



The Sailing Foundation

For the advancement of sailing in the Pacific Northwest

2018 Spring Newsletter

The Sailing Foundation, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization, is the premier promoter of youth sailing and Safety at Sea in the Pacific Northwest. Working closely with community-based sailing organizations, local schools and universities, and numerous yacht clubs, The Sailing Foundation's mission is to enhance the health of our sport and to help continue the flow of new sailors, as well as develop expertise among them as they advance.



Banner: High school sailors compete at the annual Island Cup Regatta. The regatta rotates each year between different venues in the San Juan Islands. The 2018 edition took place in Friday Harbor. (Photo: Jenn Downes)

Above Right: Bob Schoonmaker offers some poolside instruction during the second day of Safety at Sea.

Above Left: Our Youth Sailing Director, Andrew Nelson, traveled with the UW and Western Washington University women's teams to the College Sailing National Semi-Finals in Norfolk, VA. Although neither team reached the finals, the Lady Vikings and Lady Dawgs both sailed well. WWU sailors Chloe Dawson (skipper) and Camile Ottoway (crew) managed to crack the top-5 in two of the races, which is a tough feat.



Safety at Sea Recap

In March, The Sailing Foundation hosted a two-day SAS seminar at Bainbridge Island High School. An optional LifeSling Clinic was offered on the third day, which many participants also took advantage of. All 125 seats in the course sold out 3 months in advance! Sailing Foundation board member, Bob Schoonmaker, has been our tireless champion of Safety at Sea for many years. Bob was assisted this year by other board members including Margaret Pommert, Ryan Helling, and Dave Rutherford.

The Sailing Foundation has a long standing commitment to boating safety. In fact, The Sailing Foundation was one of the pioneering organizations that helped develop the modern Safety at Sea seminar, which is approved by both World Sailing and US Sailing. The seminar is popular with racers and cruisers alike who are heading offshore.

Putting High School Sailing on the Map

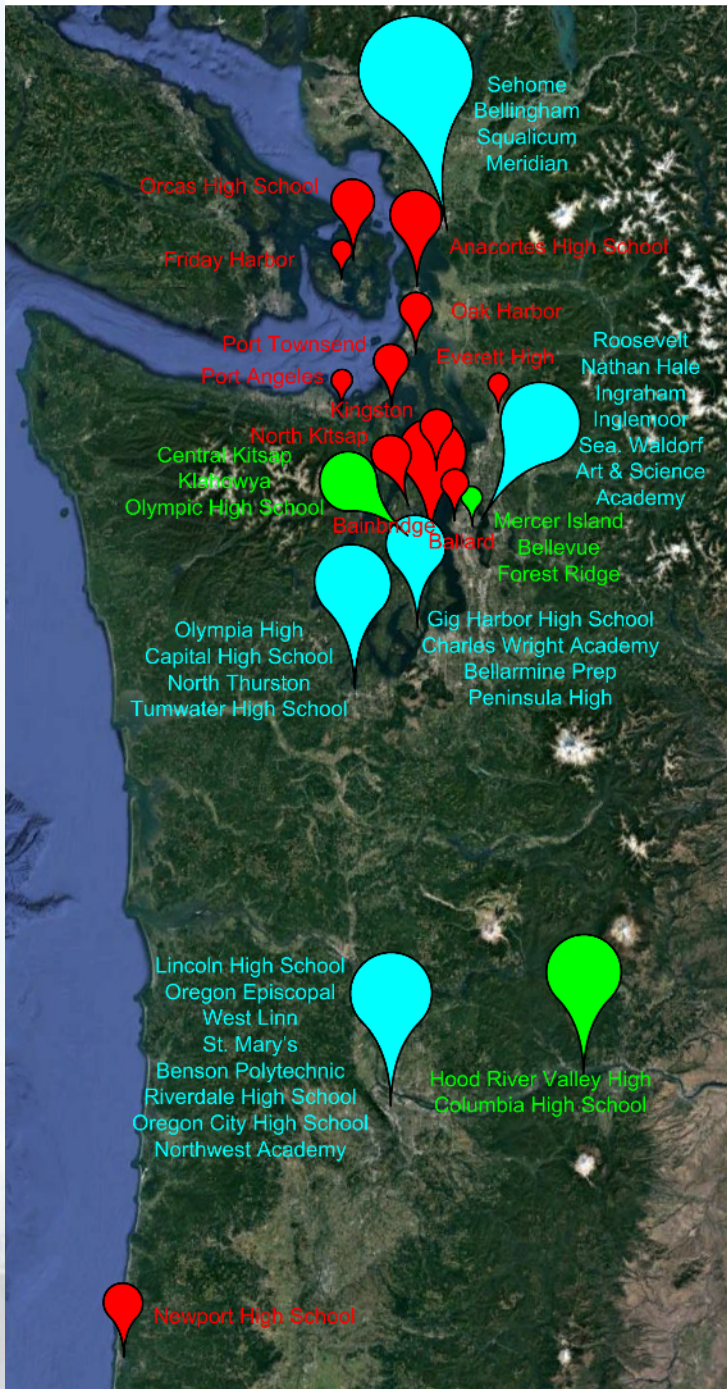
Across the region there are about 20 "hubs" that support high school sailing. The map to the left shows the current high school sailing landscape in the Northwest district (NWISA). The size of each pin is roughly proportional to the number of active sailors at each of the different hubs, while the color represents how many teams each hub supports (red 1, green 2-3, blue 4+). The smallest hubs may consist of just a couple of sailors, while Bellingham has about 60 high school sailors on their roster!

