



BIG TREE BOATING ASSOCIATION

Plain Sailing

Volume 22 Spring 2018



The end of another successful year! A truly great group for the final week. Hendrix Lovett, Sailor of the Summer, is in the center holding the Indian Head Bowl!



Lillie Durkee & Rylee Sienkiewicz- proud of their performance at the Camden Classic!

Big Tree Boating Has Big Year: Sailors Dominate Regional Events

Big Tree Boating wrapped up a particularly successful season, highlighted by wins at 3 regional regattas, and an undefeated record against local rival yacht clubs. In addition to sharing the joy of sailing with its many members, Big Tree Boating sent teams of sailors to 5 away events, and hosted 3 events this summer.

The summer was kicked off with a very busy first week. Eager students launched and rigged the fleet and hit the water running. The Tarratine Yacht Club visited with 2 sailors late in the week for some racing. The 4 Big Tree boats took turns winning races, as the TYC boat fought hard to keep up.

The following week BTB went down island for a rematch with TYC and the Camden Yacht Club. 13 boats were on the line this time, and the racing was evenly matched. BTB Skippers Sophie Lau and Ava Schlottman sailed with Lake Lindelof to a first place overall. BTB and TYC ended up in an unlikely *tie* after a long afternoon of races. This was to be settled at the end of the summer in a rubber match at Seal Harbor.

Maine Maritime Academy and Castine Yacht Club hosted an event on July 20 that drew 18 teams from area yacht clubs. BTB sailors traveled by boat to MMA in Castine to test their skills at Maine's premier venue for 420 racing. ICS Sophomore Rylee Sienkiewicz and Islesboro emigrant Lillie Durkee, of San Antonio, Texas, proved to be up for the challenge, and took first place overall for the day. The duo was primed for more success later in the summer.

The Red Jacket Regatta was hosted by The Apprenticeship in Rockland on July 16, and attracted 7 teams from around the bay. The Red Jacket is an entry level event for younger sailors, and Big Tree Boating has been participating for the past 3 years. Sophie Lau and Lake Lindelof sailed A-Division for Team 1, with Ava Schlottman and Nicole Pendleton in B-Division. Team 2 had Olivia Reeves and Caroline Siekman in A and Hendrix Lovett making his skippering debut in B with Lillie Durkee and Jett Lindelof sharing the crewing duties. For the third year in a row, BTB sailors took top honors at the regatta, this time claiming the top two places. Top three team scores: BTB 1 15; BTB 2 20; North Haven 21

The Camden Classics added a Youth 420 regatta to their 2017 slate of events, and 13 teams showed up to race July 27th. Rylee Sienkiewicz and Lillie Durkee put on an impressive display of light air sailing in conditions that frustrated much of the fleet. When the (real) gun sounded at the start of the races, the smoke would clear, and 13 boats sat parked to leeward of the line, rising and falling on the large swell outside of Camden Harbor. Lillie and Rylee's boat would then mysteriously sail away from the pack, while baffled sailors from other clubs looked on. The girls from Big Tree repeated this act over and over, winning the regatta handily with a succession of first place finishes.

Sisters Emily and Sophie Lau blazed a new trail to the biggest regatta in the state, hosted by the Harrasseeket Yacht Club in Freeport Aug. 9 and 10. This event includes spinnakers and trapezes, and attracts 40-50 boats every year. The Lau sisters sailed to a 9th place finish overall in the very competitive fleet. It was notable that Big Tree Boating was the only community sailing team present at the event among a slew of Maine yacht clubs; many of which we never knew existed!

The summer season was wrapped up with a home match against The Tarratine Yacht Club. The tie earlier in the summer apparently did not sit well with the Big Tree sailors, and they had a drubbing in store for the team from TYC. After a spirited afternoon of racing in beautiful conditions, the final scores were tallied: In 420's 1st, 2nd, 3rd, to Big Tree Boating; In Lasers 1st and 2nd to Big Tree Boating.

The team would like to thank Mike Horn for his support at the Red Jacket Regatta and at the events vs TYC; parents Scott and Beth Reeves for their help in transporting sailors to and from events with their boat; and all of the supporters of Big Tree Boating who make it all possible. **Thank You!**

By Patrick DiLalla



Ava & Lake take off!



