

# 2011 Sail Orcas Member's Handbook

*Welcome to Sail Orcas*

## I) About Sail Orcas

Sail Orcas is a not-for-profit organization founded and led by a dedicated group of volunteers. Since its inception in 1970 Sail Orcas has provided facilities, equipment and volunteer leadership to a variety of junior and adult programs.

Through the efforts of Sail Orcas local teens have had the opportunity to discover the joys of sailing. Sail Orcas has funded the local teen's fleet of sailboats, and provided the team's coaching and direction. Years of hard work on the part of our teen sailors have helped them develop the skills, experience and confidence to be competitive on a local, regional and national level.

Over 300 islanders have been introduced to sailing through our adult lessons. Sail Orcas instructors are seasoned local sailors who have years of experience on the water. Their knowledge and love for sailing will help to make your experience a pleasant one.

## II) Sail Orcas Volunteer Opportunities

As a completely volunteer run organization Sail Orcas is dependent on members participating in a wide variety of tasks in order to provide its services. Members are encouraged to contribute in any of the following areas:

- Service as a Board Member
- Adult Lesson Instructor
- Teen Racing and Lessons Support
- Fundraising Efforts
- Special Events Support
- Boat Maintenance
- Website Management

## III) Becoming a Member

Membership is automatic upon making a tax deductible donation to the organization and sending in a registration form. This can all be taken care of online at <http://sailorcas.org>

The types and costs of membership are:

- 1) Junior Member — \$20
- 2) Individual Member — \$75
- 3) Family Membership — \$100
- 4) Donor — \$250 and up
- 5) Buy a dinghy for Youth Sailing — individual, group or corporate.

#### **IV) Fees**

Sail Orcas provides some services for a fee which are not tax deductible. The fees are not designed to make a profit but to offset some of the specific costs associated with certain programs. Those who use one of the for-fee services are given a one year Sail Orcas membership. Fees services include:

Junior Sailing Lessons — \$80/week  
Adult Sailing Lessons — \$400/week  
High School Sailing Team — \$100/Season

#### **V) Sail Orcas Board of Directors**

The Sail Orcas Board of Directors meets once a month. Members of Sail Orcas are invited to attend board meeting upon advanced notice to insure that the size of our meeting room is adequate. Major Donors to Sail Orcas are entitled to receive automatically the meeting minutes and financial reports if they so request.

##### **The current 2010 board and officers include:**

Chris White – President  
Paul Kamin – Vice President  
Burke Thomas – Youth Racing Director & Treasurer  
Jeanne Skott – Secretary  
Barry Neville – Adult Sail Training  
Bruce Brackett – Fleet Captain  
Betsy Wareham – Junior Sailing Director  
Bob Brunius – WEB  
Tom Saul  
Mark Smaadlers

#### **VI) Sail Orcas Dingy Fleet**

Sail Orcas maintains a large fleet of Vanguards, Lasers, and Optimist dinghies for the use in youth education and competitive High School racing. Maintaining this fleet is a major part of Sail Orcas' annual budget. Members who have skills in boat maintenance and are willing to help in this effort are highly valued.

#### **VII) Sail Orcas Keel Boat Fleet**

Sail Orcas has been kindly gifted a small fleet of keel boats, comprising two Cal 20 sloops, which are made available to adult members who have a demonstrated sailing ability, and have signed our Hold Harmless Agreement. The boats are available on a first reserved basis. The boats are also used for adult lessons and although the instructors/classes have priority in the use of the boats there is ample opportunity for members to take the boats out on West Sound for a pleasant day sail. The boats are moored at West Sound Marina at the end of the fuel dock. Boats are available in the

water from June through mid-October after reservations made at the Sail Orcas website (<http://sailorcas.org>).

