



**The Sailing Foundation**

For the advancement of sailing in the Pacific Northwest

2017 Spring Newsletter

**Banner:** *The Oak Harbor Wildcats compete at the Northwest High School Team Racing District Championships at Sail Sand Point this spring. Team racing matches three boats against three boats from another team. Regattas are round-robin format and each match only lasts about 10 minutes. At some team race regattas this year we were able to sail 50 matches in a single day! Team racing is fast paced, fun to watch, and very popular with high school sailors! It emphasizes boat handling, teamwork, and understanding of the rules. (Photo: Jim Skeel)*

**Right:** *Our Safety at Sea Seminar this February in Vancouver, WA was a big success. There were 104 sailors from up and down the West Coast in attendance. Many races like Vic-Maui, Pacific Cup, and Oregon Offshore require that a certain percentage of crew members have the Safety at Sea certification.*

**Below:** *Sailing Foundation board member Bob Schoonmaker oversees the hands-on pool training component on the second day of the seminar. Safety at Sea is popular among both racers and cruisers. (Photos: Bob Schoonmaker)*



## Staying True to Our R.O.O.T.S

The Sailing Foundation's commitment to the values below guides everything we do. It's how we advance sailing in the Pacific Northwest.

**Racing-** Support of youth, high school, and college racing.

**Outreach-** Broadening the sailing community by introducing more people to sailing.

**Organization-** Connecting our region's youth sailors, coaches, and programs with one another.

**Training-** Certification courses, clinics, and mentoring for coaches and instructors.

**Safety-** Promoting boating safety through SAS seminars and Lifesling workshops.



# Reflections from the Spring Season

by Andrew Nelson

High school sailing season just wrapped up another hugely successful year. The spring season is short (March 1st to mid-May), but jam packed full of regattas. During the ten week season, the only weekend off was Easter. Teams from across Washington and Oregon spent the season getting very familiar with I-5, the ferry system, and tying down boats on trailers. **This year we had a record 56 registered high school sailing teams in the Northwest.** Together, these teams make up the Northwest District (NWISA). To put that in perspective, 10 years ago there were only about a dozen NWISA teams.

It's pretty common to have 25 boats on the starting line at the NWISA spring regattas. Counting sailors, parents, siblings, and coaches, some of the biggest regattas attracted 250+ people! An effort was made this season to intersperse more local regattas throughout the season. That meant on some weekends there were two regattas happening simultaneously in two different places. The Oregon teams, specifically those from Portland, Hood River, and Newport, organized a separate Oregon series to ease the burden of driving north so often.

Perennial contenders Bainbridge and Orcas were challenged this year by newer teams from places like Tacoma, Olympia, and Oak Harbor. Orcas Island High School started the season strong with wins in some of the most competitive regattas. Orcas also hosted the Fleet Racing District Championships, which gave them a home field advantage. However, it was the Charles Wright Academy (Tacoma, WA) that played spoiler and won the regatta.

CWA was anchored all season by A-fleet skipper Alyosha Strum-Palerm and crew Nick Lee. They put on an absolute clinic, accumulating only 11 points in 8 races at District Championships. However, the real story was CWA B-fleet skipper Jack Corddry and crew Hayden Flaskerud. Having lost the lead multiple times to Bainbridge and then Orcas during the regatta, Jack and Hayden headed out for the final two races with just a slim lead over Orcas.