Beatrix Brundjar gets help rigging her laser from Finn & Pia Gibson

2018 will mark our 22nd Season! Come join the fun!

2018 Ladies Auxiliary: July and August Sessions With Katie Wuori



Legendary BTB instructor Katie Wuori will return this summer to teach two sessions of Ladies Auxiliary. Katie submitted the following comments on the history of the class, and it's unique nature:

"As I watched BTB grow and classes expand, Mike Horn noticed there was a group of women that wanted to learn how to sail, or knew how and just needed confidence, but didn't want to be in a class with children. This was the inception of Women's Auxiliary, which quickly became my favorite class to teach.

I love learning about other women's lives and why they seek Big Tree Boating out. I'm still so proud of those women whose first tentative step (or sit down and slide) onto Betsy left with a solo sailing certificate and newfound sailing companions. This class is tailored to your fears and curiosities and provides useful information for the active sailor. Students learn in a safe and supportive environment, where people listen, and help each reach their goals. We have had a few token men, so if you are curious about this class, and you don't mind some cackling ladies who like to have as much fun as to learn, feel free to join."

Be sure to register early, as these classes are likely to fill up. Adult membership includes two weeks of instruction and free sailing all summer for qualified sailors. For example, one Adult Membership would include a week of Ladies Auxiliary, and a week of Skipper II class. Custom refresher classes can often be arranged as well.

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Thank You To Those Who Contributed!

Especially - Elaine Fiske, Travis Stearns, George Evans and The Leuschen Family

Work Day - Ken Smith, Rachel Roberson Smith, Mike Horn, Hendrix Lovett, Ava Schlottman, Nicole Pendleton, Emily Lau, Sophie Lau, Lake Lindelof, Jett Lindenlof, Jay Leger,

Boatyards - Pendleton Yacht Yard & Islesboro Marine Enterprise

Also a big thank you to everyone who donates! You have made BTB great!

Thank you to the Major Donors!

Jockey Hollow Foundation
Palace Head Foundation
Dillon Dunwalke Trust
The Gilder Foundation
Seth Sprague Foundation
Haffenreffer Family Fund
ChristChurch Centennial Fund
Roger & Marnie Heinen
John & Lindsey Higginson
Philip Ladd & Elaine Fiske
Stephen & Candace Phillips
Taz & Sue Stafford

Boat Donations - Alan Duncan & Philip P Bramwell



2017 Sailor of the Summer

The 2017 Sailor of the Summer is known by many names: Surfer Dude; Henny Hen; Kansas Guy. He is mostly known for his constant presence at Big Tree Boating during the summer, and his indomitable good nature. This year he powered through a difficult learning curve as a 420 skipper, which involved some bumps on the head from the boom, capsizes in cold water, and constantly chasing more experienced sailors around the race course. He did all of this without once hanging his head. This spirit was recognized by the other sailors as a standard to strive for. He has goggles when swimming off of the floats. He has "sailing" gloves when it's windy. He has a packed lunch that is the envy of his mates (but he will share). He has matching sailing outfits. He is, the one and only, Hendrix Lovett!



Saskia Grisaru explains reefing to the Anderson family



LOL - Isaac Pendleton



'Sailor of the Summer'
Hendrix Lovett - with Patrick DiLalla

Annika Rogers, Lake Lindelof, Pia Gibson, Finn Gibson, Emily Lau, holding Heyniger Bowl, Olivia Britton, Rylee Sienkiewicz, Mike Horn, Jett Lindelof and Sophie Lau



Penobscot Bay Sailing League Fall Champs

In only its fourth year of competition, the ICS Sailing Team has again had an outstanding season. Seven events were scheduled, but the final regatta, the Maine State Girls Championship, was cancelled when the late October wind storm resulted in the week long closure of host site Maine Maritime Academy. In the other six regattas, ICS sailors turned in three firsts, a third, a fourth and a sixth in one event, and a thirteenth.