### Prerequisites for Keel Boat Use

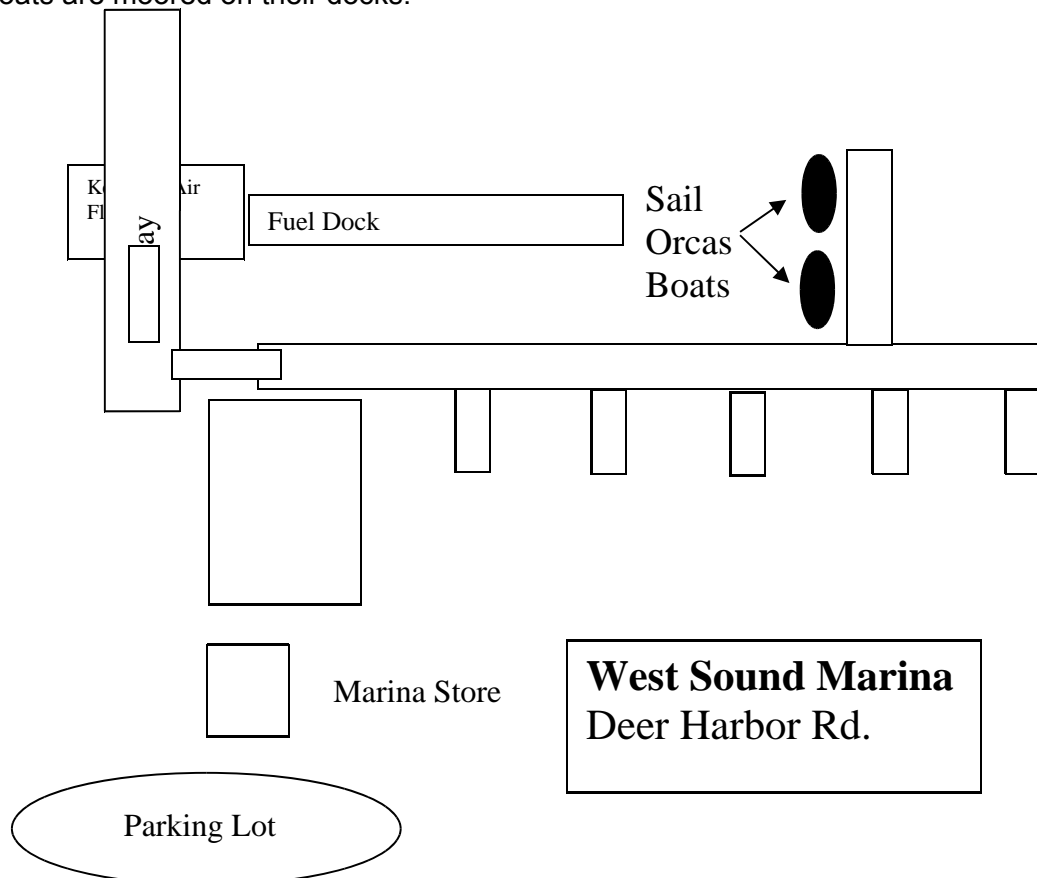
Sail Orcas' adult keel boat program is limited to members 18 years and older. Access to the boats is made available to new graduates who have completed our training program, adult members who have qualified and demonstrated adequate sailing ability and experienced sailors who have been prequalified by one of our adult program instructors. A signed on line Hold Harmless Agreement is mandatory prior to access of any Sail Orcas boat. Members of Sail Orcas are welcome to have guest on board with them. Members may not "loan" their membership privileges to others. A Sail Orcas Member must be on board and in the skipper role at all times and must have a signed Hold Harmless Agreement on file. The adult program does not include access to the teen's racing fleet of Vanguard 15's, dinghies or power boats used for race support.

### Reservations

For 2010 Sail Orcas has retired the on-board calendar boat registration system and instead developed an online reservation system. To secure access to a Sail Orcas boat, members must make advanced reservations. Reservations are made via the Sail Orcas website. (<http://sailorcas.org>) Members may not use boats without a reservation. Our adult sailing classes which are offered throughout June and July do have priority scheduling, but typically use only one of the boats, and their time will be scheduled in the online calendar.