*Above: The CWA team didn't know that winning districts meant getting thrown in the water. They're too excited to care. All they can think about is going to Boston! Somehow Alyosha managed to stay dry... (Photo: Jessica Corddry)*

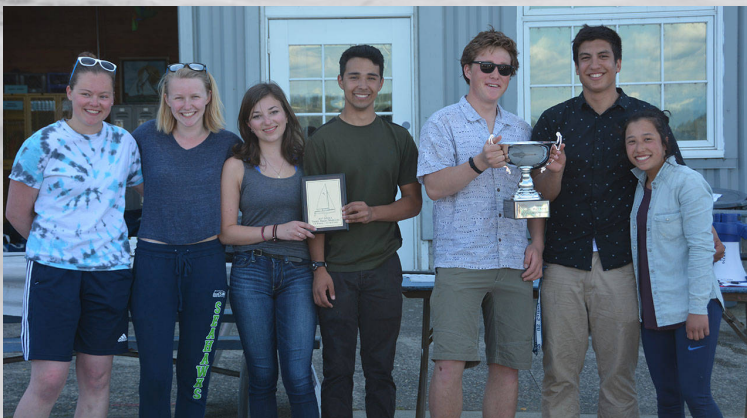
The Orcas B-fleet skipper, Dominick Wareham, had consistently been beating them all regatta. Under pressure, Jack and Hayden scored a 2nd place followed by a 4th place finish, which sealed the deal by a comfortable margin. The win qualified the CWA team to the Mallory Fleet Racing National Championships in Boston.

Nick, Hayden, and Jack have all been racing for less than two years, but worked hard all season when they realized CWA had a real shot at Nationals. They showed steady improvement all season going from the back of the pack to sailing their best regatta of the season when it mattered most. It's a remarkable achievement considering that two years ago there was no CWA team. It's also the first time a South Sound team has qualified for the Mallory.

In the end, Orcas Island High School would not be denied their chance to attend a national championship. The following week, Orcas qualified to attend the Baker Team Race National Championship in Norfolk, VA by winning the NWISA Team Race District Championships. The depth of talent on the Orcas team paid off as they narrowly edged out Olympia High School. After 62 races, the regatta was decided by a final winner-take-all match between Olympia and Orcas. The Orcas team got off the starting line in first and second place, and they never looked back. It was a tough defeat for Olympia, another powerhouse team which has emerged in just the last couple of years, but they have a lot of young talent and will have a good shot again next year.

High school sailors will have a chance to focus on things like prom and finals between now and summer. Once summer is here many will participate in the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit and sail other boats like the Laser.

*Left: The Orcas Island High School Team celebrates a hard fought win at NWISA Team Racing Districts. (Photo: Burke Thomas & Background Photo: Jim Skeel)*







**Banner:** 25 high school teams from Washington and Oregon made the trek to Hood River for the first ever Forrest Cook Regatta, where I had the opportunity to serve as the PRO running races. The regatta was sailed out of the "Event Site," which is world famous as a windsurfing and kiteboarding spot. Turns out it's also a superb dinghy racing venue! Luckily the regatta was early enough in the spring that we didn't have too many missiles (boards) whizzing across our race course. High school sailing is exploding in Hood River, where they have a dozen C420s that they regularly fill during practices. The consensus among all the sailors and coaches is that we want to come back again next year! *(Photo: Greg Krutzikowski)*

**Top Right:** Our fourth annual Youth Sailing Open House was another big hit. We partnered with Sail Sand Point to give dozens boat rides, serve lunch to over 200 people, and pass out information about junior sailing opportunities to the general public. This mother and son had a blast sailing aboard SSP's new RS Vision, and I enjoyed kindling their excitement. The next day she informed me that she had just enrolled her son in sailing lessons this summer. Big thanks to all the volunteers for making it happen and the Northwest Marine Trade Association for once again sponsoring the event. *(Photo: Burke Thomas)*



**Second Top Right:** Sailing Foundation board member Brendan Fahey (beard) is flanked by high school sailors from Tacoma, Gig Harbor, and Bainbridge during STYC's Blakeley Rock Benefit Race. Big thanks to Sailing Foundation board member Jen Glass and her husband Ben who arranged the opportunity to sail on the Fox 44 "Ocelot." For some of the sailors it was their first time driving a big boat in a race. The feedback from the experience was overwhelmingly positive. Watch out grownups! *(Photo: Jan Anderson)*



**Second Bottom Right:** I recently had the opportunity to coach the UW and Western Washington University teams at the College Sailing Women's National Semi-Finals in Charleston, SC. The conditions were difficult to say the least, but our women held tough despite strong currents, gusty 25+ knot winds, and torrential downpours that created near whiteout conditions on the racecourse at times. Even though UW and WWU are two distinct teams, at the regatta we were one. Neither qualified for the finals, but they sailed well, showed improvement, and were often in the mix against the nation's top female sailors. Our mantra for the regatta? "Chins up, heads in the game!"