Single-team hubs are often in smaller communities where there is only one high school to draw from. Historically it's how the first few high school teams began. Some of NWISA's top teams, like Bainbridge and Orcas, come from island communities where this is the case. Both are perennial contenders with deep rosters and a close connection to the high school itself.

Along the I-5 corridor there are more multi-team hubs, which draw from a number of area high schools and often boast rosters of 30+ sailors. Olympia Yacht Club supports four different teams, yet they all practice together and share a coach. Olympia High School won the NWISA district championships this year, and in the process their success rubbed off on Capital High School, who surprised a lot of coaches and placed 4th at district championships. These big hubs tend to be anchored by a couple of powerhouse teams. The smaller teams that operate out of these facilities may ebb and flow from year to year, and sometimes they may disappear entirely only to be revived again in the future.

The number of registered high school teams in the NWISA conference tends to fluctuate quite a bit from year to year. In fact, NWISA had a few less active teams compared to last year, despite the fact that two new high school sailing hubs (Kingston- KHS & CYC Seattle- Ballard High) were established. We are very excited to watch these new hubs grow and we will continue to support them along the way. We are also excited to see which new teams emerge next year. A neat thing about high school sailing is how quickly a team can establish itself as a contender. Charles Wright won district championships in 2017, just two years after they joined the conference!

Any way you slice it, NWISA has made huge strides over the last decade. In 2005 there were only about eight high school teams in the entire region. Longtime Sailing Foundation board member, Burke Thomas (pictured left), is responsible for much of that growth. Burke just stepped down as the NWISA President this past year. He'll be replaced by another Sailing Foundation board member, Scott Wilson, who has some big shoes to fill. Burke will stay on as a representative to ISSA. Burke also remains active with The Sailing Foundation and is the commodore of Orcas Island Yacht Club. Chances are you'll still see Burke around the docks during sailing season with the Orcas team. Thank you for your many years of service and leadership to NWISA Burke!





A Look at the Spring Season in Pictures

Banners (Above/Below): High school sailors duke it out on Vashon Island, while spectators and coaches look on from Dockton Park. This was the first ever high school regatta on Vashon Island. The Sailing Foundation played a big role organizing and supporting the event. We hope to continue bringing high school sailing to new venues and new communities each year. (Photos: Jan Anderson)

Top Right: A handful of aspiring skiff sailors stuck out the cold weather and participated in a 29er clinic series that The Sailing Foundation helped support. At times as many as five boats were out practicing during weekends this winter and early spring. Big thanks to **Sail Sand Point** for partnering with us and supporting the clinic. We rely heavily on community partners like Sail Sand Point to help fulfill our mission.

