

Annual Report and Appeal

A Year in Review...

This fall we celebrated the first anniversary of our Youth Sailing Initiative. Our commitment to this initiative involved hiring Andrew Nelson, our full-time youth sailing director, acquiring two large inflatable support boats, and purchasing a truck and equipment to support youth sailing activities across the Northwest. Although we're only a year in, The Sailing Foundation is having a profound effect on youth sailing in our area. Hundreds of sailors from Washington and Oregon have been directly impacted by the work we're doing, whether they are just learning to sail or they're a seasoned racer. We're getting back to our R.O.O.T.S (see below) in our mission to advance youth sailing in the Pacific Northwest.

Racing: Offering support and coaching at all levels from green fleet Opti sailors, to high school & college sailing, to aspiring youth Laser sailors.

Outreach: Growing the sport from the bottom up with continued support of local learn to sail programs, scholarships for needy youth, and community events highlighting junior sailing.

Organization: Our director manages the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit (NWYRC). He also serves as a liaison between different regional and national sailing organizations.

Training: Development and certification of new instructors and coaches to insure we keep up with the growth of our sport.

Safety: The Foundation was a pioneer in developing the "Safety at Sea" seminars and the Lifesling. We remain committed to promoting boating safety at all levels.

2015 By The Numbers

- ▶ The Sailing Foundation awarded **\$20,600** in travel grants to high school and college sailing teams, along with scholarships and financial aid for beginning sailors in Washington and Oregon who met the "free and reduced lunch" criteria.
- ▶ This year we ran or supported **9** different youth racing clinics, which served over **100** different individual sailors. Our high performance clinics featured several Olympic caliber coaches, while maintaining a low sailor to coach ratio.
- ▶ Our director serves as the Regional Training Coordinator with US Sailing. He helped set up and teach courses which trained **80 new US SAILING Certified Level One Instructors** in Washington & Oregon last year. This is the entry level certification that most sailing programs require of their instructors.
- ▶ Over **4,000** people per month are now visiting our newly launched website **nwyouthsailing.org**. This website is designed to link the general public with local sailing programs and racing opportunities.
- ▶ In our first year managing the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit we saw tremendous growth. Overall regatta attendance was up by **99** sailors at our 2015 summer regattas; a **27%** increase! **197** different sailors attended at least one NWYRC regatta this past year, representing over **20** local clubs and programs.
- ▶ In the last year our director worked with more than **25** different sailing centers and yacht clubs, attended **23** regattas, served as race committee at **6** of those regattas, put on **12** training events or courses, and made nearly **50** guest coaching appearances with local high school, college, and summer racing teams. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with our director please email him at **ysd@thesailingfoundation.org**.



*The Woodinville High School Sailing Team received a travel grant to attend the national championships in Annapolis last May.
(Photo Courtesy of Jim Skeel)*

Looking Ahead

When we hired our director, we didn't have a blueprint for how to expand and enhance youth sailing in the Northwest. In fact, we're the only area in the nation with a full-time youth sailing director who serves as a FREE regional resource, so there wasn't even a template to borrow from. Our initial course has taken us to where we are today, and we're proud of what we have accomplished in just a year.

We plan to continue many of the successes of 2015 and extend our reach to new programs and communities next year. In 2016 we anticipate giving away more scholarships to needy youth, improving our website, partnering with Columbia Gorge Racing Association (CGRA) to make WIND Clinic a premier West Coast event, and scheduling professional training opportunities beyond the basic US Sailing Level One certification.

We have been extremely fortunate to have the support of an anonymous donor, which has covered the majority of our operational expenses in 2015. Our benefactor has committed to supporting the Youth Sailing Initiative for two more years. In order to sustain the Youth Sailing Initiative at current levels we'll be increasing our fundraising efforts and broadening our base of supporters, so that we can fund this initiative indefinitely after 2017.

Our operational expenses are significant and include our director's salary, benefits, and travel, plus the maintenance of our twin Zodiac PRO 650 RIBs & truck, regatta & event expenses, and lastly our administrative costs. However, it's the unexpected costs are the hardest to prepare for.



Photo Credit: Jonathan Knowles

This fall we were without one of our support boats for almost two months, while its aging air tubes underwent major repair. The repair alone was over \$1000. **We're looking to raise \$20,000 in the next year** to cover the cost of replacing the tubes on both boats next fall.

Both support boats are valuable assets to our mission. They provide a capable coaching platform at clinics, do mark set & RC duties at big regattas, and are on the water at nearly all the NWYRC events providing support to sailors who don't have a coach on the water. These boats have been utilized by the Seattle Laser Fleet, High School Sailing, and College Sailing as well.

