

2017 Annual Report

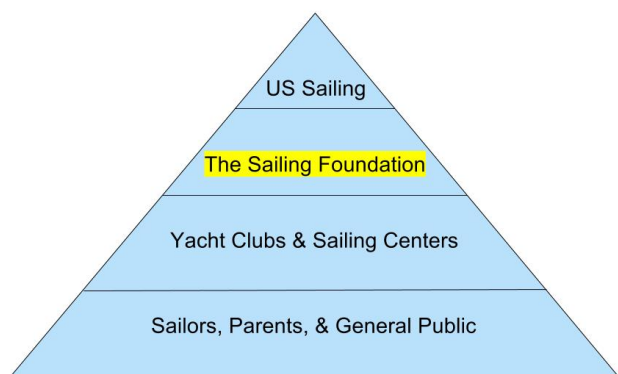


The Sailing Foundation

For the advancement of sailing in the Pacific Northwest

Above: Laser Radial sailors Owen Timms (Olympia) and Grant Gridley (Portland) tack away after the start during a race at the JAM Regatta. JAM is hosted by Port Madison Yacht Club on Bainbridge Island. It is one of seven regattas which make up the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit. (Photo: Jim Skeel)

Bottom: Emma Powell and Ria West (Bellingham) sail an FJ together during JAM. The FJ is the boat of choice for many yacht clubs, colleges, and high school teams. It's a durable, yet agile, trainer that sails well even in very light wind. It is perfectly suited for short course tactical racing or simply teaching new sailors the basics. (Photo: Jim Skeel)



Making a Positive Impact in the Northwest

Every region in the country has a unique sailing scene. Classes, venues, participation, infrastructure, etc. all vary based on local resources, history, geography and trends. When it comes to youth sailing, the future of the sport depends upon aligning these components and collaborating to maximize the access and advancement of the young sailors in each region. Strong regions across the country add up to a strong sailing nation, and for everyone involved with US Sailing, that is the goal.

However, regional alignment and collaboration are difficult to achieve. Making the most of the time and resources of local clubs, volunteers, and sailors requires strong organization and excellent communication. Despite these challenges, The Sailing Foundation has proven that it is possible. As an outside observer, professional coach, and advocate for youth sailing, I see the Sailing Foundation and its Youth Sailing Initiative as a template for success in other regions of the country.

The word that comes to mind is “stewardship.” As an entity independent from the individual clubs and teams, The Sailing Foundation is able to act as a steward for the larger community and provide support where others cannot. Whether it’s providing guidance to a new learn-to-sail program, managing regattas, planning special events, or keeping an eye out for the task that is slipping through the cracks, a strong regional organization and an empowered staff is an incredibly valuable force.

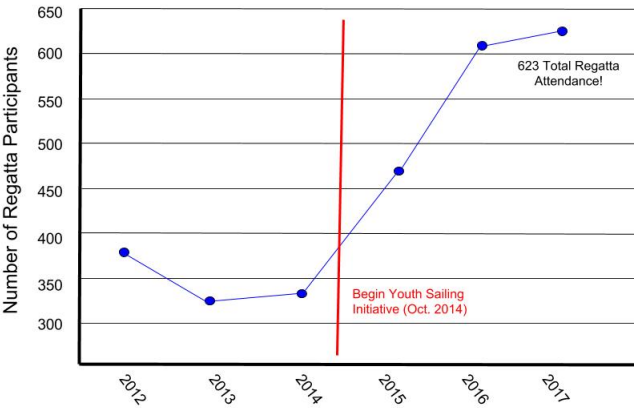
Speaking of staff, it’s clear that a full time regional youth sailing director is a very valuable tool in maximizing the access that sailors have to the best resources. Much of this happens at the grassroots level, but I’ve come to know your director, Andrew Nelson, through his involvement at the national level. He wears several hats as a member of US Sailing’s Community Sailing and Junior Championships Committees, as well as a Smallboat Instructor Trainer, and a member of the National Faculty. There is a tremendous amount of educational value in these programs, but in order for that value to be realized the sailors need access to it. Andrew is able to get the right information to the right people, and US Sailing is extremely appreciative of all of the work that he and The Sailing Foundation do for sailing in the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for being excellent stewards for the sport, and thank you for making youth development a top priority of your organization!

