

Hello parents, fans, and supporters of the San Juan Island Sailing Foundation Youth Sailing Team!

[An electronic version of this letter is available at our [website](#) (address below) and will make following links an easy web link click.]

Thursday May 4th is our annual fundraising dinner and we hope you will attend. The fundraiser is partly intended to let our sailing team sailors feel the love and support of our community. Gib Black will be leading our meal making team and it should be another tasty event. Jake Beattie will be returning to give us an update on the fascinating and ever changing Race to Alaska. If you haven't heard Jake talk he is one of the most entertaining speakers and as the creator of the race he's brought a lot of attention to sailing in the Northwest. We'll be holding the dinner at the San Juan Island Yacht Club starting 5:30PM. See www.sanjuansailing.org and click on "2017 Fundraising Dinner" for more details and to get tickets. Even if you only come for the dinner you will be supporting our youth sailing team and our summer sailing programs.

I would like to give a huge thank you to coach Todd Roberts. After three years of coaching the team Todd has passed on the baton. He helped move the program forward tremendously and during his tenure one of our sailors went to the Cressy Cup held in Norfolk, Virginia which is considered the youth sailing nationals where 20 sailors competed. Todd has offered to continue supporting the team with the odd chalk talk or targeted practice if needed. Thank you Todd for your dedicated support of our sailing team!

We have many fresh young faces on the team this year so with the right amount of support and encouragement we hope to have a strong core of sailors on the water for the coming years. It's always great to see strong interest in sailing, we are surrounded by some of the most interesting and beautiful bodies of water in the world and I wish more people had the opportunity to spend time out there!

I also want to thank Bob Halliday for helping coach the sailing team in this transition year. Some of this year's team sailors are pictured below along with Bob and Gib Black (team manager):



If you are unable to attend this year's fundraiser, but would still like to support our goals for youth sailing in the area, please get in touch. Also, one of our youth sailing team moms, Debbi Fincher, has set up a new fundraising site with some specific need goals and we would appreciate it if you would take a look at the site and share it with friends. It also features photos and testimonials from some of our sailors. See link below.

Very soon we'll be ordering the last two Flying Juniors to complete the goal of seven boats to race and practice with. We'll still be keeping the older fleet of Vanguards for the sailing classes and our summer evening sailing which is open to the community.

I hope to see you all soon on the water or at our fundraiser May 4th and thank you for all your support!

Nigel Oswald
President
San Juan Island Sailing Foundation Board



Please make a donation or find out more about SJI Sailing Foundation at our
Website: www.sanjuansailing.org Or New Fundraising site: sjiyouthsailing.mydagsite.com
Or mail check to SJISF, P.O. Box 2464 Friday Harbor, WA 98250
We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and your donations can be tax deductible.
For pics and videos go to www.facebook.com/sjisf

The summer sailing classes run jointly by our foundation and Island Rec had a good year in 2016. We had 58 sailors enter beginner and intermediate sailing classes on Percich Pond and 2/3rds of these students were island residents. These classes are open to ages eight and up. This educational program is a core goal of our Foundation to provide opportunities for and encourage participation in sailing in the San Juan's. Many of our high school sailing team sailors started in these classes.

For decades Peter and Susan Risser have been stalwart volunteers organizing the setup, maintenance, and stowage of the Percich Pond summer sailing facilities & boats provided by our foundation. Thank you Susan and Peter for all you do!