As we look ahead, there's still more work left to do, but our commitment to our mission is resolute. Our hope is that with your support we can sustain our Youth Sailing Initiative at its current level in 2016 and beyond. If you believe in what we're doing, please show us your support!



Photo Credit: Mike Powell

Racing is in our DNA

We're particularly passionate about our Youth Sailing Initiative because racing is in our organization's DNA. The Sailing Foundation was started by a group of Seattle area sailors who formed a syndicate to challenge for the right to defend the 1974 America's Cup. The syndicate purchased the venerable 12 Meter *Intrepid* which was previously a two-time winner of the America's Cup (1967 & 1970).

Designed by Olin Stephens she boasted below deck coffee-grinder winches, an adjustable keel tab, and a knuckled-bow. Although built of wood, and older than her competition, *Intrepid* was still a threat. Losing by a single race, *Intrepid* came tantalizingly close to earning the right to defend the '74 America's Cup.



Photo Credit: Rich Johnson

Courageous, the narrow victor, went on to successfully defend the Cup against *Southern Cross* of Australia. *Columbia*, *Courageous*, and *Intrepid* are the only three boats to have ever won the America's Cup twice. Today *Intrepid* and *Courageous* are both sailed in Newport, RI, where they continue to spar with one another during special events and exhibitions.

Forty years later, the spirit of *Intrepid* lives on in the Northwest. The proceeds from her sale were used as the seed money to start The Sailing Foundation. We owe our existence not just to *Intrepid*, but to those visionary leaders who sailed her. Though many of the original crew and first board members have since passed away, their mission to pass along the love of sailing to future generations is alive and well. *Intrepid*, and the foundation she gave birth to, are actively touching the lives of young sailors now more than ever.

30 Years of Saving Lives

The Lifesling rescue device was developed by The Sailing Foundation more than 30 years ago. Its development was necessitated after a tragic accident in Puget Sound, in which a woman lost her husband overboard. Although she was able to get the boat back to him quickly, she had no way of getting him back aboard their sailboat. Tragically, he died as a result. The accident highlighted the importance of developing a simple and reliable crew overboard recovery system.

Today there are thousands of Lifeslings aboard recreational and commercial boats all around the world. The Lifesling crew overboard recovery device allows short-handed crews to recover a crew member who has fallen over-board. It works equally well for power and sailboats, and recent studies in San

Francisco confirm that it is still the best all-around COB recovery product in the market. The Lifesling can be found at your local West Marine store or online at www.westmarine.com. Not only are you insuring the safety of your crew, a percentage of every Lifesling you buy supports The Sailing Foundation!



SAVE THE DATE!

How to Help!

- ▶ Contribute a fixed amount that is automatically billed to your credit card or Paypal account every month. Our **Sustained Giving Program** is convenient and painless, plus supporters can opt out at any time. Small donations add up quickly! Click the button below to choose how much you would like to give each month, or visit www.nwyouthsailing.org/support.html to learn more.

Enroll

- ▶ Contribute to our endowment and help fund our Youth Sailing Initiative into the future with a fully tax deductible contribution. One time donations can be made online via Paypal or mailed to our address below.

Donate

The Sailing Foundation

OR
2635 151st PL NE
Redmond, WA 98052

- ▶ Donation of material goods. What we don't have a need for we can often pass along to a needy junior sailing programs. Clubs and programs are always on the lookout for dinghy line, buoys, hardware, Boston Whalers, small outboards (that run!), mushroom anchors, youth life jackets, wetsuits, etc.

Questions? Don't hesitate to ask! Email our Youth Sailing Director at ysd@thesailingfoundation.org

Photo Courtesy of Burke Thomas



JANUARY 23

Come to our annual **Coaches' Clinic**. Perfect for team leaders and coaches at all levels. Special guest Hannah Tuson-Turner

JAN. 29-FEB. 6

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!

MARCH 5-6

Safety at Sea Seminar on Bainbridge Island. Tell your crew to save the date! Safety at Sea is a requirement for popular races like Oregon Offshore, Van Isle 360, and Vic-Maui.

APRIL 30

We'll be hosting the third annual **Youth Sailing Open House** in Seattle. Learn to Sail programs across the region are encouraged to attend!

JULY 5-8

We'll be joining forces with CGRA to put on the largest **WIND Clinic** ever! Optis and Lasers are both invited this year. Save the date!

Thank You to All Our Sponsors, Partners, and Supporters in 2015!



SYC FOUNDATION



WEST COAST SAILING
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