- John Pearce (US Sailing Youth Director)

Youth Sailing Update

NWYRC Cumulative Summer Regatta Participation



2017 marks the third year of The Sailing Foundation's "Youth Sailing Initiative." As an organization, we've come a long way in the last three years. We've had our share of growing pains along the way, from funding challenges to refining our goals and objectives, but we've also had plenty of success. None of this would be possible without a talented and enthusiastic group of board members who dedicate countless hours of their time. Whether they are volunteering at regattas, writing grants, flipping burgers, or sharing their expertise with others, they make a big impact! Together, our collective efforts to grow youth sailing and raise the caliber of competition in our region is really showing. I'd like to thank all of our board members for their service to the sailing community.

When we last checked in, we had just wrapped up the biggest spring high school sailing season on record. Much of that momentum was sustained into the summer, where many of the same junior sailors took part in The Northwest Youth Racing Circuit (NWYRC). Of the seven regional regattas that make up the NWYRC, the final three each had well over 100 sailors in attendance. Octoberfest, which is the series finale, posted a single regatta attendance record of 142 registered sailors and included a 38 boat Laser Radial fleet! The Laser Radial class remains one of our region's strongest youth fleets both in terms of size and skill level. When you look at the top-half of the Laser Radial fleet, any one of them are capable of winning a race.

That depth helped propel Abbie Carlson (left) to win the US Junior Women's Singlehanded National Championship, better known as the Leiter Cup. Northwest female Radial sailors have now won the Leiter Cup in back to back years (Talia Toland won it in 2016). Other Northwest sailors also finished very respectably at US Youth Championships and Junior Championships this summer. When you add up the various junior, high school, and college national championships, our area is sending more sailors to these events than ever before.

However, it's not just the top of the fleet that is prospering. As they say, "a high tide floats all boats," and we're seeing a big improvement in the average skill level of our high school and youth racers. We are also seeing more clubs/teams participating. Just a few years ago only 3-4 clubs were regularly sending sailors to NWYRC events. This past summer we had sailors from over 10 different teams/clubs participate regularly. During the high school season, there are about 20 "hubs" that support anywhere from one to six high school sailing teams each. There are plenty of other yacht clubs and sailing centers that are primed to foster new or emerging high school teams in the near future.

Another positive trend has been that many of our junior sailors are joining local college sailing teams after they graduate. Universities like UW, WWU, and OSU have received a lot of talented new recruits the last two years. We're seeing a revitalization of college sailing happening, and it's being led largely by underclassmen. It's great to see the momentum in youth and high school sailing starting to trickle up to these teams. When you look at the big picture, junior sailing in the Northwest is stronger than ever and we're poised to make more leaps and bounds in the coming years.

-Andrew Nelson
Youth Sailing Director
The Sailing Foundation
ysd@thesailingfoundation.org





Banner: Several Lasers enjoying an after dinner sailing session at Cascade Locks during the WIND Clinic. We had another excellent clinic this year, and these sailors just couldn't get enough of the GORGEous conditions!

Top Right: Sail Sand Point played host to the first ever NWISA all-girls high school regatta this fall. Six of these teams then traveled to San Diego for the "Girls Invitational Regatta." Orcas and Bainbridge placed fifth and seventh respectively, beating many tough teams from around the country. In college sailing, there are several women's only events, including a separate national championship, but in high school its almost exclusively co-ed. We have several exceptional female coaches in the region, and we've definitely seen an up tick in the number of girls participating at all levels. (Photo: NWISA)



Second Top Right: Scenes like this are a common sight around lakes and harbors during the summer months. This particular picture is of Tacoma Yacht Club's learn-to-sail program in Wollochet Bay. There are about 40 learn-to-sail programs that teach kids across the Northwest how to sail each summer. Learn-to-sail is still the bread and butter of even the most successful junior sailing operations. We want this to be a positive and rewarding first experience, and we know having the right instructor can make all the difference in the world. That's why we work closely with US Sailing to organize and run instructor certification courses. The US Sailing Level One certification process prepares new instructors to teach sailing "the right way" while doing so in a safe and fun manner. We also offer junior sailing scholarships to help ensure that no child is kept off the water. Another way we're putting "butts in boats" is with our newly revamped "learn to sail directory" on www.nwyouthsailing.org. In one year, the site has steered hundreds of parents to nearby learn-to-sail locations.