### Location of Boats

The owners and staff of West Sound Marina have been wonderful supporters of Sail Orcas. Our boats are moored on their docks.



## **Safety**

Safe sailing is the top priority of Sail Orcas. We teach safe sailing and expect our members to demonstrate sound and safe sailing judgment while on board our boats. The following safety guidelines apply to all Sail Orcas members, their guests, and our boats.

- If for any reason you are not fully comfortable and confident after your instruction course, please ask for additional training time with an instructor. We will be happy to arrange it.
- All sailors, instructors and guests must wear an appropriately fitted Coast Guard approved life jackets whenever on board a Sail Orcas boat. Some life jackets and some life vest are available on board the boats, but Sail Orcas recommends that members provide their own life vests.
- Respect the capacity of your boat. The Cal 20 is approved for a maximum load of 4 people. Members are discouraged from solo sailing; those interested in single handing a boat must be approved for such by the Lead Sailing Instructor.
- It is wise to let someone know your sailing plans prior to heading to the marina. Be sure to let them know when you expect to be back and check in with them after your return.
- Cell phone service in the West Sound area is typically spotty. Sail Orcas boats are not equipped with VHF radio.
- Summer sailing conditions in West Sound are typically good, however conditions can vary, and members should check conditions and forecasts prior to beginning their sail. You should check forecast for winds, tides, and weather. A good source for checking local weather conditions online is via a link on the Orcas Island Yacht Club website. <http://oiyc.org> Go to the “Resources→Links” menu selection.
- West Sound can be a busy boating environment during the summer season, especially on weekends. Please be a respectful boater by knowing and obeying “the rules of the road”.
- Sail Orcas boats are not equipped for night time sailing, and sailing after dusk is dangerous, illegal and prohibited. Please plan your sail to make sure the boats are secured to the dock before dusk. Keep in mind West Sound evening winds can drop quickly right before dusk.
- Sail Orcas boats cannot be safely beached anywhere in our sailing area. Legal shore access is very limited in West Sound. Beaching, docking, anchoring boats is not allowed unless it is an emergency.

- Sail Orcas prohibits smoking, alcohol, illegal drugs, pets, fire arms, and fireworks from its programs, boats and facilities.

### **Breakdown or Damage to Boats**

Sail Orcas operates on an honor system. We understand that a wide variety of things can and do go wrong on a boat. Members are encouraged to notify Sail Orcas of any mechanical problems they discover or that happen while sailing. All our boat maintenance is provided by volunteers. Prior to sailing, it is the responsibility of members to closely inspect the boat for damage or an unsafe condition. Use good judgment and don't sail a damaged boat or one that is missing an important part or a portion of its safety gear inventory. Please make a note of problems in the boats log book, and call it in to board member Bruce Bracket, 376-4587 or Wally Lum at 376-2384. With the log book is a roll of 2" tape that can used to identify the problem area for those making repairs. Any failed parts should be left on board. It is wise to check the boat log as well as check the boat carefully before beginning your sail. Members reporting problems will not be liable or chastised for a boat failure. Promptly and responsibly reporting problems is both respectful of your fellow member and a vital part of maintaining a safe sailing fleet.

Although members are not held responsible for normal wear and tear on the boats, damage that is clearly attributable to negligence will be the responsibility of the Sail Orcas member who reserved the boat.

### **Equipment you should find on board**

Sail Orcas provides the following equipment on board on boats. If any of the below equipment is missing or not functioning properly, you should likely not sail. Failed, damaged, used or missing gear should be report to Bruce Bracket, at 376-4587 as quickly as possible.

- |                 |                  |                    |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| • Flares        | • Mooring Lines  | • Life jackets     |
| • First Aid Kit | • Sails          | • Anchors          |
| • Paddle(s)     | • Bilge Pump     | • West Sound Chart |
| • Throw Rope    | • Air horn       |                    |
| • Bumpers       | • Small tool kit |                    |

Sail Orcas *does not* provide the following equipment

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| • Radio | • Phone |
|---------|---------|

Sail Orcas  
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