**Bottom Right:** This spring (endless winter?) was full of crazy weather, often to the chagrin of coaches whose practice plans were thwarted. I took this shot in Gig Harbor as high school sailors scrambled to get back to the dock. The approaching front brought hail, wind, and lightening. Luckily everyone reached shore before it was overhead. Too much or not enough wind are always issues that plague coaches in our area, but this year seemed particularly challenging. Physical conditioning, rules talks, and team building exercises are important, but there's no substitute for tiller time.





## Spotlight on Fundraising Success!

Our board has been very busy with its fundraising efforts lately. This spring we participated in two very successful events. The proceeds from these fundraisers are vital to sustaining the work that we're doing.

Our first fundraiser of the year was the **Sloop Tavern Yacht Club's Blakeley Rock Benefit Race**. It's the first time we've been the beneficiaries of this event and we were honored to be chosen. It was a great match and working with the STYC volunteers and organizers was a wonderful experience. The all-day event included a pre-race breakfast, the race itself, post race raffle, and an online auction. There was record turnout for the race and standing room only at the Sloop Tavern afterwards. **We raised \$15,000, which is our single most successful fundraiser to date** and it was a lot of FUN!

We also participated in **The Seattle Foundation's annual GiveBIG** campaign this year. Sailing Foundation board members put up \$8000 in matching funds, which were used to double the donations we received online during GiveBIG. **We had 20 donors contribute \$5,338 which was matched for a total of \$10,676!**

To everyone who has donated, volunteered, or sponsored these events we'd like to say...

*Thank You!*

### Your Support of Youth Sailing Matters!

Don't worry if you missed out on our fundraisers this spring. Donations can always be made through our website below.

Visit [www.thesailingfoundation.org](http://www.thesailingfoundation.org) to donate



*Left: Sailing Foundation board members (from left to right) Kara Carlson, Jen Glass, and Haley Lhamon clean up after serving breakfast to all the hungry BRBR racers at the Sloop Tavern. (Photo: Andrew Nelson)*

### Questions? Want to learn more about getting involved?

Contact our Youth Sailing Director, Andrew Nelson at [ysd@thesailingfoundation.org](mailto:ysd@thesailingfoundation.org)

## SUMMER EVENTS!

### JUNE 10-11

Area L Bemis/Smythe Quals for US Sailing Jr. Championships. At Shilshole in Radials and 29ers.

### JUNE 21-25

Laser North Americans are coming to Vancouver! This is an open championship and all ages/rig sizes are invited!

### JUNE 24-25

We kick off the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit with the Steve Williams Memorial Regatta at WSC.

### JUNE 27-30

WIND and Ripple Clinic happening at the Gorge. For Lasers and Optis. Sign up on the CGRA website. WIND Regatta following the clinic

### JULY 15-16

Ray Jarecki Youth Regatta on Orcas Island. It's the third regatta on the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit.

### AUG. 5-6

Bellingham Youth Regatta, hosted by BYC. This is the fourth NWYRC regatta of the summer.

### AUG. 14-17

Bellingham Opti Clinic and tune-up for the Northwest USODA Champs.

### AUG. 19-20

USODA NW Opti Championships on Bellingham Bay, hosted by BYC. This is USODA team trials qualifier.

### AUG. 26-27

US Sailing Junior Olympics Festival and Regatta at Shilshole. Hosted by the Seattle Yacht Club