 400- The number of burgers/hot dogs we grilled at the NW Youth Sailing Open House. We also gave 125 sailboat rides to the public.
- 5,000- The estimated number of youth enrolled in junior sailing programs across the Northwest.
- 20,000- Miles put on the Sailing Foundation truck this year

\$100,000- The annual cost to fund the Foundation's Youth Sailing Initiative

2017 Coaches' Clinic

Who's Invited: Coaches, instructors, volunteer leaders, program directors, and current college sailors

What: A two-day event focused on program development and coaching techniques. There will be a couple of full group presentations, followed by smaller "break-out sessions" on specific topics of interest. Lunch and refreshments are provided. Our guest this year is former George Washington Univ. varsity sailing coach, John Pearce. Pearce is the newly appointed Youth Director at US Sailing. He brings a wide range of junior sailing experience and coaching expertise to the table.

When: January 28-29. Exact times and additional details will be published on our website. Be prepared for two days of collaboration, networking, and learning!

Where: Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center (Seattle, WA)

Photo: Jan Anderson

2017 Save The Date!

January 28-29

Our annual **Coaches' Clinic** will be a two-day event this year at the Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center. (See bottom left for more details)

Jan. 27- Feb. 4

We'll be looking for volunteers to staff the NW Youth Sailing table at the **Seattle Boat Show**. Volunteers get free admission to the show!

February 18-19

Safety at Sea Seminar in Vancouver, WA. Tell your crew to save the date! Safety at Sea is a requirement for popular adult races like Oregon Offshore, Van Isle 360, and Vic-Maui etc.

2017 Instructor Training Schedule

- Mar. 27-30 US Sailing Level One Course (Portland Area)
- Apr. 3-6 US Sailing Level One Course (South Sound)
- Apr. 10-13 US Sailing Level One Course (Seattle Area)
- May 26-29 US Sailing Level One Course (Seattle)

2017 NWYRC Schedule

- June 24-25 Steve Williams Memorial Regatta (Portland, OR)
- June 27-30 WIND Clinic (Cascade Locks, OR)
- July 1-2 WIND Regatta (Cascade Locks, OR)
- July 15-16 Ray Jarecki Youth Regatta (Orcas Island, WA)
- Aug. 5-6 Bellingham Youth Regatta
- Aug. 26-27 US Sailing Jr. Olympics (Seattle, WA)
- Sept. 9-10 JAM Regatta (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- Sept. 16-17 Octoberfest (Seattle, WA)

*Dates subject to change. Always check www.nwyouthsailing.org for most current schedule. Additional course offerings likely to be added. Register for instructor training courses directly with US Sailing as they become available.