

SMOOTH SAILING

****Offseason Edition***

US Sailing and the Inlands

Junior Instructors

If your sailor is interested in joining our Junior Instructor crew this season, we still have space available!

Junior Instructors are sailors who are 13-16, too young to officially be US Sailing certified, but still interested in becoming instructors in the next few years. They are paired up with experienced instructors as assist in running our programs.

Important Dates

2/8: Summer Registration Opens!

2/10-11: Sturgeon Stampede, Fond Du Lac

3/19: MYST Practices Begin

6/11: Summer Programs Begin

Please visit plss.org for more information and to register for our Spring and Summer programs

Each year, when most of our lakes are frozen, and boats put into storage, or in garages for repair, the sailing world descends on warmer climates to assess the current state, and discuss the



future of our sport. This year, the US Sailing Leadership Forum took place in St. Petersburg, FL, a stretch of beach off of Florida's west coast, that locals called "unseasonably cold" while I was there.

The purpose of the forum is for the disparate and diverse collection of Sailing Schools, Community Centers, and Yacht Clubs to meet and exchange ideas on how to reinvigorate sailors, innovations in boats, unique teaching techniques, and expanding diversity in the sport. Headliners from this year included Brian Fanzo, who spoke about the changing landscape of communications, and how to engage people over social media; Ron Tite, the CEO of The Tite Group, a marketing and ad agency, who spoke about the successes and failures that big brands have had engaging with their customers, and how we can use these lessons in sailing. Susan Woessner spoke in-depth on day one about US Sailing's implementation of SafeSport in their instructor trainings, and member clubs. SafeSport is an initiative aimed at ensuring that all of our sailors have an environment that is appropriate for furthering their sailing education.

There were many fantastic take-aways from this year's forum, articles on which I will release weekly throughout the offseason.





PLSS Opti Step 2

PLSS is proud to open a new program this summer. Our Opti Step 2 class is designed to bridge the gap between our Learn-to-Sail class, and our Intermediate class.

If your sailor has taken summer of Beginning Opti, and isn't quite ready for the full-steam green-fleet racing that our Intermediate program focuses on, Opti Step 2 is the right place to be.

Focused on upwind sailing, navigating a course, and figuring out starts, Opti Step 2 is an exciting addition to our line-up.

Summer 2018

Registration Open today!

Session I - June 11 - June 28

Session II - July 2 - July 19
(no class 7/4)

Session III - July 23 - August 9

Pewaukee Hosts the Inland Champs this year!

Careers in Sailing

There was a time, in the not-so-distant past, that your local sailing club was a purely volunteer organization, run by willing parents, and knowledgeable local sailors. While in many parts of the country, this is status quo, for the majority this is no longer the case.



Sailing in the US has undergone and is currently undergoing a radical shift in the way that it interacts with culture. Gone are the days of super yachts, and old-school J-class sailing miles off-shore. Increasingly, these are being replaced by cheaper, simpler, more accessible boats, and more accessible sailing venues. While the sailing programs of the past may have prided themselves on exclusivity (and many still do), this mentality has been overshadowed by the desire to grow our sport, to open the doors to sailors of all walks of life, and even non-sailors.

This community-culture shift has been instrumental in making sailing a viable career. We are seeing a massive increase in the number of people who have committed to bettering the sport of sailing, full-time. Where 10-15 years ago, coastal powerhouses may have employed only 2-3 year-round, this number has quadrupled.

More opportunities for sailors to make a living by sailing not only means that all of you can continue to engage in this sport for the rest of your lives, but it ensures the quality of the body of knowledge being passed down is substantial. The sailing program of the future is not one of sporadic leadership, full of part-time volunteers, but strong, consistent leadership, full of sailors who have dedicated their lives to the growth of our sport, full of the youth sailors going through our programs today.

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