



Sailing Director's Report *by Katie Wuori*

As I sit in the wintery depths of the Western Mountains of Maine, my thoughts reflect the relatively calm months of the summer and my first as Director.

July and August of 2019 brought swirling winds with unpredictable northerlies and a few of the traditional southwest breezy days. The instructors continue to excel at creative lesson plans geared towards the needs of the individuals that reach our float. Yesha West and Grace Hartley started the season splashing bottom paint at Work Day and continued into September, where Yesha assisted Mike Horn in coaching Islesboro Sailing Team into the fall, and Grace assured that the last Mercury and Laser were ashore. Yesha has an undying passion and excitement for the world of boating. Grace's flexibility and dock master skills do not go unnoticed. Cyrus's confidence and razzing attitude with sailors earned him much respect and several fun nicknames. Nadia shined with confidence, which flowed into her students. Saskia's willingness to show students what to do broke their comfort barriers in a very positive way. Rylee, Emily, and Sophie brought passion and knowledge from the ICS Sailing Team. Hendrix Lovelett joined a few mornings as a first-time instructor and was a natural fit. Annika will not be returning for her sophomore summer at Dartmouth takes precedence, and we will miss her attention to detail. Eva Marie Olsen will also not be returning as she is currently teaching English in Japan. She will also be missed for her love and patience with green sailors; crew class was her passion.

Opening Day was a sailor's dream; for the second consecutive year, 420 sailors used trapeze harnesses. The rest of the season, there was a few smatterings of breezy southwesterly and sailors tone in their skills playing the gusty northerlies'. Only one and a half days were lost due to inclement weather. There was a light enrollment first week because schools were out so late. A busy 4th of July week continued through the month as sailors gained confidence and skills. August brought the second wave of day sailors and the addition of Tuesday evening adult sailing with light attendance. There was some racing classes held and those that attended participated in the annual Red Jacket and Tartarine vs. BTB, details later in the newsletter. Membership numbers remained about the same.

There have been some changes to both the Membership Registration and Medical Release forms. Go to bigtreeboating.org to download the 2020 documents, the head of Mosley's Dock (in the summer) or the town office. Please be aware each person needs to fill out each form this year as we have added a photo release. I look forward to seeing each of you on the water this summer!



Ginger Anderson-Willis 'Sailor of the Summer'



First spinnaker run of the season!



Tobey Conover
Most versatile sailor



Jamie & Catherine Paul - Favorite sailing couple!

Be sure to read the attached letter to see the revised summer schedule!



New Picnic Table

A special thank you to Yesha West for designing the new picnic table and Terry Wuori for building it. Thank you to Nancy Wuori for making the new mercury sail covers that will extend the life of our sails for a few more years.

Sailor of the Summer

Ginger Anderson-Willis showed dedication, kindness and a true passion for sailing, attributes we look for in the 'Sailor of the Summer'.



**Ginger Anderson-Willis - 2020
'Sailor of the Summer'**

New Float, Sails, and Life Jackets

Thank you, thank you, thank you for those that contributed and continue to support Big Tree Boating and for keeping the skills, passion, and connection of sailing alive on Islesboro and the water. Sailing is not only a way of life, but something to transfer into everyday life.

Dudley Prizes

Prizes are awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves in some fashion. In 2019, Dudley Prizes were awarded to:

Jack Kayser - TRIPLE THREAT in one week. Mercury solo, laser solo, 420 racing

Mickayla Kayser - World Class Navigator

Eoin Kehoe - Willing to try everything and having the dexterity to execute it with panache

Robert Conover - Being the Fab-est Rab in all types of sailing and attitude

Sammy Conover - Dinghy disasters in lasers and 420s

Tobey Conover - Most versatile sailor

Skye Lindelof - Showing Bravery and exhausting the first-aid kit

Caroline Siekman - Kicking some transom at TYC vs BTB race

Jamie and Catherine Paul - Favorite sailing couple

Harper Conover - Finish in 2nd place on his first day as a skipper



Items to Note

BTB encourages recreational sailing weekdays from 10:30 - 4:00 (Fridays until 5:30) and Saturdays from 1:00 - 5:30. Closed on Sundays. Please call ahead for availability as classes take president over recreational boating.

As social media becomes incumbent in our lives, BTB has added a photo release to the medical form, therefore we are asking returning and new members to fill out a new medical form. This can be found on the web site along with the membership registration form.

BTB does its best to keep sailing affordable for all. As you will notice, there has been a price increase for membership. This is due to the significant increase in Maine's minimum wage over the last four years (up 60%), which was the last time we raised membership fees. A portion of your membership dues goes directly to the incredibly dedicated and talented instructors who make the up the foundation of the success at Big Tree. Youth scholarships are available: for details contact Katie. Classes in the afternoons have returned to M - Th. Due to past low numbers, week 9 (8/19-8/23) has been cancelled.



A proud sailor!



Work day - Spring 2020! Saturday, June 13th 9:00 am at Ken's Boatyard - Rain date: June 14th, Please wear old clothes you don't mind getting bottom paint on or wet from launching the

Islesboro Central School Sailing

It was only in the fall of 2014 that the ICS Sailing Team came into being. Six young women – “The She-Gulls” as they came to be known – fearlessly started representing the school in competitions against teams from throughout Maine and, often, from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Three of the six were in middle school, but the team then and subsequently was never intimidated by the much larger high schools, some of which had raced in major east coast and national championships. Three years ago, the team became a charter member of the Penobscot Bay Sailing League. The demographics of the team change from year to year: eleven students sailed last spring and nine this fall; boys made up just under half the team; and, for the first time this year, all sailors were actually in high school.

