

Hello parents and fans of the Friday Harbor High School Sailing Team,

We hope you have had a great year and managed to spend some time on the water. As you will read later in the letter, we have a special need this year which we would appreciate any help with but we first wanted to share with you how the year went for the sailing team.


As the holidays start to occupy our minds, we sailors are starting to think about the upcoming sailing season as well. Before you know it, the team will be struggling into wet suits and foul weather gear and hoping their roll tacks don't roll too far in the chilly February air and water. The cool temps and strong breezes will put added emphasis on boat handling, tactics and the shifty winds - more on the shifty winds later.





In 2014 we had a relatively young team. A few participants were new to the sport while some were old hands with the Vanguards. Chalk talks and diagrams on the white board only go so far, the real information was passed between skippers and crew out on the water. By the end of the season, sharp boat handling skills and tactics were the norm and capsizees were nearly always intentional. I was continually amazed by the energy and enthusiasm of our team. Race results were good for where we were on the learning curve and there were more than a few moments of brilliance.


We tried something a little different this summer with a Tuesday night community racing program, Lasers and Vanguards all racing on the same course together. This turned out to be huge fun with sailors ranging in age from very young to beyond the formative years. A great experience for everyone and it was good to keep the racing spirit alive through the summer. Look for it again next year.

So what's in store for this coming season?

 **New recruits** - We hope to see some new faces added to our returning 16 or so sailors. Remember, all the best sailors in the world got their chops sailing dinghies.


 **Regattas** - We have regattas scheduled for Lake Union, Bellingham, Sand Point, Anacortes, Silverdale, Oak Harbor, and other events in the works. It will be a full calendar with opportunities for everyone.

 **Team racing** - We'll be delving into this weird and fun aspect of yacht racing. We got a taste of it last year. This year we'll hone our trapping skills and head off to at least one team racing regatta.

 **FJs** - Flying Juniors are now the official designated boat for racing in the Northwest district. While the Vanguards are great boats, nearly all the colleges our sailors will attend race FJs, so it makes sense in that this change will help prepare our sailors for both high school & college racing. Our goal this year is to purchase 4 FJs to start converting our fleet. Unfortunately used FJs are not readily available. These boats are \$8,000 each new so this is a significant funding requirement for us this year. We'll keep practice sailing most of the Vanguards but we'll hopefully raise enough funds to get FJs to tune up in and take to regattas as needed.



Collegiate sailors in an FJ

 And finally, those shifty winds - Last season our focus was boat handling, rules and general tactics. This season we'll be wrapping our heads around wind shifts and angles. The fastest boat on the water won't do you any good if you're on the wrong side of a header or lift. Hit it right and you look like a genius. This year expect to see some geniuses down there at Jackson's Beach.

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Continued from other side.

You can probably tell we are very excited about the upcoming season.

So that about wraps it up. Needless to say, none of this would be happening without your continued support. We hope that you will consider making a contribution to help us purchase the 4 new FJ's we need to keep our sailors competitive and practicing in the boats they will be competing in.

Every gift makes a difference and we thank you all very much for the opportunities you are providing these sailors through your support and donations.

There is also an opportunity to purchase a number of the team's Vanguard 15 sail boats as we are looking to phase the fleet over to FJ's. The goal is the sale of a few current boats to partially fund the new FJs. If you are interested, please get in touch with Nigel Oswald (contact info redacted).

Let's go sailing,



TODD ROBERTS

Todd Roberts
Todd Roberts, Sailing Team Coach,

and

Nigel Oswald
Nigel Oswald, SJISF President, and the SJISF Board



Please make a donation or find out more about SJI Sailing Foundation at

www.sanjuansailing.org

Or mail check to SJISF, P.O. Box 2464 Friday Harbor, WA 98250

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donations can be tax deductible.

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