First year crews Lake Lindelof, Pia Gibson, Finn Gibson, and Olivia Britton have shown continued improvement. Sophie Lau, our best and most experienced crew, has also revealed talent as an emerging skipper. Annika Rogers has been a model of consistency as a skipper. Rylee Sienkiewicz has often been brilliant and other times not quite so. Emily Lau has shown that she can outsail anyone in Maine when things are going right.

Two years ago, mid-coast coaches, frustrated with frequently poor sailing conditions and less than ideal race management at Sail Maine, formed the Penobscot Bay Sailing League. The League's emphasis was to be more races, better managed. The format certainly did that this fall. The three legs of the series were held at Mount Desert, Rockland, and Boothbay Harbor. A total of twenty-eight good races were run, compared to nine short races in two events at Sail Maine.

The Pen Bay Series boiled down to a close duel between ICS and Boothbay. At MDI on 10 September, ICS was allowed to sail two full teams, with only one to count in the official standings. Annika and Pia sailed A, and Rylee and Finn sailed B for the official team. Eight races were held in each division in a beautiful, gusty northerly on Somes Sound. Annika and Pia won one race and had two seconds and a third in their eight starts and were fourth in A. Rylee/Finn had a spectacular six firsts, a second, and a third to win B handily. Emily, Jett, and Olivia were almost as good (3-2-1-1-4-2-2-4) and won A-Division, though unofficial. Sophie skippered the unofficial B with Lake crewing and they had several miscues but still were fifth in B. Official ICS was first overall; unofficial ICS was fourth.

Leg two of the series was at Rockland on Oct. 1st eleven races

were sailed in breeze that alternated between WNW and WSW with many velocity changes. Rylee, with Finn and then Lake, won B by a whopping 28 points. ICS jumped into an early lead that fluctuated and shrunk to two points over Boothbay after race nine. In the tenth race, Emily/Sophie won and Rylee/Lake were third, increasing the lead to 13. But then Boothbay was first and third in the final race, while ICS slumped to tenth and second. The victory margin as teams came off the water was only five points.

The final leg of the series was at Boothbay on 15 October. During the racing, the fog was so dense that sailors could not see the windward mark from the leeward mark at times. The breeze was from the south/southwest, light at first and then building to eight knots. Nine races were completed over twenty-minute courses. Emily again was in A with first Jett and then Sophie. After a great Thursday practice, Annika was given the B-Division assignment, with Pia and Lake sharing the crewing. Rylee skippered a third, non-counting, boat with Olivia and Finn crewing. Once again, ICS established a slim three point lead over Boothbay after race one. That lead grew to as much as nine, but had dropped to two after race eight. ICS gained a point back in the final race to win by three. Emily and crew were second in A; Annika and crew won B by 21 points. Rylee and crew easily outdistanced Boothbay's third boat. Ranked individually, the three ICS boats were second, third, and fourth overall behind Boothbay's A boat.

With wins in all three legs, ICS won the championship with three tabulated points (1-1-1) and Boothbay was second (2-2-2). Rockland, MDI, and Camden followed. The tightness of the battle is reflected in the margin of victory for ICS over Boothbay in the three events: 7 points, 5 (before the Boothbay DSQ), and 3. As Champions, the names of all nine contributors will be engraved on the perpetual K.C. Heyniger Bowl.

The only disappointment of the season: The cancellation of the Girls Championship, in which ICS last year placed second, third, and fourth. Who knows who might have won this year.

by Coach Mike Horn



Annika Rogers



Patience Cleveland Photo



Rich Grisaru



Ava and Lake



BTB & Tarratine Sailors



Patience Cleveland Photo

My Experience Working on the Schooner Mary Day by Olivia Olson BTB Instructor



When I learned last winter I would not start at Middlebury College until February, my mind buzzed with the prospect of sailing into the fall. While teaching at Big Tree in the Summer, I asked Patrick DiLalla how I could get a job on a “big boat,” as I called them. He connected me with Barry and Jen King of the schooner Mary Day, and I was hired to start August 20th as the Messmate.