What has not changed is the success that the team has enjoyed and the respect that they have earned from other teams. Practicing only one day a week in Rockland and competing in six or seven events each season, the sailors have recorded through the years a number of achievements, both individually and as a team. The Pen Bay Sailing League sponsors a series of three events each in the spring and fall, with a series championship at stake. The team placed second in both series.

Two events provided highlights in the spring. The “Breakwater Blast,” hosted by Rockland, prohibits teams from using their top two skippers. The fourth and fifth ICS skippers, however, showed no mercy to the opponents. Lake Lindelof, with crew Pia Gibson, racked up two-firsts, a second, and a third in their four races. Jett Lindelof and Julian Kelly were almost unbeatable with three-firsts and a second. No other team was close.

The climax to the spring season was the “Downeast Regatta” and Maine Maritime. With nineteen teams from throughout New England competing, the highest finishing Maine team is declared the State High School Champion. Belmont Hill and Marblehead (both from Massachusetts) handled the heavy breezes on Saturday better than the rest of the field and forged to the front, maintained their positions in Sunday’s lighter wind, and finished first and second. ICS was fifth at the end of Saturday, and Sunday developed into a seesaw battle with Falmouth and Mount Desert Island. Rylee Sienkiewicz and Pia Gibson came out blazing on Sunday with a third and then a first. Emily Lau, with sister Sophie crewing, was leading her first race of the day by a huge margin only to have the race abandoned. They struggled in the re-sail, but



then sailed aggressively in their next race, passed the four in front of them downwind and sped to a first place finish. Rylee/Pia managed a fifth and then an eighth. With only one race remaining in each division, scores tightened when Emily/Sophie finished eighth while Falmouth and MDI both fared well. No one knew who might emerge as Maine’s best. In the last race of the regatta, with a good start and sound upwind tactics, Rylee/Pia were fourth at

the first mark, ahead of both Falmouth and MDI, both of whom closed with ICS downwind, setting up a tense and classic beat to the finish.



School Sailing (con’t)

ICS held the fourth, Falmouth just nipped MDI for fifth. When final scores were tallied, ICS and MDI were tied at 100 points, with Falmouth at 105. Having beaten MDI in more races, ICS won the tie-breaker and the State Championship. Falmouth in fifth was more than forty points head of the next team.

For consistent and reliable success, it is best for skipper/crew combinations to sail together most, if not all, of the time. This past fall, because of other commitments, conflicts, and some illnesses, the ICS team sailed in nine different combinations when four would have been ideal. In the Pen Bay Fall Series, the team had a small lead going into the third and final regatta. Two skippers and a crew were away and a third skipper was ill and could sail only three of ten races. Nevertheless, ICS was second for the series. It would be an oversight not to mention two remarkable individual performances: Jett and Julian, stepping up to A-Division in the final Pen Bay event, won the division; Sophie and Pia, in the second Pen Bay event won seven of eleven races.

The fall ended with the “Becton Cup,” the Maine State Girls Championship, sailed in Rockland in a blustery, shifty northerly. Halfway through, Sophie and Pia, with two-firsts and two-seconds, had a slight lead, while Rylee and Olivia Britton, in spite of a foul and a

premature start in their first two races, were fourth. Sophie/Pia then stumbled a bit and slipped to second overall, while Rylee/Olivia sailed consistently to improve to third overall. Rylee’s record in this event is unmatched by any other sailor in Maine: fourth as a freshman, second as a sophomore, and third as a senior (event not held in her junior year).

ICS sailors for 2019: Olivia Britton, Finn Gibson, Pia Gibson, Julian Kelly, Emily Lau, Sophie Lau, Jett Lindelof, Lake Lindelof, Eli Moore, Ava Schlotzman, and Rylee Sienkiewicz. **Author: Mike Horn ICS Coach**



Thanks to Major Donors

Those listed have contributed \$500 or more

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Landon Thomas
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And to: Travis Stearns for use of the "yard" and the Leuschen family for the use of the garage for boat and gear storage, also to PYY and IME for their service.



Work Day 2019

Ken Smith, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, John Higginson, Jon Kerr, Ben Alexander, George Evans, Matt Lay, Lindsey Higginson, Bonnie MacKenzie, Hendrix Lovelett, Kendra (Rachel's next door neighbor on the bike), Finn, Mitchell & Susan Hewlett, Emily Lau, Annika Rogers, Grace Hartley, Lake & Jett Lindelof, Ava S, Sophie Lau, Mike Horn, Caroline Siekman, Yesrha West, Katie Wuori and Tracey Wuori set a record time getting the boat bottoms painted and trailered to PYY to launch.

Big Tree Boating will be selling t-shirts and hats this summer.

Big Tree Boating - Board of Directors

Lindsey Higginson - **President**
Ben Alexander- **Vice President**
Philip Ladd - **Treasurer**
Bonnie MacKenzie - **Secretary/Newsletter**
Katie Wuori - **Sailing Director**
Board members: Ken Smith, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Mike Horn, George Evans, Gabe Pendleton, Josh Conover, Jon Kerr and Merry Alderman



Big Tree Boating Association
PO Box 273
Islesboro, Maine 04848

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