Second Top Right: The Sailing Foundation was once again the beneficiary of **Sloop Tavern Yacht Club's** Blakely Rock Benefit Race. Sailing Foundation board member Jen Glass, and her husband Ben, offered to take a couple of juniors on board their Foxx 44 "Ocelot" for the race. In this shot Ripley Morris drives downwind in 20+ knots of wind with the A2 up. A high school sailor from Gig Harbor, this was Ripley's first big boat race. She held the speed record that day and kept Ocelot well in the double-digits for most of run back to Shilshole. (Photo: Jen Glass)

Second Lower Right: Feels like summer! Current college sailors and alumni were treated to healthy westerly breezes and 80 degree temperatures for the Gorge Invite Regatta in May. College sailors have two events at Cascade Locks each spring, with the other one being Rainier Cup in April. For many former college sailors, these events served as their first introduction to the Gorge. It's a testament to events like Gorge Invite and Rainier Cup that recent alumni flew in from Chicago, Florida, and California for a chance to sail the Gorge again. There's a great line up of events at the Gorge this summer. Check out the **Columbia Gorge Racing Association** (www.cgra.org) website for details. Once the weather warms up there's no better place in North America to sail.

Lower Right: In May, Sailing Foundation organized a clinic with Matt Goetting and his wife Rachel who own and operate **Sailorcise**. They are based out of New Jersey and put a special focus on fitness and nutrition. Fifteen eager youth Laser sailors from across the region flocked to CYC Seattle for a weekend of sailing and expert coaching. We'd like to extend our gratitude to **CYC Seattle** for opening its doors to us this spring!



Financial Update

Donations were still trickling in when our Annual Report was released over the holidays, and they've since been tallied. 2017 was a very good year for The Sailing Foundation. We brought in just over \$130,000 in total revenue. Nearly half of that was raised directly through donations and other fundraising activities! The remainder was made up of interest earned from our endowment fund, LifeSling royalties, and income received from courses and clinics, including Safety at Sea.

In 2017 we came within \$5,000 of breaking even, which is the best we've done in recent years. We are on the road to developing a sustainable funding model which can be repeated and refined each year. Between the **Blakely Rock Benefit Regatta** and **Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG** we again raised about \$20,000 this spring. They have become key parts of our fundraising equation. Grants have also played a big role. A sizable grant from the **Northwest Marine Trade Association** last year helped fund our youth operations, and this year the **TK Foundation** awarded us \$9,000 over three years to be used for our scholarship fund.

Big thanks to everyone who helped make last year a success! Individual donations still account for a large part of our budget. We rely on the generosity of individuals who believe sailing is worth sharing with others. Help us continue serving the greater sailing community, while also providing unique and enriching opportunities for young people.

Your Support Matters!

Donations can always be made through our website below.

Visit www.thesailingfoundation.org to donate



Left: Here are the heroes who made the Blakely Rock Benefit Race happen! Big thanks to all the Sloop Tavern Yacht Club volunteers and race committee members. Special shout out to Shannon Renner and Mike Cain who put in lots of extra hours and did some amazing work behind the scenes. (Photo: STYC)

2018 SUMMER EVENTS!

NWYRC Schedule

- June 23-24** Vancouver Lake Youth Regatta (Vancouver, WA)
- July 7-8** Ray Jarecki Youth Regatta (Orcas Island, WA)
- July 17-20** WIND Clinic (Cascade Locks, OR)
- July 21-22** WIND Regatta (Cascade Locks, OR)
- Aug. 11-12** Bellingham Youth Regatta (Bellingham, WA)
- Aug. 25-26** US Sailing Jr. Olympics (Seattle, WA)
- Sept. 8-9** JAM Regatta (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- Sept. 15-16** Octoberfest (Seattle, WA)

Other Youth Events

- June 30** Area L Bemis/Smythe Qualls (Seattle, WA)
- July 1** Area L Sears Qualls (Seattle, WA)
- July 13-15** Gorge Skiff Regatta (Cascade Locks, OR)
- Aug. 3-5** Laser PCCs (Cascade Locks, OR)
- Aug. 18-22** Opti Canadian Nats (Squamish, BC)
- Sept. 29-30** USODA NW Opti Champs (Seattle, WA)

Questions? Want to learn more about getting involved?

Contact our Youth Sailing Director, Andrew Nelson at

ysd@thesailingfoundation.org

Photo: Jim Skeel

Sponsors and Major Partners

