

Sail Orcas

A Sailing Education Foundation "Teaching a lifetime sport"

We are pleased to announce that the Sail Orcas sailing programs in partnership with OIYC and OIRP have just completed a very busy and successful 2010 season! Here are some of the highlights.

JUNIOR SAILING LESSONS: Over one-hundred and fifty-four sailors, ages eight to fifteen participated in weekly summer lessons during July and August using the OIYC picnic shelter as home base. New and a huge boost to the program this year were Six Open Bic Sailboats getting the junior sailors more tiller time. Orcas' own Tate Wester and Barrett North both certified US Sailing instructors did an excellent job heading up the program, with many students returning for multiple sessions of instruction. Orcas high school sailors, Taylor Smith and Jake White also helped out on the water. A new week long Junior Race Clinic was taught by Orcas High School Sailing team sailors and Coach Burke Thomas getting the juniors one on one racing instruction.

EXPLORATORY SAILING: Orcas Middle School continued its fall and spring quarters of exploratory sailing classes. Thirty-two middle school students participated in these beginning sailing lessons, taught by Orcas middle school teacher Lori Oakes and Sail Orcas US Sailing certified instructor Burke Thomas. OIYC sailor Bob Brunius and SO's Jeanne Skott both assisted with the on water instruction. The classes met two days a week throughout the quarter.

ORCAS HIGH SCHOOL SAILING TEAM: Twenty sailors practiced four days a week with the team, and participated in eleven weekend regattas during the spring season. Sail Orcas and Orcas Island Yacht Club hosted the NWISA Singlehanded Championships over Labor Day Weekend with Orcas sailor Jake White winning the Laser Radial class and representing NWISA at the Cressy Trophy in Florida this October. Orcas also won the V-15 class at JAM & Octoberfest and the Lightning class at Vancouver Lake. Taylor Smith was the overall winner of the 2010 Northwest Youth Circuit Laser class. Jake White, Connor O'Neill and Lee Gibbons qualified and represented the Northwest at the Sears Triple handed Championships hosted by San Diego Yacht Club this past August.

WIND CLINIC: In August, nine Orcas high school sailors participated in this week long advanced racing clinic and regatta at the Cascade Locks in Oregon. Sailing in the Northwest's premier venue for strong winds, hot sun and warm water, the sailors learned to overcome their fears and master some very extreme sailing conditions. Jake White and Taylor Smith completed the Gorge Blowout sailing 23 miles from Cascade Locks to Hood River.

ADULT SAILING LESSONS: The adult's summer sailing classes were busy again this year with 23 new sailors receiving instruction from the all volunteer staff of Sail Orcas instructors. The two CAL 20 sloops kept busy sailing on West Sound, May thru September. Funds generated by this program help support all Sail Orcas Youth Programs.

To help keep these programs moving forward, we are requesting your financial help. These programs are sponsored by Sail Orcas, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to the teaching of this lifetime sport. All funds raised will go directly towards paying off the Open Bic's and V-15 sailboats Sail Orcas purchased this year which helped get more sailors in boats. Please join with us in keeping our kids on the water. Your tax deductible checks should be made payable to Sail Orcas, and mailed to Sail Orcas, PO Box 1226, Eastsound, Wa 98245

Please feel free to contact me at 360-376-2926 if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Burke Thomas

President: Chris White, VP: Paul Kamin, Secretary: Jeanne Skott, Treasurer: Burke Thomas, Directors: Bruce Brackett, Bob Brunius, Mike Jonas, Paul Kamin, Barry Neville, Jeanne Skott, Tom Saul, Mark Smaalders, Burke Thomas, Betsy Wareham, Chris White O.D.

Sail Orcas – A Sailing Education Foundation is a Non Profit Educational Foundation under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible. Federal ID 91-2169349.