Now, it is not the primary responsibility of the Messmate to keep passengers safe, row them ashore, raise sails, tack, swab the deck and polish brass; but rather, to make coffee and salad, set tables and wash dishes, all the while being cheery and charming with the passengers when they come down to the galley for a chat. A job with its own unique challenges. I was not entirely stuck in the galley, though. On deck, I first learned to coil the halyards into working, then Ballantine coils, and to identify the numerous lines for each of the seven sails. During lunch time, which marked the end of a 7 hour stretch of galley work, the first mate would notice my enthusiasm and quiet interest in waiting for a job to do and call out, “Set the jib top!” Gleeefully I would skip to to the bow, swing my legs over the side and walk along the foot ropes to the bowsprit, where the jib top was stowed, and untie the lines holding it in place. Looking down all I would see were my Keen-clad feet, the foot

ropes and water rushing beneath me at 10 knots.

One day after a lobster bake ashore, Cap asked me to row him back to the boat. I was struck with sharp anxiety but also a fierce desire to prove myself a worthy deck crew member. I had practiced rowing at Big Tree with fellow instructor, Yesha Subotincic West every day of the summer, and this was my chance to prove my skill!

As I rowed, Cap sat at the bow and told me the story of a first mate who couldn't row a boat. She had her 100 ton license, many years of sailing to her name, but couldn't row. . . “We had to let her go,” Cap said definitively. I conveyed her safely to the boat and spent a peaceful, solitary five minutes rowing back ashore.

But my favorite job as Messmate was going aloft. Every so often, we would sail under the bridge at Eggemoggin Reach. For this maneuver, my job was to harness up, climb the rigging, and wait for the deck crew to lower the main topmast. Only then could we slide under the bridge without scraping ten feet off our height.

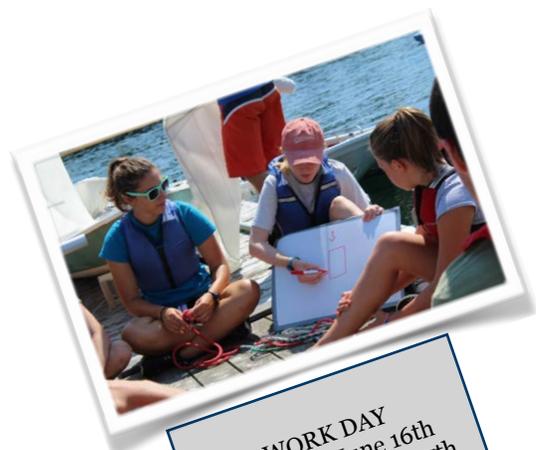
Perched on the crosstrees giving commands to guide the sail down, high above the hullabaloo of the passengers and deck crew, was just amazing. With the topmast safely lowered, I had the pleasure of sitting on the crosstrees as we sailed beneath the bridge. What a sight to see! The schooner below, guests gazing up at the scrappy blonde they always worried about, and the Maine Coast all around me, contemplating only the wind in my hair and the sun on my face. All of the gallons of coffee I made, the hundreds of dishes I washed and the exhausting hours were worth it.



***Big Tree Boating Association
PO Box 273
Islesboro, Maine 04848***

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**ISLESBORO ME
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WORK DAY
Saturday, June 16th
Rain date, Sunday 17th
SAVE THE DATE Travis
Stearns “Boatyard” at
8:30 am. Help prepare
BTB boats for launching
Old clothes

BOXHOLDER 04848

EXCERPTS FROM 2017 LOG

Week One - Big wind early in the week made for an exciting start to the summer. Novice sailors had lively romps around the harbor that left them wide eyed and ready to learn! 420 sailors planed, capsized, and repeated. As the wind died down late in the week, all the sailors showed newfound confidence in their abilities.

Week Two - Summer winds begin to settle in. TYC visits with two sailors. Friday afternoon weather featured “gusty wind and heavy rainfall”, creating our first washout

Week Three - 49 students filled nearly every boat in the fleet. 420's have their first sail around Flat Island. The jump rope is brought out. Sunscreen gets spilled everywhere.

Week Four - Wind comes back with some force on Tuesday. Awesome afternoon with all 6 420's out sailing. Planing with trapezes, and no capsizes! Jett and Harrison, Fiona and Ava paired up for exhilarating runs back and forth from the float in Lasers with the tiny 4.7 rigs.

