

AMERICAN ★ SAILOR

American Sailor -
News and Information for
members of US Sailing.



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COMING THIS FALL!

US Sailing will publish *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017-2020 Including US Sailing Prescriptions*.

From printed paper rulebooks and waterproof versions to mobile device apps, US Sailing will make the new rulebook available **whenever** and **wherever** you want.

Learn more about our collection of rules products, special offers and US Sailing member benefits coming soon.

THE RACING RULES OF SAILING FOR 2017 – 2020

#RRS2017

rulebook.ussailing.org





NSPS is Back and Coming to Austin

Registration is Open

The National Sailing Program Symposium (NSPS) will be hosted by the Sheraton Austin Hotel on February 16-18, 2017. The premier event for sailing education in the U.S. will focus on building better leaders in sailing education, growing access, and creating new pathways for sailors. NSPS welcomes program directors, instructors, volunteers and industry representatives to share and learn best practices about maintaining and improving sailing programs.

"NSPS totally rejuvenates our entire staff and gets us excited about the upcoming season. It gives us new ideas to adjust or add to our current programs." - Jen Guimaraes, Lake Champlain Community Sailing

"You have people who are at the beginning of their career and taking their first steps into management and you also have people who have been running programs for 25 years. It's a great cross-section of people in attendance." - Morgan Collins, Lake Forest Yacht Club

Register and learn more at nsps.ussailing.org.

**NATIONAL SAILING PROGRAMS
SYMPOSIUM 2017**
AUSTIN, TEXAS



High Noon Excels at Newport Bermuda Race

The Possibilities When Kids Get Excited About Big Boat Sailing

With the odds stacked against them, while racing a much shorter boat and with a less experienced crew than many of the starters, High Noon shocked the fleet of 142 at the Newport Bermuda Race by being the second boat to finish, following the 100-foot super maxi, Comanche. High Noon consisted of 10 crew, seven were teenagers between the ages 15 and 18.

Team leaders Peter Becker and Rob Alexander had this to say about the crew of High Noon and their development as a bona fide ocean racing team.

"These kids just like to sail. They don't travel around the country and world going to junior regattas like some youth do. They sail their dinghies hard during junior sailing, sail the big boat hard on the weekends and in the evenings they race the adults." - Rob Alexander

"It's our goal to have the junior team certified with adult level, hands-on Safety at Sea training. We encourage them to attend the ISAF certified Safety at Sea Seminars. They all understood how to keep themselves safe, having one hand for the ship and one for themselves." - Peter Becker



Making the Transition from Dinghies to Keelboats?

Try the Junior Big Boat Sailing Program

The Junior Big Boat Sailing Program provides sailing opportunities for youth beyond the traditional small boat programs. Junior Big Boat Sailing focuses on helping young sailors learn the ropes on a big boat platform - or provide an experienced junior sailor the opportunity to apply their small boat sailing skills to a new challenge. The program highlights fun, socialization and teamwork with the goal of turning teens into valuable crew on cruising boats and club racers.

"The Junior Big Boat Program is a resource that helps bridge the gap between dinghy



sailing and keelboats," said Stu Gilfillen, Training Director of US Sailing. *"Our hope is that organizations will use the resources that are available to help a whole new generation get excited about sailing on bigger boats."*

Travis Lund, Executive Director of Treasure Island Sailing Center in San Francisco, has implemented Junior Big Boat Sailing into their organization's offerings in a number of ways. The program has supported both beginners and more experienced sailors looking for a new challenge.

"What we have found is that some of the kids feel more comfortable on a larger boat, initially. So, it's a good entry point to sailing without the kids or their parents feeling as much trepidation. It's safe and stable, and they get the experience of sailing for the first time without feeling

like they are going to get in the water. Many of these kids coming through the program are from more urban areas and have never been on a boat. This program starts them off with more confidence."

"Some of these kids are looking for another experience after sailing in their typical summer junior programs in dinghies. The older kids are often ready to try something else. This program exposes them to another type of sailing requiring new skills. It gives them a more well-rounded experience and it gives us more flexibility with our programs."

Learn more at www.ussailing.org/education/jbbs/.

First Sail Experience Now Being Offered Around the Country

Following two years of idea exchange, collaboration and development, the First Sail program has been officially launched and is now being offered at community sailing centers, sailing schools and yacht clubs around the country.

"If sailing is going to grow, it is critical for the sailing community to build a strong partnership and collaboration among the industry, the media, the associations, and most importantly the grassroots access points to sailing – community sailing programs, sailing schools and yacht clubs," said Jack Gierhart, Executive Director of US Sailing. *"This alignment behind a common goal has ignited a movement within the sailing community to get more people on the water sailing. It is time to develop new and innovative ways to introduce young adults to sailing, and encourage the inactive sailors to reinvigorate their passion."*

What is First Sail?

First Sail is a nationwide initiative developed with input

from key stakeholders in the sailing community – industry leaders, local sailing organizations, sailing schools, the media and others – and shepherded by US Sailing. The goal of First Sail is to encourage individuals to experience the benefits of sailing as a fun and exciting recreational activity for people of all ages and abilities. First Sail offers a pathway to participation through resources and information on how to get started and find a place to go sailing.

What is the First Sail Experience?

The First Sail Experience is a two-hour excursion into the world of sailing offered to young adults at a reasonable price by a growing list of First Sail Locations. This unique opportunity offers a friendly introduction to sailing, and the local sailing community, in a casual setting and is



designed to provide a unique experience that will motivate newcomers to continue sailing.

Participants will get out on the water with an instructor in a keelboat provided by the First Sail Location. The First Sail Experience features basic sailing hands-on learning

that will cover topics such as: how a sail works; parts of a sailboat; points of sail and important safety guidelines. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet members of the First Sail host organization, learn more about the community and find out about next steps to get more involved.

Additionally, all First Sail Experience participants will have access to Basic Keelboat Online, an online training course designed to prepare beginners for their first time on the water.

What are First Sail Locations?

Our growing list of First Sail Locations is comprised of a diverse group of community sailing centers, sailing schools and yacht clubs around the country. These Locations are offering the First Sail Experience to young adults. Please encourage your local sailing organization to be a First Sail Location.

Learn more about First Sail at firstsail.org.