Second Bottom Right: UW and Oregon State spar against each other in the Fall Match Race Clinic. International match race champion and expert coach, Dave Perry, has done a great job getting our college conference excited about match racing. This is the second time in two years he's come out to run a match race clinic. After a very competitive NW Match Race Conference Championship, one local college sailor remarked that "We're actually out there match racing now. It's not just about who knows how to sail a keelboat or trim a spinnaker." The Sailing Foundation has a long history of supporting college sailing in the Northwest. (Photo: Jim Skeel)



Background Photo (Left): Laser Radials blast reaching on their way to the outer trapezoid course at the Bellingham Youth Regatta in August. The air was thick with smoke on the first day, but strong breeze brought some much needed relief. (Photo: Trisha Hochreiter)

Bottom Right: Both of our Zodiac PRO 650 support boats are now equipped with new tubes! Inventech Marine in Bremerton gave us a fantastic deal on their signature F.A.S.T (foam air hybrid) tubes. We've been very happy with their performance thus far, plus they look sharp! We made a big fundraising push to re-tube the second RIB this spring, and both boats should be good to go for a long time. These RIBs are a key part of our operation. With clinics, regatta support, event safety, and training courses, these boats see almost weekly use, especially during the spring and summer seasons.



2017 by the Numbers

- 90-** Number of days put on our two Zodiac PRO 650 support boats.
- 142-** Attendance at Octoberfest, the single largest Northwest Youth Racing Circuit regatta of 2017 and all-time.
- 104-** The number of sailors who attended our Safety at Sea Seminar this past spring in Vancouver, WA
- 205-** The number of distinct individual sailors that participated in at least one Northwest Youth Racing Circuit regatta this past summer.
- 11-** The number of different Laser Radial skippers who had a top-three performance in at least one NWYRC regatta.
- 56-** The number of registered high school sailing teams in Washington and Oregon during the 2016-17 season.
- 10-** The number of registered high school sailing teams in 2005.
- 407-** The furthest distance (in miles) traveled to a NW high school regatta. Newport High School (OR) traveled that distance to Orcas Island last spring.
- 54-** The number of youth sailors our area sent to a high school, college, or US Sailing national championship in 2017.
- 52-** The number of races completed in one day at the Olympia Team Race regatta last spring. This involved three flights of boats racing on a ten minute digital-N course.
- 1092-** The number of whistles it took to start those 52 races.
- 6-** The number of local college and high school sailing teams that received travel assistance from The Sailing Foundation to attend their respective national championships. That included the Western Washington University Women's Team. (Pictured here sailing at Nationals in Charleston, SC)

Your Support of Youth Sailing Matters!

2017 has been a record year for The Sailing Foundation's fundraising efforts. **We're on pace to raise well over \$50,000 before the end of the year!** We would like to thank all the sponsors, donors, and organizations who have made contributions this year. Giving is easy and you can feel good knowing that you are giving the gift of sailing to future generations. We hope we can count on your continued support in the future. Donations can always be made through our website.

Visit www.thesailingfoundation.org to donate today!

Happy holidays from The Sailing Foundation and...

Thank You!

2018 Save The Date!

Coaches' Clinic

January 27-28 @ Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center (Seattle)

Who's Invited: Coaches, instructors, volunteers, junior sailing board members, program directors, current college sailors, team leaders, etc.

What: A two-day event focused on youth sailing program development and coaching techniques. There will be a mix of full group presentations, followed by smaller "break-out sessions" on specific topics of interest. Lunch and refreshments are provided. Be prepared for two days of collaboration, networking, and learning! Special guests include Brad Schaupeter (UCSB Coach) and Jeff Causey (Oracle Team USA).

Safety at Sea

March 24-25 @ Bainbridge Island

Who's Invited: Racers and cruisers who plan on making coastal/offshore passages. This class is also open to power boaters and commercial mariners.

What: This is a US Sailing sanctioned course. Topics include first aid, rescue at sea, heavy weather seamanship, communications, personal safety gear, marine weather, navigation etc. Safety at Sea is required by many popular races such as Oregon Offshore, Van Isle 360, Vic-Maui, Pacific Cup, Transpac, and more. One-day **Lifesling Clinic on March, 26.**

2018 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) |

*Dates subject to change. Always check www.nwyouthsailing.org for most current youth sailing informations. Additional course offerings and events likely to be added. Register for The Coaches' Clinic and Safety at Sea at www.thesailingfoundation.org.