Week Five - Fog. Rummage Sale! Skipper II students Max Dubois and Julian Kelly sail their own Mercury around Flat Island.

Week Six - Towed boats to Tarratine Wednesday in the A.M. and raced in the afternoon. Sophie/Ava/Lake won in a fleet of 13 boats. Original scores show TYC winning overall by a point. Thursday morning Mike hurries down to Big Tree to deliver corrected scores, which reveal a tie between TYC and Big Tree.

Week Seven - Instructors grow fond of our favorite mechanized weather radio personalities. 11 year old Ava Warren inserts memorable sarcasm in crew class. Instructor: “What do you do if someone falls overboard?” Ava: “Sail away and pretend you never saw it!”

Week Eight - A small craft advisory on Tuesday moderated nicely for racing against TYC by Thursday. BTB hands TYC a thorough drubbing. Afterwards, Tarratine sailors put on a jaw dropping display of tomfoolery on our floats which generated a memorable critique from the equable Grace Hartley.

Week Nine - Big Wind. Galloways visit with Hobie Catamaran, and take sailors for thrilling rides. Crew sailor pulls jib sheet when instructor says “raise the main”. I guess you can't win em all.



2017 Big Tree Boating Instructors

Cyrus McDowell - Senior - Washington DC

Annika Rogers - Senior ICS

Yesha Subotincic West - Royal Conservatory of
Scotland 18'

Olivia Olson - Middlebury 22'

Patrick DiLalla - Grinnell 02'

Nadia Grisaru - Yale 20'

Jesse Dunn - Bowdoin 20'

Saskia Grisaru - Junior - Packer School

Emily Lau - Junior ICS

Grace Hartley - Junior - South Portland





Big Tree Boating - Board of Directors

Lindsey Higginson - President

Mark Umbach - Vice President

Philip Ladd - Treasurer

Bonnie MacKenzie - Secretary & Newsletter Ed.

Patrick DiLalla - Executive Director

Alice Fay, Ken Smith, Rachel Rolerson Smith, Mike Horn, George Evans and Jon Kerr

Keys to Success

Creating a successful Community Sailing organization takes a special combination of elements: A beautiful location with suitable water access and good wind; a talented string of instructors that establish a healthy learning culture; a seafaring community (even if it's only on the ferry) that sees the value in learning the age old skills of sailing. With its very affordable tuition, and streamlined management, Big Tree Boating Association has become a model in Maine for a successful Community Sailing organization. Our operations are sustainable because of thoughtful construction by founding members, years of good leadership by dedicated board members, and broad support among the Islesboro community. Roughly a third of our income comes from Family and Community Trusts. Another third comes from tuition, and the last third comes from all manners of donation. We have grandmothers that send \$50 checks every year, families who participate and donate on top of tuition, people who donate boats that we can clean up and sell, and families in a position to do so who donate larger sums when needed. We have a great year of programming in store for 2018, and we need your support to make it happen. I look forward to another successful season, and all of the pleasant surprises that come with it. *-Patrick DiLalla*

Through the Years!

When Betsy Shirley founded Big Tree Boating back in the summer of 1997 she did so with the hope that it would give the island youth a chance to experience the 'joy of sailing'! From the deck of 'Bonnie Lynn' I have witnessed hundreds of students learning to sail. Their excitement and enthusiasm echoes throughout Seal Harbor. Whenever I think about Betsy, I imagine how thrilled she would be to know the hundreds of lives that have been enriched. The sailing and life skills they are learning at Big Tree Boating helps to build confidence and fosters cooperation and team work. It is evident that the instructors care about the students and the students are taught the positive effects of patience, perseverance and persistence. There is a long line of perspective instructors coming up through the ranks. David Grisaru and Katie Wuori were the first two instructors and they laid the groundwork that has led to what BTB is today. They started out with six Mercuries, now the fleet consists of an additional six lasers and six 420s. The community support has made the program successful beyond even Betsy's expectations. Personally, it brings me such 'joy' to see the fleet of boats zigzagging back and forth around the harbor. Patrick DiLalla, Mike Horn and all the instructors have created an amazing community sailing program and should be commended. We are all very proud of what you have accomplished. *- Bonnie MacKenzie*